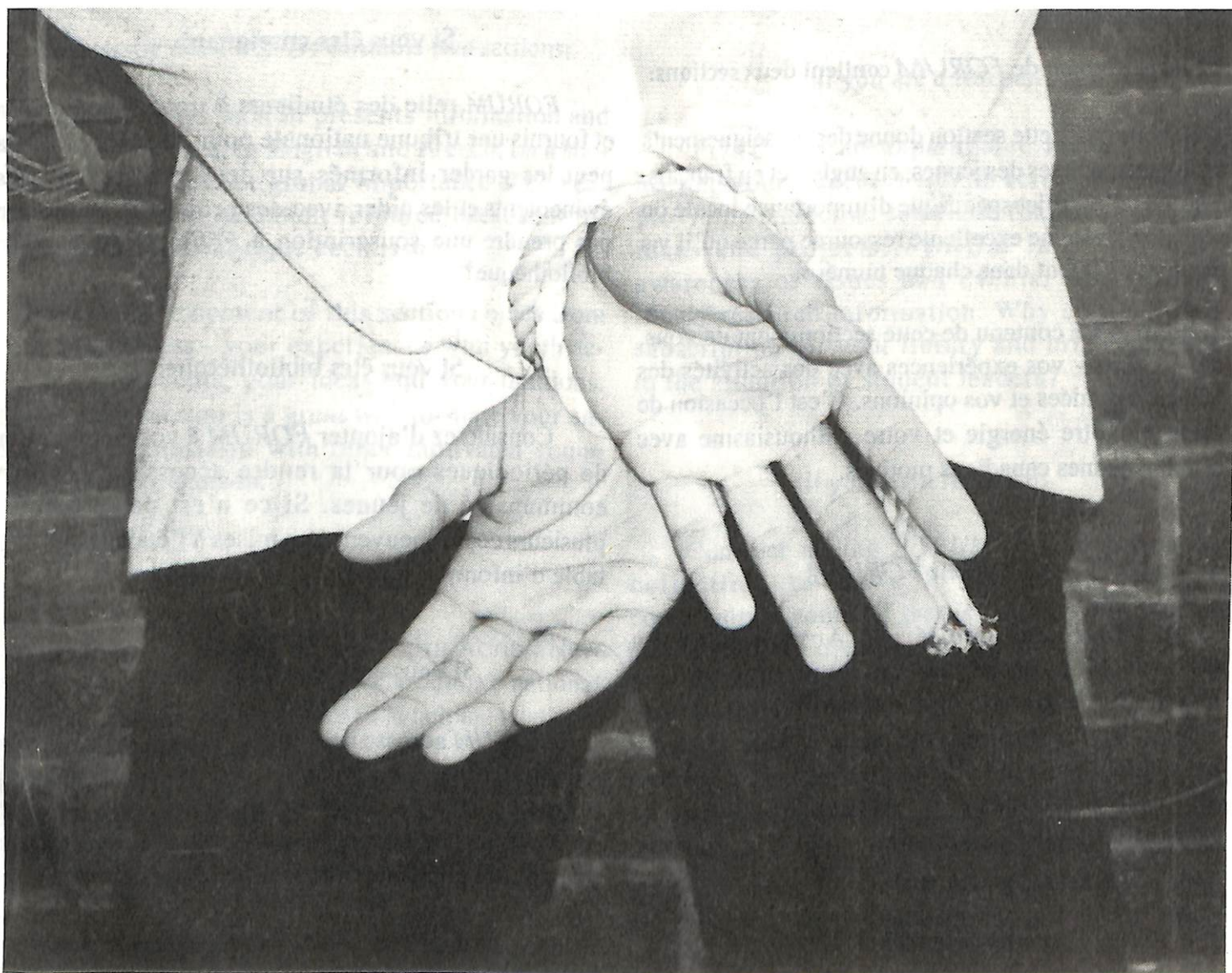


youth action

# FORUM

action jeunesse

Fall • 1995 • automne



EAST TIMOR

TIMOR ORIENTAL





## Si cela est votre premier exemplaire de *FORUM*, vous avez probablement quelques questions...

### C'est quoi *FORUM*?

*FORUM* est une revue gratuite et bilingue qui est publiée quatre fois par an. Le but c'est d'aider les jeunes à devenir plus informés et plus actifs dans des causes de droits humains, de paix mondiale, de l'environnement et de développement international.

### Chaque numéro de *FORUM* contient deux sections:

1. **Reportage** - Cette section donne des renseignements et des perspectives des jeunes, en anglais et en français, à propos d'un sujet spécifique d'importance locale ou globale. C'est une excellente ressource parce qu'il y a un sujet différent dans chaque numéro.

2. **Forum** - Le contenu de cette section vient de vous, nos lecteurs - vos expériences avec des activités des jeunes, vos idées et vos opinions. C'est l'occasion de partager votre énergie et votre enthousiasme avec d'autres jeunes canadiens motivés.

### Qui publie *FORUM*?

*FORUM* est publié par ACTION JEUNESSE (Canada Mondial auparavant), une organisation charitable nationale dédiée à aider les jeunes à devenir plus informés et actifs. ACTION JEUNESSE est dirigée par les jeunes et coordonne plusieurs projets: *FORUM*, le Centre d'action et de ressources, et la Semaine nationale de la jeunesse.

### Pourquoi ai-je reçu *FORUM*?

On nous a donné votre nom soit comme jeune qui a le potentiel de faire une différence soit comme organisation ou individu en contact avec de tels jeunes motivés. Nous aimerions que vous nous aidiez à rejoindre des jeunes à travers le Canada.

### Si vous êtes étudiant:

Appelez-nous au 1-800-718-LINK le plus tôt possible, et montrez cette revue à vos amis. *FORUM* est une excellente tribune pour la publication de vos articles, poèmes, art et lettres. Nous espérons avoir bientôt une lettre de vous.

### Si vous êtes enseignant:

*FORUM* relie des étudiants à travers le Canada et fournit une tribune nationale pour leurs idées. Cela peut les garder informés sur des questions et des événements et les aider avec des projets. Pourquoi ne pas prendre une souscription à *FORUM* pour votre bibliothèque?

### Si vous êtes bibliothécaire:

Considérez d'ajouter *FORUM* à votre collection de périodiques pour la rendre accessible à votre communauté de jeunes. Si ce n'est pas possible, plusieurs copies peuvent être mises à l'étalage sur une table d'information.

### Si vous êtes une organisation:

*FORUM* adresse des questions importantes à vos membres, particulièrement vos jeunes membres. Nous serions heureux de vous fournir plusieurs copies pour distribution. Nous aimerions aussi publier tout article ou annonce pour informer nos lecteurs.

Rappelez-vous qu'une souscription à *FORUM* est GRATUITE! Appelez-nous au 1-800-718-LINK tout de suite! Plusieurs copies peuvent être arrangées pour les écoles, bibliothèques et organisations.



## Is this your first issue of *FORUM*? Then you must have some questions...

### What is *FORUM*?

*FORUM* is a FREE bilingual magazine published four times a year. It aims to help young people become more informed and actively involved in issues such as human rights, world peace, the environment, and international development.

### Each issue of *FORUM* contains two sections:

1. **Feature** - This section presents information and youth perspectives, in English and French, on a specific topic of local or global importance. The Feature section is an excellent resource because it focuses on a different topic each issue.

2. **Forum** - The content of this section comes from you, our readers - your experiences with youth activities and events, your ideas and your opinions. The Forum section is a great way to share your energy and enthusiasm with other motivated young people across Canada.

### Who publishes *FORUM*?

*FORUM* is published by YOUTH ACTION NETWORK (formerly WORLD AFFAIRS CANADA), a national charitable organization dedicated to helping youth become more informed and involved. YOUTH ACTION NETWORK is operated entirely by youth and manages several projects: *FORUM*, the Resource Action Centre, and National Youth Week.

### Why have I received *FORUM*?

We have been given your name, either as a young person who has the potential to make a difference or as an organization or individual in contact with such motivated youth. We'd like you to help us reach youth across the country.

### If you are a student:

Call 1-800-718-LINK for a free subscription, and show this magazine to your friends. *FORUM* provides a great opportunity for the publication of your articles, art, poetry and letters. *FORUM* is what you make it. We look forward to hearing from you.

### If you are a teacher:

*FORUM* is an unparalleled resource, connecting your students to youth across Canada and providing a national showcase for your students' ideas and projects. *FORUM* increases their awareness of issues and events, and presents timely research information. Why not arrange a subscription for your library and bring *FORUM* to the attention of student leaders?

### If you are a librarian:

Consider adding *FORUM* to your periodical collection, to make it accessible to your community's youth. If that is not possible, several copies could be displayed on an information table.

### If you are an organization:

*FORUM* addresses issues of importance to your members, particularly your young members. We would be happy to arrange orders for multiple copies. We'd also love to publish any articles or ads to inform our readers.

Remember, subscription to *FORUM* is FREE! Call our office toll-free at 1-800-718-LINK right away! Multiple copies can be arranged for schools, libraries, and organizations. Drop us a note!

youth action

# FORUM

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## ART

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Brian a 15 ans. Il est étudiant à l'école de l'Université de Toronto et il réside à Richmond Hill, Ontario. Il s'intéresse à la peinture et au dessin.

Brian is a 15-year-old student at the University of Toronto Schools, who currently resides in Richmond Hill, Ontario. He enjoys painting and sketching.

**SARAH LISS** • page 24

Sarah est étudiante en onzième année à l'école de l'Université de Toronto. Elle aime l'art et la musique.

Sarah is a grade eleven student attending the University of Toronto Schools. She enjoys art and music.

**MAX STRASHUN** • pages 7, 19

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travail dans un studio de photographie à Toronto sous le programme co-op.

Max is a high school student working on co-op for a professional photography studio in Toronto.

**ARTISTE EN VEDETTE • FEATURED ARTIST:**  
**CYRUS IRANI**

Cyrus a créé notre couverture ainsi que l'art aux pages 26, 27, 28 et 30. Cyrus est étudiant en douzième année à l'école de l'Université de Toronto. Il s'intéresse à la peinture, au dessin, et au hockey.

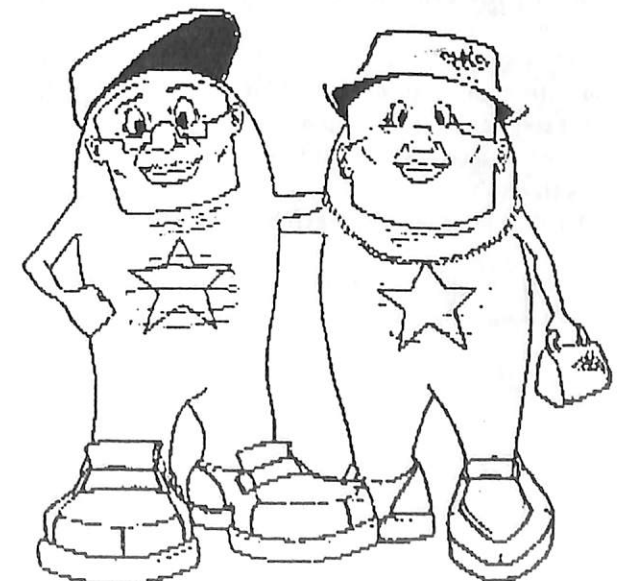
Cyrus took the photograph which appears on our cover, and as well provided the artwork on pages 26, 27, 28 and 30. Cyrus is a grade twelve student at the University of Toronto Schools. He enjoys painting, drawing, and hockey.

*FORUM* thanks *Infinite Minds* for its support through the *Thumb Buddies* program.

*FORUM* remercie *Infinite Minds* pour son soutien aimable à travers le projet *Thumb Buddies*.

Les opinions exprimées dans *FORUM* ne sont pas nécessairement celles des rédacteurs et éditeurs ni des membres du Conseil exécutif de ACTION JEUNESSE. *FORUM* s'engage à promouvoir la discussion dans les deux langues officielles du Canada, et nous acceptons ainsi avec plaisir des articles rédigés en français ou en anglais. La direction de *FORUM* fera tous ses efforts pour maintenir le contenu et le style des articles que nous publions. Cependant, nous nous réservons le droit d'y faire de légers changements pour la clarté, et de les abréger.

