



A contribution of Ecuador
to the World's Water Day

YURI RAMOS

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11 AÑOS



WATER FOR THIRSTY CITIES

WATER & CHILDREN

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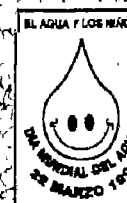
WATER FOR THIRSTY CITIES

WATER & CHILDREN

A contribution of Ecuador to the World's Water Day

QUITO-ECUADOR

February - 1996



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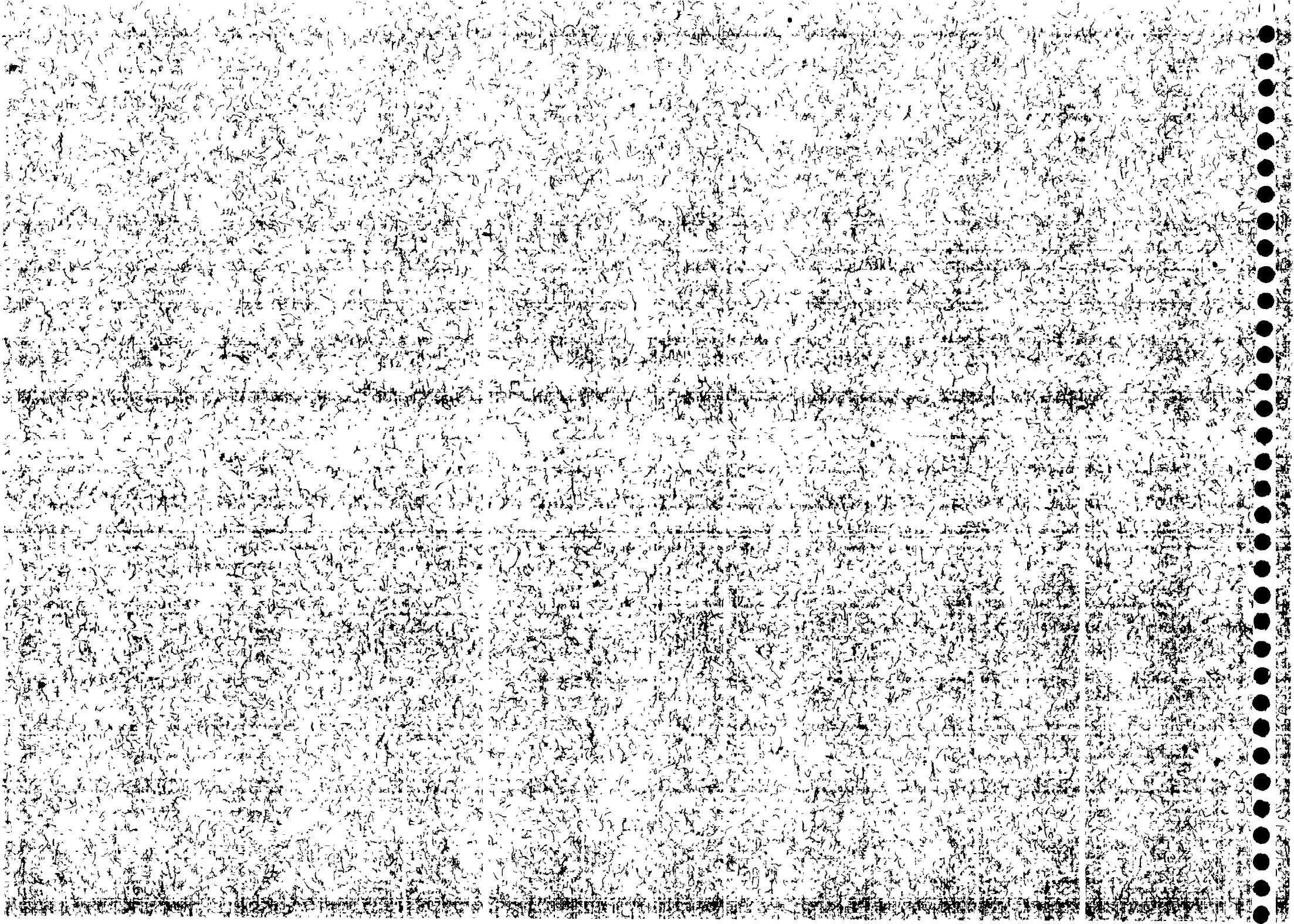
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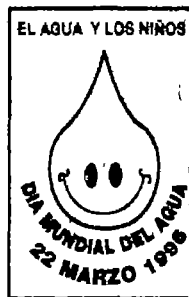
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QUITO ECUADOR
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Introduction



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THE WORLD'S WATER DAY: What's it and what is its aim?

One of the most important statements of the United Nations First Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT I) in 1976, was to focus attention to water and sanitation requirements for the world's population.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the **International Water and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990)**. However, at the ending of it, one of each five urban inhabitants in developing countries hadn't a proper water supply and about a third of the world's urban population lacked of an adequate sanitation service.

On March 26, 1996, **The world's water day** has been observed by many countries all over the world, as it provides a significant opportunity to remind us the defiance involved in achieving this goal, three months before the **Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II - Istanbul, July/96)**. One of the largest issues on this conference will be related to this question: how to attend the water demands of thirsty towns and cities all over the world, without compromising the requirements of future generations?

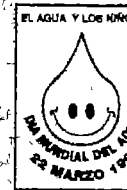
A CHILDREN'S EVENT ON THE WORLD'S WATER DAY Why?

Children are the most vulnerable group affected by inappropriate water provision and sanitary conditions. It has been estimated that about 3.000.000 children under 5 die every year as a consequence of diseases related with water and sanitation, such as Diarrhoea, typhoid and cholera. Children are silent victims and frequently don't have a forum to express their points of view. For that reason, one of the objectives of the **World's Water Day Encounter** was to provide a forum for children from different areas of the world, where their vision about water and cities could be expressed.

Children from all over the world observed the **World's Water Day** as a special encounter on March 22, 1996, at Beijing. They contributed with their own vision of the kind of city they would like to inhabit and the way water should be used to save this precious resource for the future. The Encounter was attended by children from China and other countries. (About 80 Chinese children met together with other 20 children from all over the world, to send their message to Istanbul).

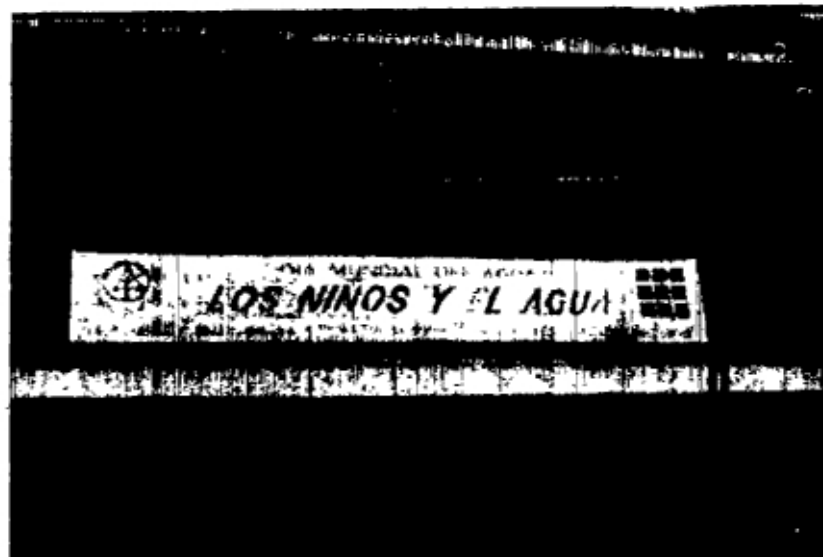
THE CHILDREN ENCOUNTER'S IN BEIJING AND QUITO: What is the link?

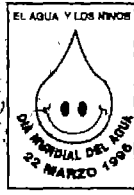
The children's Encounter in Beijing was the culmination of a series of Meetings developed all over the world. Quito, Capital of Ecuador, was one of the cities promoting such an encounter. The other ones were Nairobi (Kenya), Stockholm (Sweden) and Jakarta (Indonesia). Messages from children of those cities documented on video were presented at the Beijing Encounter during the World's Water Day. The final declaration, made by children in Beijing, about their vision on water in towns and cities of the future, was submitted for the Dialogue: "**Water for the XXI Century**" in the "**Cities Summit**", in Istanbul.



CHILDREN'S EVENT IN QUITO

Quito's Water & Children encounter took place on february 15, at the Munipal Espejo School and on february 16 at Benalcazar High School. Activities were promoted by CIUDAD's Research Center in coordination with UNDP, Quito's Municipality and the Metropolitan Potable Water and Sewage Company (EMAAP-Q).

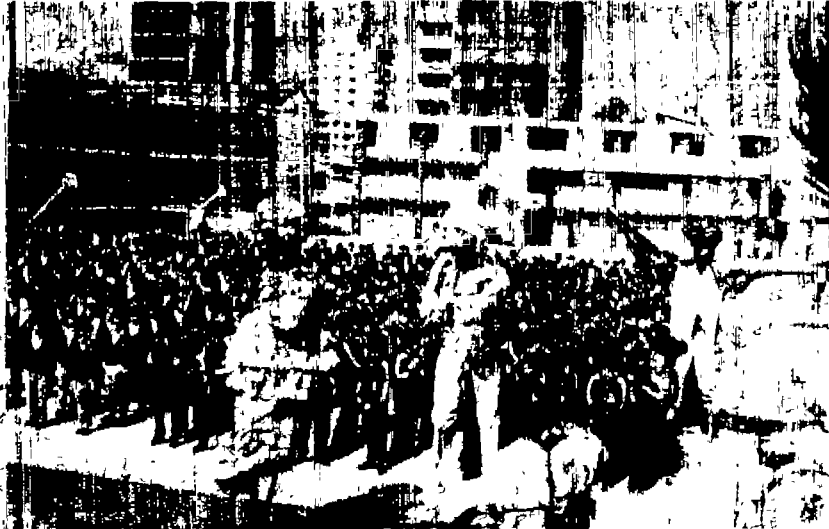
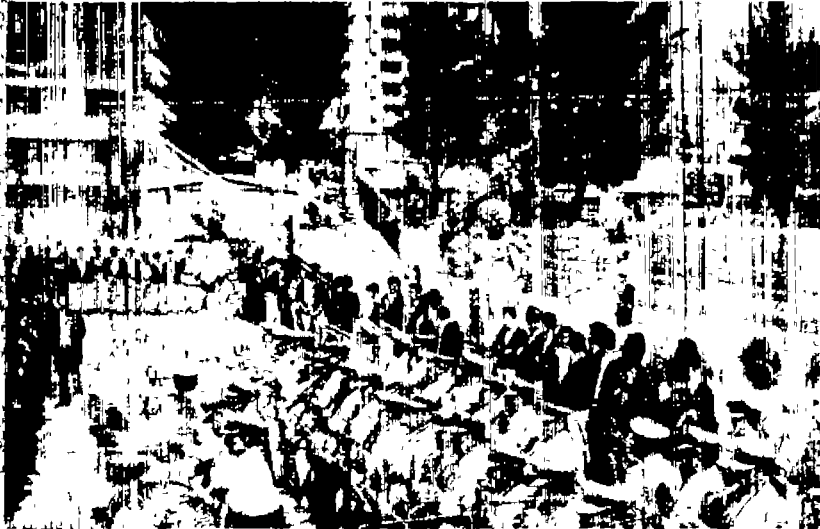
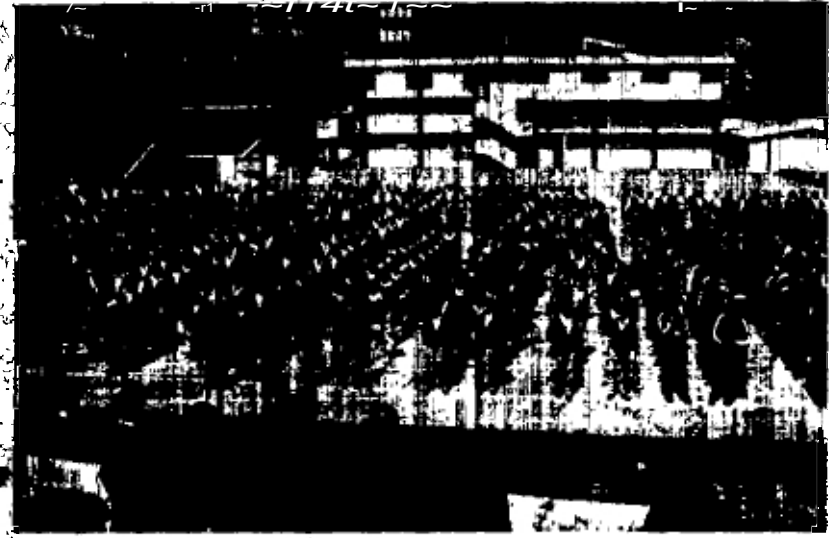




Opening

The Water & Children meeting was opened at the Benalcazar High School on Friday, February 16.

The Municipal Marching Band provided musical background for a group of colorful jugglers, who entertained the act.





Mario Vasconez, from CIUDAD, explained the meeting's significance and the scope and contents of the programed activities.

The program was inaugurated by Mario Salzmann, UNDP's resident representative. His speech, attended by students, teachers and delegations, was about water's significance for development and the need of preserving it for future generations.



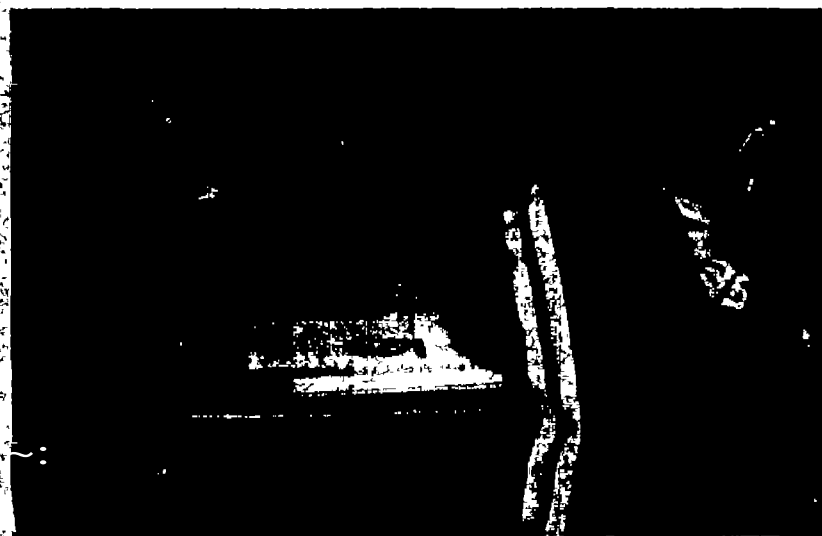


Participants

250 children from Espejo School and 400 from Benalcázar High School 1st. And 2nd. Level students attended the encounter.

Children developed the following subjects:

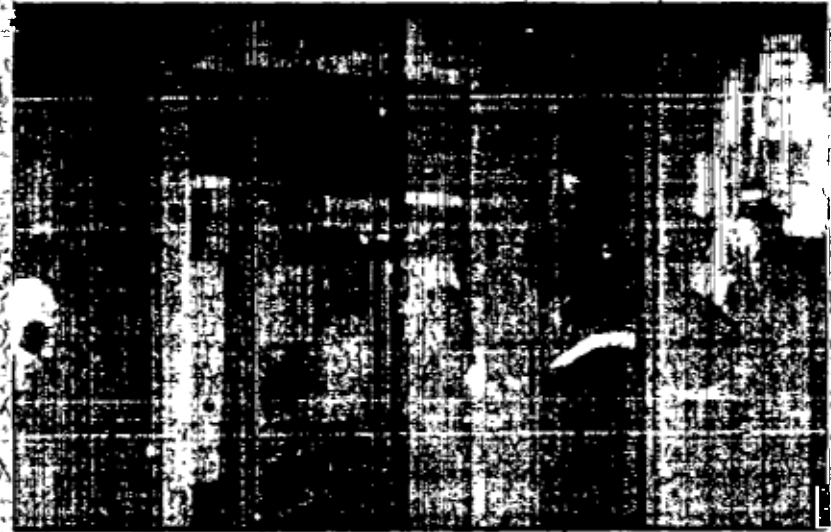
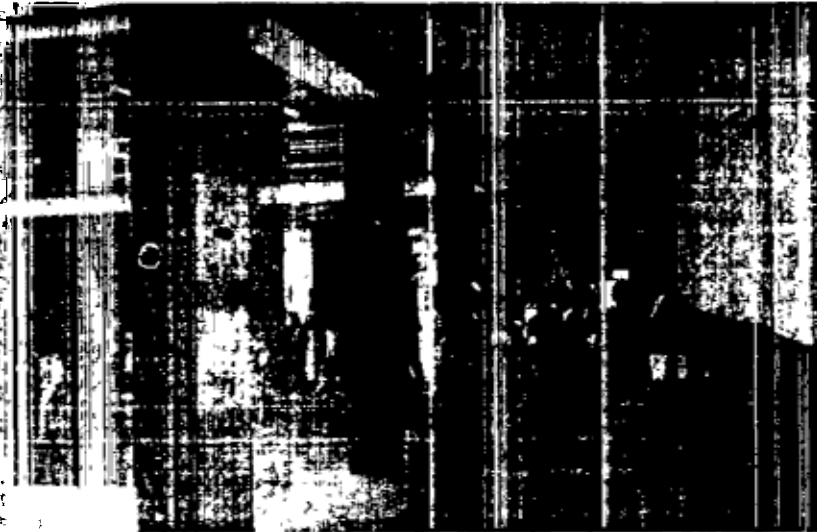
- Autobiographies, including an experience or story referred to water and sanitation.
- Drawing: "Water, sanitation & environment"
- Essay: "What would you do about water and sanitation if becoming City's Mayor?"
- Short poem: "Water and the cities of future"
- Short story: "Water in the cities of future".
- News releases: "Water and sanitation relationship with environment and development."
- Composition: "Water and sanitation relevance for public health."



Other activities

CIUDAD Research Center presented at the Benalcazar High School an exhibit named "Successful practices dealing with water and environment in Latin America". It was conformed by 40 selected plates from exposition "A city for living" performed in Quito on November 1995 as a regional contribution for the HABITAT II Conference.

