

GLOBAL EXPRESS

Vol. I No. 4 1995

ASIA FOCUS

LISTEN TO THE HEART OF BURMA

LEARNING FROM INDIA

ALSO... ALSO...

DOCTOR PRESCRIBES SILENCE

IS THERE A GENERATION GAP?

IS THERE A GENERATION GAP?

evolution which aims merely at changing official policies
institutions with a view to improvement in material
itions has little chance of genuine success.. It is the
n of a world fit for rational, civilised humanity which
people to dare and to suffer to build societies free from
t and fear. Concepts such as truth, justice and
passion cannot be dismissed as trite when these are often
nly bulwarks which stand against ruthless power."
Aung San Suu Kyi (Freedom from Fear)

AN INTERACTIVE QUARTERLY FOR THOSE WHO CARE ABOUT THE FUTURE

EDITORIAL

OVER TO YOU

Four issues of *Global Express* have now come off the press. The production team is, as you know, mainly Australian - based in Melbourne - with many enthusiastic young people who contribute to and support the publication worldwide.

* *Global Express (GE)* was started to establish a link between young people of different backgrounds around the globe.

* *GE* has tried to cover issues of general interest in an attempt to connect the intimate and the global. We aim to deal with world affairs, changes in technology, life experiences (in the World Eye section), short, concise responses to a pre-selected theme (in Fax-Think-Link), spiritual/philosophical input (in Insight Out), art and reviews.

* *GE* set out to be 'interactive'. A subject is not just written up and forgotten. It can be followed up, criticised, analysed and, if necessary, re-visited at a future date. Readers can decide what the next 'lead story' should be.

Now we ask you to be even more interactive. We have experienced financial difficulties. This is why this issue is so late in reaching you. We had previously hoped to fund *GE* through sales alone but this has not happened. Our goal now is to get *GE* distributed in universities and other tertiary institutions. But if we are to continue developing *GE*, then your support is needed.

Here in Melbourne we are doing all we can to overcome this financial 'challenge'. It can only happen if all of us take responsibility. We are investigating advertising, charitable funding and several other avenues for more finance. In addition to the production, initial distribution and general management of the quarterly, it is a daunting task to have to carry the overall finance and promotion of *GE* by ourselves! Most of us producing the quarterly are students, with all the responsibility that entails. So we need your help in taking this on with us. The truth is we will not be able to cover all expenses and expand just from sales and subscriptions. Therefore we need additional funds from other sources.

One simple strategy we have is to ask if each country can undertake to raise a portion of the money we need. Would you consider seeking (multinational) advertisers and/or sponsors for *GE*? Or just try to get a friend to subscribe. These funds will enable us to publish on time and sell *GE* for much less.

Printing of the next issue will be put on hold until *GE*'s financial viability is assured. The future of *Global Express* depends on all of us doing something, rather than some of us doing everything!

ETHOS

GLOBAL EXPRESS

seeks to:

- link up young people from a wide range of races and cultures around the world
- be interactive and inclusive, a vehicle for sharing experiences, ideas and dreams
- understand the world better and challenge people to change what is unjust
- encourage personal integrity, unselfish attitudes and an active response to the creative inspiration within each person

believing that:

- you matter
- you can make a difference
- goodness has an image problem and spirituality is marginalised
- we are a global generation with much to learn from each other
- peace and unity are possible if enough of us confront the root causes of division and injustice in our own lives and communities
- silence and time out are essential for reflection and direction



Photo: Catherine Coniglio

MRA - Initiative for Change

MRA (Moral Re-Armament) is a Non Government Organisation recognised by the United Nations. It is made up of a world-wide network of people who work to improve the quality of life and relationships between individuals and nations. MRA believes it is important to be pro-active in making our world a better place - starting with oneself. Personal commitment to guidelines of complete honesty, pure motivation, unselfishness and love, together with a search for creative inspiration from a higher source, are central to this way of life. Most of us who support *GE* met through MRA and work voluntarily.

GLOBAL EXPRESS: 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, VIC 3142, AUSTRALIA

E-mail globalex@melbourne.dialix.oz.au Tel +61-3-9822 1218, Fax +61-3-9822 6871

Quotations, information, creations, insights, cogitations, visions; a forward looking initiative in open communication.

Africa: Kenya and South Africa; Asia/Pacific: Australia, Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Western Samoa; Europe: Croatia, France, Germany, Poland, Scandinavia, Switzerland and the UK; North America: US and Canada.

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Not all opinions in GE are those of the editors!

Just in Time...