Views and opinions expressed in *FORUM* are not necessarily those of its editors nor of the Board of Directors of YOUTH ACTION NETWORK. *FORUM* is committed to encouraging dialogue in both English and French. Every effort will be made to preserve the content and style of all submissions to *FORUM*. However, the editors reserve the right to edit articles for clarity or length.





# Writing All About It En Ecrivant

You've been thinking about it... Now you can do it. Contribute to *FORUM*! Your article, art, poetry or letter will raise awareness of issues that are important to you, and may well be the first step towards solving them. Just follow these guidelines and you'll be famous across the country!

## Guidelines for Articles

- ☐ Suggested length: 500-1500 words.
- ☐ Some suggested topics: an article on a specific issue, a profile of an outstanding youth, a significant personal experience, a book review, a "how to get involved" article.
- ☐ About tone: adopt a conversational, approachable tone, but don't trivialize the subject. Try to back up your statements with facts; never let your feelings about an issue completely dominate the article. Make sure that youth can understand and relate to your work.
- ☐ About language: we welcome articles in either English or French, (or both if you like)! Articles published in the bilingual *Feature* section will be appropriately translated. Other articles will not be translated unless a translation is submitted.
- ☐ Articles should have margins and be double-spaced.
- ☐ Include any art or photographs you would like to accompany your article.
- ☐ We reserve the right to edit articles. We may be able to contact you regarding changes.
- ☐ To assist you, we suggest you send a letter or a fax to *FORUM* outlining the topic you'd like to discuss.

*We also welcome art, poetry and letters.*  
Any contribution should be accompanied by the following:

- ☐ The name, address, postal code, and phone number of the author, artist or organization.
- ☐ A brief description of the work.
- ☐ A brief description (30 words) of the author, artist or organization.
- ☐ A list of sources, if researched facts have been used.

Please don't hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions or comments. Send in your submission to:

Youth Action Forum Submissions/Soumissions Forum Action Jeunesse  
100 Adelaide St. W., Suite 906  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 1S3  
Téléphone/Phone: (416) 368-2277  
Télécopieur/Fax: (416) 368-8354

Remember: you can request the translation of any *FORUM* article that is not published in English. Just call 1-800-718-LINK!

Votre opinion compte! Tout article, art, poésie et lettre dans *FORUM* vient de vous - nos lecteurs. Partagez vos expériences à propos de projets de jeunesse, vos idées et vos opinions avec d'autres jeunes motivés au Canada. Suivez ces quelques directives et vous serez célèbres dans tout le pays!

## Directives pour les articles

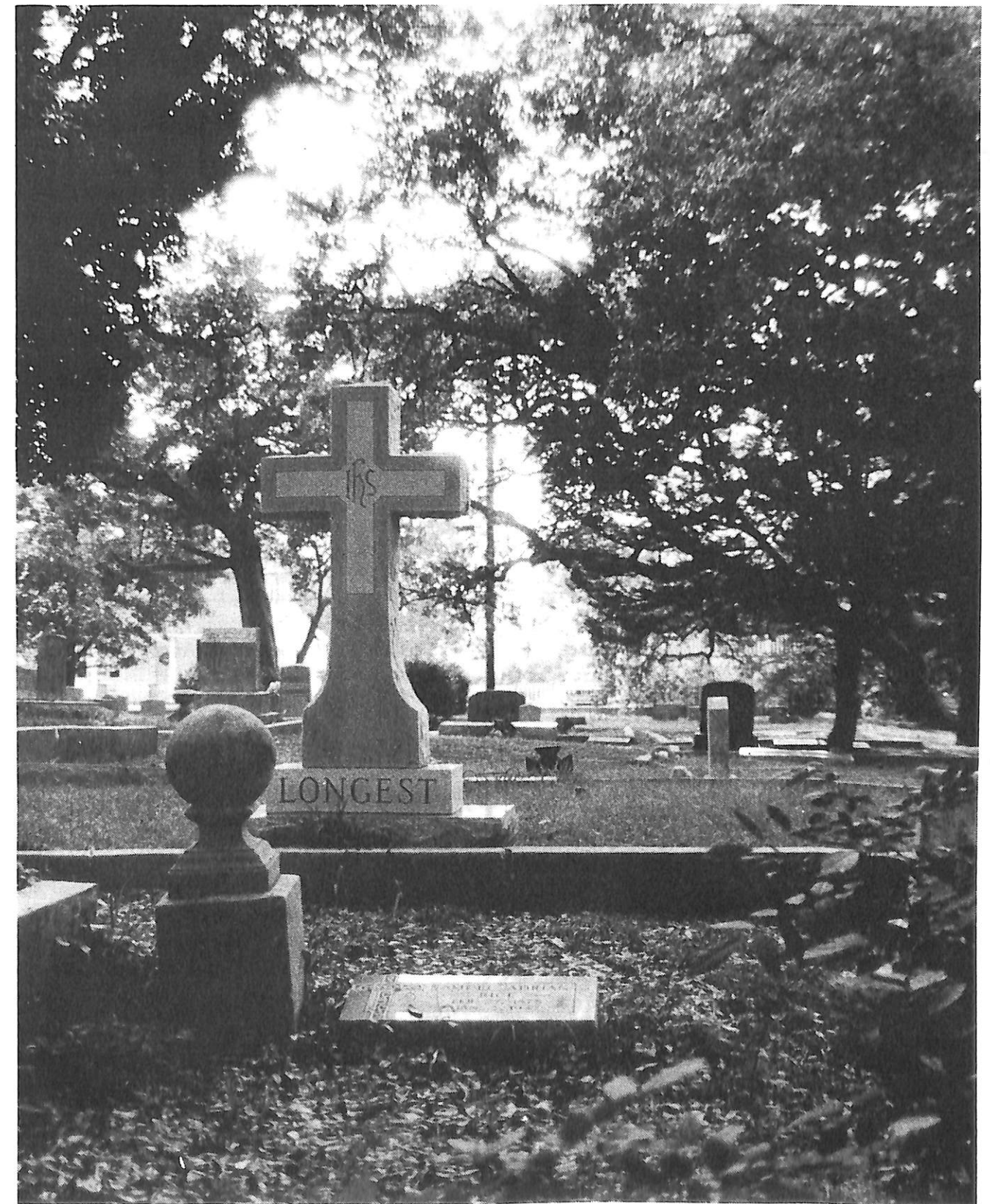
- ☐ Longueur: 500 à 1,500 mots.
- ☐ Quelques exemples des sujets: un article qui traite une question particulière, un portrait d'un(e) jeune exceptionnel(le), une expérience personnelle, une critique littéraire.
- ☐ Quelques mots sur le style: adoptez un ton de conversation et attirant sans banaliser le sujet. Essayez d'appuyer vos déclarations par des faits. Ne laissez pas vos sentiments relatifs à la question totalement dominer l'article. Assurez-vous que la jeunesse comprenne et se sente concernée par votre article.
- ☐ Quelques mots sur la langue: nous aimerions recevoir des articles en français, en anglais, ou les deux! Les articles choisis pour la section *Reportage* seront traduits. Des autres articles ne seront pas traduits sauf si la traduction est soumise par l'auteur.
- ☐ Les articles doivent avoir une marge et un double interligne.
- ☐ SVP faites parvenir de l'art ou des photos si possible.
- ☐ Nous nous réservons le droit de réviser les articles. Nous serons peut-être en mesure de vous contacter pour vous faire connaître les changements.
- ☐ Pour vous aider, nous vous suggérons d'envoyer une lettre ou une télécopie à *FORUM* avec les grandes lignes du sujet que vous désirez traiter.

*Nous aimerions aussi recevoir de l'art, de la poésie et des lettres.* Chaque soumission doit toujours être accompagnée de:

- ☐ Le nom, l'adresse, le code postal et le numéro de téléphone de l'auteur(e) ou de l'organisation.
- ☐ Une description courte de la soumission.
- ☐ Une biographie courte de l'auteur(e) ou une description de l'organisation (30 mots).
- ☐ Les références (si une recherche a été utilisée).

N'hésitez pas à nous contacter si vous avez des questions ou des commentaires. Envoyez votre soumission à:

## FEATURE: EAST TIMOR



## REPORTAGE: TIMOR ORIENTAL

N'oubliez pas: vous pouvez commander la traduction d'un article dans *FORUM* qui n'était pas publié en français. Appelez-nous au 1-800-718-LINK!



# East Timor

Felix  
Vikhman

While on assignment in Indonesia-occupied East Timor, Alain Nairn, a journalist for the New Yorker Magazine, was shot at with M-16 guns. He was then repeatedly beaten with the butt of a rifle on the back of his head. After playing dead to escape further torture, he was thrown into the back of a pick-up truck transporting dead bodies to a mass grave. But Nairn was lucky - he lived. That day, November 12, 1991, 271 unarmed persons were killed by the Indonesian army. Most of the dead were Catholic mourners marching to the grave of an 18-year-old who had been executed in a Church two weeks earlier by Indonesian soldiers. The event has since been dubbed the day of the "Dili Massacre."

Although Nairn lived through his ordeal, another journalist, Kamal Bamadhaj from New Zealand was killed during the massacre. Bamadhaj became the 11th journalist killed in East Timor since Indonesia invaded and annexed it in 1975.

Returning to America, Nairn began a mission to let the western world know about the horrors occurring in East Timor. Groups like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch had been posting reports for years about the Indonesian human rights abuses and the blatant genocide being committed against the Timorese people. But in comparison, the main stream media in the west was being very quiet in their coverage of the plight of the small island nation. Nairn, who won the American Journalism Award for his coverage of the "Dili Massacre", changed that in 1991. His stories enlightened the world to the facts and history of East Timor under Indonesian occupation.

Since it was invaded, it is estimated that East Timor's population has fallen by 200,000 - equal to one third of its original population. In 1970, a Portuguese census, which was later reconfirmed by a count taken by the Catholic church, showed the population of East Timor to be 688,771 and growing rapidly. By 1978, the Indonesian government estimated the population to be 498,433. In a recount in 1980, the Catholic church was not able to count even 425,000.

Sixty thousand Timorese people were killed in the first two months of the occupation alone. Anyone suspected of actively belonging to groups opposing Indonesian control were hunted and, if caught, executed without trial. Some towns were carpet bombed. Others had napalm, agent orange, or phosphorus dropped on them. These chemicals not only ensured everyone in these towns died, but also destroyed live stock and crops. One survivor told the story of soldiers coming to his farm house and telling his mother, father and two brothers to dig a large hole. While he was hiding, his family

was shot and the hole they dug was used as a family grave.

Another survivor was forced to count the hundreds of bodies which were thrown off a cliff into the Dili bay.

On December 22, 1975, only 15 days after the invasion began, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution unanimously condemning Indonesia. Since then, eight major motions have been proposed to the U.N. General Assembly concerning the occupation of East Timor, but most have been voted down. Up until the "Dili Massacre", Indonesia had escaped any real international scrutiny for its actions. Although the number of deaths in East Timor warrant Indonesia's placement in a category with Cambodia and China as one of the world's worst human rights abusing nations, a lack of media coverage had helped it avoid that stigma. After Nairn and other journalists brought the story of East Timor to the world's attention in 1991, Canada, Holland and New Zealand began to apply pressure on Indonesia by cutting foreign aid. Under Canada's new Liberal government, however, aid has again resumed, making Indonesia Canada's fourth largest aid recipient.

Indonesia's popularity as a market for western countries has never faltered. The U.S., France, Germany, Holland, Spain and Canada all openly sold arms to Indonesia. Other than the 1991 aid cuts, Indonesia has enjoyed some of the best commercial and political relations with the world's richest nations. Economically, it has one of the highest rates of investment from foreign multi-national corporations. Corporations like Bata shoes and Nike have taken advantage of Indonesia's cheap labour and lax environmental standards, making them two of Indonesia's largest employers. Both corporations have become notorious with international labour unions for having the Indonesian army called in to deal with their labour disputes. After a strike was held in a Bata shoes factory in 1979, the factory's 2000 workers were killed by government soldiers. The government's justification was that only government sponsored labour unions are allowed in Indonesia.