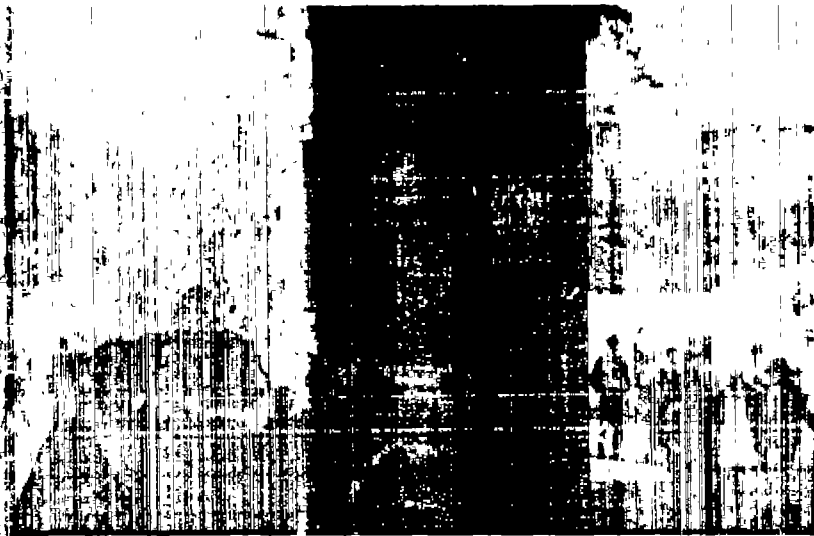
As souvenirs, CIUDAD and The Potable Water and Sewage Company of Quito (EMAAP-Q) donated books for the Espejo School and Benalcazar High School libraries. For the participating teachers and students, books and posters were also provided. Informative brochures and stickers about water care and sanitation were provided by the EMAAP-Q and by the UNICEF-Municipality Program to be distributed among



Activities coordination

participants. Copies of the "Montreal's letter on water and sanitation" and posters about the "Water&Development" project, including a poem about water by spanish singer Joan Manuel Serrat, were also distributed, thanks to donations made by de "Latinamerican Urban Services Studies Web" (REDES) and the "International Water Secretariat". (ISW).

Students from the architecture schools of Quito Central and Chatollic Universities collaborated as notes in the exposition and as coordinators of children's activities in their classrooms. They explained subjects, distributed materials for works to be developed and presented souvenirs to teachers and students.



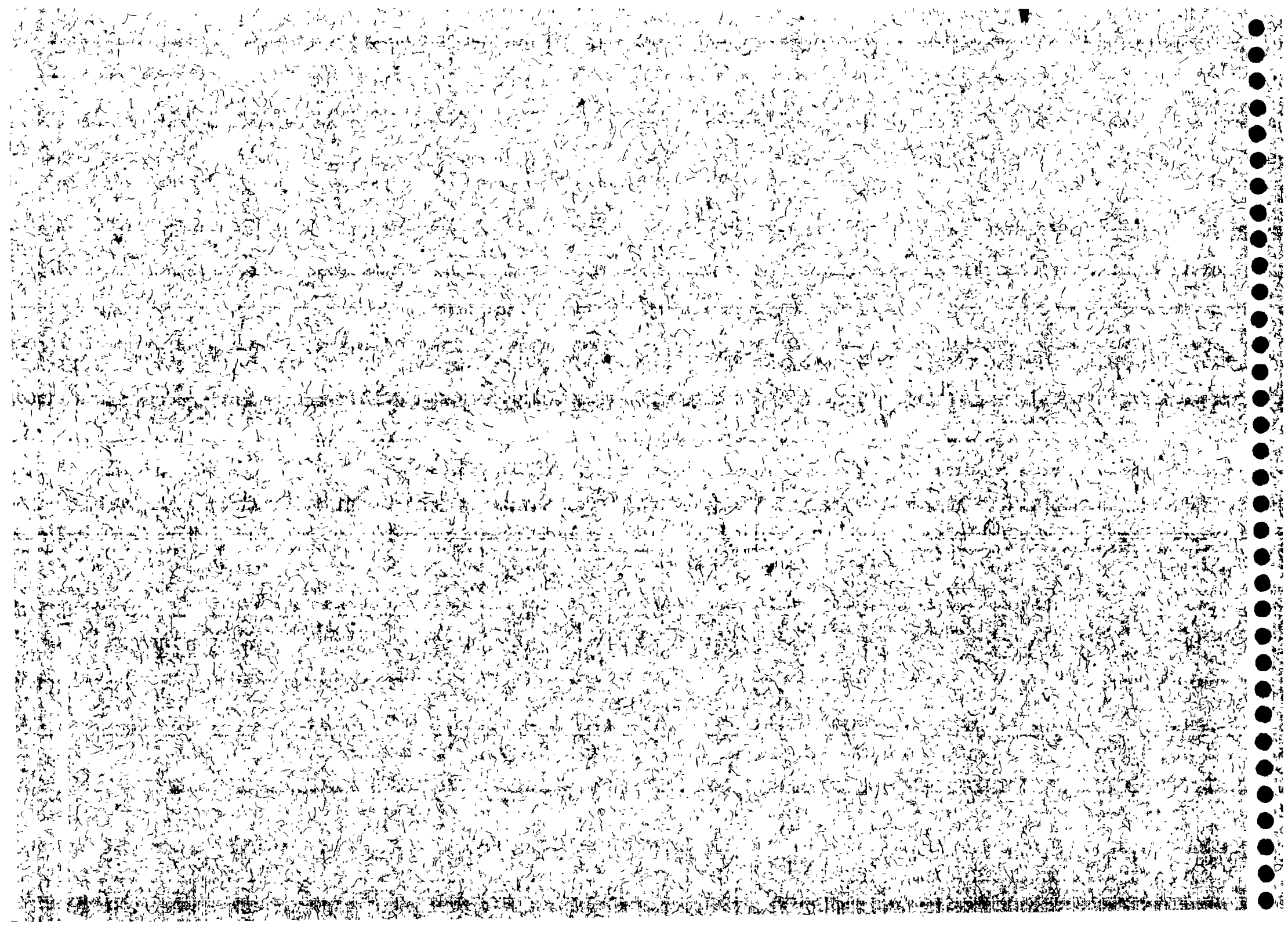
Youths (6 female and 6 male), were dressed with similar T-shirts featuring a logo specially designed for the encounter.

This document resume the activities developed under the program and reproduces the best works, as a contribution from the children of Quito to the World's Water Day.

February, 1996.

*Mario Vásquez S.
Coordinator*





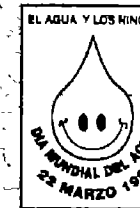


QUITO ECUADOR
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Autobiographies

Anecdotes or experiences about water





Swimming Pools

- I was in a swimming pool with my cousins and there was few people. We dived without any floaters and I almost drown.

Carlos Cevallos, 11 years

- Once I had an experience in a swimming pool: With my brother we swam to the deep part and he wasn't able to breath and this is why I have an experience with water

Andrés Cifuentes Gómez

- Once, when I was in first grade, we went for a camping day. I was dressed and someone pushed me into the water. I didn't like water but thanks to it, I enjoyed it and learned to swim quickly.

Oscar Rivadeneira V., 11 years

- My name is Leonardo. On April 11 I was attending the sports class. The coach took us to the swimming pool, we wore our trunks, took the floaters and dived into the water. I jumped. Suddenly I felt that I had loose the floater

and I was sinking. I was trying to swim but I couldn't. Afterwards I was really scared. I had gulped lots of water.

Leonardo Rodríguez, 12 years

- My grandfather took us to a resort. A cousin of mine dived in the large swimming pool. I followed him, jumped as well and I almost drown. Everybody laughed of me and I cried.

Edison Vergara, 12 years

- I slipped and fell into the swimming pool and I almost drown. I realized that water can destroy us. What if the poles melted down and drown the hole world? But water also help us to survive.

Iván Zaldumbide, 11 years

Rivers

- In an expedition to a river from which they got potable water a friend of mine get lost without knowing it. In search of him I almost electrocute myself.

Andrés Balladares, 12 years

- My name is Santiago. Once I saw people throwing away disposal on a river, I wonder why adult people do things like that? They're damaging the world.

Santiago Barroso, 11 years

- Once, when I was in a summer camp, we had to cross a river. Then a log slipped and I fell down in the middle of the river. I was very ashamed, as everybody was laughing at me. At last, I managed to climb back, completely soaked, as they say.

Mijail Enriquez, 12 years

- During the vacations I go to Montalvo and use to swim in the rivers. I enjoy it, it's marvelous to have this contact with nature. Once I almost drowned in a river called Potosi. I was slightly saved. This is why I believe that water is both essential for life, and very dangerous as well.

Alex Guerrero, 12 years

Countryside

- On the road to Ambato I saw a PVC pipe throwing water on a large plantation. I thought it was too much water to irrigate that plantation.

Héctor Acuña, 11 years

- My name is Daniel. In the last vacation I went to Cariamanga, to a farm where there was no potable water. In order to relieve myself I had to go behind a tree and felt very ashamed, but now I'm back in school again.

Daniel Arcos, 11 years

- Once I went to Atacames and noticed that they had

no potable water there. They had to pay a company that delivered water by cistern trucks. In some other places they have to carry water in buckets or take it from wells. This is why we have to use water consciously, because water is very important.

Juan Fernando Bustos, 11 years

- We climbed a mountain with my father but we lost our canteens; we were very thirsty, then we saw a small pond with crystal clear water and we drank from it. Now I realize how important is water to benefit human beings.

José Chacón, 11 years

- When I was six years old, I went for a walk to the Pichincha mountain. I remember that we ran out of water and I was dying of thirst.

Rodrigo Romero, 11 years

- I went to Crucita in the coast of Ecuador and there was no potable water so we have to wash our hands and to shower using buckets.

Andrés Sandoval, 11 years

Floods

- When I was very small I lived in a neighbourhood called "La Luz". Once there was a large rain and we saw water coming out from the drains openings instead of going in inside them.

Luis Napoleón Baez, 11 years

- My best experience with potable water is to be

present when the United Nations Avenue drain pipe exploded, flooding the road and producing a traffic jam.

Cristian Espinoza, 11 years

• My best experience with potable water was when the apartment flooded and they have to take out water through the terrace. It was fun.

Mario Montúfar, 11 years

• Once when I was a child there was a heavy rainstorm, the drains collapsed and the avenue ended covered with water.

Pablo Peláez, 11 years

• Once we were driving around with my family, in one of the city's neighbourhoods there was a traffic accident in which a car crashed against an hydrant and broke down it. Suddenly a large amount of water started to run, wastingly. We decided to call up the Water Company, to come to fix it, which they do without delay, calming us. Furthermore, the car and its driver didn't suffered to much damage.

Diego Terán Terán, 12 years

Water importance

• Potable water, vital element for life come to our homes pure and healthy so we don't have diseases produced by impure water. Once in a farm I went to a river and drank some water from it, as I was very tired, so I got sick.

Esteban Alvarez, 12 years

• My name is Harold Cevallos. Y was born on september 2, 1984. I'm eleven years old, my parent's names are Juan Cevallos and Ruth Gomez. Y have a little sister who is 4 years old. Her name is Leslie Cevallos. Water is the healthiest element for life.

Harold Cevallos, 11 years

• I think everybody needs water for living.

Richard Erazo, 11 years

• While someones spend water carelessly, other people don't have it even for washing their hands. But now many people has potable water, drains and they are very happy, having that public service.

Roberto Granda, 11 years

• Potable water is provided as a service since many years ago. My family and myself enjoy being careful with water.

Gabriel Guerra, 11 years

• We use potable water and I notice that we waste large amounts of it.

Pablo Merino, 11 years

• Water is used for washing our faces, hands, for bathing, for getting breakfast. It's useful for our health.

Carlos Meza, 11 years

• Water is important for shaving. It's useful for everything, potable water.

Luis Noboa, 11 years

• We use water everyday for washing dishes, bathing, washing hands, etc. In several countries it can not be used because it's plain desert.

Michael Paredes Falconí, 12 years

• Water shouldn't be wasted, for example when shaving, while you are shaving if you have the tap open, water is being wasted.

Pablo Paredes, 11 years

• Well, first of all, I wish to salute all of you. We shouldn't waste water when we bath, when we wash our hands or in any occasion.

Angel Rodríguez, 11 years

• When I was a child I was afraid of water. When I grown a little bit, I learned to swim and then I wasn't afraid anymore. I like to bath everyday with potable water.

Medardo Rojas, 11 years

• Water is important even for commerce

Renato Sánchez, 11 years

• Water taps must be turned down, in order to pay less money and to use it in good things.

Juan Vergara, 11 years

Water sources

• In Africa, that country is really dry and that's why I wish they will set a water plant in that country.

Víctor Aldaz, 11 years

• When I was younger I thought that there was a large can full of water behind each water tap but when I went growing, I realized that it was otherwise, when I came to school they took me for a visit to the potable water plant and showed me many machines. I asked what are these machines for? And they told me that they were for water purification. Water is useful for mopping floors, bathing, shaving, washing.

Fabricio Alvarez, 11 years

• When I was a little boy I believed that water came with the help of water providing people, whom will carry water all the time, from some immense buckets.

Mario Campaña, 11 years

• I went to see how water is purified. First it goes into a tank and then goes in to be purified with chlorine and then it's filtered, and there comes out potable water.

Patricio Cepeda, 11 years

• Once during a drive we saw some large water tanks. I guess it was where water was stored.

Marco Lara, 11 years

• When I was a kid I believed that potable water was carried up directly from rivers, so I never used to drink water, but once they took us from school to the water plant and I saw how water was treated, then back home I tried it and I liked it a lot. Since then I drink boiled water carelessly.

Gabriel Mosquera, 11 years

• When I was a little kid, my mother used to carry water from a pond. Now I use potable water without having to carry it from wells, as it comes to taps, easily.

Iván Puente Ortiz, 12 years

• When I was a little boy I believed that water was made up from rain, and that water was coming from rains to my house. When I grew up I went to a small town where there was no water so the cistern truck carried it and charged them for it. But times have changed.

David Pérez, 11 years

Scarcity

• When we moved from our first neighborhood, my mother received no water bills and she didn't pay for consumption. She thought they were 3 month term accounts. Once I went to wash my hands and there was no water, so I told mom: Mom, mom, there is no water! We didn't get any of it for a week, so my mother claimed and they told her that bills were overdue for 5 months. So we asked for some water to my neighbour.

Francisco Benítez, 11 years

• Once the water pipe broke down and we had no water. Let me tell you that even the laundry lady couldn't do her job. To tell you the truth, water is really important for life.

Carlos Cañas, 11 years

• When I moved away I noticed that water arrived unfrequently and for a few hours only and there was no

sewage system either. But now things are better and there is more water.

Augusto Coloma, 11 years

• Once, after playing football, I came back home and there was not a single drop of water.

David Moscoso, 13 years

• Once I came back home from school and I was going to take a bath peacefully but when I was soaping myself for a second time, What a surprise! Water dried off and I had to dry myself before finishing my bath. All the neighbourhood was without water, so they had to call the water company to fix the damage. After one hour, normality came back.

Bolívar Pérez, 11 years

• Once I was taking a shower and I ended soaped because water runned out. I had to finish my bath with a sprinkle amount of water and then I got a terrible cramp.

Paul Rengifo, 12 years

Drains

• Once I was walking by the street with a friend of mine and we saw an open drain. He shouted me, Be careful! Only with the tip of my shoes I avoided to fall down inside it and I saw that sewage water inside the drain was really dirty.

José Antonio, 11 years

• Quito suffer on drainage problems because refuse is thrown away inside it by pedestrians, when it rains it cloggs the drains. When sun comes out, it dries the street and dust rises up, affecting our lungs and irritating our eyes. Municipality must spend every night cleaning streets and avenues, in order to have a better health and a cleaner city.

Jaime Celi Benalcázar, 11 years

• Once we were playing football with some neighbours, and then my friend Carlos shut the ball and as a drain was open, the ball fell down inside. After some days the Company put the cover on that drain.

Andrés Costales O., 11 years

• Once I saw an open drain and decided to cover it, but it happened that there was man from the electricity company inside it.

Daniel Alberto Escorza A., 12 years

• A toy fell down inside the drain but water was really contaminated there, due to toilets and factories.

Germán Espinoza

• What would it happen with drains after a few years?

Carlos Mosquera, 12 years

• Once I was walking by a street (I can't remember it's name) and found an open drain. I saw it so dirty that I asked myself, how water would drain when it rain?

Martín Alejandro Puente C., 11 years

• My name is Paul Pullas, once I was walking by the street when I saw plenty of water flooding from the drain. I approached and then my little sister throw away a toy inside it.

Paul Pullas, 11 years

• Once, by night, about 7:30 pm, it was raining and a drain was flowing, my daddy's car slipped and it's wheels axis broke down, we had to wait until the crane truck came to pick up itn. Then, we went to the garage by cab, after some weeks they delivered us the car repaired as new.

Paul Coral Robalino, 11 years

• Nowadays they don't do drain covers as good, so they get clogged with refuse.

Patricio Terán L., 11 years

Frights

• Once when I was small, during carnival they throw me some water and I slipped and fell down hardly in a staircase border, I got injured near my eye and broke my hand. To play carnival with water is a very rough game and I believe we should learn to enjoy it happily, as for instace with costume parties.

Juan Carlos, 11 years

• When I was 10 years old, I took a glass of salty water (it's like poison, but not as strong) assuming it was a refreshment. Later, my father told me that the same thing had happened to him, when he was almost my same age.

Gonzalo Carvajal, 12 years

• Once I was trying to open the tap and water was expelled as a bullet, I got soaked and everything was wet. It was hard to dry off all the house, but at last we managed to do it.

Marco Cuello, 12 years

• When I was six years old they introduced me inside a well to pick up a bucket and I wasn't able to swim, then they throw me a rope and brought me out.

Rafael Herdoíza, 11 years

• When I was younger I didn't know how to open the water tap, and then I put my head under the faucet and suddenly it was open and all the water came in over me. I almost drowned.

Mario Lasso, 11 years

• My name is Marco, I had a bitter experience with water: a friend of mine almost drowned, The fright made him cry and we changed his clothes. It was really an unpleasant experience.

Marco Mediavilla, 11 years

• My name is Juan Carlos, once I was playing at home while my father was washing the car, not noticing it, I stepped on the bucket and tumbled down 14 steps but nothing happened to me.

Juan Carlos Muñoz, 11 years

• During the carnival's period I always remember once when with some friends we opened an hydrant. All that water's power throw me away against the ground. Such a shock was so strong that I never forget it. Once I

was drinking a glass of water, and they hit my back and I get choked with it.

Juan Carlos Sánchez, 11 years

The Beyond

• Little virgin of Cajas has soaked me many times and I feel a happily emotion

David Espinosa P., 11 years

• Once when I was taking a bath something funny happened: The drain of my bath tube got clogged and I didn't have how to disclose it. Then, while I was leaving the tube, it got disclosed, I have always asked myself, how did it get disclosed?

Germán Rodas, 12 years

Fire

• When I was small I got burned but water calmed down the ardor, they took me to the hospital but water was good for burns and when I feel thirsty I look for it.

David Duque, 12 years

• Water saved me from a fire generated by a gas escape. If not for water, all the house would burn. Water is useful not only for blown out fires, but for many other things, without water, how can we possibly be clean? We would smell really really unpleasently. Water is vital for life, so it's very important.

Diego Guzmán Bedoya, 12 years

• Water saved me from a fire.

Francisco Ibarra, 11 years

- Once I was taking a shower and suddenly the light bulb exploded, because the water's steam, My skin got slightly burned, but it wasn't too severe.

Diego Vela, 12 years

Smells

- Once my brother came in very upset, telling us that my cousin had felt in a septic tank. My aunt ran to take her out, and pulled her out covered with excrements. She bath her and we felt pleased to see her well despite the incident. All of it happened by the lack of drains.