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIA

From: Seng Sopha, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

In the space of a quarter of a century, Cambodia has experienced one coup d'état, two foreign invasions, a civil war leading to mass genocide and a state of almost complete anarchy. Then in 1993, following a UN sponsored election, a new coalition government took office and with it, hope of a brighter future for Cambodia emerged. Around the same time, Prince Norodom Sihanouk returned from a 21 year period in exile and shortly afterwards was proclaimed King.

At that point, people across the country strongly believed that the cycle of killing, revenge and suffering would come to an end and peace and prosperity would take their place. However, two years later this is still a remote dream and turmoil continues to be a destabilising factor on the national scene.



Ankorwat, Cambodia

Photo: Rob Wood

One contributing component to this situation is the ongoing conflict between the Khmer Rouge forces and the troops of the current government. Another factor is the accusation of enormous corruption and human rights abuses which is constantly leveled at those in public office. In these circumstances, is it any wonder that Cambodia's economic development has not progressed as fast as it might?

It was against this backdrop that the third International Conference on the Reconstruction of Cambodia (ICORC) was held. The Phnom Penh Government, which had requested US\$295 million in development aid for 1995-6, was pleasantly surprised when the figure offered in donor pledges was more than double this amount. However, the ICORC also insisted there be a national audit in Cambodia from next year onwards. Australia's Ambassador to Cambodia, Mr Tony Kevin, said in a recent speech that the main concern of the international community was to encourage a stable and principled approach in the task of governing the country.

Clearly, the assistance of the ICORC and other potential funding agencies could make a significant difference to Cambodia's present realities and offer hope of a better future. However, there are still grave doubts being expressed about the ability of those in positions of decision making responsibility, to maximise this opportunity and keep the country moving forwards.

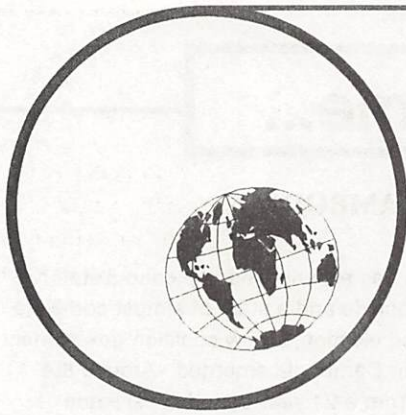
BEIJING: UN WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

From: Jean Brown, Australia

The UN Fourth World Conference on Women and Development will be held in Beijing during the first two weeks of September '95. Parallel to it is the NGO Forum, which is a 'mega-market' for Non-Governmental Organisations who want to influence the debates and decisions of the UN conference. They also want to interact on all sorts of issues such as arts and culture; food and agriculture; equality, education, peace, politics, media, refugees and so on. At least 30,000 are expected at the forum. Another goal of the forum is to 'highlight women's vision and strategy for the world in the 21st century'.

GE ON THE NET

Plans to put *Global Express* on the World Wide Web are being pursued, with the parallel goal of establishing or linking in with a newsgroup. We welcome any ideas. Anyone with some expertise wishing to share responsibility for this please contact *Global Express* on our new E-mail address: globelex@melbourne.dialix.oz.au



Listen to the HEART of BURMA

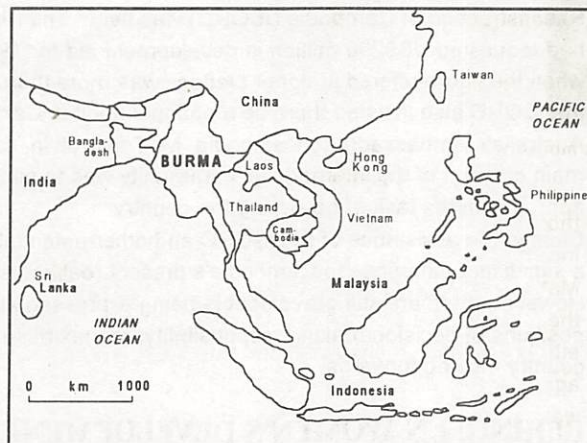
Is South-East Asia the globe's forgotten factor? Economically, it is one of the fastest expanding regions of the world. But in twenty years' time, will we regret that more was not done there to bring about freedom, justice and peace?

When I was fifteen I made a list of all the things I was unhappy about, ranging from having spots to not having a boyfriend. It's a hard life, isn't it?