More importantly, there is a large international interest in the oil reserves in the sea bed between northern Australia and the island of Timor. The area is known as the "Timor Gap" and is one of the world's top 20 oil reserves. It was probably the oil which made East Timor so attractive to the Indonesian government. Just months before the 1975 invasion, the Australian ambassador to Indonesia made it openly known that he believed negotiations for the Timor Gap would proceed much better with an Indonesia-controlled East Timor than with the Portuguese government which controlled Timor at the time or an independent Timor. In 1989, a pact was signed between Australia and Indonesia, geographically dividing up the Timor Gap and the profits expected from the area. The original negotiations for the Timor Gap began in 1973 with Portugal. Indonesia has received well over \$5 billion in direct investment for exploration rights since it took control of East Timor.

East Timor has been a colony of Portugal since 1959. After a coup in Lisbon in 1973, the new Portuguese provisional government decided to de-colonize all properties which were not part of Portugal proper. Three democratic parties were formed in East Timor with the help of the Portuguese government. One party, UDT (Timorese

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Democratic Union), wanted an autonomous East Timor as part of the Portuguese empire. Another party wanted complete independence and sovereignty for East Timor. This party became FRETILIN (Timorese Social Democratic Association), the major resistance movement which violently fought against Indonesian occupation before it was wiped out in 1978. The Third party, APODETI (Popular Democratic Association of Timor) was funded by Indonesia and wanted East Timor to become part of greater Indonesia. Following test elections in the countryside, it became apparent APODETI was the least popular of the three parties.

On August 11, 1975 a coup was committed against the Portugal Colonial government by APODETI with help from bribed leaders of the UDT. While taking control, the APODETI and UDT coalition took 23 Portuguese officials hostage, forcing all other Portuguese officials to flee the country. The next day, a civil war broke out between the new government and FRETILIN. By Sept 24, FRETILIN was able to force the controlling members of UDT and APODETI out of East Timor. Once FRETILIN consolidated its power, plans for free and democratic elections, which were to be foreign observed, were put into place. The elections never took place as, on Dec 15, Indonesia invaded and has controlled East Timor ever since.

"...East Timor was not going to vote [with the United States] at the United Nations. For extinguishing that one vote, maybe 200,000 people, died."

At the time, the political environment of South-East Asia made it very difficult for the U.S. government to oppose the Indonesian government. General Suharto, a political and military leader of Indonesia, was one of the few allies the American government had in the region. Between 1865 and 1975, the U.S. saw Cambodia and Laos become communist, and was humiliated in Vietnam by a communist victory. To keep Indonesia from the same fate, America provided millions of dollars in financial aid for Suharto. In 1965, Suharto destroyed the PKI (Indonesian Communist Party), one of the largest communist parties in the world. In the eyes of the U.S., he became the region's strongest bulwark against communism. But in his fight against the PKI, Suharto was responsible for 800,000 and 1.2 million Indonesian casualties. Combined with the slaughter in East Timor, he is in a niche with Stalin, Hitler, the Khmer Rouge and the World War Two Japanese Empire as one of the bloodiest leaders of this century.

Philip Liechty was a CIA operations officer in the United States Embassy in Indonesia during the invasion. In a 1993 interview with the U.S. magazine "The Nation", he openly disclosed that Suharto was given the green light from the U.S. government to do anything he wanted in East Timor.

"...the only justification I ever heard for what we were doing there was concern that East Timor was on the verge as being accepted as a new member of the United Nations and there was an excellent chance that the country was going to be either leftist or neutralist and not likely to vote [with the United States] at the United Nations. For extinguishing that one vote, maybe 200,000 people, almost all of them noncombatants, died," said Liechty.

Ninety per cent of the weapons used in the 1975 invasion were supplied to Indo-

nesia by the United States. Noam Chomsky, perhaps the world's foremost and well known researcher and critic of U.S. foreign policy said in an address to the U.N. general assembly that the arms flow to the Indonesia government from the U.S. increased following the invasion of East Timor. In 1975, U.S. military assistance to Indonesia doubled to \$146 million. But in 1977, Chomsky says Indonesia was running out of arms which he pointed out as an "indication of the scale of the attack." U.S. arms sales to Indonesia peaked between 1982 and 1984 when Ronald Reagan authorized the sale of more than \$1 million of worth of weapons.

Perhaps the most horrific effect the weapons had wasn't the bloodshed but the starvation that resulted. Chemicals like napalm, agent orange and phosphorus were used on livestock and crops as well as humans. It is now believed that most East Timorese died because of the starvation, not gunfire. Within the first two years of the occupation, East Timor had 85 per cent of its livestock destroyed and much of its farm land poisoned. In the mid-1980's, Amnesty International and the International Red Cross warned the world of mass starvation in East Timor because the peasants were being forced into camps which did not have the farm land nor the food supply to sustain their population.

Moving East Timorese peasants into camps was part of an Indonesian operation which, in 1987, the Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee of the American Congress called "a program of population control." The Indonesian government simply called it "Operation Eradicate". As part of this operation, many East Timorese women were sterilized. Resistance to sterilization or to relocation into camps had deadly consequences. John Pilger, a journalist for "The Nation" magazine, gave an account of how Indonesian paratroopers entered a town and assembled all the young people in the town square. The paratroopers then raped the females and dismembered them with knives. The males had gasoline sprayed on their genitals, which were then set on fire. They burned until they died.

Even after all that has happened to the East Timorese people, resistance to the occupation is still flourishing. After FRETILIN was eradicated, the younger people of East Timor began to turn to passive resistance and peaceful protest. Last November, during the economic meeting of pacific leaders in Indonesia's capital attended by Prime Minister Jean Chretien and President Bill Clinton, protests were held in Indonesia and East Timor over the East Timor occupation and Indonesia's human rights record. The protest gave the East Timorese movement much needed international publicity.

Without publicity, say the Timorese, their fate will go unnoticed and forgotten. They are aware that their best chance at survival and independence is if international pressure is placed on Indonesia for its record. When Hitler began rounding up Jews for work camps in 1936 most of the world was too preoccupied with deterring war and consequently ignored the situation. By 1945, six million Jews were dead. Many fear the fate of the Jews now awaits the Timorese.

*Felix is a staff writer for FORUM and is currently a student at Ryerson*

# East Timor

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# East Timor Alert Network

Canada has been financing Indonesia's occupation of East Timor for the past two decades. Recently, the Liberal government authorized weapons sales with Indonesia. This occurred just after Prime Minister Jean Chretien signed a two-way trade deal with Indonesia worth an estimated one billion dollars in 1994.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975. Since that time, rights which Canadians can easily exercise, such as being able to criticize the government, are not enjoyed by the East Timorese people.

Can't Canada do something to stop Indonesia?

Yes, Canada can, but chooses not to. Indonesia receives almost all of its financial support from Japan and the western world, including Canada.

David Webster and other Canadians are doing what they can to try and change Canada's relationship with Indonesia. Webster is a coordinator for the East Timor Alert Network (ETAN) in Toronto. The Network was founded in 1987 as a project of the Canadian Council of Churches and has since grown. With a membership of over 1,000 Canadians, the Network is trying to raise awareness of East Timor's situation by holding demonstrations, selling T-shirts, organizing a national march on Nov. 12 and mailing kits. They try to raise awareness by asking people to write to politicians, Timorese prisoners, and Canadian-based companies that operate in East Timor.

"An entire generation has grown up under Indonesian rule," says Webster. Stories of mass genocide, brutal beatings, and forced sterilization are common throughout Indonesia's relation-

ship with East Timor. "Indonesia justifies its abuse of East Timor by telling the United States it is trying to stop the spread of communism," says Webster. However, this is ludicrous. East Timor was never a communist nation.

"We want freedom for our country. We want these human rights abuses to stop." Webster says this is a common saying among the people of East Timor.

The main task for ETAN was to try and get Canadian media interested. However the media felt that the situation in East Timor was not as important as the crises occurring in Israel, the former Yugoslavia, Haiti, Somalia, and the former Soviet Union. The media thought that Canadians just wouldn't care about an East Timor story.

"The news covers it more than it used to," says Webster. But, in 1979, even Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister did not know about East Timor. The Minister's advisors felt that East Timor was not important enough to be briefed on. However, over 200,000 East Timorese people have been killed since Indonesia's invasion.

Indonesian officials justify their actions by claiming that East Timor is overpopulated. But, the small Asian island has a population of only 800,000 people.

The situation in East Timor is not getting any better. Awareness has been raised, but more needs to be done. According to Webster, the only help given to East Timor has been from a handful of "dedicated activists".

If you would like to become a member of the Network, please mail a cheque (see address below) for \$10 or more. Also, if you have any questions about the East Timor Alert Network, please write to:

East Timor Alert Network/Ottawa  
P.O. Box 1031, Station B  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5R1  
East Timor Alert Network Action Line: (613)742-9141

**East  
Timor**

There are several ETANs throughout Canada. Seven provinces have one. If the ones mentioned below are not in your area, call the action line for the closest one. Here are a few of the ETANs in larger metropolitan areas.

ETAN/Montreal  
No 47505, Co. P.  
Plateau Mont-Royal  
Montreal, Quebec  
H2H 2S8  
(514)848-7443

ETAN/Toronto  
P.O. Box 562  
Station P.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 2T1  
(416)531-5850

ETAN/Vancouver  
2120 West 44th #104  
Vancouver B.C.  
V6M 2G2  
(604)264-9973

**East  
Timor**

Also, please write to:

## GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- Jean Chretien, Prime Minister
- Andre Ouellet, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia)
- Marius Grinius, Director of Southeast Asia Division for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

## CANADIAN BASED CORPORATIONS CURRENTLY OPERATING IN EAST TIMOR

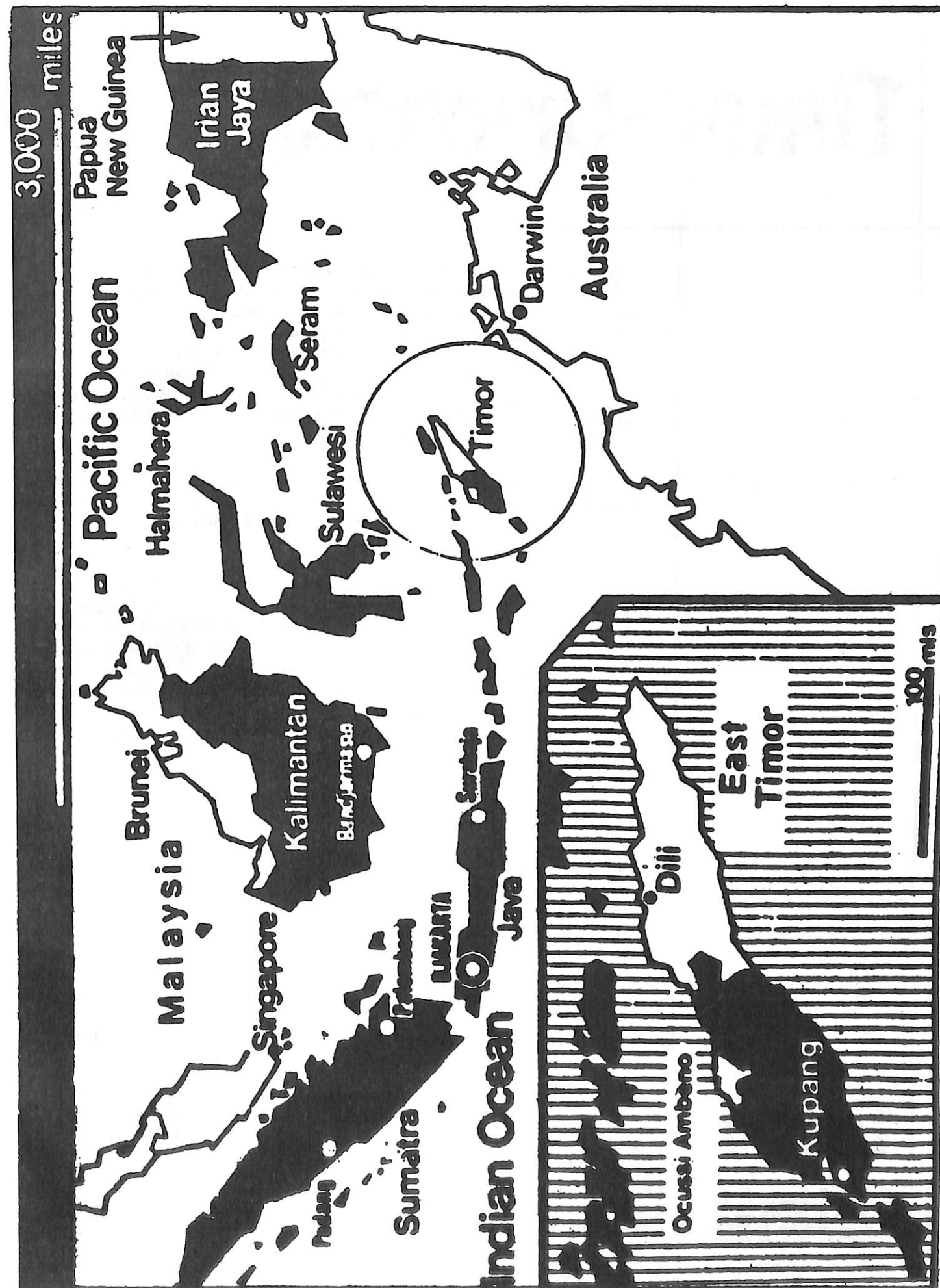
- Bata, SNC-Lavalin, Bombardier Inc., INCO, De Havilland Inc.

## INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES

- H.E. Parwoto, Ambassador, Embassy of Indonesia
- Ali Alatas S.H., Minister of Foreign Affairs

## POLITICAL PRISONERS

- Jose (Xanana) Gusamo, jailed leader of East Timor Resistance



# Timor-Oriental

Felix  
Vikhman

A l'ain Nairn, journaliste pour le magazine "New Yorker", en poste au Timor-Oriental, fut blessé par des tirs de M-16. Ensuite, il fut battu à coups de crosse de fusil sur la tête. Il prétendit être mort pour éviter d'autres tortures et fut jeté dans un camion avec d'autres cadavres, pour être conduit dans une tombe communale. Mais Nairn fut chanceux et il survécut. Cette journée-là, le 12 novembre 1991, 271 personnes non-armées furent tuées. La majorité d'entre eux étaient des catholiques en prière en marche vers la tombe d'un jeune homme de 18 ans qui avait été exécuté dans une église deux semaines plus tôt par des soldats indonésiens. Depuis, on réfère à cette journée par l'expression "Massacre de Dili".

Même si Nairn a survécu à sa terrible mésaventure, un autre journaliste, Kamal Bamadhaj, originaire de la Nouvelle-Zélande, fut tué dans ce massacre. Bamadhaj devint ainsi le 11ème journaliste tué au Timor-Oriental depuis l'invasion indonésienne en 1975.

Dès son retour aux États-Unis, Nairn se lança dans une mission personnelle pour faire connaître aux pays de l'Ouest les horreurs du Timor-Oriental. Des groupes tels que Amnistie Internationale et les Droits de la Personne avaient rapporté depuis des années ces faits troublants concernant les droits de la personne complètement bafoués et le véritable génocide des habitants du Timor-Oriental. A l'opposé, les médias principaux des pays de l'Ouest se faisaient discrets dans leur couverture des malheurs qui s'abattait sur cette nation insulaire. Nairn, qui a gagné le prix américain du journalisme (American Journalism Award) changea la perception du monde sur le Massacre de Dili. Ses reportages ont fait découvrir les faits et l'histoire du Timor-Oriental sous l'occupation indonésienne. Depuis son invasion, on estime que la population du Timor-Oriental a diminué de 200 000, soit le tiers de la population originale. En effet, un recensement portugais entériné quelques temps plus tard par l'Église catholique estimait la population à 688 771 et en pleine croissance. En 1978, le gouvernement indonésien rapportait que la population était de 498 433. Puis en 1980, l'Église catholique n'en comptait plus que 425 000.

Pendant les deux premiers mois de l'occupation indonésienne, 60 000 habitants du Timor-Oriental furent exécutés. Tous ceux et celles le moins suspects d'activités politiques anti-contrôle indonésiens furent persécutés dans une véritable chasse à l'homme et, une fois capturés, furent exécutés sans aucune autre forme de procès. Certaines villes furent décimées par une pluie de bombardements. D'autres encore furent couvertes par du napalm, de l'agent orange, ou du phosphore. Non

seulement ces produits chimiques tuent les gens mais ils empoisonnent les animaux et les terres agricoles. Un survivant a raconté que les soldats ont envahi sa ferme et ont forcé ses parents et ses deux frères à creuser un large trou. Alors qu'il demeurait caché, ils ont tué sa famille et le trou devint la tombe familiale. Un autre survivant fut forcé à compter les centaines de cadavres gisant au bas d'une falaise dans la baie de Dili.

Le 2 décembre 1975, 15 jours seulement après l'invasion, le Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies adoptait à l'unanimité une résolution condamnant l'Indonésie. Depuis, 8 autres motions importantes ont été portées au vote de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies sur l'occupation du Timor-Oriental mais presque toutes ont été rejetées. Jusqu'au jour du Massacre de Dili, l'Indonésie avait échappé à la vigilance internationale. L'île de Timor compte parmi les 20 réserves d'huile brute les plus importantes au monde et est mieux connue sous le nom de mer du Timor. C'est probablement pour ses réserves que le Timor devint si intéressant pour l'Indonésie.

Quelques mois avant l'invasion de 1975, l'ambassadeur d'Australie en Indonésie exprima l'opinion que les négociations pour la mer du Timor seraient plus fructueuses avec un Timor-Oriental sous l'influence indonésienne plutôt qu'avec le gouvernement portugais ou un pays indépendant. En 1989, un pacte entre l'Australie et l'Indonésie fut signé, pacte qui divisa la mer du Timor et les profits prévus provenant de cette région. Les négociations débutèrent en 1973 avec le Portugal. L'Indonésie a reçu plus de \$5 milliards d'investissements en droits d'explorations depuis sa prise de contrôle du Timor-Oriental.

Le Timor-Oriental était une colonie portugaise depuis 1959. Après le coup-d'état de Lisbonne, en 1973, le nouveau gouvernement provisoire portugais décida de donner l'indépendance à toutes ses colonies. Trois partis politiques furent créés au Timor avec l'aide du gouvernement portugais. Un des partis, l'Union Démocratique du Timor (U.D.T.) voulait un pays indépendant mais toujours membre de l'empire portugais. Un autre parti voulait l'indépendance et la souveraineté complète. Ce parti, le FRETILIN (Association Social Démocrate du Timor), devint le mouvement de résistance le plus important qui se battit féroce contre l'occupation indonésienne avant qu'il ne soit détruite en 1978. Le dernier parti, l'Association Populaire Démocratique du Timor (APODETI), fut fondé par l'Indonésie et rechercha à annexer le Timor-Oriental à l'Indonésie. Les résultats d'une tentative d'élections dans la campagne prouvèrent que le parti APODETI était le moins populaire des trois.

Le 11 août 1975, le parti APODETI, aidé de chefs du U.D.T. qui s'étaient laissés soudoyer, tentèrent un coup d'état. En prenant le contrôle de la coalition, les partis APODETI et U.D.T. prirent en otages 23 fonctionnaires portugais et forcèrent tous les autres à fuir le pays. Le jour suivant, une guerre civile éclata le nouveau gouvernement et le parti FRETILIN. Le 24 septembre, le FRETILIN avait réussi à expulser du pays les chefs des partis U.D.T. et APODETI. Après avoir consolidé son pouvoir, le FRETILIN organisa des élections libres et démocratiques qui seraient supervisées par un tiers. Malheureusement, les élections n'eurent jamais lieu le 15 décembre telles que prévues, car l'Indonésie a envahi le Timor-Oriental et a conservé le pouvoir depuis ce temps.

# Timor-Oriental

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# Timor-Oriental

Cependant, dans sa guerre contre le PCI, le général Suharto fut responsable de la mort de centaines de milliers d'Indonésiens entre 8000 000 et 1.2 million.

A l'époque, l'atmosphère politique de l'Asie du Sud-Est rendait la tâche d'opposition très difficile au gouvernement américain vis-à-vis du gouvernement indonésien. Le général Suharto, chef militaire et politique en Indonésie, était un des alliés sur lequel les États-Unis pouvaient compter. De 1865 à 1975, les Américains assistèrent à la conversion au communisme du Cambodge et du Laos et furent humiliés par une victoire des communistes au Vietnam. Pour éviter que l'Indonésie ne passe également dans le camp des communistes, les Américains fournirent des millions de dollars en aide financière au général Suharto. En 1965, Suharto réussit à détruire le PCI (Parti Communiste Indonésien), un des partis communistes les plus importants au monde, et devint ainsi un pilier contre le communisme pour les États-Unis. Cependant, dans sa guerre contre le PCI, le général Suharto fut responsable de la mort de centaines de milliers d'Indonésiens entre 8000 000 et 1.2 million. Avec le massacre du Timor-Oriental, il se classe dans la même catégorie des Stalin, Hitler, Kmhers Rouges et des Japonais lords de la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale.

Philip Lietchy était un agent du CIA affecté à l'ambassade américaine en Indonésie au moment de l'invasion. Lors d'une entrevue donnée au magazine "The Nation", en 1993, il révéla que le gouvernement américain avait donné carte blanche au général Suharto quant au destin du Timor: "La seule raison que j'ai entendu à propos de ce que nous faisons au Timor était que le Timor était sur le point d'être accepté aux Nations Unies et que les chances de le voir voter pour la gauche ou de rester neutre- donc ne pas voter avec les États-Unis- étaient excellentes. Pour annihiler ce vote, environ 200 000 personnes, la majorité d'entre elles des non-combattants, ont perdu la vie", expliqua Lietchy.

Ainsi, 90% des armes utilisées lors de l'invasion de 1975 furent fournies par les États-Unis. Un des chercheurs américains le plus connu mondialement pour son expertise en politiques étrangères, Noam Chomsky, a expliqué lors d'un discours fait à l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies que le commerce des armes entre l'Indonésie et les États-Unis avait augmenté depuis l'invasion du Timor. En 1975, l'aide militaires américaine à l'Indonésie avait doublé pour frôler les \$46 millions. Cependant, en 1972, selon Chomsky, l'Indonésie était sur le point de manquer d'armes, ce qui démontrait bien la gravité de la situation. La vente d'armes américaines à l'Indonésie atteignit des sommets inégales entre 1982 et 1984 lorsque Ronald Reagan autorisa la vente de plus de \$1 million d'armes.

Ce qui fut le plus horrible dans cette escalade des armes ne fut pas le bain de sang qui s'en suivit mais plutôt la famine. En effet, des produits chimiques comme le n-palm, l'agent orange et le phosphore furent utilisés sur le bétail et les terres agricoles autant que sur les habitants. On croit maintenant que la majorité des habitants du Timor-Oriental moururent de faim et non à la pointe du canon d'une arme. Durant les deux premières années d'occupation, le Timor-Oriental perdit 85% de son bétail et de nombreuses terres fertiles furent empoisonnées. Au milieu des années 80, Amnistie Internationale et la Croix Rouge Internationale alertèrent le monde entier du danger imminent de famine globale au Timor-Oriental à cause des conditions des camps dans

lesquels on forçait les paysans à vivre et du peu de terres ou de nourriture à leur disposition.

