

little, too late.” Floods of the century, including our current flood, now average once a decade. Scorching summer droughts threaten our agriculture, from Kansas to California. Fierce hurricanes in the preceding decades had devastating impact on the Gulf.

Because of climate change, some of the world’s most fragile economies in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa have collapsed. The intense storms, rising sea levels and growing deserts have resulted in tens of millions climate refugees and deaths.

“... this distant image of our tiny worldunderscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.”

To this message, I add an ancient Native American saying: “Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children.”

You, the class of 2011, live in interesting times. Carpe Diem. America's youth, 47 years ago transformed the world. Today, you have the opportunity to do more than just change our world; you have the opportunity to help save it.

Congratulations. Go out and celebrate, but before you do, spe.218 -1.15 Tb-6 e)33 ()3 ((5 0)t) 3-3 0300