Now meet Lin Lin from Burma. When she was thirteen her mother died. Shortly afterwards, her father took her to a job-placement agency on the Thai-Burma border. The agent gave him 1200 Baht (US\$75) and the assurance of a job for Lin Lin in Thailand. Once in Bangkok, the agent took her to a brothel. She did not

know what was going on until he started touching her. He told her to take off her clothes and forced her to have sex. From then on she was never allowed to refuse a client. During the week she had six or seven clients a day but at the weekend the number often rose to fifteen. She was warned, moreover, that if she came out of the room before her client, she would be beaten.

Such is the plight of many girls from Burma and elsewhere. Unaware of how the racket operates, their parents are innocently selling them into sex slavery. The extent of their world is more often than not a small concrete cubicle. Inevitably, the tragedy of their violation is their exposure to AIDS. Most come to Thailand as virgins (yielding a higher payment); most return HIV positive. Lin Lin said some of her clients refused to use condoms and although she was tested several times for AIDS, she never told the results. The horror continues. Those who do make it back across the border into Burma are liable to be prosecuted as criminals for having illegally left the country in the first place.



FAX-THINK-LINK FAX-THINK-LINK

The FAX-THINK-LINK (or F-T-L) is a meeting place of ideas where we gain diverse perspectives on today's issues. This time we look at 'What is Important?', and then 'How much influence does the mass media have on our lives?' Next issue we will explore:

- 1) What things have influenced you?
- 2) What will life be like in the year 2020?

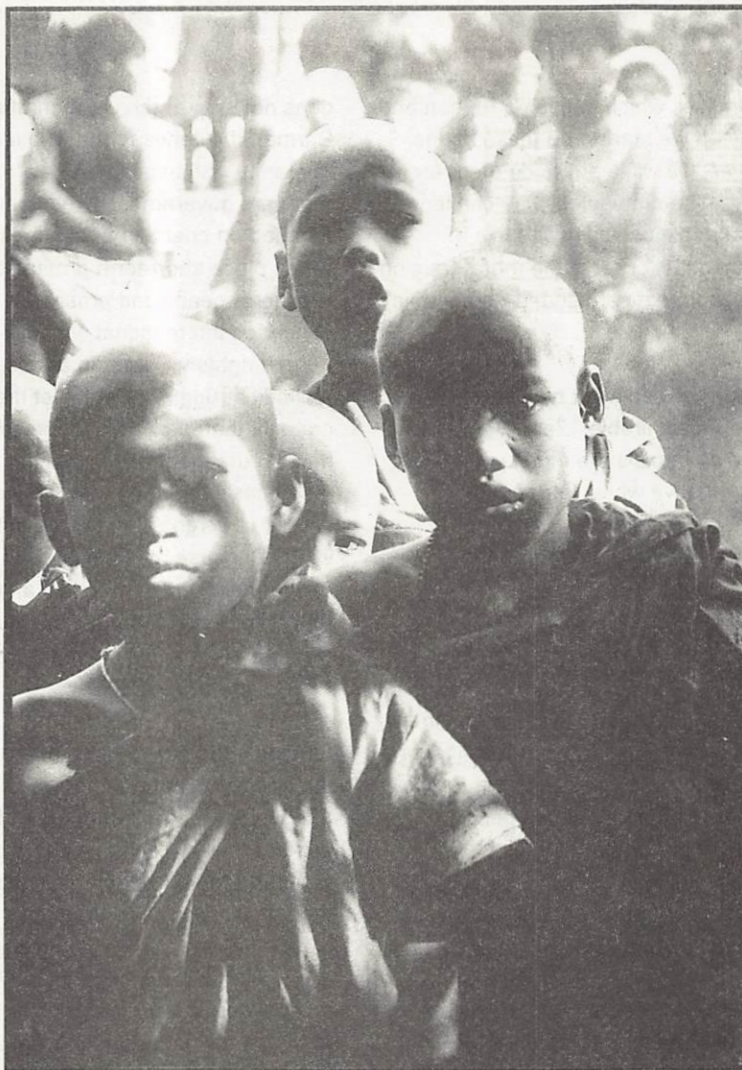
Short replies welcome; maximum length - 300 words.
DEADLINE: 30th JULY, 1995.

Fax, Post or E-mail your ideas to: 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, VIC 3142, AUSTRALIA. Fax: +61-3-9822 6871
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WHAT IS IMPORTANT?