Le déplacement de la population paysanne du Timor-Oriental dans des camps faisait partie d'un vaste plan du gouvernement indonésien, plan qualifié de "programme destruction totale". Toujours faisant partie de ce programme, on y a vu entre autres la stérilisation des femmes. Tous ceux et celles qui refusaient de se plier aux ordres étaient punis fatalement. John Pilger, journaliste pour le magazine "The Nation" raconta que l'armée de l'air indonésienne envahit une ville et rassembla tous les jeunes sur la place publique. Les jeunes femmes furent violées et coupées en morceaux sur place. Les jeunes hommes eurent leurs organes génitaux éclaboussés d'essence et on les fit brûler jusqu'à mort s'en suivre.

Malgré tout ce qui est arrivé aux habitants du Timor-Oriental, la résistance à l'occupation indonésienne est plus active que jamais. Une fois FRETILIN éliminé, l'étape suivante fut la résistance passive et les protestations pacifiques. En novembre dernier, durant le sommet économique des chefs des pays de l'Ouest dans la capitale indonésienne, rencontre à laquelle assistaient Jean Chrétien du Canada et Bill Clinton des États-Unis, des protestations furent organisées en Indonésie et au Timor-Oriental pour souligner les droits de la personne bafoués. Ces protestations permirent aux habitants du Timor de rejoindre l'opinion publique, dont ils ont grand besoin.

Sans cette publicité, disent-ils, leur destin tragique se dénouerait sans que personne ne soit au courant et passerait inaperçue. Ils savent que leur chance de survie et d'indépendance passe par l'intervention internationale auprès de l'Indonésie. Lorsque, en 1936, Hitler a rassemblé les Juifs dans des camps de concentration, le monde était trop préoccupé par la menace de la guerre et personne n'avait porté attention au problème. Puis, en 1945, on comptait 6 milliards de Juifs décédés dans ces camps. Un même destin attend maintenant un grand nombre des habitants du Timor-Oriental.

Felix Vikhaman est en sa deuxième année de journalisme à Ryerson.

## Le reseau de sensibilisation a la situation au Timor-Oriental\*

\*(Traduction libre du nom de l'organisme East Timor Alert Network ou ETAN)

Le Canada a financé, au cours des deux dernières décennies, l'occupation du Timor-Oriental par l'Indonésie. Le gouvernement libéral a récemment autorisé la vente d'armements à l'Indonésie. Cette décision a été prise après que le Premier Ministre Jean Chrétien avait signé, en 1994, une entente commerciale bilatérale avec l'Indonésie d'une valeur d'environ un milliard de dollars. L'Indonésie a envahi le Timor-Oriental en 1975. Depuis cette époque, les droits que les Canadiens peuvent facilement

exercer, par exemple celui de critiquer le gouvernement, ont été enlevés au peuple du Timor-Oriental.

Le Canada aurait-il pu faire quelque chose pour arrêter l'action de l'Indonésie?

Oui, mais le Canada a choisi de ne pas le faire. L'aide financière accordée à l'Indonésie provient, pour une majeure partie, du Japon et des pays occidentaux, y compris du Canada.

David Webster et d'autres Canadiens ont fait leur possible

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pour essayer de changer les relations que le Canada entretient avec l'Indonésie. Webster est le coordonnateur d'ETAN à Toronto. Le réseau, qui fut fondé en 1987 dans le cadre d'un projet du Conseil canadien des églises, n'a cessé depuis de croître. Comptant au total plus de 1 000 membres, le réseau se donne comme tâche de sensibiliser les Canadiens à la situation au Timor-Oriental. À cette fin, elle tient des manifestations, organise une marche nationale le 12 novembre, vend des T-shirts, et envoie des trousseaux d'information. Le réseau encourage également les gens à écrire aux hommes politiques, aux prisonniers au Timor, et aux compagnies canadiennes qui ont des opérations au Timor-Oriental.

«Toute une génération a grandi sous le joug indonésien», déclare Webster. Massacres massifs, tortures, et stérilisation forcée marquent les relations entre l'Indonésie et le Timor-Oriental. «L'Indonésie justifie ses actes d'oppression envers le Timor-Oriental en disant aux États-Unis qu'elle essaie d'arrêter la propagation du communisme», ajoute Webster. Allégation tout à fait ridicule. Le Timor-Oriental n'a jamais été un pays communiste.

«Nous voulons la liberté pour notre pays. Nous voulons que cessent les violations des droits de la personne», voilà les aspirations communes des habitants du Timor-Oriental.

La tâche principale d'ETAN était d'attirer l'attention des

média canadiens sur la situation au Timor-Oriental. Toutefois, les médias pensaient que la situation dans ce pays ne revêtait pas une aussi grande importance que les crises qui se produisent actuellement en Israël, dans l'ancienne Yougoslavie, en Haïti, en Somalie et dans l'ancienne Union Soviétique. Les médias avaient l'impression que la crise du Timor-Oriental ne devrait pas réellement intéresser les Canadiens.

« Actuellement, les médias couvrent plus souvent la situation dans ce pays qu'ils ne l'ont fait auparavant », dit Webster. Mais en 1979, même le ministre des affaires étrangères ne connaissait pas le Timor-Oriental. Les conseillers du ministre pensaient que ce pays n'était pas assez important pour que ce dernier soit mis au courant de ce qui s'y passait. Toutefois, plus de 200 000 habitants du Timor-Oriental ont été tués depuis l'invasion des Indonésiens.

Les hommes d'État de l'Indonésie ont, pour justifier leur acte, prétendu que le Timor-Oriental était surpeuplé, alors que cette petite île asiatique ne comptait qu'une population de 800 000 habitants.

La situation au Timor-Oriental n'a connu aucune amélioration. Les gens ont été sensibilisés, mais il y a encore beaucoup à faire. Selon Webster, le seul soutien qu'a reçu le Timor-Oriental a été celui d'un petit groupe d'« activistes dévoués à sa cause ».

Si vous voulez devenir membre du réseau ETAN, veuillez envoyer un chèque de 10 \$ ou plus établi à l'ordre de : *East Timor Alert Network* et le faire parvenir à l'adresse suivante :

East Timor Alert Network/Ottawa  
P.O. Box 1031, Station B  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5R1

## Timor-Oriental

Si vous voulez obtenir des renseignements sur ce réseau, vous pouvez faire parvenir vos questions à l'adresse susmentionnée. Vous pouvez également appeler le *East Timor Alert Network* par téléphone au numéro (613) 742-9141.

L'ETAN a des bureaux régionaux dans sept provinces du Canada. Si vous n'habitez pas dans les régions où se trouvent les bureaux ci-dessous, vous pouvez appeler au numéro de téléphone susmentionné pour savoir quel est le bureau d'ETAN le plus près de chez vous. Voici l'adresse de quelques bureaux régionaux d'ETAN dans certaines régions métropolitaines.

ETAN/Montréal  
N° 47505, Co. P.  
Plateau Mont-Royal  
Montréal (Québec)  
H2H 2S8  
(514) 848-7443

ETAN/Toronto  
P.O. Box 562  
Station P.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 2T1  
(416) 531-5850

ETAN/Vancouver  
2120 West 44th, # 104  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6M 2G2  
(604) 264-9973

## Timor-Oriental

Veuillez également écrire à :

(Pour savoir comment joindre les personnes mentionnées ci-dessous, veuillez communiquer avec ETAN ou avec Action Jeunesse au (416) 368-2277 ou au 1 800 718-LINK.)

### GOUVERNEMENT DU CANADA

- Jean Chrétien, premier ministre
- André Ouellet, ministre des affaires étrangères
- Raymond Chan, secrétaire d'État (Asie-Pacifique)
- Marius Grinius, directeur de la division du Sud-Est asiatique, Département des affaires étrangères et du commerce international.

### COMPAGNIES CANADIENNES AYANT DES OPERATIONS AU TIMOR-ORIENTAL

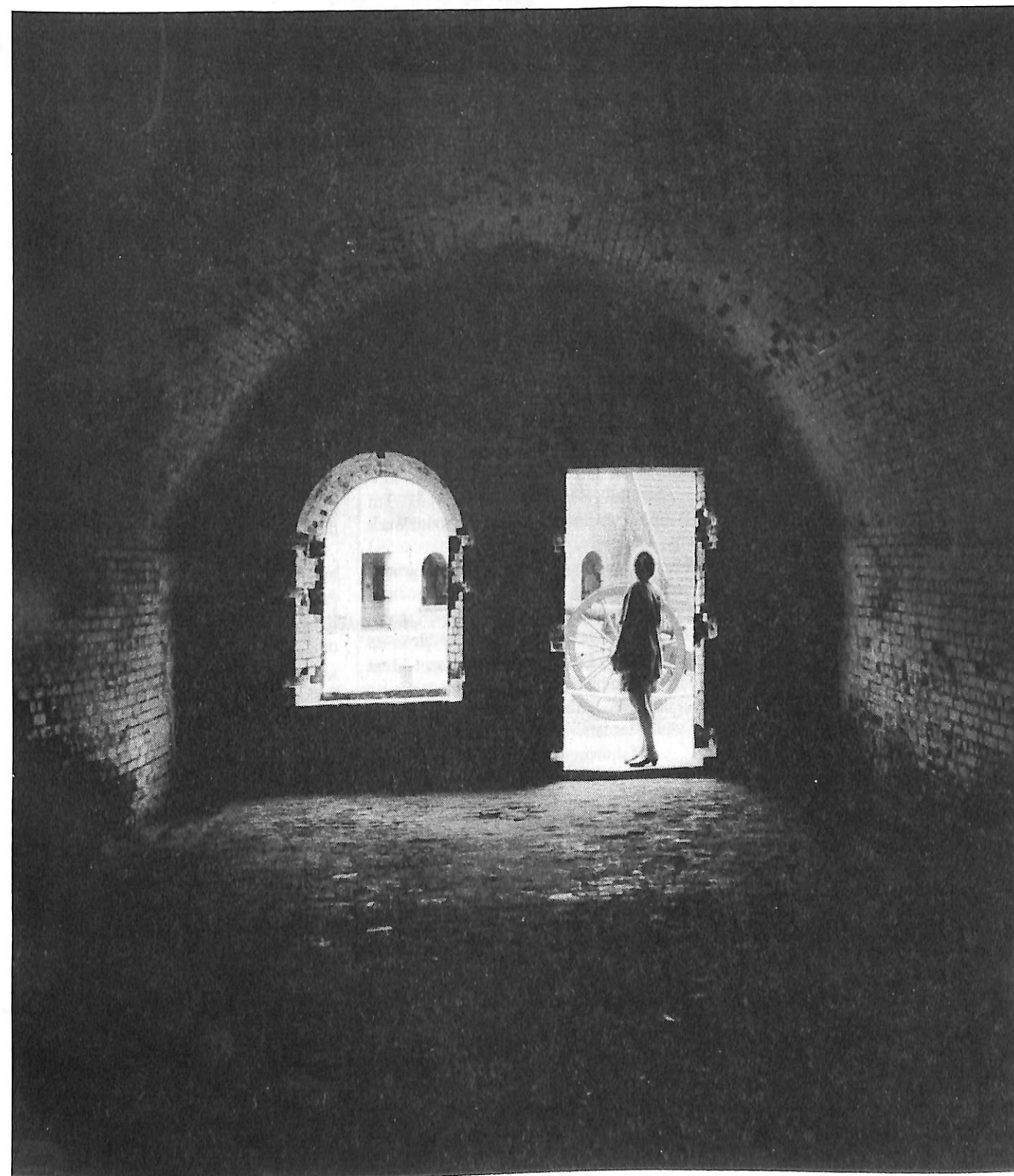
- Bata, SNC-Lavalin, Bombardier Inc., INCO, De Havilland Inc.

### AUTORITES INDONESIENNES

- H.E. Parwoto, ambassadeur, ambassade d'Indonésie
- Ali Alatas, S.H., ministre des affaires étrangères

### PRISONNIERS POLITIQUES

- Jose (Xanana) Gusamo, leader incarcéré de la résistance du Timor-Oriental.