Diego Pineda. 12 years

Water's quality

- Once a rabbit drank from a very dirty water and died the following day. I guess that potable water is very important for everybody.

Luis Miguel Estrella, 12 years

- Long time ago I discovered some people completely muddy by a fugue.

Edison Gucelle, 11 years

- Water, they had told me, has to be boiled for drinking, otherwise, it produces cholera.

Pedro Antonio Illescas B., 12 years

- When I was a child, I used to live with my grandmother and enjoyed to play with water. Our grandmother came out and asked us not to waste potable water as it was going to end, leaving us without it even for drinking, but we didn't pay attention. Two hours later we

- were called back for lunch and there was no juice for drinking, so we had to buy a coke and I got a terrible stomach cramp.

Juan Morejón, 12 years

- In places where there is no water, it has to be bought from cistern trucks. When we go to the coast, my father has to buy it from trucks and then fill up a cistern that we own. But we have to put chlorine in it and to boil it as well, because it's not potable.

Carlos Paredes, 11 years

- In my grandmother's house there are many leakings because the old oxidized pipes and that makes plenty of water to waste.

Geovanny Santiana, 11 years

- Once I saw that water in the toilet had black spots. I was surprised and told myself: How can be possible for the drinking water to be dirty? Maybe this kind of water carries cholera, with this sort of water many poor people could die. They should purify the water with a more modern system in order to have really pure water.

Camilo Vallejo, 12 years

- Once I went for a walk with my father, my mother and my brothers. We came back home and I couldn't find any juice or beverages. I took a glass of water and felt alarmed because the water looked milky white. My mother told me that it was like that for an excess of chlorine and that it will go away after leaving the water to rest for a while. Then I learned that water requires chlorine for purifying.

Fausto Viteri, 12 years

Falling down

- I felt down inside the drain and they had to plaster my right leg, during two months I couldn't play football or anything. I learned not to distract myself when going for a walk.

Mario Iza.Féliz, 12 years

- Once in the city of El Tena they had took away the cap of a drain and I was running, playing with my friends, I felt down inside, suffering large strokes and scratches, that teach us not to destroy the city goods.

Mauricio Reyes, 11 years

- My name is Cristian. At the end of 1990 I didn't notice an open drain and I felt down inside. I managed to get out one hour later, with a terrible smell. Y got fungi.

Cristian Salcedo M., 12 years

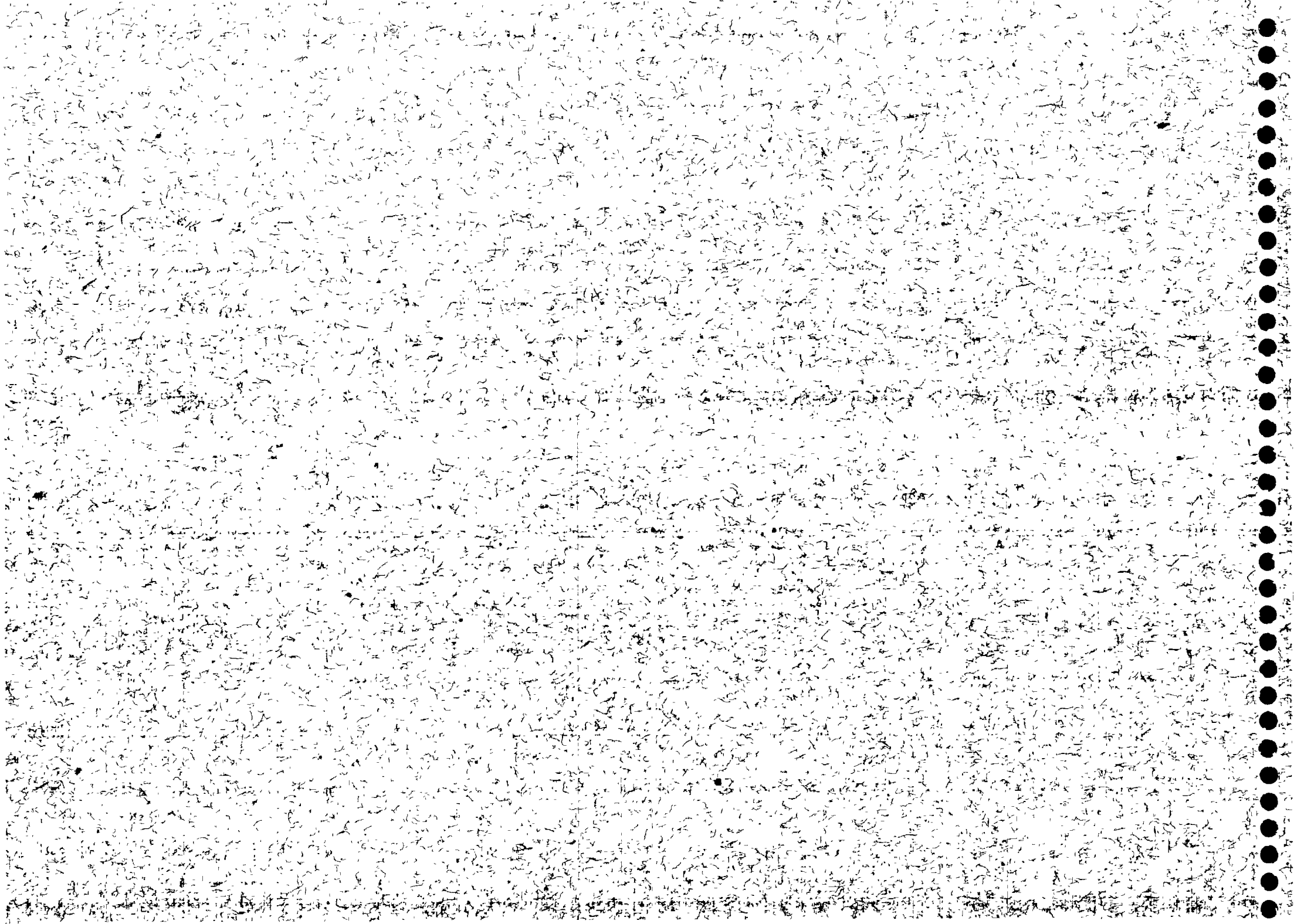
Municipals

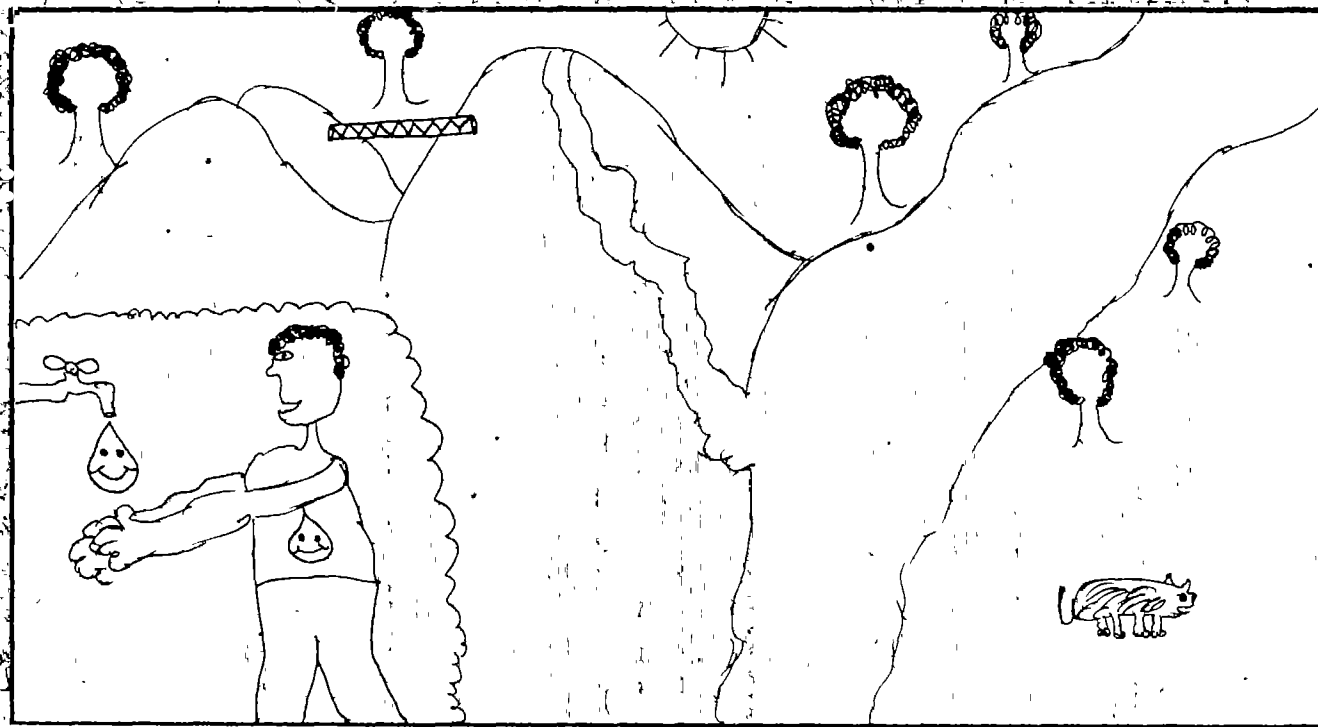
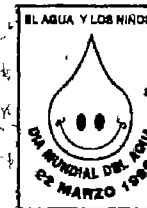
- I was born on april 2, 1984. When I was seven years old, I went for a walk with my schoolmates. We saw several vicinities without water, but now all of them have drinking water thanks to the Mayor, Jamil Mahuad.

José Pino Vera, 11 years

- Here in the Capital city of Ecuador everybody has potable water. In several neighborhoods of Guayaquil, specially the poorest, there was neighter water and sewage. By the news I heard that a Mayor is providing water with it's own sewage system, in order to eliminate the suffering of water shortages.

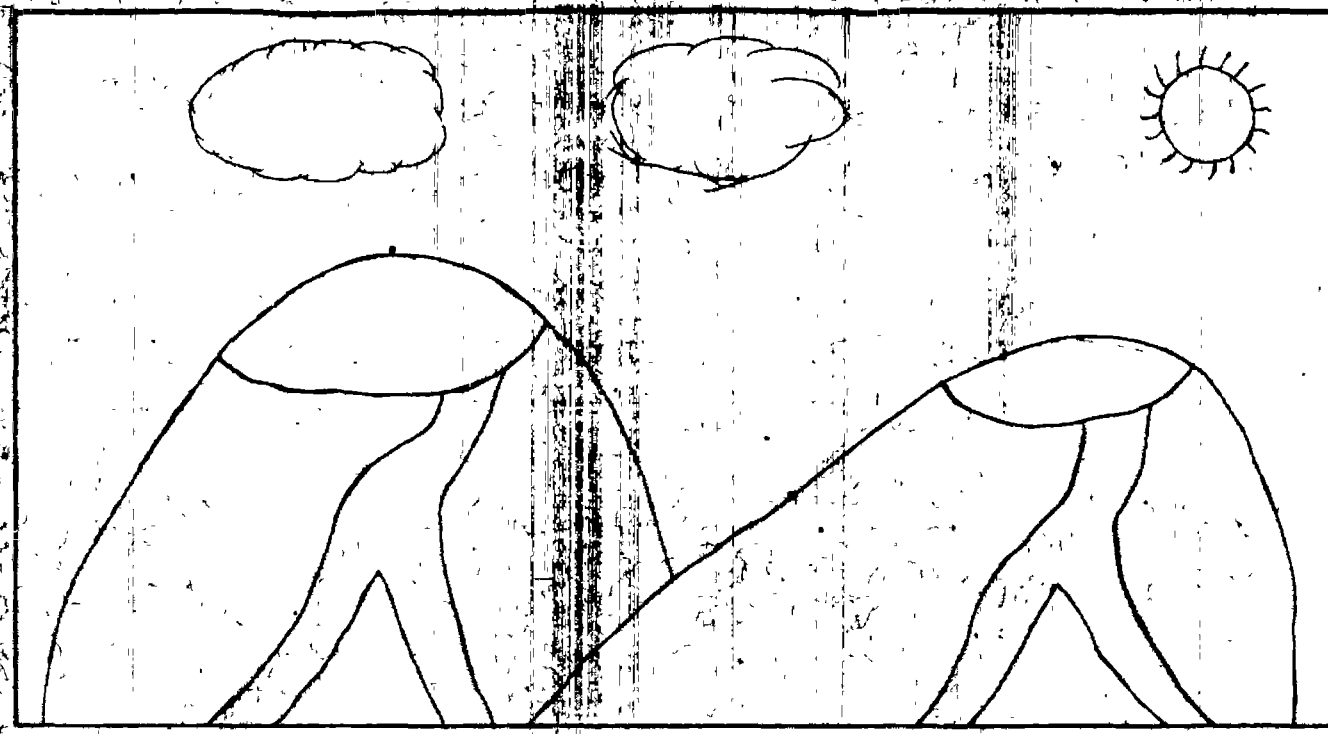
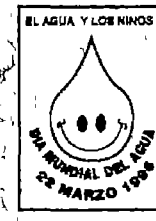
Jorge Luis Rosero, 11 years





Héctor Villacreses F.

11
Años

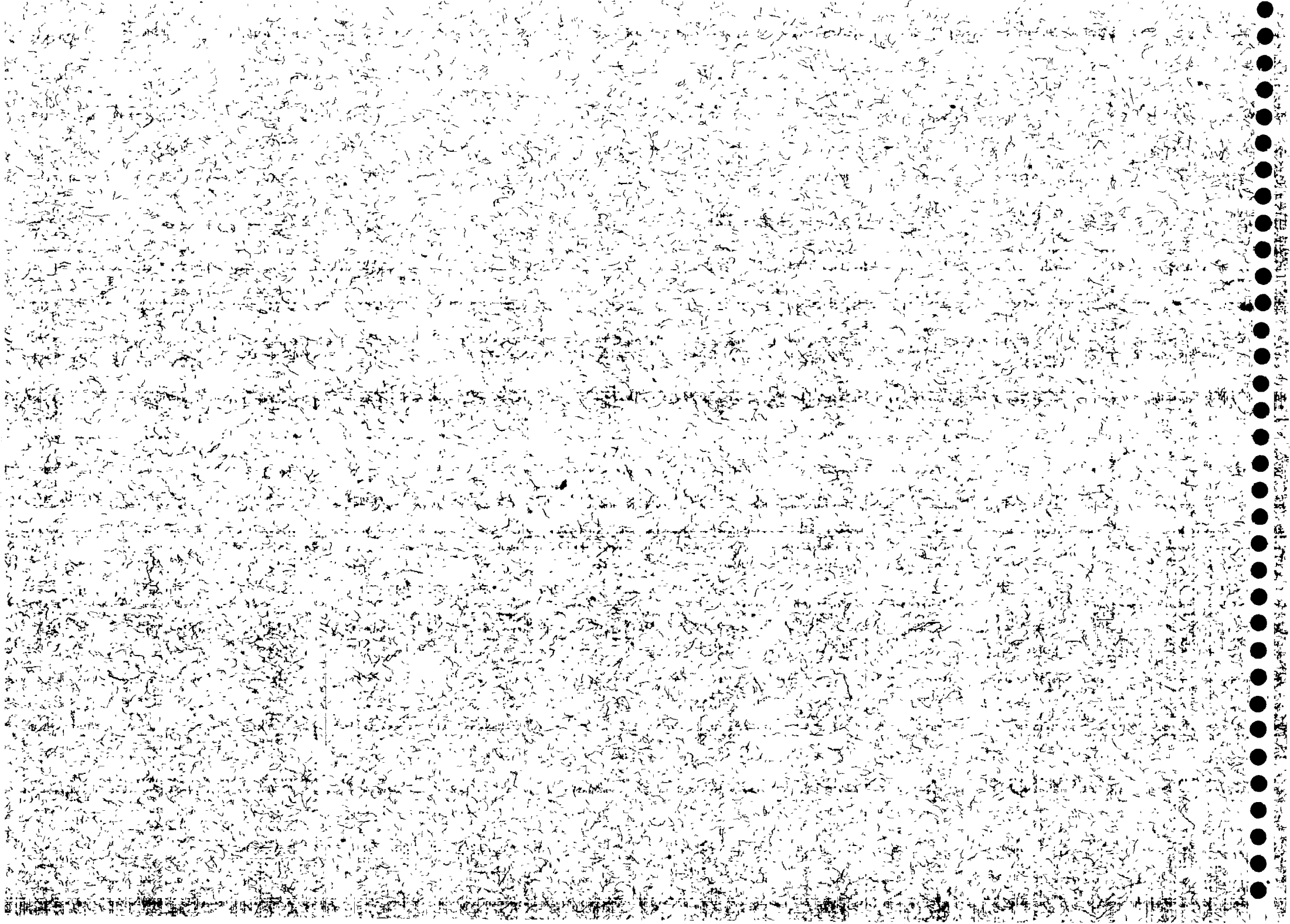


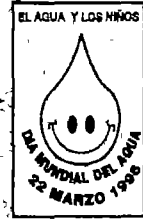
PABLO BARBA CÉ AÑOS 11



QUITO ECUADOR
Febrero 1996

**¿What would you do for
water and sanitation
if being elected
mayor of Quito?**





If I would become Mayor of Quito, I would fix up sanitation problems, because this city is becoming a dump and I like this city because I was born here. So I would help all citizens to get the vital liquid, digging wells and building water tanks.

For sanitation I would set the Municipality to work, doing things like cardboard and tin recycling and many other things. Sewage should be purified and fines should be imposed to bad will people that throw away garbage, to make them conscious about their responsibilities with their city.

Pedro A. Orbe Sabay, 11 years

I wouldn't contaminate it. About being Mayor, I wouldn't like it, because I don't like politics, but I would fix fences on parks and I would buy garbage cans, to be placed in each neighbourhood of Quito.

David Villacís, 11 years

If I would become Mayor of Quito I would buy modern machinery for Quito's water, naming this project "Water for Quito from north to south" because I like Quito with water, good drainage system and electricity.

Andrés Pástor

First of all, I would give water to the poorest towns, so no one in the city would protest, because everybody would have water 24 hours a day. For sanitation, I would buy lots of those tractors with brooms behind them. Also, I would give each neighbourhood 25 large garbage cans, because some people throw away refuse on streets, then there wouldn't be any problems, or at least not so many of them, because cars contaminate, too. Then, I would order a special machine to be made, for cars to not contaminate. And I would order every house in the city to be painted in this order: Yellow in the south part, red in the center, and blue in the north of the city.

Also, I would order to repair drains and streets on the south. And then, If I find someone throwing away refuse on streets or polluting, I would impose a fine on him, as already I had give them everything.

Cristian Campos, 11 years

• If I would become Mayor, I would purify water in rural neighbourhoods and in some of the urban ones as well, I would increase drainage system and I would increase cleanliness so children wouldn't get sick for consuming water. People on those neighbourhoods have to help as well, for instance not leaving opened cans where water would store, because that can generate a dangerous, deadly disease called cholera. That careless people endangering their neighbour's lives has to be severely punished.