Jit Mun Chong, Malaysia:

A word comes to mind - Love. Although there are different types of love, there is always a similarity - care for another person. Nowadays, the meaning of the word seems to have been forgotten by some. War shows this lack of care for others. Life's joys are often hidden in unexpected places. Not everyone finds them easily. What is needed is



Burmese boys become novice Buddhist monks

Photo: Sophie Barry

The trafficking of women and girls into Thai brothels is just one of the many human rights abuses suffered by the people of Burma. Since 1962, they have been dominated by a military regime now known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). In the student led, non-violent uprising of 1988,

thousands of demonstrators were killed including monks, women and children. Many students fled to the jungle region of the Thai-Burma border and joined the ethnic groups in their armed struggle against the military. From there some went to Bangkok to further their fight for freedom as political refugees.

One such student is Ma Aye Pwint. She and thirty-seven others were arrested by the Thai police and jailed for nine months. Now studying on scholarship in Australia, she says, "Even though we are in many different countries, we are still against the military government." She continues, "Some of our colleagues think the fall of the opposition headquarters (Manerplaw) is the end of our revolution. That is not true for me and for other democratic students. The centre of revolution is in our heart, until we achieve our goal. I believe the longer we stand up against militarism, the better the way of life we can create for our people. That is my great expectation for my country, Burma."

At the same time, Angelay, a student in Bangkok, says "Burma's problems will not be solved just by removing one government and installing another." He fled to the jungles in 1988 and fought there for three years. However, he is not convinced that this is the best way to bring about the changes needed. "We Burmese are so quick to take to guns as a means of solving the problems we face. We are not so ready to negotiate. I have decided to change to a non-violent approach. That is an even harder challenge than armed struggle but we need to take it on."

"If we are to establish democracy, we need to bring reconciliation between all the different groups which make up Burma. We need to cure corruption, as the Taiwanese are doing through their clean-election campaign. But first we must see the dishonesties and hatreds in

F A X - T H I N K - L I N K : *What is Important?*

an open heart. Only then will we create a better world - a world without conflict. Everyone has a right to be here. War has robbed millions of the gift of life. But we can prevent wars, can't we?

We should learn from history. War only leaves sad memories, especially when family is lost. It seems as if neither side benefits, so why do we let it happen? This question might be answered in history books, but both sides seem to have forgotten the meaning of love. If they knew, wars would not happen. If they cared, they would not kill.

As technology advances, more powerful weapons are invented. If people don't regret the things of the past, worse

things will happen. We know we can't change the past but we can do something about the future. We can educate the young by being good role models. Show them the importance and the meaning of true love! We won't see the results today. Like the mellowing of wine, it just takes time. ☒

Matthias Freitag, Germany:

Food, Faith, Fellowship and (full-time) employment.

FOOD: What kind of food? How is it produced and wrapped?

FAITH: What kind of faith? How do I live it and nourish it?

How do I pass it on?

FELLOWSHIP: What kind of fellowship? How much am I willing

Ma Aye Pwint



*"The centre
of revolution
is in our
heart..."*

our own lives which cause corruption and disunity. If we start to do these things ourselves, we will learn to do them for our country. The non-violent way challenges us to take responsibility and live a disciplined life. That is the moral training we need to create a just and democratic Burma."

The courage displayed by these young activists is admirable. Zaw Win, a friend of Angelay, recalls the motto which kept their spirit alive whilst in Bangkok:

We came here not to surrender
Hope for the best
Prepare for the worst
Strength of resistance is an ability

If this is an inspiration to those still in the detention centre, so too is the philosophy of their imprisoned leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. She relates to their resilience, because "even under the most crushing state machinery, courage rises up again and again, for fear is not the natural state of civilised people."

In her essay, *Freedom from Fear*, not only does she demonstrate an unfailing and compassionate love for her people, she also gets to the very cause of the students' revolt. "(They) were protesting not just against the death of their comrades but against the denial of their right to life by a totalitarian regime which deprived the present of meaningfulness and held out no hope for the future."

And what of the future? The vision of Suu Kyi, 1991's Nobel Peace Prize Winner,

does not stop at the creation of a new Burma. It extends to the whole of humanity. She sees that, "as long as there are governments whose authority is founded on coercion and interest groups which place short-term profits above long-term peace and prosperity, (then) concerted international action to protect human rights will remain at best a partially realised struggle." Her belief therefore is not only that "victims of oppression (will) have to draw on their own inner resources", but that every individual should undergo a "revolution of the spirit". Why? Because "it is not enough merely to call for freedom, democracy and human rights", one has to "make sacrifices (a resist the corrupting influences of desire, ill will, ignorance and fear".