# National Youth Week

## Youth Week

Uma Sarkar

What started off as an idea last fall has turned into a landmark event. May 1 - 7, 1995 marked the first ever annual National Youth Week, dedicated to motivating and inspiring Canada's youth to contribute to their community and country year-round. The goal of the Week was to have youth organizations, schools and community groups run special events that involved young people in the community. The Week featured over 150 events and 300 - 400 schools, youth organizations and community groups. Our second goal was to raise the profile of youth in the media. Too often, the image of young people conveyed in the mainstream media is that of a lost generation with no future, no direction and no motivation. Our goal was to show more inspiring images of young people. Youth Action Network hosted its own special event, Youth-In-

Action '95, in Toronto. The event featured a news conference where active young leaders spoke about the importance of youth taking leadership roles. Following the news conference, representatives from over fifty youth organizations across Canada presented displays illustrating the activities of their group to the hundreds of young people in attendance and the media.

Youth Week '96 is set for April 29 to May 5. Our aims for the second Youth Week include:

- \*encouraging organizations, groups and individuals to organize events such as community service days, youth workshops, benefit concerts, environmental clean-up campaigns, and volunteer recruitment drives in their community.

- \*recognizing the achievements of young leaders.

- \*showing more positive images of

youth in the media.

- \*raising awareness around those issues which affect youth (employment, democratic participation, sustainable environment, poverty, access to education, etc.)

- \*using the Week as a time to call for long-term youth initiatives.

- \*encouraging more collaboration and increase the spirit of cooperation among youth organizations in order to strengthen the structures that support young people.

We are still open to working with more organizations. If you know of any groups that might want to get involved, or if you want to participate in the Week by organizing an event or helping out with regional co-ordination, please contact Uma Sarkar, Coordinator - Youth Week '96 at 1-800-718-LINK or (416) 368-2277.

## Youth Action in Nova Scotia

Stephanie Brown

Halifax - What did 17,000 members of the largest organization for young women in the world do to celebrate National Youth Action Week? They sold 6,000,000 Girl Guide cookies throughout Nova Scotia!

Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada offers girls and women in Canada opportunities for personal development, leadership training and service. Today, with 8,000,000 members in 132 countries around the world, Girl Guides of Canada aims to help girls and young women become responsible

citizens, and give leadership and service to the community, whether on a local, national or global basis.

Girl Guide cookies originated in 1927 when Regina Guide Christina Riepsamen baked, boxed and sold cookies to raise money to help buy uniforms, badges and camping equipment for the Girl Guides.

"For 85 years Girl Guides has upheld a tradition of character building, service and support for girls and women in Canada," said Myrtle Corkum, the Nova Scotia Council

Commissioner of the Girl Guides of Canada. "Supporting Girl Guides of Canada cookie sales, treats you and your family to a very special product and helps enrich the lives of girls and women," she added.

For more information please contact: Stephanie Brown  
Product Marketing Coordinator  
(902) 865-8449

# National Youth Week

## Fort McMurray

Carly Sikstrom

Enlightening, Impressive, Exciting, Star Studded, and full of Energy are just some of the words that have been used to describe Fort McMurray's Youth Week celebrations.

The week began with a motivational presentation by former MuchMusic V.J. Erica Ehm, entitled "Life for the Taking". This was followed by a two day Youth Conference for our city's grade seven students. The week was capped off with the "Youth Summit"; a delegation of 300 high school students gathered together for two days to discuss youth issues.

The Summit included issue sessions, cooperative games, guest speakers, performances by local bands, "schmoozing" with Canadian celebrities, and was concluded with a press conference. Local media, high school principals, city officials, members of the public, and representatives from youth agencies were among those present. The purpose was to give each of the student facilitators an opportunity to report back to the community what their groups had decided Fort McMurray needed to do for its youth population. One recurring idea was that Fort McMurray's youth wanted a teen centre.

The intention of the Youth Summit was to hear as many ideas and suggestions from the teens as possible for the community to build on, and make a reality. Overall, it was an incredibly positive week for everyone involved.

If you are interested in finding out more on Fort McMurray's Youth Summit, or our youth endeavours, please contact Paul Regensburg, Fort McMurray's Community Development Coordinator at (403) 743-7021.

## Fort Smith, Northwest Territories

Theresa Evoy

In Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, the first Young Aboriginal Women's Mini-Conference was held to celebrate National Youth Week. The theme was "Preparing For Leadership". Our guest speaker discussed her past experiences, emphasizing the importance of education, refraining from drugs and alcohol, and the significance of self-development.

The first workshop, on Parenting and Healthy Relationships, stressed self-esteem and assertiveness, while the final workshops focused on cultural and traditional healing. Our special guest, a Spiritual Healer, focused on the spiritual ways of self-development through the Medicine Wheel and The Sweat. With her guidance and direction, we became aware of traditional Native practices and healing methods, and their meaning.

We closed with the Medicine Wheel. Each of us took turns speaking about our recent experience at the workshops. Special gifts were presented to our leader, and each participant received a medicine pouch.

At the close of the conference, we followed the Elders' lead and said prayers.

Our journey towards spiritual awakenings brought a closeness and calmness to us all. There is a great urgency to hold more workshops like these in our communities. It benefits not only today's struggling youth, but their families, their relationships, and their communities as a whole.

## Fédération des Jeunes Francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick

La Fédération des Jeunes Francophones du N.-B. a tenu sa huitième assemblée générale annuelle provinciale les 5, 6 et 7 mai 1995 à la Polyvalente Roland-Pépin de Campbellton, N.-B. Plus de 30 délégués(es) de partout au Nouveau-Brunswick se sont donnés(es) rendez-vous sous le thème "La FJFNB, un quart de siècle d'évolution."

Les délégués(es) ont eu la chance de participer à divers ateliers et tables rondes qui avaient pour but de développer le leadership chez les jeunes et d'examiner la situation actuelle de notre organisme. Les jeunes ont tous eu la chance de participer activement à un des trois sujets de discussion qui sont présentement les plus chers auprès de notre membership. Le premier groupe a pu

discuter de l'avenir du regroupement postsecondaire au sein de la FJFNB. Un deuxième groupe s'est penché sur la question du référendum et de la séparation éventuelle du Québec. Et enfin, le troisième groupe a pu discuter le 25<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la FJFNB (par l'entremise d'Activités-Jeunesse).



# Rural Development: Now you see it, Now you don't

James Bellamy

The corn field that used to grow behind my house was like magic: one minute it was there, the next minute it was - you guessed it -- a subdivision.

Honourable judges, ladies and gentlemen -- The face of our rural communities has changed. When our forefathers first arrived on this continent, many were naturally attracted to the areas with the most agricultural potential. In those days, the small towns that sprang up provided services to the surrounding farms. The present situation is clearly reversed: the towns and cities are the source of livelihood for most of the population. The very land that attracted the early settlers is now being put to urban use. This means that the once fertile land ceases to be a renewable resource. The sad fact is that urban centres will likely continue to expand and lead to irretrievable loss of high capability farm lands, forest lands and wildlife habitats.

The revolution has been quiet and relentless. The disappearance of our rural communities has not been marked by protest or unrest. No large and powerful lobby group has beseeched the government to save this valuable resource. And yet this disaster is just as critical to our future as the erosion of the ozone layer, the depletion of the rain forest or the extinction of any species of wildlife. We are foreclosing on options for the use of Canada's environment and natural resources by future generations.

But really, what difference does a house here and there make? What is the big

deal about a housing development being attached to an existing village or hamlet at the cost of a few measly acres of land? The answer, of course, is that it would make little difference if that's where it ended. It is frightening to learn that, in Ontario, over 30 acres of prime agricultural land is lost to urbanization every hour. Every hour!! (look at wrist) Oops, there goes another acre. This is land that is lost forever for the purpose for which it is best suited -- farming. Agriculture and food is the second largest industry in this province, and Ontario is the second largest food producer in North America (next to California). We, in this province are fortunate to have rich soil and a favourable climate in which we can grow many crops - from winter wheat to peaches to beans. Can we afford to bury that under asphalt? The government has stated that they are committed to preventing this from happening. It is working towards the preservation of prime agricultural lands through the implementation of Bill 163. Yet, there is considerable pressure to continue to convert farm lands to urban use. It is not easy to resist the economic benefits of allowing urban growth to gobble up these lands.

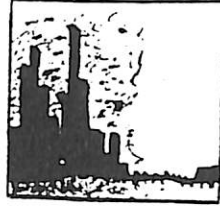
Over the short term, building cities and roads on farmlands is economically attractive to many people. Municipal governments frequently see urban development as a way to increase their tax base and create jobs. Builders prefer level, well-drained agriculture areas, and are willing to pay larger sums than can be realized by retain-

ing the land for agricultural purposes. Although most farmers would like to maintain prime capability lands in production, they also want the option of selling the land for the best price available before retirement or during difficult economic times. And, in areas surrounding urban centres, the best price will almost certainly be for urban growth. Soaring input costs, diminished commodity prices, and the negative effects of international trade have resulted in a general inability to rely on agriculture as a way of earning a living.

The consequences of ignoring the loss of prime resource lands may not be immediate, but it will have a devastating effect on future generations. A growing Canadian population requires housing and urban employment. It is difficult to rationalize the maintenance of prime agricultural lands at a time of agricultural surpluses and bankrupt farms. Short-sightedness, however, has its price. Quite possibly, if the province's best farm lands continue to disappear, future Canadians will have no choice but to import, on a year-round basis, many of the specialty crops now grown domestically. Agriculture-based employment and the contribution to Canada's balance of payments made by this sector would also decline significantly.

I realize this is an issue that evokes strong opinions on both sides. On one hand, citizen rights are being further eroded with restrictions surrounding what may or may not be done with private property. On the other hand, failure to act now to retain prime agriculture lands for food production spells disaster for future generations. What kind of a legacy do you want to leave your grandchildren? With careful planning and strict adherence to land use guidelines, this province can continue to grow and still meet the responsibilities to the future. Agriculture does affect our economy, our rural communities and our way of life. We must protect it!

*James is a student at St. James High School in Guelph, Ontario. He is also a freelance writer.*



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# The Human Condition

Aaron J. Murial

I don't give a damn about the environment - may it curl up tightly, and die in a puff of ozone.

That is what we in the writing industry call a 'lead'. It is the type of line used in magazines and newspapers by journalists to pull a reader into a story, thus generating interest in the publication and allowing a writer, such as myself, to keep his or her job and put food on the table for one more week.

But really, I do mean it. The environment is the very least of my problems right now. It is the last item on my extensive list of "things that the last generation is chiefly responsible for that I feel inclined to bitch about". Although now that I look back, I guess that it might be kosher for me to say that the bit about the puff of ozone might have been just a wee bit much.

Regardless, it would appear that as of late I've been caught finding myself having turned 19 at least a decade too late. After all, if I had come of age back in 1984, I would most likely find myself groovin' along to 'Culture Club', something coined by social experts to be the "Me Generation". The implications of what I have written below could be passed off as the territorial wankings of an egocentric, left-winged, Volvo-driving yuppie scum wannabe. In other words, a selfish brat. But please, do read and decide for yourself.

I'll be frank and tell you right now that when I was first approached to write a piece for this publication, I was fully prepared to do the right thing. I was ready to hack out a grim, if not somewhat tongue-in-cheek editorial on how bloody horrid it is that big industry, the government and Satan have been destroying our forests, oceans and all such drivel.

But I'd be lying, wouldn't I?

Certainly, a tree has its merits.

Water's always nice.

I must admit that I've enjoyed breathing clean air from time to time,

when no one was looking. But, ladies and gentlemen, the very simple fact of the matter is this: None of these wonderful bits of Gaia are repairable until we take the time to repair or destroy ourselves.

Either way, the world will be one hell of a lot better off than it is now.

Humanity, such as it is - has been said to be the dominant species on our planet. Most likely, this was a statement made by



humans. It would take a lot of convincing to steer me away from the belief that the animals we propagate on a regular basis wouldn't have a different angle on this particular point. Regardless, the fact remains that Homo sapiens are, in their own collective minds, the best damn species on the face of the planet.