Cristian Alvarez Castro, 11 years

• Being elected Mayor of Quito, I would develop several projects, among them the project "Mica-Quito south" that would help us to provide water for the largest population of Quito, and also the Pichincha slopes, that would save Quito population. About sanitation, I would plant many trees and fine smoke producing companies. To have a cleaner Quito without any diseases.

Paúl Mera

• If I would be Mayor or Governor I would open roads and lay down pipes in the poorest places in my city. If I would be president of UN I would help countries such as Camerun, South Africa, Chad, etc.

Rodrigo Matehu

• First of all I would give water to neighbourhoods without it and a good water system for all the city and computerized and a good

potabilization service, so the water would be purer and fresher and to have more water I would clean it as in other countries, where they have machineries for recycling sewage and make it pure and crystalline.

Franklin Alejandro Baca, 11 years

• If I would be elected City's Mayor, I would provide water for the poor towns of the city and I would purify bad water to give more water to the people. And I would purify sewage and I would keep the city clean and healthy. Because people don't deserve dirt. To purify it would be a good task for a Mayor. Hurrah for water and sanitation of Quito!

Santiago Leguísamo, 11 years

• I would increase all the drainage system of Quito, I would set up more dykes to best usage of water, I would exterminate rats and rodents that are profuse all over the city. I would install more storage tanks to get more water from sewage and therefore Quito would have drains and water forever.

Also, I would set a giantly community task where all inhabitants of Quito would clean and fumigate the city, I would fight against environmental contamination, to purify Machangara river, I would forbid strictly to throw away garbage and to wash on rivers. That would be my campaign.

Fabián Gálvez, 12 years

• I would purify it and would add vitamins to it, just as they do in USA and some other countries.

Luis Santacruz, 11 years

- I will search for more possibilities of increasing the volume of water for Quito, because requirements increase as population grows. I will build purifying tanks for water, as it's required to distribute pure water to population. I will distribute rationally the sewage system to improve environmental sanitation. I will avoid food contamination to make it good for human consumption.

I will provide more green areas and will promote tree's planting for environmental purification. (Air)

José Páez

- About water: I will extend water system to marginal areas, because it's a vital element. About sanitation: I will provide green areas to purify air. And I will build latrines to be used.

Santiago Villacrés

- I want to become Mayor for a cleaner and happier Quito, where everybody will have water and sanitation.

Marcelo Berni

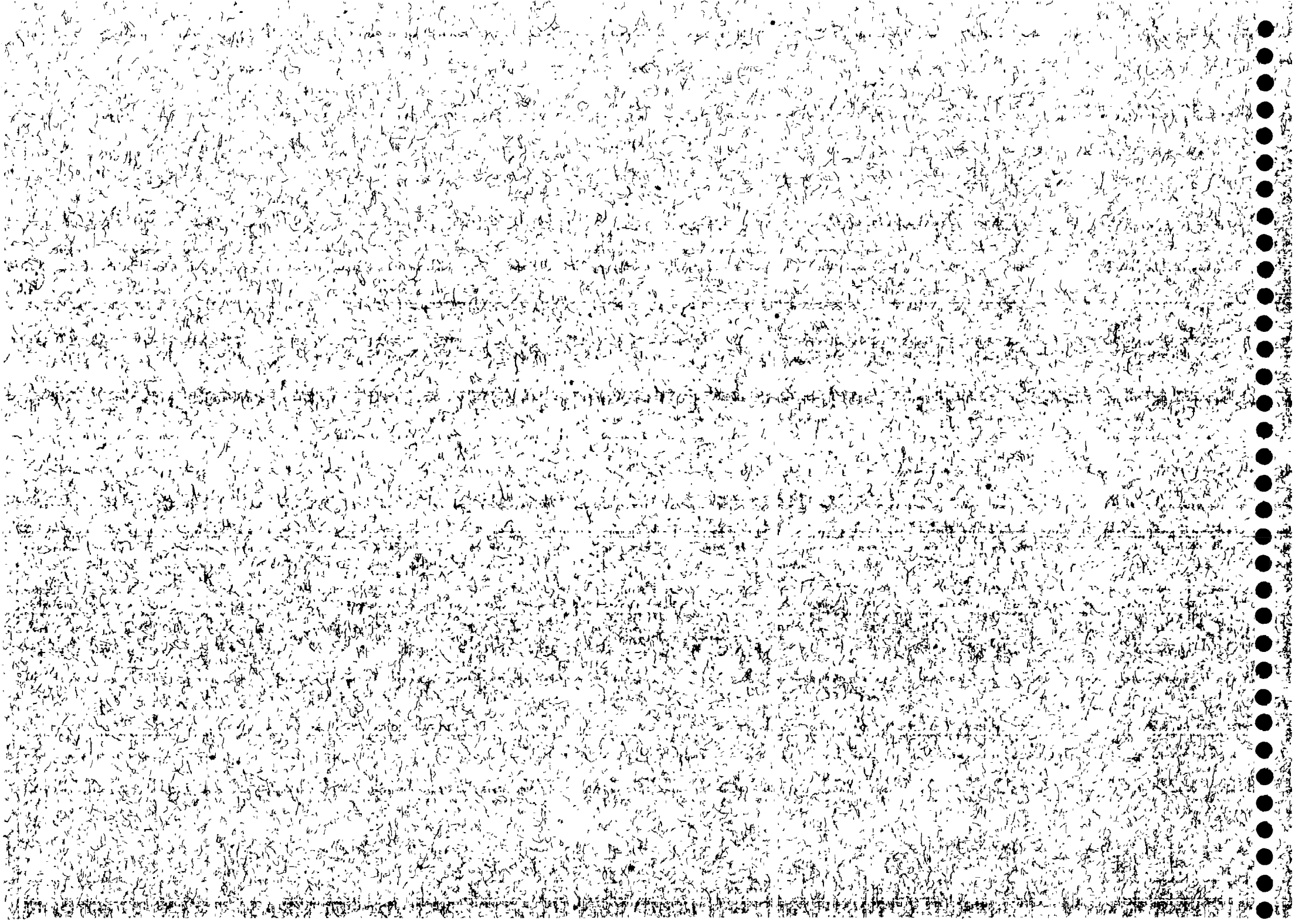
- About water, I would like more water, as in several neighbourhoods there is water scarcity. How? Digging channels to bring it from some clean river and purifying it, too.

Oliver Torres

- If I would be Mayor of Quito I would provide water to the poorer neighbourhoods of Quito and for

sanitation I would keep clean all streets, planting trees for better breathing and keeping drains clean to have good hygienical conditions, so there wouldn't be any diseases around the country. Because there are many requirements among the neighbourhoods and I don't want so many diseases.

Christian Vega



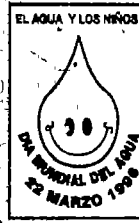


QUITO ECUADOR
Febrero 1996

Micro poems

"Water in the cities of the future"





“WATER IN THE CITIES OF THE FUTURE”

Let's plant trees!

Once upon a time there was a country with no water and people died because the lack of that liquid. After not having water for some days or even for some months, wherever there were no trees, there were no animals, every kind of life was dying and keep dying that way, for several more months, so life was becoming extinct all over our planet.

Then a child suggested: -Let's plant trees to get life and water! But no one paid attention to him, so the child planted trees and many more of them with perseverance and he went to a small sprouting well and he got the last drops of it and irrigated the soil and soon the seeds sprout and strong and vigorous trees started to grow.

During 102 days it rained on that deserty place, people felt happy and with rain, wells began to be filled and life spring all over.

So everybody planted trees and rain reassumed, filling rivers, lakes, seas and oceans. Previously extinct animals came back and life flourished over the heart's face.

Inhabitants did not cut trees ever again and made good use of water, so it became a better world.

Paulo Montúfar, 12 years

Water is as gold

It's year 2050 AC. Peter wook up as every morning, he went to the restroom but water in showers and lavatories was already suspended. There was only a string were four wet by steam towells hang down. So Peter went down to the kitchen and saw his mother picking up some drops of water provided by the Municipality of that city.

His parents used to tell him that they were able to shower and to make lots of things with water before, but as there is so much pollution and deforestation, rains have disappeared now.

Peter leaves his house and see that roofs are dry and that there are large nets to condensate fog during night. Peter says to himself: -Water is more valued than gold today but not even with that precious substance it would be possible to get water.

Peter thinks and thinks. When would the rains come back? As that's the only way to get water freely. Then, that day would be a festive one.

Jorge Herrera, 13 years

The astronauts

About 2028 AC world's water got extinct. There were only a few small water springs already, then men searched for ways to find the vital liquid, they even tried outside the planet, using all the world's technology, wars were stopped, all nations united searching for new ways to find water and two astronauts, a Russian and an American, were launched with enough water and food for a year.

They adventured through the dark space, surpassed the galaxy, searched in numberless planets without result... but suddenly, they found a planet with water. While on earth, water was searched at the poles, at the mountains and even it was decided to search for steam at the bottom of the earth.

Then the astronauts came back carrying unlimited amounts of water, being helped by aliens with superior minds than humans ones. They talked with the most eminent scientists and gave them a formulae to produce water..

Then there was no water shortages on earth and deserts became fertile soils.

Diego Almeida, 12 years

Remembrances

Quito could become one of the most contaminated cities, now at year 2045 AC. Being already old, I can remember how it was, back in 1995, when we had potable water. Now we take pills to nourish our bodies with vitamins,

as we can't drink potable water. Poor today's children, they don't have that privilege, all of it because in 1998 Machangara river overflow, breaking down the potable water pipeline and pure water got mixed with sewage, it was supposed that we wouldn't be allowed to drink potable water until the damage would be fixed, but in 1999 water began to lose its beneficial effects, so a gallon of water's price rose up to 200.000 Sucres, suddenly someone asked: What's wrong with streams? As there were no trees to attract rain, rivers went dry and mountains began to melt. During that time there was water, then nothing, just plain drought. And the seas? You will ask yourselves. Those can't be drunk because they got radiation. And so, for that broke down that no one wanted to fix, children can't take water today, that liquid so needed, due to people irresponsibility.

Luis F. Urquiza A., 12 years

From city to countryside

Peasants used to emigrate to the city looking after a job and a future for their families. However, a man of a simple kind went to the countryside to avoid the city's contamination.

In the city they started to cut down trees for timber, rains went away and the water was being wasted by careless citizens. Drought increased, the Machangara river, the city's only one, was being contaminated to no end. People died of thirst and persons trying to drink of the river died of severe infections.

So all the country was drying. The Paute's hidroelectric plant was already dry, the country was left without water and electricity, Quito seemed a desert.

The man who had gone from city to the countryside had a small water's reservoir. He thought: vegetation attracts rains, so if I plant trees, rains will come back. He asked for help and some of his neighbours gave support. Then they asked for help of the central government, but their petition was turned down. So they planted trees by themselves all over the country and in that way, they saved it of a great catastrophe.

Alberto Loaiza, 12 years

Migrants

It was the year 2022. Cities had grown so largely that water was scarce. People gave anything for a small amount of the vital liquid. Millions were dying everyday, dehydrated.

The world's governments decide to bring blocks of ice from the poles to be sold at high prices. Ambitously, they start to melt the poles, not guessing that it would turn into a lethal issue.

Flow of contaminated rivers, seas and oceans increase up to a level to inundate the coastal towns. Then the requirement of leaving the planet before it's too late is discussed. The small amount of remaining water is stored in vessels. And a few of us left the planet searching for a new place to life. Far away from our own system we

found a large planet covered with vegetation and plenty of fresh water. We saw how it's inhabitants cared and used water. We understood that we had polluted our water instead of caring for it. The ones who stayed, will have to wait for dying step by step, due to our mistakes.

Christian Vinuesa

War against Mars

After the war against Mars, we lost 90% of our water resources. Earth has become a desert. And about half of the remaining water is contaminated and there is no way to purify it.

Not gold or oil can buy water. Contaminated fishes are now carnivorous mutants. By now, by the year 2014, we understand how valuable is water. We only have hope that someday water will come back with all its splendor and we will be able to enjoy it.

Santiago Sinche

Cholera

Once there was a poor city, so poor indeed than once when there was no water some playful and thirsty children took the water of a river filled with refuse and contamination.

When they came back home, they felt sick and their mothers were worried and a mother told her son: -Did you drink the polluted river's water? And he answered: -Yes, mother!

They took them to the doctor and he asked them, - Wath did you drink? You drank the river's water! He checked their stomachs and told them, -You got cholera! And so the following day they were dead.

Andrés Arcos

Future

In the future, cutting of trees was indiscriminated and water was contaminated. Humans were not able to drink water as oil was mixed up with it.

Cities had grow up, species were extinct, there was no vegetation. Nobody cared about cleanliness of water, as they were concerned solely in becoming rich. The valleys, the cities, were sick by so much smog and they only thought about their vices. Fishes floated dead on water, marine wealth dissapeared.

People wasted water, purifing plants were no working anymore. There was so much refuse that it was impossible to dispose of it. We're on time yet, do not waste water and let's provide it to the ones that need it!

Diego Núñez

Pale people's town

When I was younger, my parents took me to a little town where I saw pale, very pale people. I didn't know what had happened with them. I asked my parents and they told me, - Son, those persons are pale because they need a vital element, water. Then I understood that water is a source of life and that people couldn't life without it, without water.

Later, I went back to them, carring water with me. I saw them, approached and told them: Drink water! At that moment it was as if I was giving them gold. They thanked me a lot. If there wouldn't be water, there wouldn't be life.

Cesar Vargas, 11 years

I'm the water...

I'm the water that carries away refuse through the underground of your house, of your country and your continent. Without me, your country and your continent would be destroyed, diseases would spread, there would be miriads of insects, also umpleasant odors, flies and worms would become a plague, cholera would appear. For this reason ministries of public works should take care of me and people shouldn't throw away refuse as I could become strong and damage someone. So I would ask to be cared and to be not wasted during carnival, because in other nations water is scarce and there are people dying by the lack of water.

Fernando Mora, 11 years

Alfondrina

Some years ago, in 1913, it's told that water was pure and abundant. Now there is some of it but it's scarce and in a not far away future water in our country will be finished forever as it will be contaminated. In the year 2086, a child called Alexandra imprudently drinks polluted

water and get severely sick. Being close to death, the Godness HIDRA, queen of waters, appeared, settle down her fever for a while and told her brother Flavio that cure for Alex would be a drop of moon, to be found inside a flower named Alfondrina, growing inside the Cotopaxi volcano. Flavio started his trip and being ready to go inside the crater, an elf, the spirit of contamination, appeared to him. He told him that Hidra was a liar but Flavio thought about his dying sister and made his heart to bright. Then the elf ran away and disappeared. Flavio went inside the crater but the sole flower was dying of lack of water. Flavio began to cry and a tear touched the flower, making it to grow again. Flavio squeezed the flower, took the drop of moon and Alexandra recovered her health. But Hidra said: -Take care of water because there wouldn't be water nor Alfondrina forever!

Antonio Andrade

Two years of life

As the beautiful and bright sun came out from the darkness of so heavy smog, it was almost impossible to see it. It warmed the heart but at the same time melted the peaks of the high snowy mountains, so pure water slid down like roads. Following its path it gets polluted, dead fishes float on it and thirsty animals drink this contaminated water and die.

Keeping its course, water arrives to a large city where everything is computerized and the remaining people has been replaced by robots.

People was not stealing for money but for water, as it was so scarce that many people had died by thirst.

The city was huge and made of crystal, it was beautiful but very contaminated, even the wealthiest and more powerful people that used to contaminate water to be what they are, didn't had so much water, just enough for living a couple of years more.

Everybody had a dream about a time when no contamination would exist.

Alejandro Castro

The child who saved his city from dehydration

The son of the Mayor of a large metropoli, who used to buy large blocks of ice to melt down water with people's money, thought intelligently to consult a famous scientist about where he could find enough water for living. The scientist answer was negative.

The child grew up and when he got married decided with his spouse to go to the south, to find water and live happily forever.

He stayed for a while in another city, but it was as contaminated as the other one. He followed his path and was able to find a beautiful jungle. At the edge of it, a golden armored man with a sword approached and told him: "From here they had taken enough water for a huge planet to drink, so if you want water, you will have to find

it and fight against a monster that lives here." He answered: "I will do it" He went to the jungle and saw him. He ran and pushed away the giant inside a water well that was there. It took it to the city and they lived happily forever.

José Fernando Rodríguez

The valley

In the future, after many years, people was looking for a source of pure water as water in rivers, seas and even in oceans was very contaminated. Then it was not required to be old to die, because the vital liquid killed, thirsty people walked around, not being able to drink the water. A boy said himself: Careless people has created this disaster! Children saw how lovely flowers died and when people climbed a snowy mountain, several children runned away to a forest where vegetation was beautiful and animals abundant. This beautiful place was free of contamination and there was a beautiful spring of pure water, where animals gathered to drink.

Children stayed in that valley and never told anybody about it, as they know that this valley was the only place with pure water and it was only required to be discovered by someone to begin again the water's contamination.

When they grow up they make a promise to care that place and it's water, just as all people should do, as if not, the future will be a world's disaster due to contamination.

Jorge E. Torres M.

The drop of water

Once our friend the drop of water fell down as rain on a huge cold and damp mountain. Our friend slid down on a small stream until it arrived to a dense jungle where lots of animals were watering. Our friend asked to a very peculiar friend:

- Dear giraffe, are you drinking on this river?
- Yes, water is clean and we are not endangered.

The drop followed it's course. After finishing it's cycle, it came back to the same mountain but now man had contaminated it completely. Then, arriving to the jungle, it saw animals not drinking and remembering her friend the giraffe asked, Why don't you drink from the river?

- Water is contaminated! The giraffe said, dying: -without water we can't live.
- You can't die, We have to fight!

The drop of water took other way and went to a city where it came across the great scientist Juan Carlos. The drop tells Juan Carlos, We should save the earth, fix an antidote to purify water! After two hours of hard work, Juan Carlos got the antidote, called "Chlorineman"

The drop said: - It has to be carried up to the mountain to be sprayed. Arriving, Carlos sprayed "Chlorineman". It cleaned and killed all microbes, so everything came back as before.

Now the drop can end it's cycle happily and all animals can drink the water without danger.

Nelson Almeida

Water World

In the future, by water's scarcity, everything was a desert! There was not a single drop of it in Ecuador and the government decided to set a contract with a foreign company, named WATER WORLD, which was famous all over the world as being able to collect large amounts of water to be very specially processed.

This company exploited the ecuatorian government's ignorance and sold each cubic millimeter in a million dollars. So people, getting tired, decided to set up an expedition to the south, with some scientists, until arriving to the south pole, to carry back a large amount of ice cubes, but in this trip lots of people died.

But it was a lesson for citizens and they never again wasted water, as it's a vital element for each living creatures and particularly for human beings.

Pablo Roberto Ubidia Bustos

Destiled water from sea

Cities in the future didn't have enough water. They had to get it from seas and destillate it in order to use it. That water was expensively sold, almost as gold. Poorest people pleaded for a miserable drop of water, they killed for it, it was a real disaster.

Governments didn't know what to do, they had lots of problems. Without water, to generate electicity was very complicated. Plants, animals and human beings died of thirst.