Although she barely knew him, hers is the living voice of a father who stood for the principles of freedom, discipline and self-sacrifice. "Each and every one of you must make sacrifices to become a hero possessed of courage and intrepidity": so General Aung San inspired his people, leading them in 1947 to independence from the British. The same year saw his assassination. Nearly half a century later, his spirit lives on in a daughter who urges us not to be dictated by fear but to have the courage to carry the responsibilities needed to create societies free from want.

Burma's people continue to work for the restoration of human rights and democracy and call for international support for their struggle. July 20th, 1995 marks the beginning of Suu Kyi's seventh

F A X - T H I N K - L I N K : *What is Important?*

to invest: to listen, care, forgive and ask for forgiveness?
EMPLOYMENT: What kind of employment? What about 'unpaid' work? Could I do less paid work to give time to my family, community, nation and world? How do I use the 'most' precious times of the day?
These 4 are important, as they contribute to a fulfilled life. ☒

Duc H. Tran, Australia/Vietnam:

All things must be important simply because they exist and this includes 'nothing' as well! But being human, I can't deal with 'nothing' and 'something' simultaneously. So, I will choose 'something' to be important and try to clarify its

meaning by attribution/association. This is an automatic decision-making process that occurs in my mind. Hence I attribute importance to the mind - as the 'central processing unit' of my awareness. It's from the mind I am able to make sense of my own and others' experiences, including those that stem from the heart. I regard the mind as being a living child - infinite in its awareness and paradoxically limited by it. Like any child, the mind needs to be nurtured and guided to clarity and wholeness. Attaining a clear and wholesome mind is particularly important for our existence in a society that increasingly values information processes. Not only do I need a clear mind to discern between useful and

year of imprisonment in her own home. Under Burmese law she is due for release on that day. Time will tell.

Meanwhile, if she can bear the pain of separation from her husband and sons - and if a young Burmese man can lie semi-conscious on a prison floor and say, "I will not complain. In my heart I have the courage to continue", what small sacrifice can we make, where we are, today and tomorrow and tomorrow? ☒
by Laura Trevelyan, UK

With thanks for 'Lin Lin's story' to the International Women's Development Agency [IWDA] which is conducting a campaign to highlight the abuse of human rights involved in the trafficking of women and girls between Burma and Thailand, and to work towards ending this practice. This campaign is focusing on the lead up to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in September 1995, in Beijing, China. For more information: IWDA, P.O. Box 1680, Collingwood, VIC 3066, Australia. FAX: +61-3-9416 0519

Aung San Suu Kyi



Burma on the Internet

Much of the global mass media is profit-driven. This inevitably distorts its news coverage and emphasis. If an international TV network dwells on a country's dark side, then that country's government may be reluctant to grant the network rights to broadcast. The casualties of a drive to maximize profits are often the victims of injustice in a country. Such is the case in Burma.

Even the SLORC, however, can not control the interactive grassroots communication made possible through the Internet, as information is smuggled into the country on computer disks. It is unfiltered and not bound by any regulations.

Social and political activists around the world subscribe to electronic mailing lists such as BurmaNet, to conduct wars of propaganda. The messages travel the globe instantly and cost little. Academics involved in Burmese studies and U.S. Government officials are among BurmaNet subscribers. The Burmese Embassy in Washington reacted to BurmaNet by putting SLORC-sanctioned news on the internet.

Much of the latest technology is not available in Burma, as with most closed countries. So supporters and exiles overseas make up the majority of BurmaNet's readers, who number in the thousands. But increasingly, locals are receiving this news. Some even give information to BurmaNet's facilitator, "Strider".

Institute for Global Communications (IGC) resources are used by Strider to distribute news. The IGC is a non-profit organisation that boasts "the most extensive global communication network in the world dedicated specifically to serving NGOs and citizen activists working for social change". It also supports environmental groups and those working for non-violent conflict resolution.

For more information send E-mail to BurmaNet on: strider@igc.apc.org and messages to the Institute for Global Communications to: support@igc.apc.org

by Erik Parsons, phicewp@lusta.latrobe.edu.au

FAX-THINK-LINK: What is Important?

useless information, but I need it to focus on my real needs as opposed to my wants. It is the mind that also seeks to answer the question, 'What is not important?' ☒

Matthew Bailey, Australia:

I am a devoted and avowed agnostic. God, real or otherwise, isn't a prime concern in my life. What is important is happiness, my personal happiness.

This leads to some interesting arguments about what one should do with one's life. To me it seems clear that an important early step is to rid oneself of the causes of UNhappiness. This means all hatred, anger, restlessness,

greed, lust, fear, insecurity and general annoyances ('the baddies') need to be wiped away. That done, one needs to steer clear of them and any new baddies which rear their ugly heads. Good old moral code is often a good guide for me on what is sensible. Staying free is important.