Ah, that's the rub - it would seem that we have a small ego problem to contend with, eh? Well, it's all sorted out already, isn't it? All that we need to do is get together as a people and deflate a few swollen heads. There you are, my son. Problem solved.

Oh, but there is a catch. We seem to have mistakenly appointed leaders with the collective table manners of a three year old child. They are unable to hold a constructive conversation with others who hold the same rank as they do for more than five minutes at a time, for fear that they might lose money, or -the God of your choice forbid-, lose the next election.

But that's only a wee problem with greed. Nothing to worry about and easy to solve with a few well placed bullets. Although some might just go as far as to say

that that sort of treatment, even when directed towards an elected official, is far too extreme, and overly violent to say the least. On the other hand, it's entirely hokey-dokey to send the troops to stop a petty dictator, simply because of the fact that the piece of real estate that he's after happens to be floating in resources necessary to insure the continuous rambling of an automated nation. This surprisingly brings us back to greed, which leads us to our egos. Is it just me, or does anyone else find it interesting that the only time we hear the term "international intervention" is when there's a resource at stake that the First World nations get all hard over? Not to name names, mind you, but it seems that there's always two separate scenarios that emerge from this kind of situation. and they go something like this:

FEDERAL TOE-LICK : "Oh look, that poor little oil-rich country is being overtaken by a ruthless dictator."

FEARLESS LEADER : "By Pete, we gotta do something about that! Quickly, put a positive spin on the situation using catch phrases like 'freedom and democracy for all'. Send lots of tanks, Oh, and incidentally, I

hear that the boys down in Knoxville have some new toys that they'd like to try out at great expense to the average citizen- send them too."

FEARLESS TOE-LICK : "Yessir, right away."

And now, the second.

FEDERAL TOE-LICK : "Oh, look, that poor little former second-world country is being torn apart by a horrible civil war. It's projected that thousands will die before it is all over- innocent civilians no less!"

FEARLESS LEADER : "Dreadful. What are they known for?"

FEARLESS TOE-LICK : "Well, they've got this internationally reknowned dance troupe tha-"

FEARLESS LEADER : "Ah, of course. Send a fruit basket, will you? There, good man."

To be blunt, nothing in our society is done if there is no benefit to be found for the aiding party. This is the simple truth of the matter. You and I are included in this equation. It is not to say that there are no exceptions to this rule. And thank whomever for that, as our people need a model upon which to base themselves. But the fact remains, we ourselves are so buggered up, that we cannot possibly dare to hope to help our dying planet until we stop to help ourselves first. The process will take time, of course. After all, the concepts of ego, greed, and violence have been inherent in our apes. It's bloody difficult to turn around and brush off a few thousand decades worth of bad habits. If you don't think this to be true, try this: For a week, whenever you cook something, don't wash the pan or dishes. Do not even think about rinsing them out. Now at the end of the week, come back and I guarantee that the dirt will not be removed easily.

The same concept applies to us. It is necessary to soak in the concept that our race needs help before we can wipe all of the crap off of our plates and start again.

So, for now, I'm sticking to my guns when I say that I don't give a damn about the environment.

The tree huggers of the world will just have to deal with it.

But when the dishes are done, I might just be inclined to change my mind.

*Aaron is a student at St. James High School in Guelph, Ontario. He is a accomplished public speaker and writer.*

# Canada and I

Tammy Law

As I enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Cabot trail in Cape Breton, my mind drifts back to a book I read recently. It was a bilingual collection of works, by 15 Canadians from a variety of regions and backgrounds, on Canada and why it should be kept together. I must admit that when I started reading the book, I was unenthusiastic and unprepared. Never did I think I would enjoy a whole book on the state of Canada. I had heard *enough* about the subject already on T.V., in the newspapers, on the radio - in short, I was sick and tired of the entire subject. Nevertheless, I read the book.

To my surprise, I found this particular book extremely fascinating simply because it was written by some people that I could relate to. Sure, there were the usual politicians and economists, but the book provided me with a taste of the reasons and, more importantly, (dare I say it!) of the feelings that explain why even typical Canadians want to retain a unified Canada. Some contributions were written passionately, others were academic in tone, but all reflect views that do not intimidate or patronise - views that I have been longing to hear.

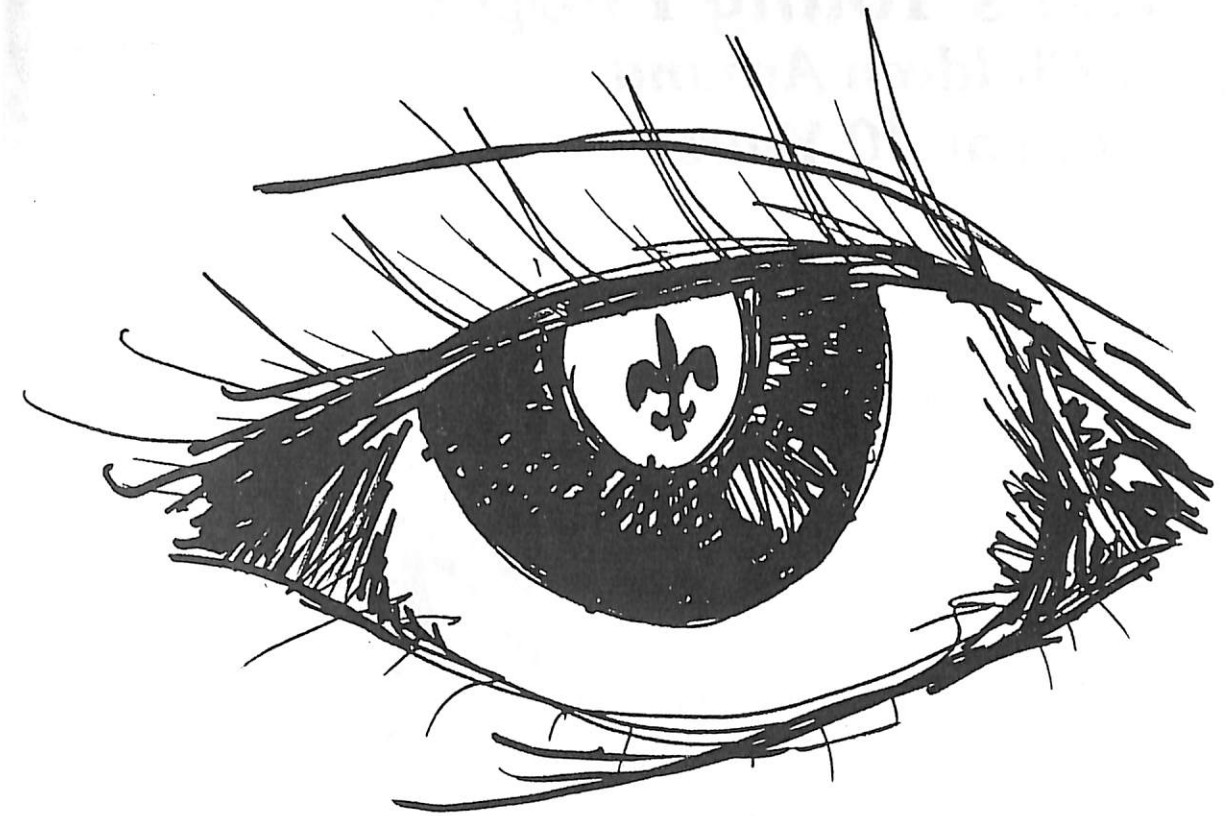
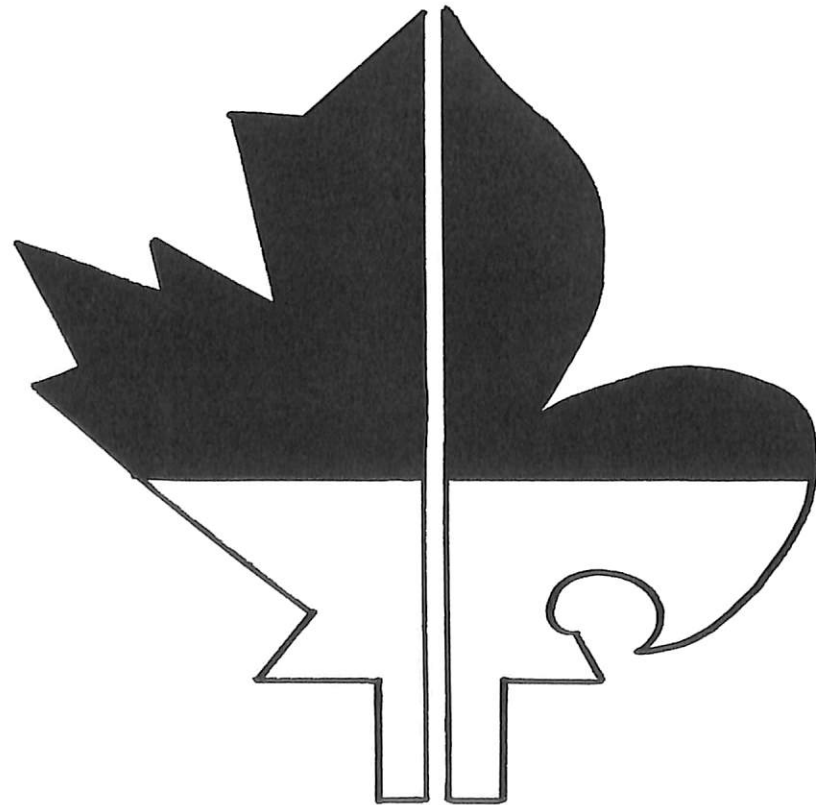
After all, how many times have you heard academics, politicians, analysts and separatists coldly discuss Canadian unity? Sometimes, it seems that their preoccupation with statistics hides the more passionate and personal side to this issue. Submerged under the more academic side of the debate, many forget the things that make Canada *Canada* - the people, the land, the values, and the uniqueness of each province and territory. That is why I never really *passionately* wanted Canada to stay unified; I just wanted it because according to all the economists and analysts, it was the best thing for all of us. Needless to say, this type of indifference is extremely dangerous. But the most terrible thing about it is that many Canadians feel the same way I did. It is time that each one of us tries to discover for ourselves what Canada really is. Only when

this is accomplished can we, with conviction see why it is a great thing to be a Canadian.

What is Canada to you? Do you really know what it really means to be Canadian?

For myself, I never fully realised what made Canada so special until this summer during my trip to the Maritimes. I was born and raised in Toronto - one of the largest cities in Canada. When my par-

ents announced that we were to spend two weeks of our summer in the Maritimes, I rebelled. Why couldn't we go somewhere else? Somewhere exciting? Somewhere out of the country? All my life, I have known that Canada is made of different regions. But I never truly understood their differences, or why each region was special. In my naive opinion, the Maritime provinces were like northern Ontario - not many cities, not many people, lots of trees. To a certain degree, it's true, but there are differences in the Maritimes that cannot



be so neatly summed up. I was used to the rushed and frantic pace of a large city, and shared many of its attitudes and values. My trip to the Maritimes was a jolt to these ideas. There was a difference in atmosphere, environment, and most of all the people that was simply astounding. It was totally unlike any place I had been to out of the country, and it was definitely unique.

Canadians are a strange breed of people. Renowned throughout the world for their tolerance and generosity, yet still strangely modest when questioned about their own country. On my trip, I encountered a number of people who demonstrated a willingness to help others that I found extremely touching. The difference in Canadians, I noticed, lies in the fact that many are willing to give that one extra word, or action to help someone in need. Consequently, our society is based on this feeling of welfare and courtesy, making Canada the best country to live in. How else can we explain our government-endorsed multiculturalism and our health care system? It is all part of being Canadian.

So then why do we as a country have

such a huge problem with Canadian unity? It's because we are letting ourselves be dominated by clear, logical, and dispassionate words of politicians and analysts and not by our true convictions. Many of us are too caught up in our own lives to realise that Canada is really only a family of communities. Instead, we choose to isolate ourselves into regions and ignore other parts of Canada that are just as special as the one we live in. Each province and territory has become "I" and "me" instead of "we" and "us". Where is the sense of compromise that built this nation? Quebec and its cultural woes have resulted from this self-imposed isolation from the rest of Canada.