Cocoa and banana plantations were very scarce, no one was producing anything. Oil had ended as well, because a lack of care made it to run away to the sea. Soil has become sand, too. A governor said: This could have been avoided if in the past they would use this important resource with care. So we wouldn't be where we are now. My God!, what would we do now! So, during past, water had been contaminated with toxics, dirty rivers carried lots of diseases.

All of it can be avoided if we join forces and set campaigns for cleaning this resouce.

Luis Macas

Ambition

Long ago we had plenty of water but didn't know how to use it. Then people built a large reservoir to generate electricity to provide energy to low income towns.

This reservoir kept woking by rain's accion and everybody obtained benefits of it.

Then an important person who had the idea of that reservoir appeared and asked the people to pay a fee for the reservoir to be manteined, but people didn't accept, the reservoir broke down, a strong drought set up, forests turned deserts, people was dying of thirst, dellincueny increased but not for lack of money but for a drop of water, rivers evaporated, people didn't know what to do and everybody died, earth lost all forms of life.

That wouldn't happen if that person wouldn't ambitionate money.

Marco Enríquez

Future

This is the uncertain and desperate future, an era a step away of us despite we don't know it. Here giantly and majestic trees have been replaced by chimneys producing not beautiful sounds but dark smoke and smoke. Blue and white skies have been substituted by a heat as dark as night, the blue of water is now black by oil and relentless fishes are waste, refuse, garbage, at the bottom of the sea. The few survivors run away looking to hide of the deadly monster running around the streets, the empty hospitals while a soft roar disturb the people's rest.

In that moment, a big light shock their eyes and then they start to die as leaves of a plant. Those strong enough, cry and try to run away but they're impotent against such marvelous and dreadful shine.

Factories settle down, smoky chimneys stopped their destructive activity, nothing was able to move. The shine was only an allucination because the lack of water, plants and animals. and everything dissapeared and nothing was left but a large desert.

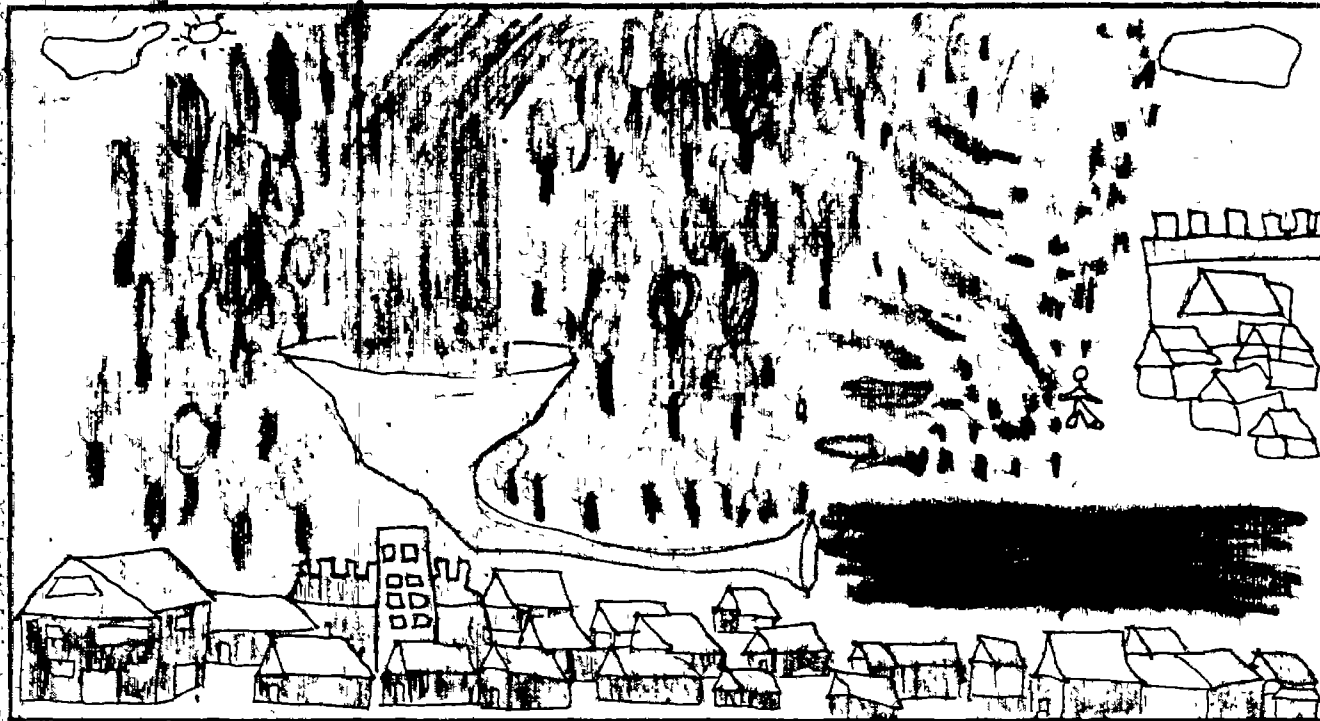
This is only a story but if we don't think about it, it will be a sad reality that we will have to deal.

Daniel Zapata

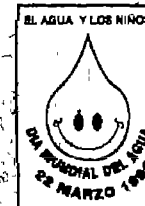
The reservoir

Walls of the reservoir were breaking down and water was spilling all over the place, clogging drains, overflowing rivers, drowning houses and even flooding hole cities. It was a disaster and besides it, winter was so dangerous that we should search for shelter in the mountains until the summer arrived and the tragedy was over.

Gabriel Castellanos, 11 years



Gabriel Arcezo 11 años



Esteban F. Morales M

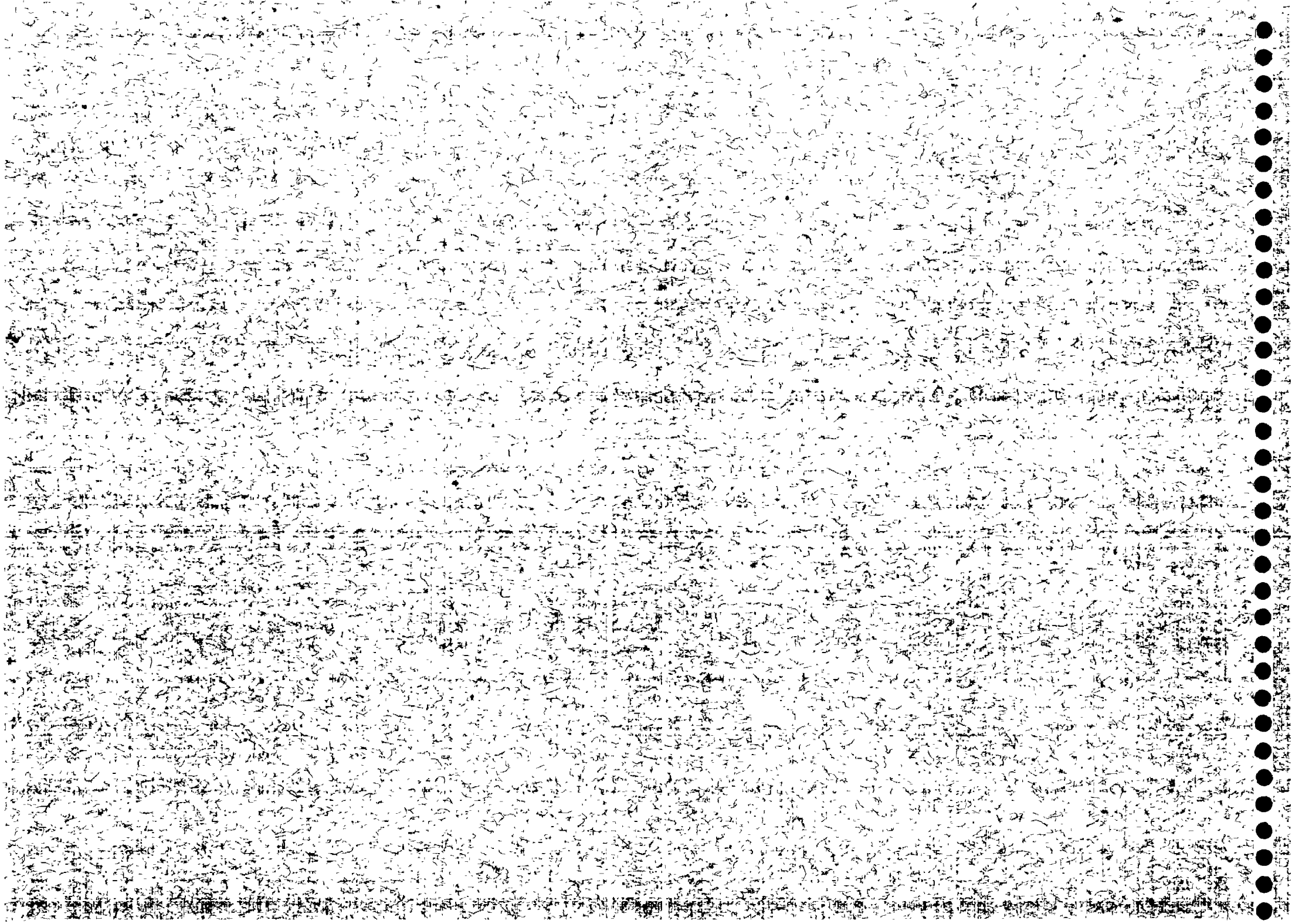
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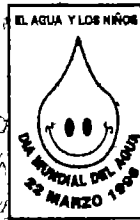
11 años



QUITO ECUADOR
Febrero 1996

Micro tales "Water in the cities of the future"





“WATER IN THE CITIES OF THE FUTURE”

Search

If there is no water, there is no life,
water is like a loving couple
going on without a course,
looking for peace, looking for life

Daniel Chávez, 13 years

Comparison

Water is pure as sky
beautiful as dew on a flower
so beautiful that we could compare it
with something beautifully unequalled

Diego Gallegos

Geography

I wonder about some places where they don't have,
or they don't know, the meaning of water

Gustavo Carranza

Demography

Very soon, due to world's overpopulation
millions of dwellings will be build,
forest will disappear, water will be contaminated
with refusal

Let's think on it and let's take care of water
where there is water there is life
where there is water there is health

If there is no water, there is nothing at all.

Michael Dávila, 12 years

Urban

I

Water is life, a drop of it calm down a child's thirst,
but the same drop, if it's wasted, gives as a result
dying of thousands.

II

In many countries, much more developed, rules and
forms of care have been issued, but in the future
perhaps not so far away,
all our rivers, seas and ponds will be destroyed
as cutting down the trees that have cared of us,
has changed the weather, so we have get sick.

III

Several people has been careless and many of them
have not been of any help
A city, crowded by people, has damaged the world
and as a muddy monster, those walls rise up forming
houses, where there was a river, it has been filled up
and all that water has been wasted.

Camilo Ernesto Tamayo Rosero, 12 years

The future

It's the source of life, the water
Drink of it and do not throw it away.

Save it
Water in the future
will be a need

Do not waste it, take care of it
do not spend it.

Save it and it will not be required
for children in the future
to suffer for you. Take care of it,
save it.

Listen what I have said
and you will have a world
with water and without
any needs.

Miguel Luis Cornejo, 12 years

History

Of life you are the mother
living blood of the planet
your unvalued presence
eternally slender

Of living beings you're the goddess,
queen of a far away era
for all of us, so valued
yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Carlos Estrella, 13 years

Life

If water get lost
there will be no men
there will be no plants
the future will be lost.

But...

if water is well used
it's well employed
and well handled
you will feel better
you will be alive
because there will be life.

Gabriel Vásquez, 12 years

Verification

Water, what a simple word
but how profound it resounds and how
required is really the water

Andrés Lalama, 12 years

End

If we don't care that source of life
if we waste it, tomorrow
our children will suffer.
Cities in the future would be
a dark cloud. Looking the horizon we
would see animals
fighting for a single drop of water
Seas would be dry and all the
past day's paradise
would be a hell.

And when the source of life will be over,
then it would be the end of our planet.

Andrés Sigüenza, 12 years

Heritage

When your child will born,
teach him to take care of water,
teach him the value of water.

Diego Pilatuña, 12 years

If we act now...

Of water plenty has been said, but
not so much is done.

Time never waits

If we act now, we will be alive tomorrow

Efrén Herrera 13 years

Explosion

For the end of the world to come,
it's not required explosions or pests,
all it's needed is the water's end.

Michael Calderón, 12 years

The smallest being in the world

Water is future, it's life
without it there will be not even
the smallest of the world's beings,
as they also need water

Jorge Mena, 12 years

Thirst

Poor people, how they waste it
and when it will be finished,
dying, they will look for it, desperate
and not finding any,
will have to drink their own tears!

William Aponte

Beauty

Water is as the sun's warm
or as the day's light
is the most beautiful thing
that nature has given us.

Pablo Arturo Guzmán Grijalva

Waste

Many cities have plenty of water
and they waste it.

And there are thirsty children that die.

Daniel Toledo

Ignorance

Water will extinguish
due to our ignorance and negligence
water is life
and we're killing it.

Sebastián Valarezo

Doubt

In the future, the water
perhaps will be impure
without it, this will be a world
more insecure.

Jonathan Sarzosa

Reciprocal

Thanks for benefits you have given to me,
but, what I have given to you?

Hugo Noboa G.

Color

This world is called "blue planet"
but it's the water what makes the blue color
of this, our planet.

Pablo Carrión

Friendship

Water is our friend
at school and at home
if we don't waste it
we will have no regrets.

Francisco Del Castillo Aguilera

Doubt

Crystalline and pure substance
sustent for all the world
magic and good-natured substance
you do exist just for help
Why do they waste you so cruelly?

Xavier Córdoba

Verification 2

Water is vital
for vegetation and large cities as well
In the cities it shouldn't be wasted
in thirsty cities where poverty as well
as unhealthyness and diseases are so common,

that's why water should be cared
as it's life and fertility.

Rolando Freire

Desert

If human beings have water
and willing to keep it, world will be
different and better.

In the cities of the future, more than today,
water will be a vital element for life
if we waste it, can you imagine
how it will be? A desert, Yes!
the world will be a desert.

Pablo Buenaño

What will be of you in the cities of future?

Water, once you were healthy
and pure as air. In the cities of the future,
what will be of you?

Who will take care of you?
Would they follow polluting you?
That's what I guess.

Today, on our present cities
there are only few people trying to care for you,
dear element, because they remember
when they were younger, how they played with you,
when it was such a fine time, on those days.

You are dying little by little
What will be of you in the cities of future?

Esteban Lalaleo

Destiny

Water sprout like flowers in spring
perhaps it will be used to calm a traveler's thirst
or to wash up the body of a new life.

Roberto Calvo Piña

The word

We don't want
our children dying of thirst
what we want for them is to enjoy water.
To accomplish it, to save is required
Key word is saving,
because water is life,
health and well being.

Julio Daste

Science

Tomorrow's people will expect
a flow of water desperate running away
to free itself of the cruel offensive
of the so called science, that everyday produces
Harmful toxics will be it's elements
running through fields and cities,
on rivers, killing the roses,
the wheat crops and the marine species
the birds and even human beings.

Byron Alvarez Vera

Remembrances

From generous rivers and lakes water comes to us
unvalued source for our life
this is why trees must not to be absent

so it can arrive to calm our thirst.
Do not waste world's water
as in future it will be scarce
so it will follow in tables of each home
When you will be going to waste it
you shouldn't never forget
that in many places it will be absent.

Francisco Flores

Color 2

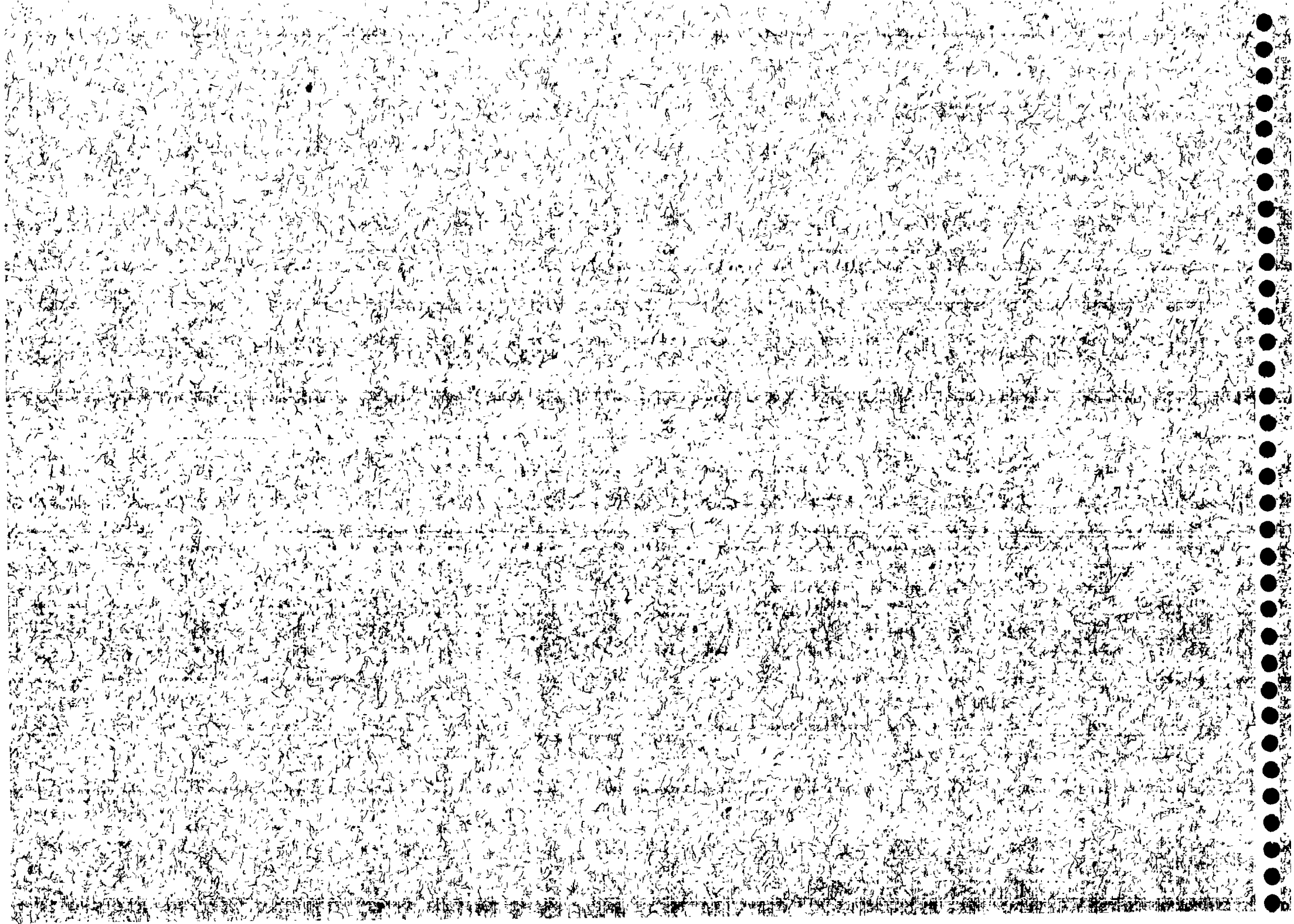
Water is inside us
and we're alive thanks to water
Don't live to contaminate it
live to purify it
So in the future
we will have a green planet,
without water problems.