If one decides to be happy by purging all unhappiness, life has the potential for infinite dullness. It is vital to keep an eye out for fun in a situation. I don't always succeed, but when I try things move more happily. There's one qualification. Fun is good, but not if the action involves intentionally harming something. If it's motivated by one of my 'baddy' friends, then it's more trouble than it's worth. ☒

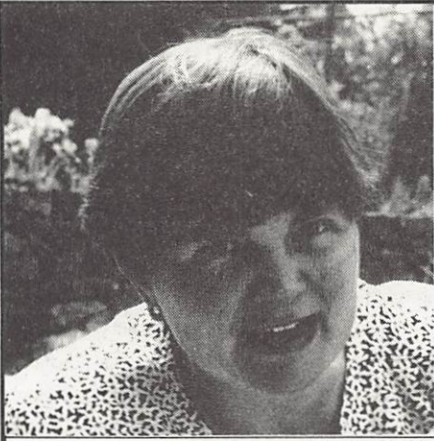


Photo: Dennis Mayor

Doctor Prescribes Silence

DR TONI TURNBULL told her story to Libby Boxer

It was 1973 - Toni was three months pregnant, a fifth year medical student and feeling sick. Abortion had been made legal in 1970 and so part of her obstetrics and gynaecology course meant students had to assist with an abortion.

"My job was to sieve out the bottle of blood and gore through a gauze swab. I didn't think much about it until I saw what sieved out onto the gauze. It was a baby of about eleven weeks. There was an arm with a little hand attached and a leg with a little foot attached. I had to count everything to make sure it was all there." She has never forgotten this experience. The situation was very real: "I was the same age as that girl on the table and at the same stage of pregnancy."

Dr Toni Turnbull lives in Adelaide, South Australia. She works in a general practice, but her work has included time in psychiatric hospitals and working for the Family Planning Association. Her husband, Bob, works with the homeless people of Adelaide. They have five children, ranging from 2 to 21.

Since her uni days Toni has always asked questions about concerns or situations she couldn't understand. Although she is labelled "an anti-abortion pro-life activist", she says it is just part of her world view. Gently spoken with a ready laugh, she is passionate about the life values she believes in and yet without aggression. The motivating force behind her care for people comes from her faith experience - an unexpected conversion from agnosticism to a belief that God loves her and has a task for her to do.

Toni and her husband spent two years working in New Guinea (now Papua New Guinea). The issue of abortion versus child-rearing was inappropriate there. It was a custom to give young children as presents to newly married couples. This was considered an honour!

Back in Australia, Toni began working in general practice. In the early 80's, she was surprised at the number of requests coming in for abortions. One particular week, she remembers, three women came to visit her. They were all over 35 and married. They had the following reasons for abortion:

- 1) Wanted to go to the America's Cup - a baby would have been a hindrance.
- 2) Wanted to travel around Europe.
- 3) Wanted to move to a more expensive house.

Toni couldn't understand their decisions. "They wanted an abortion a bit like the removal of a mole."

for abortion were common. This period highlighted her sense of need to know how to counsel women so they could make the most informed choice - aware of supportive alternatives to aborting their babies.

A female colleague had performed abortions for a public hospital for several months. Months later, Toni found she had been in a psychiatric hospital suffering deep depression. When asked what happened, her friend said: "I knew in my head that abortion was right. I was doing it for the women. But in my heart I felt it was wrong. In every abortion I performed I found I was reliving my own abortion I had had years earlier." Through this trauma, Toni's friend lost her job, her marriage broke up and she lost custody of her children. Toni no longer refers anyone for abortion, but works through the issues with those patients who are willing.

"My job was to sieve out the bottle of blood and gore through a gauze swab."

Toni recalls Catholic Bishop Dom Helder from Brazil saying, "You don't need to go to Central or South America to experience injustice." At this time, Toni's questioning really began. She decided people needed education, so she started speaking in schools on a range of topics under the 'Life Issues' umbrella.

Through meeting people and learning of their experiences, Toni's views have become stronger. During her five years at the Family Planning Clinic, referrals

Toni also works with families and longs for everyone to understand and experience a vital quality of life. She's become a spokesperson on a range of life issues, appearing on radio, television and in the press. Toni has organised demonstrations, marches and vigils - recently campaigning against the growing local demand for voluntary euthanasia. She plans an end of year vigil to commemorate the 5000 babies aborted in Adelaide last year.