To the separatists: how many of you really know what English Canadians are really like? I would argue that your preoccupation with yourselves has blinded you to the fact that many English Canadians are no longer the oppressors and would be extremely sorry to see you go. If history says that the English are the bad guys, does it still mean that is true now? To the English-speakers who insist on letting Quebec leave: how much do you know

about Quebec? If you think Quebec's departure from the rest of Canada will not affect you, I urge you to think again. And to the English speakers who think they want Quebec to stay in confederation: how many of you have actively proclaimed this wish?

Without a doubt, there is a uniqueness out there that should be experienced and recognized if we wish to remain fully independent and unified. It is not enough to be *told* that we must keep the country together; rather, it must come from inside of ourselves so that the voices speaking out are stronger and clearer than the story that facts, figures and politicians tell. We should all remember that this is not a debate of facts and figures. Rather, it is an emotional debate about the delicate bond that exists between Quebec and the rest of Canada.

*Tammy Law is a grade 13 student currently attending the University of Toronto Schools*



# Canada's Young People: Helping Children Around the World For 40 Years

Nisha Nathani

*"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and, as long as I live, it is my privilege to do whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live."*

George Bernard Shaw

We co-exist on the same planet. Yet, we try to separate the rich from the poor, the fair from the dark, and the glamorous from the dirty. But, in the same mind-frame, we separate the countries less fortunate from ourselves in the "industrialized world". We must accept our responsibility to be active members of our world, striving to understand each other, help each other and establish a global community.

As Canadian youth, we have a unique tradition of working towards an empowered global community through the UNICEF Halloween campaign. For 40 years, Canadian children and youth have been helping children in need receive education, care, and immunization by carrying orange boxes on October 31. We have built a foundation unlike any other and are recognized as significant contributors to the progress being made with the world's children. With our big hearts and the direction and expertise of UNICEF we make the world a better place.

UNICEF (The United Nations Children's Fund) is the only UN organization dedicated exclusively to children. UNICEF works with other UN agencies, governments and non-governmental organizations to provide community-based services in primary health care, nutrition, basic education, safe water and sanitation in over 140 developing countries. Its aim is to reduce the terrible toll the lack of such services takes on the world's youngest citizens.

The burdens of poverty fall so heavily on the young; almost 13 million children in the developing world die each year from preventable diseases. Polio is a great concern worldwide; by the year 2000, rising rates of

immunization will protect at least 5 million children under 10, who would otherwise be paralyzed for life. UNICEF has also made progress towards greater immunization for measles and pneumonia. The "baby friendly hospital initiative" is an attempt by UNICEF and WHO (World Health Organization) to ensure that all hospitals offer the same advice and the necessary support to the mothers who must make the decision to breastfeed their children.

Many problems in developing nations stem from lack of education. In Nepal, 89% of women and 63% of men are illiterate. This ignorance results in people not being able to provide the best possible care for themselves and their families. With the goal of "Education for ALL", UNICEF is establishing and training Health Care workers across countries to educate families, mostly mothers, in nutrition, sanitation and family planning. Progress is being made, but education is no

longer a numbers game. Success or failure depends now on the quality and relevance of the education being offered.

UNICEF's work in developing communities requires 80% of UNICEF's staff to be posted on these projects; these individuals are usually residents of the project-based communities, and are providing their people with the tools and direction needed to make necessary changes. The remaining 20 % build awareness, educate and raise the funds which are vital to UNICEF's projects worldwide. That is where Canada and Halloween fits in; UNICEF's staff and volunteers in Canada are primarily focused on developmental education and raising funds through card and gift sales, the Halloween campaign, fundraising events, and direct mail appeals.

Through UNICEF's Halloween campaign, Canadian elementary school children raised \$3.6 million in 1994 for children around the world. This tradition began in

1955 when, with just a few weeks preparation, more than \$15,000 was raised. The success of the program, designed to give Canadian children a greater understanding of the needs of children in less fortunate circumstances, can be best demonstrated by the loyal collections made every Halloween night. In 1960, 12 year old Sandra Taylor from Gander, Newfoundland presented a cheque for \$200,000 to UNICEF and said, "On behalf of children across Canada...This gift comes to you with our love and we sincerely hope that through our Halloween pennies and dimes we will help UNICEF to cure more and more children of sickness and hunger". This year, in celebration of 40 years of Trick-or-Treating, Canadians should be reminded of just how special our efforts are. We have formed bonds with children all over the world and will continue to strengthen these ties.

The contribution and involvement of Canadian youth is very diverse and creative. Martingrove High School in Etobicoke and Kennedy High School in Windsor have the largest running UNICEF clubs in Ontario, which are working toward bridging the gaps

between nations. These clubs organize assemblies, special events, contests and sales in support of the world's children. Martingrove High School UNICEF club President, Nisha Shah explains, "We also go into local Gr.3 and Gr.8 classes and talk about the realities for children throughout the world". When asked where their motivation comes from, Nisha replies, "It has become part of our school, and there is so much to be done. It bothers me to see people suffer; if we can help someone get an education or clean water, that's reason enough".

Ontario Universities involve their student bodies through UNICEF Campus Ambassador Programs; U of T, McMaster, Brock, Nipissing, Western, Lakehead, Guelph and York do a myriad of activities in support of international development education and fundraising. These activities include: the sale of UNICEF cards and gifts, Halloween pub crawls, and educational forums.

I encourage you to think about the realities faced by young people in our world and talk about what you, your school, or your community can do. This year, in celebra-

tion of 40 growing years of Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF, I want to encourage the young to find inspiration from each other and themselves. Traditions have been established for us to build on, but there is always more to be done.

As a member of our global community, take part in building bridges and strengthening ties. Talk to a teacher in your high school and start a UNICEF club. Join a campus ambassador program at your university or call UNICEF about establishing one. Become a part of UNICEF or any organization that strives to help those in less fortunate circumstances. Children have the right to be healthy, educated individuals who are protected from abuse and exploitation, and are free to grow, think and play. Let's make this possible together.

*Nisha Nathani is a 21 years old student at McGill University. During the summer of 1995 she worked at UNICEF Ontario as a programs assistant.*

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# Free the Children: Children Making a Difference

Blaise Wigglesworth

Iqbal Masih was a 12-year old Pakistani boy who was sold into slavery to a carpet factory in India. He spent 12 hours a day shackled to a loom, tying tiny knots in rugs. Iqbal was killed by the "carpet mafia" in India for speaking out against child labour.

An estimated 55 million children in India are working in bondage in factory garages for as little as 40 cents a week. In Tamil Nadu, a region in India, some 45,000 children work 16 hour days making fire works under extremely dangerous conditions. In Pakistan, children of 7 are chained to the ground making bricks.

Stories and statistics like these can make a person feel that a successful fight for human rights is impossible - or it can cause some people to double and redouble their efforts, and give them even more reason to get and stay involved.

From reading about the tragic murder of Iqbal, a group of young Canadians decided to carry on the fight for which he had died by forming a new organization.

*Free the Children* is this new organization, an organization dedicated to stopping child labour around the world. The organization was started by Craig Kielburger, a 12-year old from Thornhill, Ontario.

"When I read that a 12-year old was killed because he wanted to live in freedom, I was really upset," Kielburger said, "This made me realize I had to do something."

*Free the Children* currently has 30 members. They are trying to collect 10,000 signatures for a petition to stop child labour. When these signatures are collected, they plan to present this petition to the Prime Ministers of Canada and India. In only four months, the organization has collected about 3,000 signatures.

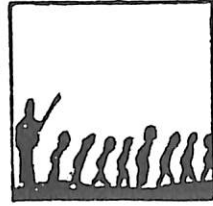
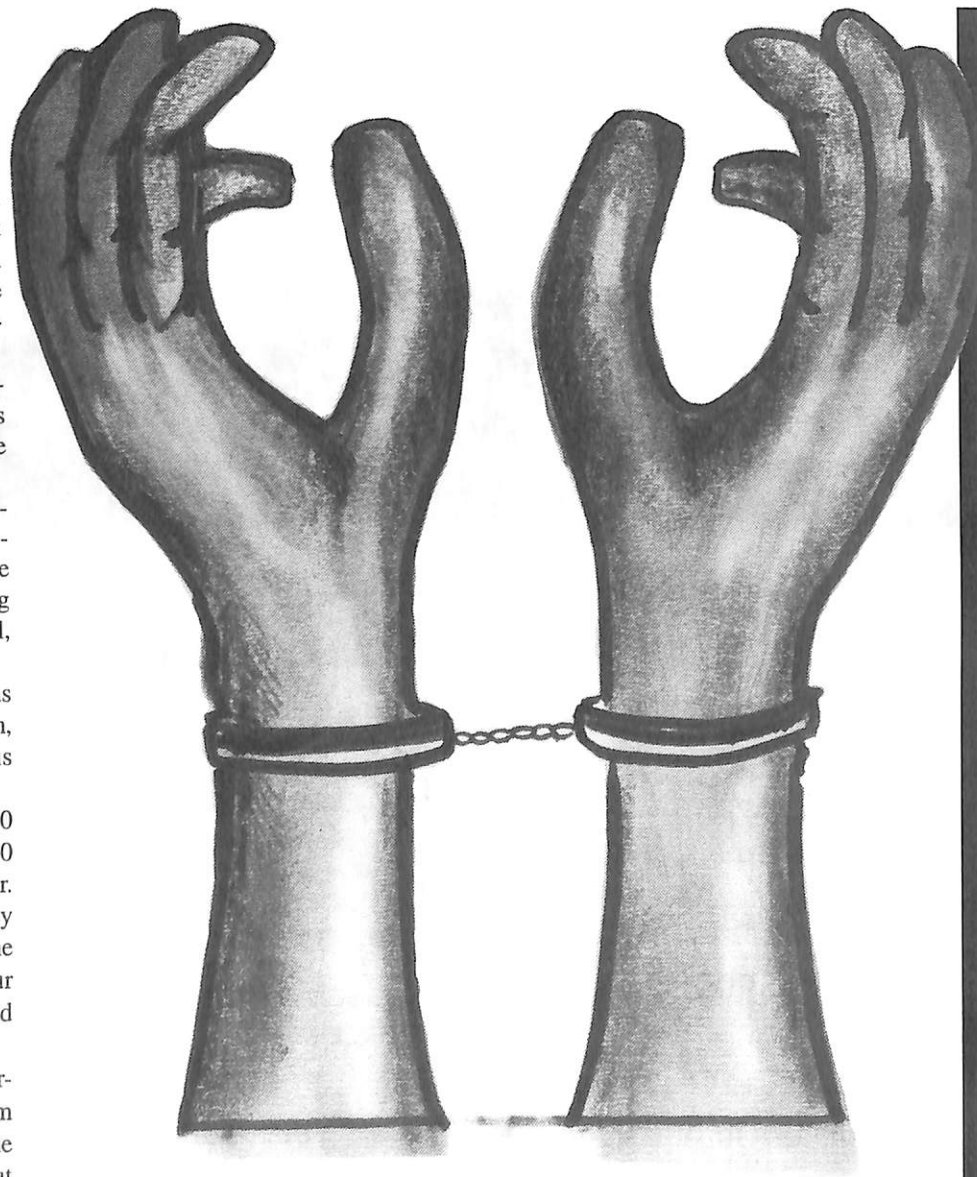
Kielburger went to Geneva, Switzerland last August to speak with the program director of the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) about how *Free the Children* could be improved. Connections with Asian organizations dedicated to the same cause as *Free the Chil-*

*dren* were also made while Kielburger was in Geneva.

While collecting signatures is an important part of what *Free the Children* is doing, they also make trips to schools in the Metro Toronto area in order to speak about child slavery.

On June 23, 1995, a Toronto newspa-

per ran a feature about Craig and *Free the Children*. At the end of the article a telephone number was listed for anyone who wanted to sign the petition and get involved. Craig says that the answering machine got so many calls that it broke!



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