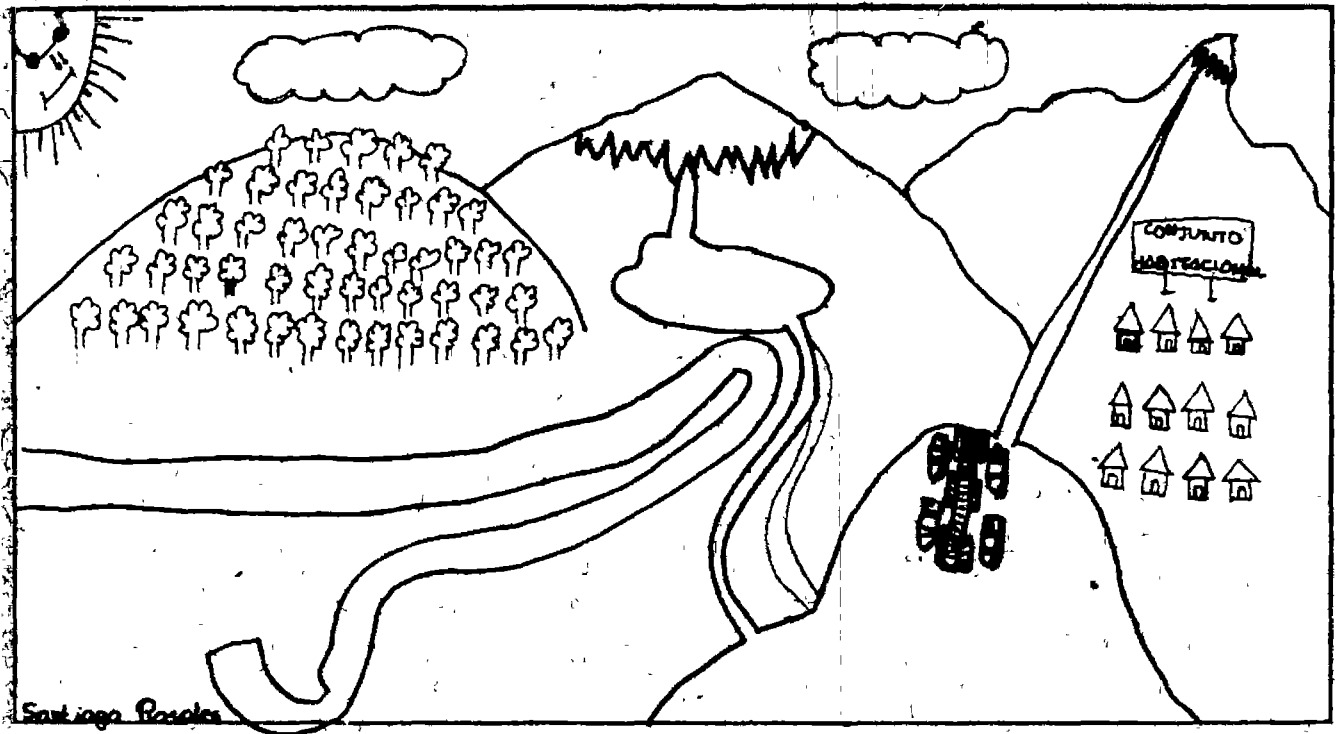
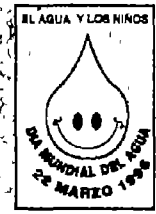
Andrés Sosa

Guilt

Only thinking in the future I tremble of fear
I imagine that if we keep wasting you
and throwing you away
I doubt that there will be any future
but I imagine that in those cities of the future
everything will be so surprisingly.
If today, on our days, we waste you
and people die for our's guilt
in several continents of our planet..

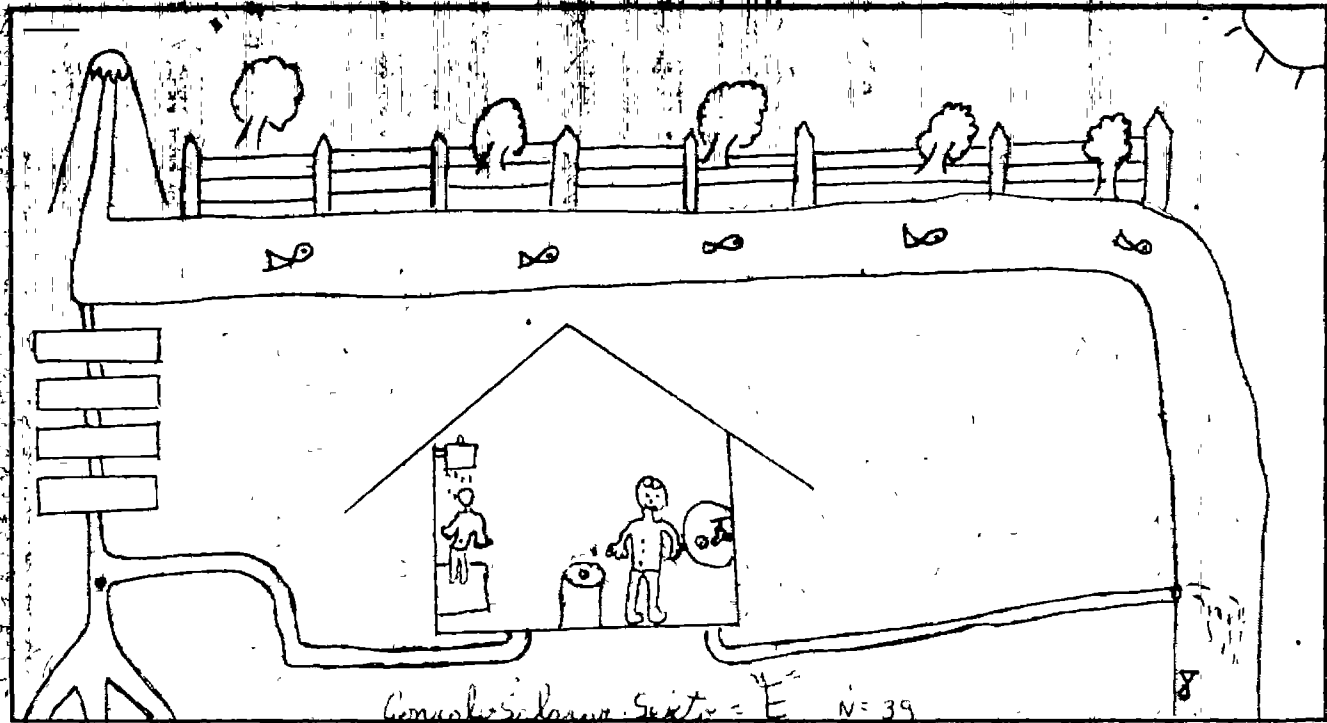
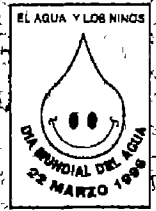
Christian Gallo



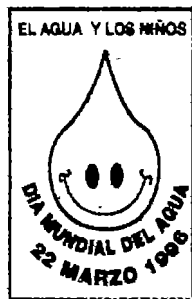


Santiago Rosales

12 años

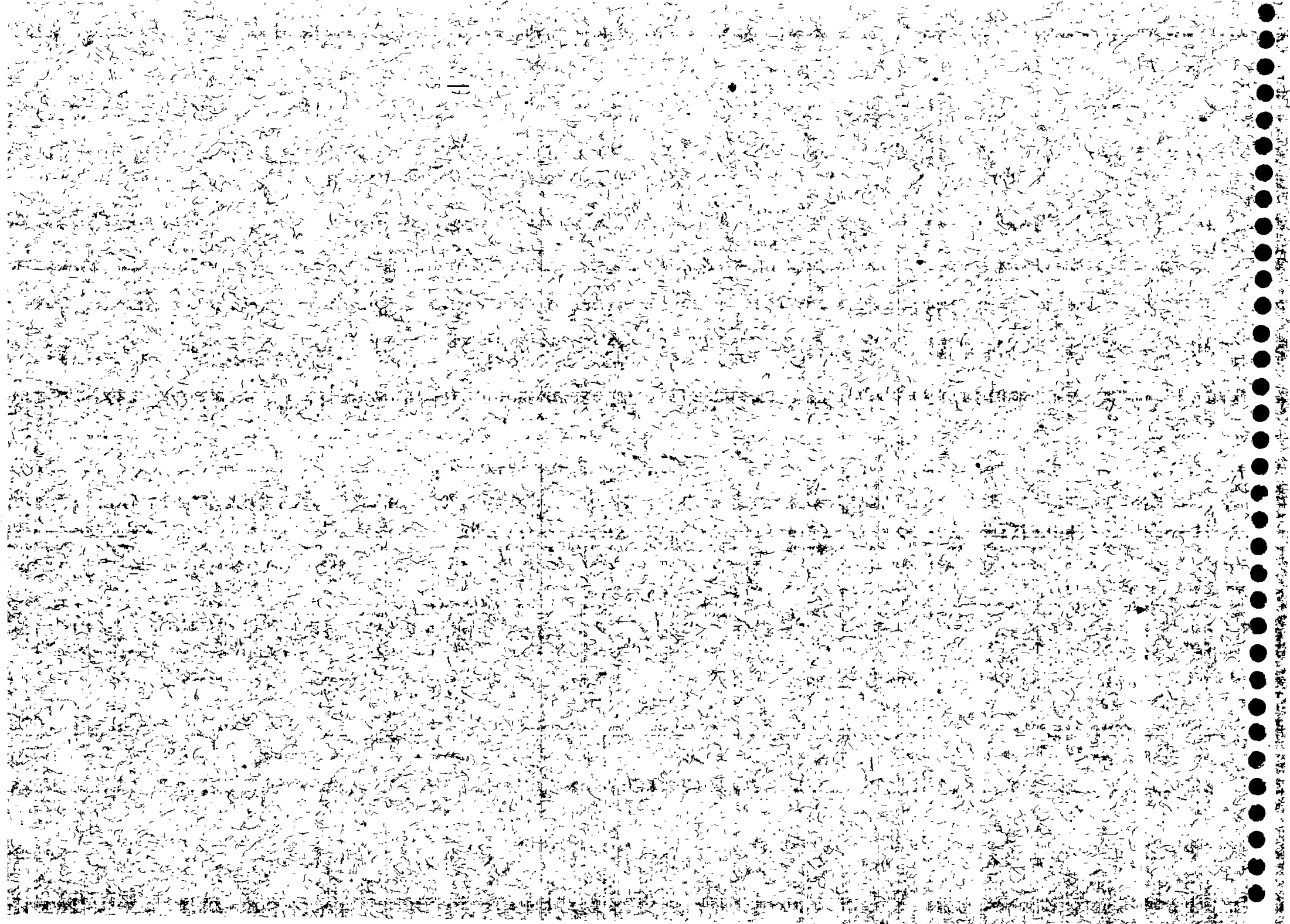


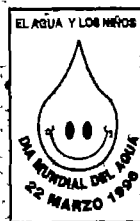
Geografía - Segundo - E - N° 39



QUITO ECUADOR
Febrero 1996

News releases "Water and sanitation relationship with environment and development"





Water is coming to an end

Due to large exploitation of forests around the country, which rise up to a large percentage, water is becoming scarce, particularly in the southern part. A clear example is the Paute Reservoir which can not generate enough electricity for different areas of our country because the required resource shortage. That delays notoriously our development as the productive sector is left paralysed and a large amount of money is lost.

Also, the few amounts remaining are being mixed with refuse and used by people in their daily activities, because the badly condition of sewage systems, particularly in Quito and Guayaquil and also in a large quantity of marginal areas.

Government has to act firmly and take this issue under control to increase those severe problems that are affecting all of us.

Abraham Ulloa Ch., 13 years

Explosion in "La Prensa" Ave.

About two years ago in Quito, around the Airport's sector, between "La Prensa" and "Baca de Cartro" avenues, there was a heavy rain with thunders, rays and hail as it rains usually in this city. But this time, after raining for about one hour, a terrible and harmful noise was heard. The pavement in those street's corner broke down completely, asphalt brutally exploded, pieces flown around, in fact, it made many cars to crash. Dirty waters produced a large flood, nearby sidewalks and the street corner were destroyed, water came out from everywhere, but then rain stopped slowly, and finally ended. It didn't rain anymore, but the street's corner kept throwing water as a big, furious and turbulent river, as it was trying to brake down our corner furthermore. Then, as a miracle, water stopped. However, the flood left a heavy, pungent sewage smell. But, thanks to God, gradually the flood ended as drains were open and free of refuse. The flood went away but there was a question: What to do with the corner? It was destroyed, cars had to make difficult manoeuvres to avoid the crater. Fortunately, the municipality filled up the huge crater. But this event is remembered

because there are cracks left. It's interesting to mention that if drains wouldn't be opened, we wouldn't be able to solve the problem.

Daniel Garófalo, 13 years

Environment

Through the Villa Flora neighbourhood, in the southern part of Quito, the metropolitan district Mayor has set up a new, modern and comfortable transport service: The trolley. It will cover the area between El Recreo, in the south and La Y, in the north. And it will be useful for the environmental care.

However, by other side, the city's mayor has lacked to pay attention to other projects such as the Machangara river protective project and only a small part of it is drained but the rest has been totally neglected by the Mayor.

People throw away refuse. This will difficult Quito's progress, being it a metropoli.

Angel Silva, 13 years

Municipality-UNICEF agreement

In 1988 the Municipality of Quito and UNICEF signed an agreement oriented to satisfy people's

general requirements. With resources provided by the Spanish Committee, help has spread up to 7 neighbourhoods selected by the municipality, benefiting nearly 40.000 people, about 20% of Quito's marginal population. This project is oriented to children's nutrition, health and sanitation. One of the main ways of saving water is to close faucets thightly.

José Andrés Bassante, 13 years

Potable water works in Guayaquil

During his period as Mayor, Leon Febres Cordero finished Guayaquil's potable water project. It would provide this vital liquid to all city's inhabitants.

That project was going well, citizens had potable water all the time, before on Guayaquil's streets (particularly in the marginal areas) water used to flood houses of the sector.

On their opinions, inhabitants showed acceptance to their Mayor's labour, but in inquiries made in the rural sector answers were negative, as pipelines did not arrive to those sectors and only old cistern trucks with unpurified water arrived.

After some time of operation, pipelines didn't support the water pressure and the same situation of flooded streets came back again.

Henry Carrión, 13 years

Machangara River's problem

Contamination problem in Quito is due mainly to Machangara River. That river is a source of unhealthiness because all inhabitant's refuses end there.

Sewage thrown away there in many cases is reused to irrigate crops in closeby towns such as Tumbaco, Cumbaya, etc. Legumes, fruits and vegetables go to the markets to be sold to unconcerned people that don't presume that those aliments could be contaminated.

This problem should be solved for once and forever. The competent authorities should pay attention to this problem, building channels to avoid sewage being used for irrigation. Laws should be issued for factories and bussiness dealing with chemical products to avoid residues to be thrown away on the Machangara River. Some months ago, a detergent's factory spilled a chemical substance used for detergents production and a huge mountain of eye's irritant foam was formed.

Bolívar Jibaja , 13 years

Obstruction

On wednesday 14, a drain in the corner of Garcia Moreno and Manabi streets had become

clogged, apparently due the accumulation of "Sausage and Chips" envelopes thrown away by students of the nearby Gonzaga schooll, after buying them in a close by stall located, in Espejo and Benalcazar Streets corner.

Alejandro Anibal Almeida M., 13 years

Informative Bulletin

Broke down drain in Quito. This morning, about 10:30 in the morning, at the corner of Rio de Janeiro street and America Avenue a garbabe truck, driven by a drunk conductor, hit against a drain pipe. Noticing it, people got worried and immediatly called up the Metropolitan water company. They arrived soon and solved the problem immediatly.

City's grow and water potabilization. During the 70's and 80's decades, the city of Quito began to be urbanized from north to south and from east to west without thinking in water, vital liquid that couldn't reach those points.

People began to build their homes but as water didn't arrive, they had to use water from wells and marshs, having to resist unhealthiness and diseases coming through that waters.

About that period, the city council got several projects about sewage, drains and potabilization of all the

city's water, but unfortunately those projects were left down by the lack of resources and projects and by queries among councilors and the Mayor.

There were several neighbourhoods and sectors considered marginal because those basic elements were absent. In many cases, those sectors had fertile and productive soils but unfortunately, people had to irrigate their soils with dirty standing waters, and on those conditions people subsisted under the siege of diseases.

In far away villages where modernity had not arrived yet, poor people without resources had to carry up water as their slave ancestors used to do, by buckets over their shoulders.

But that nightmare for most is over, as drains, sewage and potable water have arrived, ending this black chapter of the history of the city and the country.

Projects made by engineers and all the people working with them to achieve that objective, have done it, in the best way.

Victor Patricio Rivadeneira, 13 years

Potable water pipeline's failure

In the Jardín del Este neighbourhood of Monjas district, in the 2nd street, near the basketball field, on Saturday 11 a crack was detected in the main

pipeline, that feeds the reservoir tanks to distribute water for all the neighbourhood. It generated the inhabitants' claim to the urban services attendants. But they didn't come in and it was required to suspend the service. By other hand, in the same block where the crack was found, there was an open drain where refuse had been accumulating, avoiding the water drainage and generating unpleasant smells.

Franklin Cabrera, 13 years

Ecuadorian crisis

In recent times, Ecuador suffered a huge crisis, and many Quito's neighbourhoods assumed the consequences, particularly the ones nearby the Machangara River. Let me tell you about it in the following note.

Nearby such so contaminated river as Machangara is, there are many neighbourhoods that not having potable water, consume water from this river, filled up with microbes and this is just what allows so many citizens to get sick and sometimes even to die.

Andrés Piedra, 13 years

Water and sanitation in the east.

Families in Lago Agrio are consuming contaminated water and there are many cases of cholera, paludism, etc.

Oil waste or its leaks are contaminating many rivers and domestic or wild animals are dying, because careless oil companies don't purify the waters of those rivers and lakes. Even worse is what's happening with the lack of care of Mayor and councilors, leaving the Machangara river to die by contamination, without a cover. Due this lack of care, people in Quito consume contaminated vegetables.

Juan Carlos Muñoz, 13 years

Consecuences of a deficient labor

In an unparticular part of Quito, as they were fixing up a road on a marginal neighbourhood, they broke down the drain and water pipes. Inhabitants, scared by the disaster, pleaded the municipality for help, but it was denied, arguing that the accident had been premeditated.

Neighbours decided to fix the broken pipes by themselves, but unfortunately instead of fixing up them, they made further damage.

They ran out of water and sewage contaminating the area produced epidemics of cholera, typhoid fever, hepatitis and many other ones.

Situation worsened each day, so they decided to ask the main municipal authority, who visited the place immediately and promised to solve their problem. Few

days later it was fixed up and the neighbourhood was allowed to follow its normal live without further problems.