Toni gave her opinions to

Global Express in an interview

with Jean Brown

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)...

The more sex, the more STDs. Some can be treated, some can affect or kill a baby if you're pregnant. For some there is no treatment and it will eventually kill you. Prevention is the only solution. Faithfulness in marriage, abstinence outside it.

Safe sex?

Because of the failure rate of condoms to stop sexually transmitted diseases, it is no longer referred to as 'safe sex' but as 'safer sex'!

Legalising prostitution...

Sex just becomes another commodity. There could be 'two for the price of one' offers. More STDs, more unwanted pregnancies, more abortions, more pain.

Sex before marriage, what does it prove?

Not much! If you want to know if a relationship is right for you, start out with friendship. In marriage, the sexual relationship gets richer over time, the deeper the friendship and commitment. Sex first doesn't prove a thing about real compatibility.

The Pill...

I don't prescribe it anymore. It interrupts the development of a life. And there are some damaging side-effects.

What birth control is there that is safe and reliable?

Statistics in the USA show that the divorce rates among couples who practice natural family planning are only 1% compared to the national average of

almost 50%. Natural family planning means living in tune with your body and nature. It requires mutual respect and communication between partners and so enhances the relationship, preventing exploitation and abuse. It is also free and without health risks. Check it out.

Pregnancy support...

We're on Earth to support each other. In the first four months of pregnancy women are most hormonally disturbed and so, most vulnerable. This is often a time of depression and loss of confidence. This is when abortions are usually decided on, so this is a time for

its mother, around 20 weeks); or when the baby is identifiably fully formed around 11 weeks; or when the heart starts beating at 23 days; or when the fertilised egg implants in the uterus at 7 days; or right at the start when the sperm fuses with the ovum forming a complete cell with all the genetic information required for that new person. Then all that is needed is nutrition for growth. Yes, that's when life starts.

Euthanasia...

gives power to the doctors and relatives and takes it from the patient. There is really no such thing as a free choice.

C o n t e m p o r a r y

C o m p a s s i o n a t e

Controversial

Comments

maximum support from husbands and family members.

Side effects of abortion, are there any?

Studies show that the majority of women suffer some side effect, sometimes years after the operation. Possible side effects include haemorrhaging, infection, blocked tubes, sterility, incompetent cervix (with repeated abortions), breast cancer, insomnia, nightmares, anorexia, loss of sexual interest, promiscuity, insecurity, difficulty in relationships, helplessness, depression and subsequent miscarriages.

When does life start?

Some believe that life starts 2-3 months after the baby is born, when it first responds to a smile; or at birth when the nose first hits the air; or when viability occurs (when the baby can live outside of

Being your own therapist...

Everyone has an inner voice. As a doctor, if someone has problems, I get them to ventilate them, verbalise them, then go and sit still, alone and in **silence**, and listen to their inner voice, writing down the thoughts that come to them. There is a source of truth within that is our own personal therapist.

Moods and depression...

It's a question of focus. The more you focus only on yourself, the more hopeless you feel. This issue carries on through life. Change your focus.

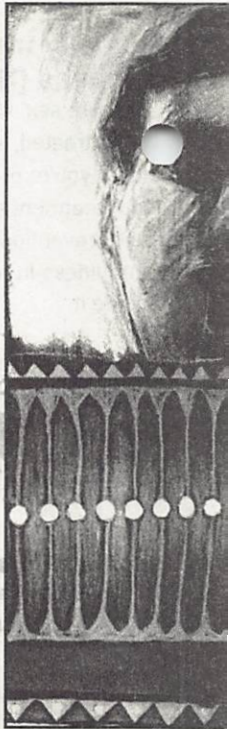
Family life...

is a place to learn to get along with people with whom you may not be naturally compatible. A safe place to cry, grow and share. ☒

