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VOICES | DECEMBER 2007

### Staff Editorial: Dreaming of a green Christmas

"Dear Santa, my holiday wish list is pretty simple. I want the usual. That new iPod is kind of cool, and that Canon Hero is awe-some! Oh, yeah, I also forgot. I would like to help create an environment that will be safe for the next 100 years and the rest of our lives."

Remember the thing you heard that says not that we're living green? The lowest When was the last time that you asked someone to pick up that trash that they just threw on your favorite outdoor hangout? Even worse, when was the last time you went to pick up that trash? We may try to be an environmental guru but are we really doing anything to save our planet?

This holiday season, many companies are promoting products that are simple to use and environmentally safe. For example, LED lights, which are less electricity and are as bright as any other bulb and can save you money. With their 20-year life span, you can decorate for years to come! Even better, when hanging these lights, you can use metal hooks

instead of those plastic hooks. They are better for the environment and look a lot better.

What would the holidays be with-out the family trip to cut down your own Christmas tree? Yes, many of us read this "live green" stuff, but without even knowing it, you have already just made a step toward saving the environment by cutting down a tree. By purchasing a tree you avoid your usual journey of driving off in the truck and leaving a trail of plastic, which catches our attention.

Everyone knows somebody who just cannot bring himself to wrap a gift in simple boxes. They insist on the extravagant and often using multiple boxes, each made of each other. This is not only ridiculous, but in order to wrap these things, you really need to cut down a tree. If you decide one of those amazing gifts, at least do the right thing by wrapping all the boxes. Technically, this is more gifting; it is doing you part for the world. After all, those excess boxes really can add up.

In New York alone, 11,000 tons of cardboard is taken to the dump per day. That is more than the weight of 50 elephants! If everyone made a New Year's Resolution to "be more green," we could save landfill space for things that can decompose and help our environment very much!

Recycling is not a fall. The holidays are an excellent time when it is "easy" to be worried about our environment. We are simply using this season as a gimmick to do what they have been taught to do since kindergarten.

Investments in the environment are just as worthwhile as savings bonds. They guarantee we can enjoy things in our future and, in addition, help out the economy. There are many ways in which you can do your part.

Use a stop shopping. Not only will you be saving time, but that's all of the

you can see by getting everything you need in one place.

Bake your gifts. Besides that warm fuzzy feeling you get when you give a homemade goodie to your friend, you don't have to drive all around creating traffic to find the perfect gift.

Remember Wrapping Paper. This is a great way to show your love, and who doesn't like to see the wrapping come before seeing their gift.

Animals need to get maximum space. We need to stop doing what's easier in order to secure future generations. We need to stop doing what's easier in order to secure future generations.

Who would say no to those environmentally-friendly gifts? Photo courtesy of sugarcubes.ca

Some will be able to share in the same wealth we've enjoyed. And however, if we ever want that white Christmas again, we had better first support the planet.

### The game of life: the dice and tokens of reality

The center spread of this issue's Oracle is a "year-in-review" piece reprinted in a game of Candy Land Candy Land provides me with the opportunity to see insights about the age of price hikes, energy prices, and my likelihood of the Space Shuttle being launched this season (and). I wasn't saved out of a gaming guide that recommended visiting the East Coast, punting children to sleep with Mozart, or studying five languages by kindergarten. Honestly, I watched so many cartoons and one or more plus as my other kid. I also played Candy Land. I think board games is essential to several childhood development and "the answer" to some perform the cliché. Still, games are games, and I can't resist the opportunity for a bit of cynicism amongst the games I have for these learning tools.

First, Candy Land teaches that life comes with its share of sticky spots and no good punks like Lord Lemon. Second, the game's more educational benefits include color recognition, improved social skills, and the ability to follow directions. Still, Candy Land had down the fundamentals of human behavior before we graduated to higher level experiences.

The game Sorry! asked us to meaningful words and phrases for a living often's ambitions in your own case for victory. If the accounts at Elmore on the second-hundredth anniversary of today had learned this lesson, you'd still have three people because "Sorry!" just doesn't cut it in the random world. I've never really liked this game, Sorry!

Risk is another game that has played life in perspective. This simulation of warfare with small pieces of colored plastic into a little box close to home here

I still credit the game with improving my knowledge of geographic strategy and non-colonial war terms, though. In this, players command infantry and cavalry for global domination. Not much difference than what real conquerors have done. "Cuzco!" has different connotations for the young and the old, though. I used associate conquest with "Fiddy and the Rain." A few years beyond the "Millennium 10 + 1" label on the box, I learned about the orange dreams of Aztec under Cortés, Montezuma's discovery of Ethiopia and Yugoslavia, and al-Qaeda's published doctrine for the "long war" the general conquest of the United States.

The designers try to have evolved beyond plastic pieces and into enriched, colorful, visible boards, and guided models. Such that, the effects of games are enlightening when they don't come with a colored board game and a pack of dice.

Monopoly taught me that there are many aspects of life I cannot escape. Those include luxury taxes, utility bills, mortgage, and hefty hotel fees at last place. I think this game has increased my young spirit to consider hotel management and banking, eastern I am fully supportive of as long as they have young ones goal-oriented, and with enough moral fiber to avoid stealing golden diamonds from the bank.

Conclude, the most unbroken limited strategy-oriented game on the market, game has discipline. Cheaters players need some serious self-control to resist the urge to upturn the board after that triple jump that we cheer two times.

I like my honorable mention: Scrabble requires the most diverse vocabulary of

them all, but also values building off of what others give you to reach that unobtainable triple-word score. Using words, you are to get the most triangles, might me some things are just for the completion to learn. Claws is the ultimate intellectual game. Knowing the rules doesn't make you a good player, though. You need experience and knowledge. I like checkers more, but chess teaches also an important lesson: at the end of the game, the king and the pawns go back into the same box.

A bit of luck, a little strategy, and outright skill; nothing else could better represent the risk, dedication, and outright fun of life, and I don't mean the board game.

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Comic by Sarah Webber

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