David Tituaña S., 13 years

“Edén del Valle” and Quito's oblivion

Edén del Valle is a new vicinity located behind the toll on Los Chillos road. Some people consider it a marginal neighbourhood because it doesn't have potable water. Water for consumption has to be carried by hose from the Puengasi plant. It also doesn't have a drains system so all the sewage, garbage and refuse is thrown away by pipes to the Quisqui flaw. Quito's Mayor, Jamil Mahuad, collaborated with the president of the Coll building company to build the main water and drain pipelines. People claim that cars and tractors being driven through the main street destroy drain pipes and water hoses, and that as roads are unpaved, tend to become mud pools.

In January 1993, the Puengasi water plant suffered several damages and in the way from there to Eden del Valle, pipes collected refuse, so water was contaminated at the end. After one hour, when people noticed it, about 10 children were already in the hospital. At four o'clock that same day, the neighbour's president asked for water to a close by vicinity called Obrero Independiente, in order to carry up with a hose from there to the Eden del Valle

neighbourhood. Due to this problem, 9 children and a mother perished.

By now, Quito's Mayor office develop the potable water project for Eden del Valle, so what happened in 1993, will never happen again.

Esteban Loaiza, 12 years

Mayor's labor

Let's remember that in the 80's decade there was a huge economical problem that made people to be unemployed and many neighbourhoods and towns lacked security, electricity, transport, education, health and, further more, potable water. Those dreamly neighbourhoods set up their own committees, looking for potable water to subsist.

Despite those people were unable to get it, now there is potable water in our neighbourhoods and towns and we waste it, not noticing the effort made by them and what the Quito's Mayor. Mr. Jamil Mahuad, has done, making possible the dream of those neighbourhoods: to have potable water and, therefore, better health.

Paul Mena, 13 years

A problem in the south.

In La Magdalena, a neighbourhood in the south of Quito, an hydrant broke down in Quitus and

Collahuazo streets. During all morning of a Saturday a large amount of water ran down by the streets. All the water filled up by a militar cistern truck each month was wasted. About 1:00 p.m. a militar truck fixed up the hydrant.

Worse of it is that in front of that hydrant there is a gas station, but only a few citizens noticed. Coming to think, what would it happen if a fire set up in that badly attended gas station or in the Cañaris street LPG store? How those would be controlled without that essential hydrant?

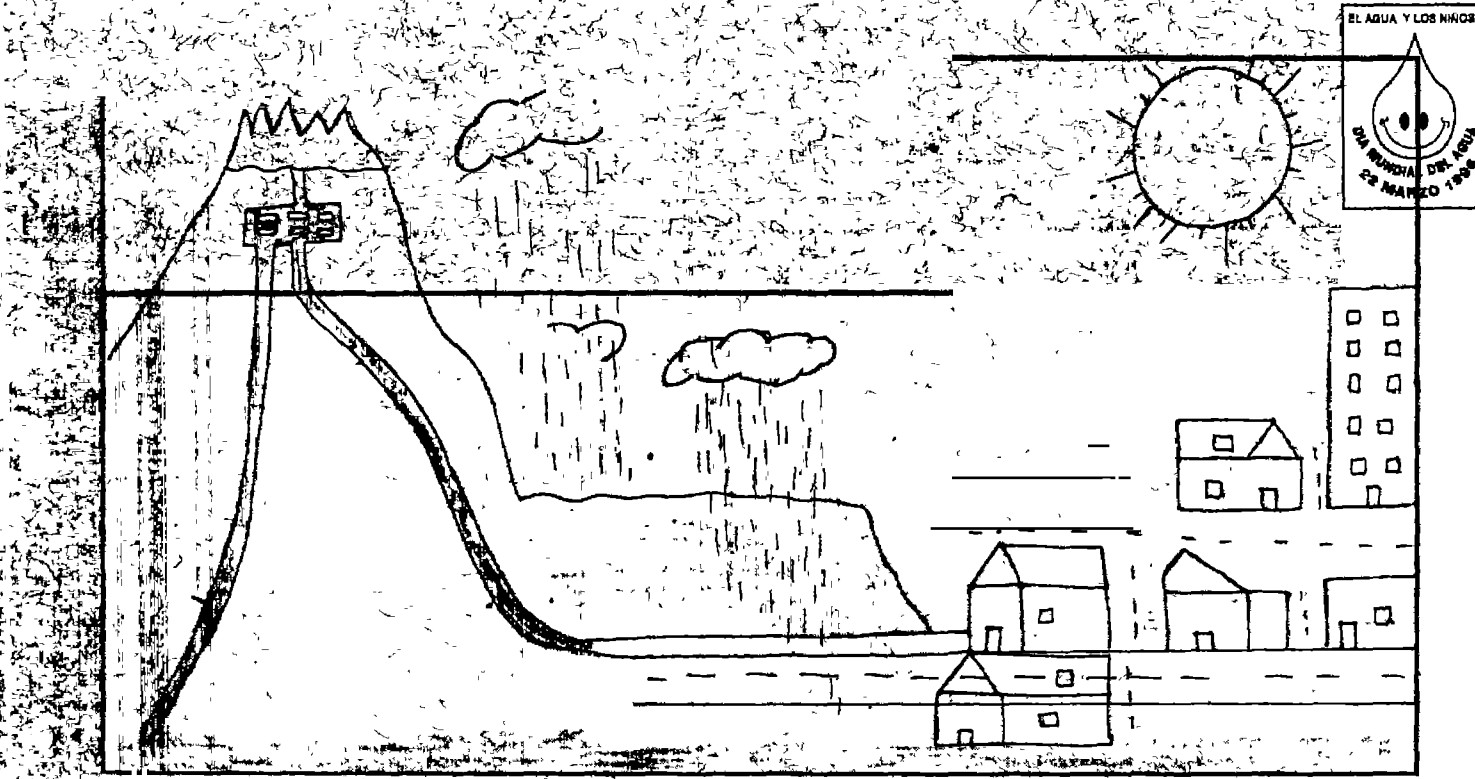
Luis Miguel Prócel, 13 years

Golden chubby

In Solanda, a neighborhood located in the southern part of Quito, there is a flaw where a river goes by. Since several years ago, refuse has been thrown away there, contaminating it and the surrounding buildings.

In this neighbourhood a man which was motted golden chubby gave his life fighting for environment. He was killed under the tires of a truck coming to throw away garbage there, and he opposed.

Juan Carlos Robalino, 13 years

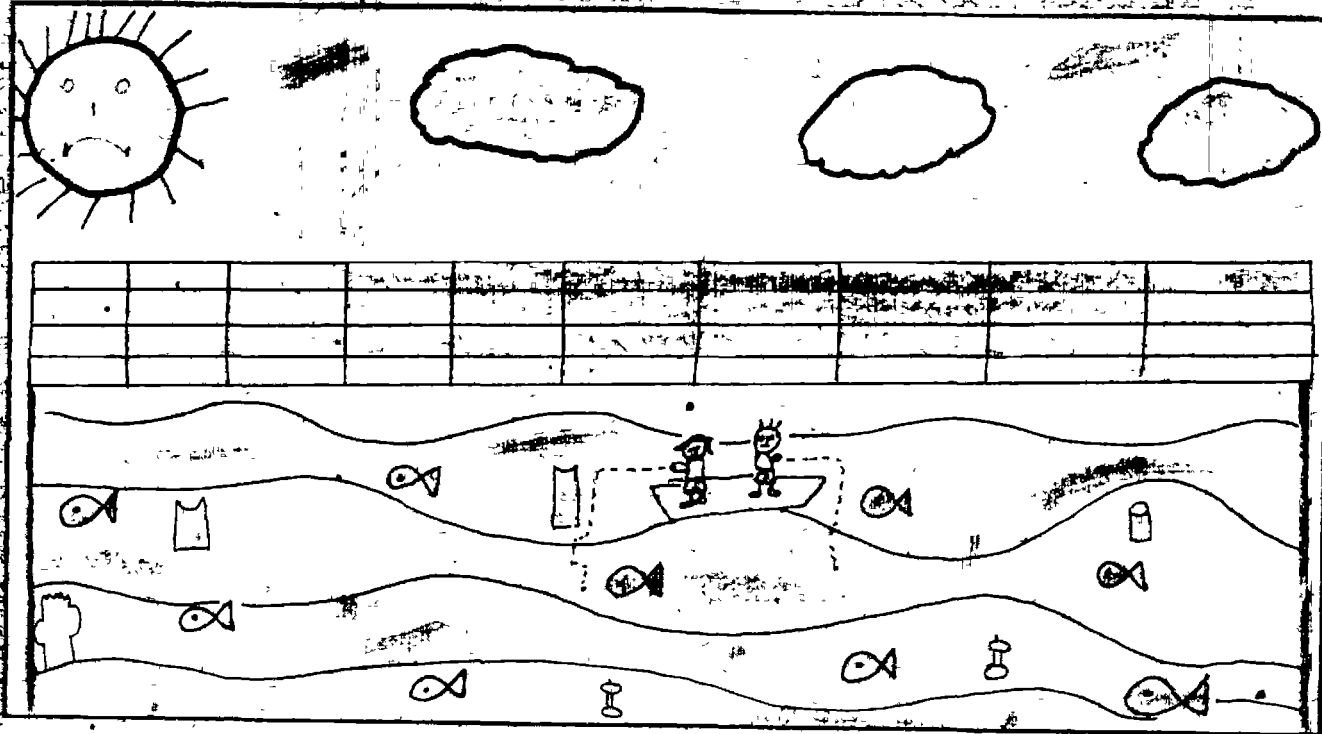


N

Ricardo Ponce J.

11 años

6^o "E"



Carolina Morales

6 años

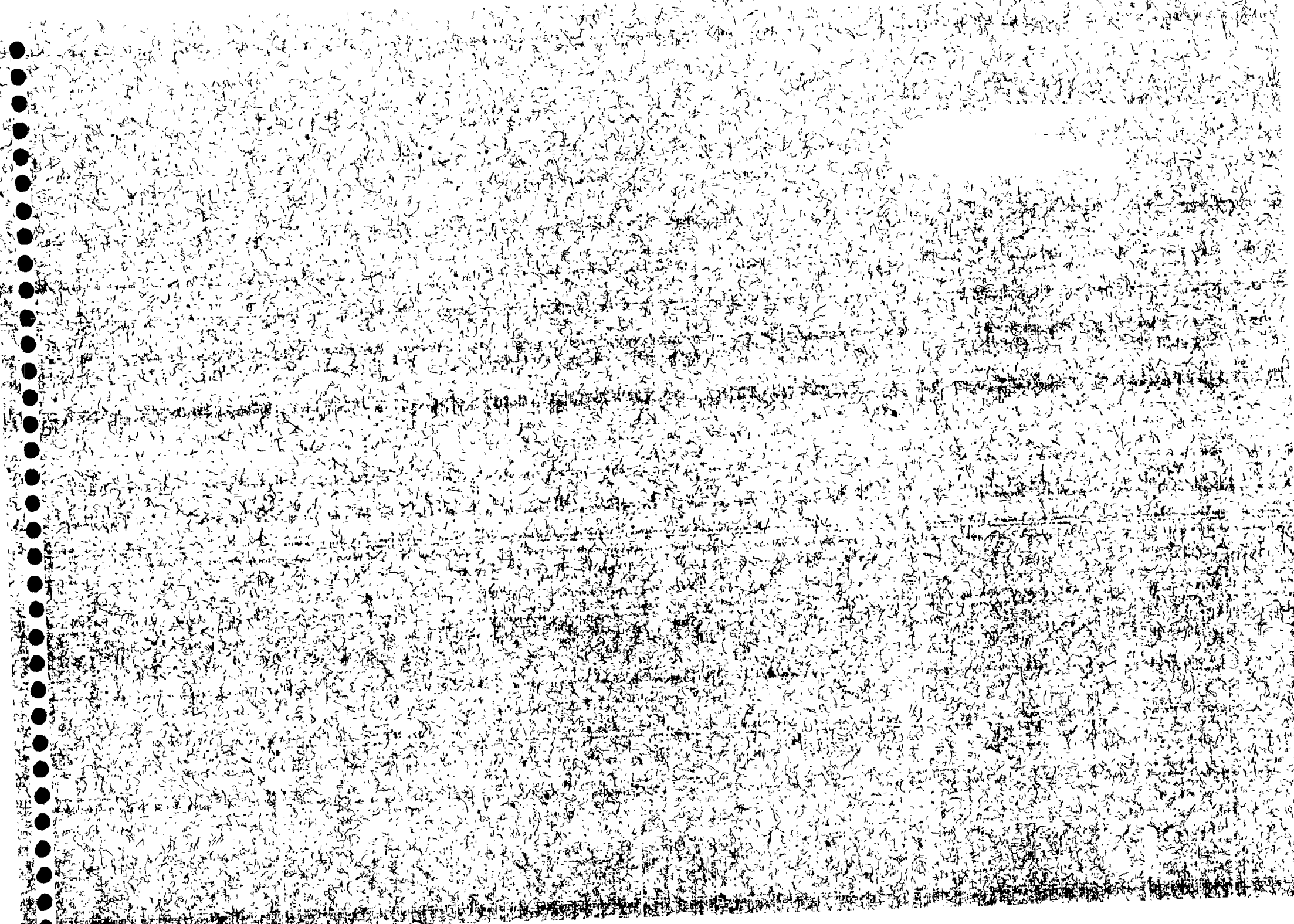
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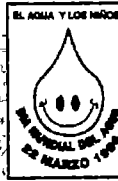


QUITO ECUADOR
Febrero 1996

Essays

"Water and sanitation relevance for public health"





WATER AND SANITATION RELEVANCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

What future could we have?

On our cities, water is used in different ways, for sanitation, as a vital liquid, essential for life (about 70% of our body is made of water), as source of energy required by cities and so on. But actually, chemical contamination generated by detergents, toxical and nuclear refuse has increased, and the world potencies use seas and oceans as dumper sites for their refuse, generating biological contamination by excess of heavy substances, such as mercury, plumb and mainly, oil. (Many times, by accident, crude is spilled around, forming huge spoils that expand and kill marine life. Many birds, get trapped by it and not being able to fly, die)

Water scarcity produce many deaths around the world, as people, being forced to consume non potable water, get infected by numerous diseases carried by it. If we follow wasting water, contaminating it, we will be the ones to suffer, because it's not only the loose of water, doing it we finish marine life too, and consuming infected fishes, we are killing ourselves.

For the next millenium it's estimated that the world's population will double itself and in the same proportion demand of water will increase, but if we follow polluting, not only water but air as well, I ask myself, What future could we have?

To progress, countries require to be healthy, only that way progress can be achieved. This is why we must try not to destroy our natural resources and specially our planet.

Giovanni Rojas, 13 years

Total drought

Rivers used to be completely clean before, so pure that their waters could be used for cooking and for drinking, but as years have passed on, man has invented all sort of machines that not even contaminate air, but also are finishing water, a clear example is Machangara river, if we go to that river we can notice how huge is the dirtiness on it. Worse of all is that water of this so called river is used to

irrigate all sort of crops and those products, contaminated, are carried by truck or whatever, to be sold to us, producing large scale infections when we ingest them.

Man with his inventions is finishing the ecosystem and trees that attract water.

By this way, our whole planet will be a total drought, so large that about 90% of it will be a desert, we will see corpses of people death by lack of water, denutrition and desidratacion, as without water, vegetation will end and not human beings nor animals will have food and will become extinct. All of that is due to ambitious bussinessmen whom looking after money don't think about natural resources.

Ozone's layer will end and there wouldn't be any clouds, therefore there wouldn't be any rains and all sort of life ob earth would extinguish.

Advise: To provide better education in schools, colleges and even through television, instead of soap operas, they should present educative programs about this matter.

Alejandro Izurieta, 12 years

Şamples

Water, a natural vital resource, is very important for all living creatures in nature, specially for health

conservation and cleanlyness of every single member of the country and, furthermore, of the world.

For a proper usage of water and for it's sanitation, above all it's required to have faith, realism, cooperation of each single person, of each water requiring isolate villages, to believe in oneself, as they say: To believe is to achieve. For a proper usage of water, cooperation is a must, then it would be possible. For instance, in carnival, water shouldn't be wasted. A perfect example of it is the way carnival is celebrated in Ambato.

Other samples can show what's possibly done with effort and dedication as in the neighbourhoud's improvement project in San Rafael de Cotocollao, another is the water sanitation organization in Colombia: They have installed proper pipelines for potable water in 120 houses. Cisterns, pumps, main pipelines and water reservoirs have been build as well. In Bolivia, their highest achievement has been the provision of potable water for 500 families in 2 neighbourhouds of Cochabamba. All of them and many other ones are samples that should be imitated.

Johan Díaz

Reciclyng sewage waters and people's education

I believe it's important for us to search new ways to carry water to all non potable water places, as water

can prevent large scale problems affecting many people.

I have learned that many people has died due to this problem, but looking after a solution to sewage problem, I believe it souldn't be carried directly to rivers (as for instance in our case to Machangara river), a solution for this large problem would be to carry all that sewage to some tanks where it could be recicled to get pure water.

I believe that we must start teaching our population cleanlyness, as the best way to deal with this large problem is to educate and educate all over the world.

Daniel Riofrío, 13 years

Water sanitation

In the first place, I want to say that water is one of the most vital elements for human existence, as without water sooner or later we couldn't live.

Water is important because it's required for crop's irrigation, for people cleaning needs, for refuse elimination, etc. But it's main objective is to benefit people solving all sort of requirements.

Water sanitation is avoiding it to get contaminated, not allowing it to run carring refuse, irrigating fields with clean water, not leaving rain water with garbage to be carried to drains, and so on. All of it happens mainly in towns and cities that keep dirty streets,

contaminate the enviroment, specially in towns without economical resources, so the best way to help is to keep water and enviroment clean.

Agustín Carrión, 13 years

Water care

Water is important as it's synonymous of life, water is man's engine, without it there wouldn't be traces of life in our planet, being so important, it should be cared for.

It's so important for life that it's said that from it comes all life in the form of small microorganisms, but to give life, water should be pure, without alteration of any kind, as if it has any alteration it's just the opposite of what was mentioned before, it's death for people. This is why there is sanitation, to exclude that kind of water and get pure water instead of it.

Sanitation means to replace dirty water for pure water and all people should collaborate in it. How? Not cutting down trees, because they stop water flooding from mountains and avoid it to arrive to any civilized areas to destroy them and avoid it of getting dirty, by garbage or refuse.

Last but not least, for water to offer it's help, it has to be sanitation, as a countrty with dirty water dies for the germs and bacteriae that is carried in it.

People should fight against the ones that spend carelessly and pollute water. How can it be achieved? Well, it's done by sacrifice and knowing the importance and benefits offered by water, people must be instructed about water's benefits if we care it, protect it and don't waste it, and of damages generated by it's pollution or waste, that water could be useful for people lacking it, people could be instructed to save water.

Carlos E. Cevallos, 13 years

Collective actions about water problems

Since the humanitarian origins (sic) and man's apparition, water has been the nature's element vital for survival of man, plants and animals. It's a vital resource required by all living beings on earth.

But this vital and needed resource has suffered changes in it's biological properties: That is called contamination and produce negative effects on health.

The main source of contamination on rivers and seas has been the oil transportation, but many other sources can be mentioned. They produce diseases such as cholera, typhoid, etc. Against this imminent danger, the government should take action for water sanitation, for instance, increasing the domestic hygiene, specially to boil water to be used by people.

Authorities should execute social sanitation projects, specially on cities and marginal areas.

If every single city in our country accomplish this sort of prevention, diseases would be avoided, and in the future the country would grow prosperous, as life and health could be easily achieved.

Those projects and institutions have an important role as they have the solution, generating collective actions about water problems.

Esteban Montoya, 13 years

Youth's voice

It has to be remembered that water is one of the key elements for life and it's being destroyed, due to harmful agents produced by humans, generating large problems on the ecosystem. Essence for development and evolution of species is water.

Water is contaminated mainly by toxical watses thrown away by factories. Those toxical wastes will produce dangerous diseases in people and genetical mutations in animals.

For youth's voice to be listened by goverments, they have to rise and set strikes, supporting ecological groups and sending letters to national development organizations. When our voice will be listened, we should force enviromental protection laws to be issued. Those should be applied even if going against private interests. I believe that one of those laws should promote conferences at schools, colleges and universities to rise up interest on water care, to set

up purifying systems in factories and homes, to recycling garbage and further more, to not waste water.

Applying those laws will guarantee people's health and progress. Without water's sanitation there is no progress in a country and we can't leave for tomorrow what we can do right now, as tomorrow could be too late and damage irreparable.

José Andrés Chaguano, 13 years

Thirst

Once we went to the coastal region with my parents and brothers. We arrived to a place where an aunt of mine had a farm. After a while I started to sweat, so I asked my aunt for a glass of water. She answered me saying: "If you are thirsty go and get some oranges or tangerines, whatever you want," I asked "Why, there is no water here? Why?" And she answered "Here there are no pipes to carry potable water, as in Quito." Then I thought about how they will be desiring that water in several african countries, where everything is a desert and people die because no one offer them a glass of water?

Raúl Alberto Medina S., 13 years

Cholera

Water is important for cities so it has to be cared. It can be done not throwing away refuse to rivers and not using them for washing. When using water, it has to be done carefully, as for instance, when we shower,

when washing our theet, when washing dishes, washing the car, washing our hands, etc.

During carnival, water is wasted easily, even being carnival a feast, water is used uncarefully so what suffers are the wallets. Thanks to the municipality, water has been cleaned and arrives to sectors where there was no water before, or if there was some, it was dirty and stanged. Around the main cities in our country there are towns without potable water, so they consume water from rivers, lakes, etc. In the last few years, cholera has appeared because uncarefully washing of foodstuff, uncarefully washing hands, water consumption and this is why government, prefectures and municipalities had accepted the challenge of clearing rivers, lakes, ponds and bring more potable water to more homes each day.

Luis Gierdón, 13 years

Uses of water

I believe that water is important for living in several ways: nutrition, cleanliness and many other ones.

About cleanliness, it can be said that water clean our bodies from impurities, our clothes, toilets, objects, and so on.

About nutrition, it give us vitamins, refresh us, rehydrate us, not only people but animals and plants as well, so water is necessary for all and for everything. Even the purest water has to be boiled before drinking it, if it's

in small quantities. On large quantities it has to be potabilized.

David Jara, 13 years

Pipelines

Water is called the vital liquid. Without it, there wouldn't be life. It's said wherever water is present, there is life.

Today, due to population increase, cities grown has generated several sectors without potable water, and for that reason, their inhabitants are under precarious life conditions. For instance, fields are irrigated with waters carrying sewage, severely polluting them, damaging plants and generating diseases in the long term.

With the government's help, water pipelines and drains should be provided instead of buying guns to kill other people. With those pipes, irrigation systems could be created, and that would increase the country development.

Therefore, what we should remember is to not waste water, for everybody's sake.

Andrés Jiménez, 13 years

To save water

Water is so important for live because it conforms three fourths of our planet. Unfortunately, man is finishing it, destroying all the green areas.

Water is becoming more and more scarce. People, plants and animals die for it.

I believe that everybody enjoy water, but that's not reason for wasting it, as I said initially, it's very important for life.

Sometimes I drink five or six glasses of water daily, and now I think about those who not even know water, I don't know how they could live. I will save water.

Cristian Rueda, 12 years

Water care

Water is important because using it we avoid diseases such as cholera. It make us presentable in society, giving us presence and good smell. It's important for cities higiene as well, as it clean streets and drains. It's important for washing our foodstuff and for avoiding diseases as well. Also, for animal sanitation, preserving them from fleas and louse. For plant's irrigation, leting them grow healthy and to not die.

Wasting water, we damage nature and ourselves, generating drought, erosion, deserts, death of animal and vegetal species.

If we reffer to water's contamination, we shoud purify it in order of using it, otherwise there would appear mosquitos, displeasent odors, diseases, contaminated foodstuff. If water is pure and pipelines

are old and oxidized, water would become contaminated again. For that reason, it's required to give them proper maintenance, avoiding leakages. Excess of water can be bad as well, for instance, if a plant is overwatered, it will die. Water has to be saved to benefit all of us.

Marco Castillo, 13 years

Water for human consumption

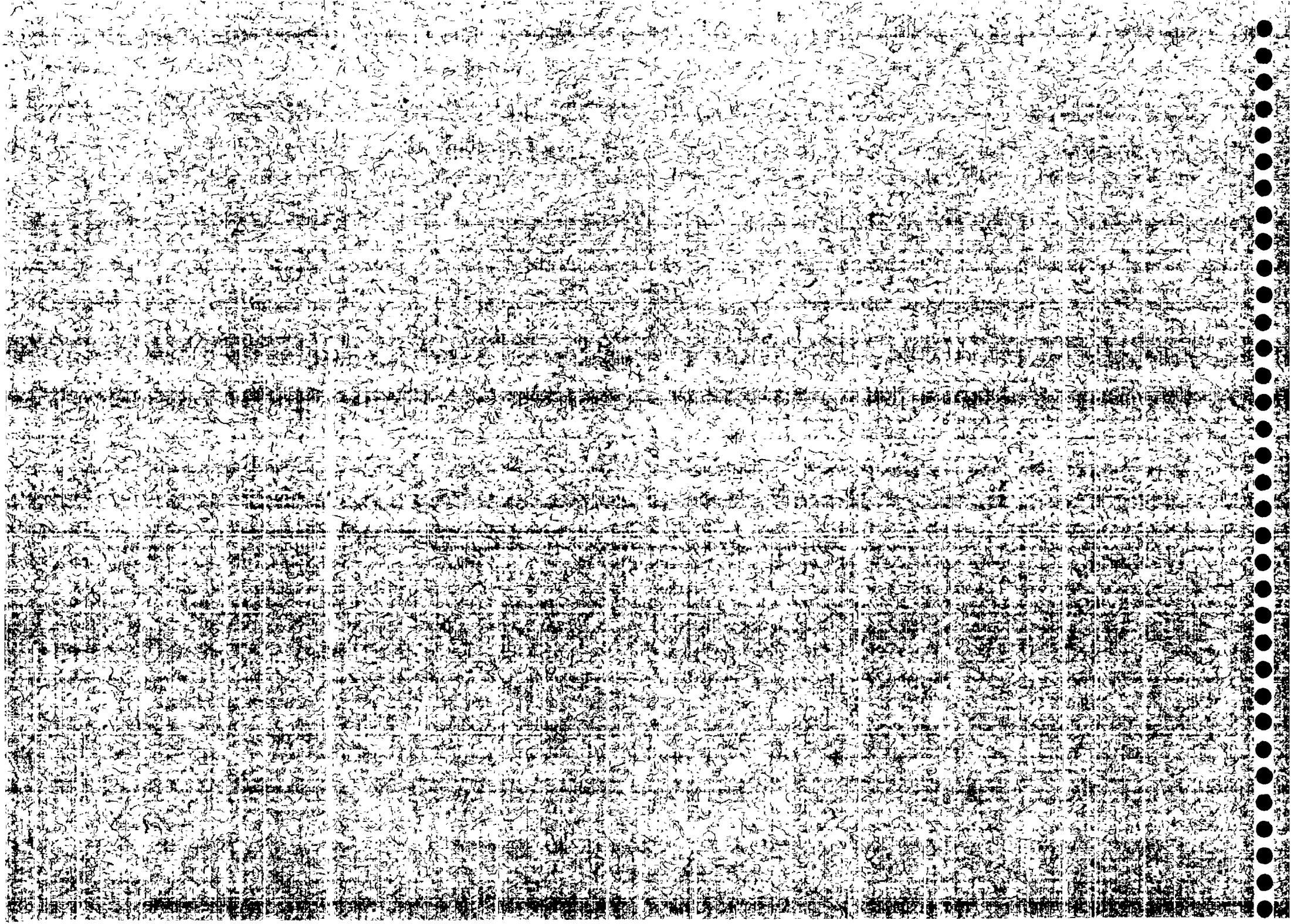
To speak about water is to speak about life and health. Not living being can be alive without water, as it constitute the larger amount of it's internal structure. Three quarters of the blue planet, Earth, are formed by water, but only about .36% of it is required by men to satisfy their needs.

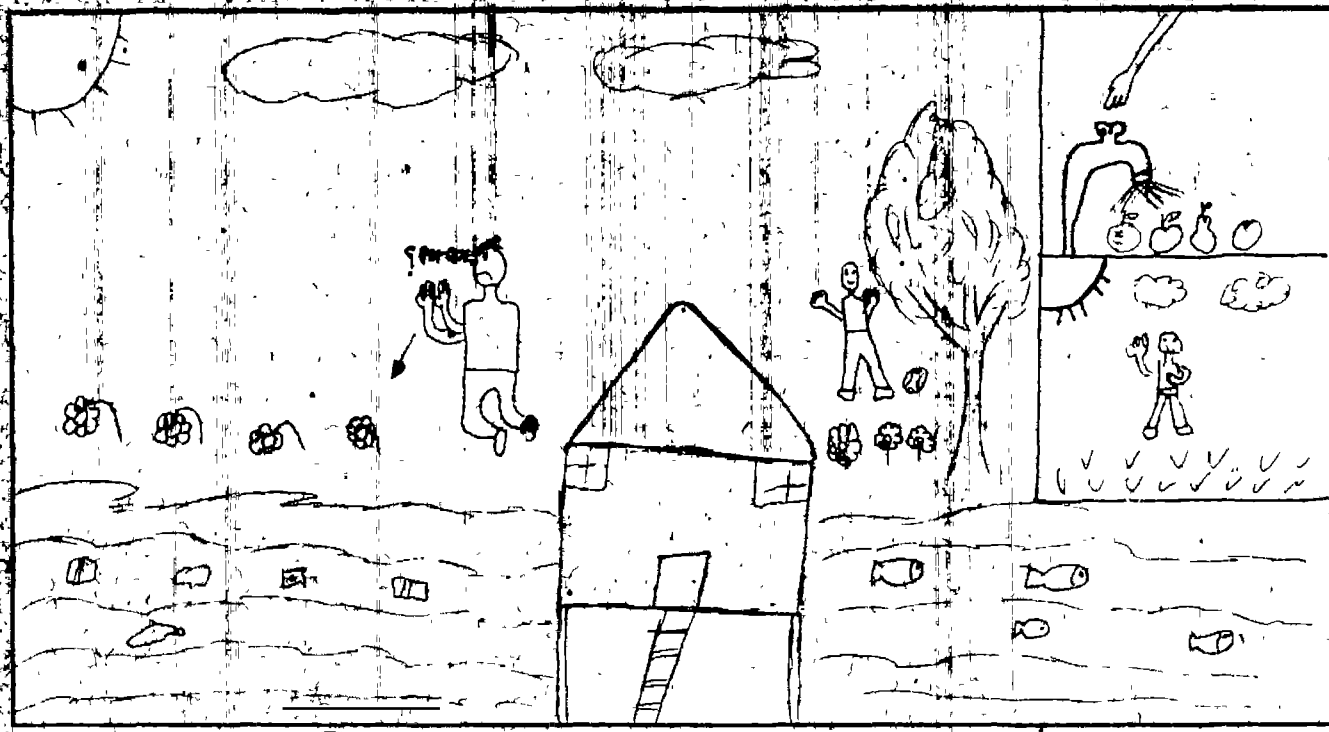
It's not enough to have water, it has to be good for human consumption. It means that it has to be pure, colorless, of good taste and free of organic substances or diseases. Poorly managed water is the largest source for disease propagation. All over the world, 28 children die every minute by lack of potable water and from every 100 diseases, 80 are due to contaminated water. Rivers used to be sources of provision but nowadays they are source of diseases and death.

Seas have lost almost a half of their biological wealth, because contaminated water. One of the more severe problems is the uncontrolled discharge of industrial and domestic waters, due to the use of

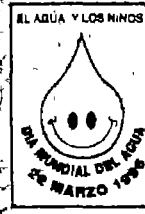
pesticides and fertilizers. "It has take us about twenty centuries to bring a tap to houses and in a very short time that water has become undrinkable, so we have to care, protect, and use it rationally".

Juan Pablo Mera, 13 years

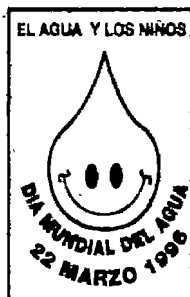




ROBERTO NOVATI 12 AÑOS 6^ºE

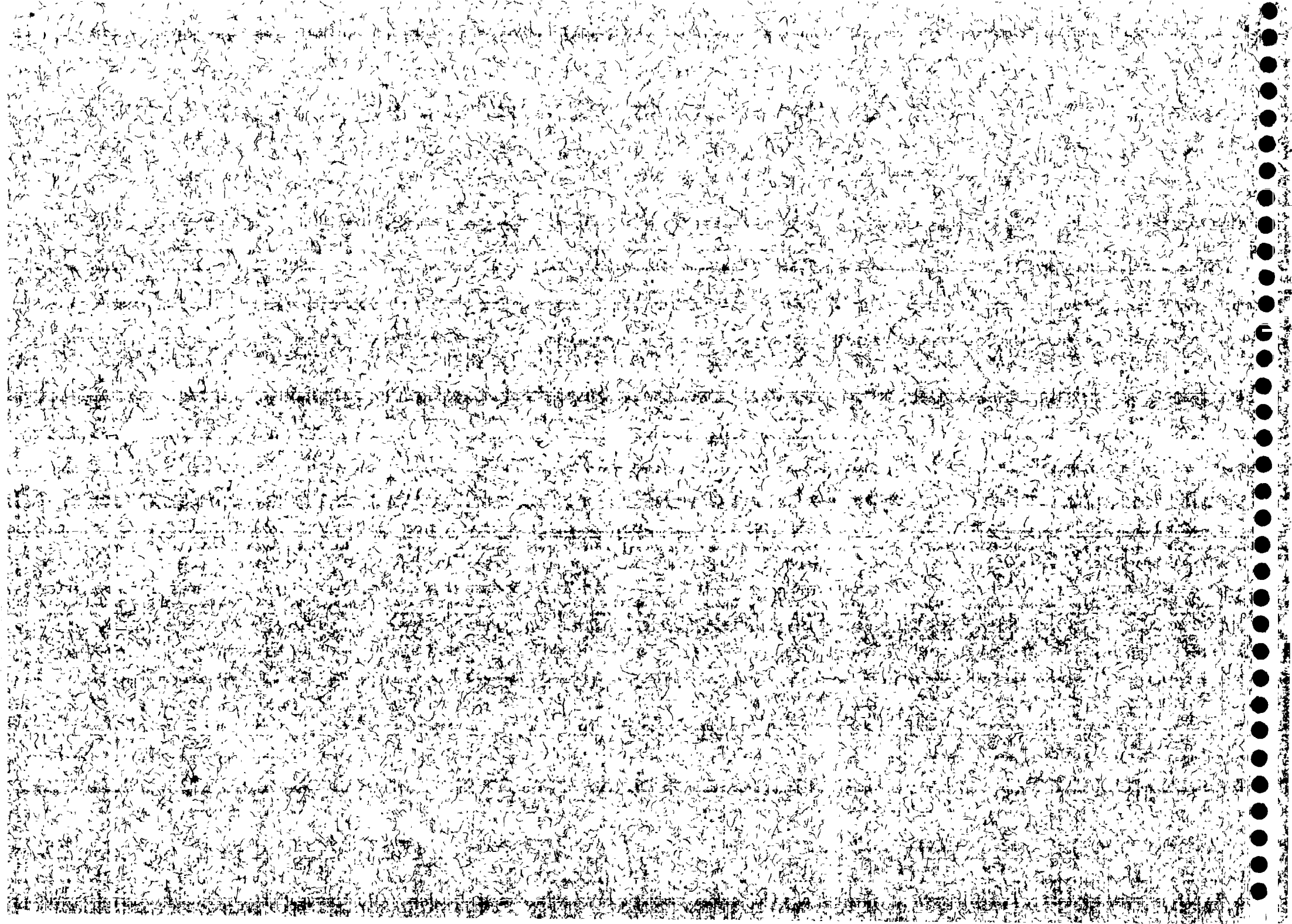


Estación Maravilla, México



QUITO ECUADOR
Febrero 1996

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**WHAT WOULD YOU DO FOR WATER
AND SANITATION
IF BECOMING MAYOR OF QUITO?**

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MICRO POEMS
"WATER IN THE CITIES
OF THE FUTURE"

Science
 Thirst
 Desert
 Explosive
 Destiny
 Geography
 Color
 Doubt
 Future
 Research
 The word
 Demography
 Friendship
 History
 Remember
 Verification 2
 Comparison
 Guilt
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 What would be of you
 in the cities of the future?
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 The smallest being on earth
 Reciprocity
 Heritage
 Doubt
 End
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 Waste
 Ignorance
 Life

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 Sebastián Valarezo
 Gabriel Vásquez

MICRO STORIES
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OF THE FUTURE"

The astronauts
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 Alfondrina
 Cholera
 The reservoir
 Two years of life
 Ambition
 Water is as gold
 From city to countryside
 Distilled water from the sea
 Let's plant trees!
 I'm the water.
 The future
 The child who saved his city
 from dehydration
 War against Mars
 The valley
 Water World
 Remembrances
 A pale people's town
 Migrants
 The future II

Diego Almeida
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NEWS RELEASES

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Explosion in "la Prensa" Ave.
Machángara river problem
"Edén del Valle" and Quito's forgiveness
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Mayor's labor
Ecuadorian crisis
A problem in the south
Informative bulletins
Broke down drain in Quito
City's grown and water potabilization
Golden chubby
Environment
Consequences of an inefficient work
Water is coming to an end

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ESSAYS

WATER AND SANITATION RELEVANCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

Water sanitation
Water care
Caring water
The youths voice
Examples
Cholera
Total drought
Usages of water
Pipelines
Thirst
Water for human consumption
Collective actions for
water problems
Recycling waste waters and
people's education
What future would we have?
To save water

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