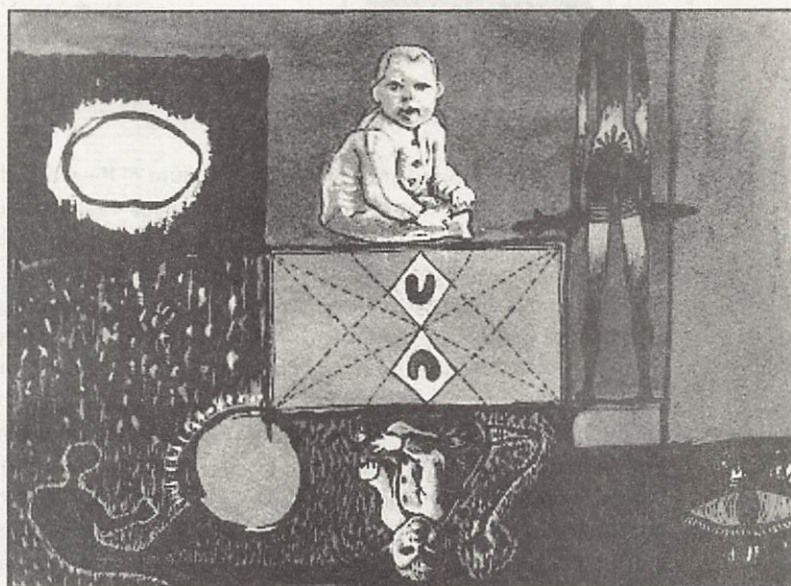
IF YOU NEVER SINK, YOU'LL NEVER SWIM
IF YOU NEVER DIE, YOU'LL NEVER LIVE
IF YOU NEVER DREAM, THEN NOTHING'S REAL
IF YOU NEVER BLEED, YOU CAN'T CONGEAL
IF YOU NEVER DOUBT, NEVER FIND A WAY
NEVER SLOW DOWN YOUR MIND'S DECAY.

Ben McSkimming, Australia

arts expressed



Layout and Design by Ali Mayor



Artwork by Phillip Edwards

Drawing the line...

BACKGROUND:

THIS POEM WAS INSPIRED BY A DOCUMENTARY ON APARTHEID IN WHICH THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT DURING THE SOWETO STUDENT UPRISING IN THE 1960'S WAS MENTIONED.

I hear during the student uprising in Soweto
the police drew a line in the sand
and threatened to shoot those who walked beyond it
I hear that after some muttering amongst the protestors
first one, then another stepped forward
and calmly crumpled before a bullet

A lifetime of keeping behind the line makes me shake my head
at the impatience of Sowetan youth
I too fully intend to change the world
but only if it fits into my lunch hour.

SHAMPA SINHA
India

Photography by Christine Karrer

Learning from India

What happens when 40 people from 20 countries discover India together?

Jyothi Subrahmanyam:

Last year I was in North-East India. There I saw how desperately my country needs to help all our communities, cultures and races appreciate each other. I felt this could be true for many areas of the world.

As a result, I decided to co-ordinate a course called "An Experiment in Learning to Live Together". It took place at Asia Plateau, the MRA centre in Western India. We invited widely, and 40 people attended from 20 countries. It proved to be a road we all walked together, sharing not only the joys and beauty of the journey but the pain and struggles of one another.

It was not an easy experiment. Some came from situations of great suffering. Their very presence challenged all complacency. As Mr V C Viswanathan from New Delhi put it, "The

future of the world depends on the choices each of us make, the values we live by, and our willingness to listen and obey the still, small voice within, which urges us to take responsibility. We cannot change our yesterdays but we can change our tomorrows. We cannot wipe out the painful memories of injuries we and our people have done to others. But we can ask forgiveness, and dedicate ourselves to healing the hurts."

The first six weeks of the course were mainly spent at Asia Plateau. We taught each other about our countries, our religions and our culture. Distinguished Indians came and spoke. We discovered the joy of working together and serving in the kitchen. We met industrial workers and managers who came to Asia Plateau for a seminar on Creative Leadership. In a

neighbouring village we worked with villagers to improve an approach road to the water hole, then spent the evening swapping songs with them.

We had many glimpses of a global community being built. A Taiwanese said that she had learnt so much because "here people are colour-blind". A Korean spoke bitterly on arrival about the way Japan had treated her country; but before she left, she and the Japanese participant had found wholehearted reconciliation. A Tibetan headmaster said, "Coming to this course meant missing religious ceremonies which are very important to us Tibetans. But I don't regret my decision." An Australian said, "I have been totally blown away by the past six weeks!"

After the time at Asia Plateau we set out on a 6000 km journey to Bangalore, Salem, Hyderabad and Jamshedpur, meeting a vast range of people. Some went to Varnasi while the rest went to Delhi, Calcutta or Bhopal. Everywhere people opened their homes and hearts and went out of their way to make us part of their family. Many said Jamshedpur was the cherry on the cake. There they saw how ideas learnt in the Creative Leadership seminars at Asia Plateau had been incorporated into management training in the industries, had improved worker-manager relationships and had inspired a range of rural development projects.



An experiment in learning to live together

Photos: John Bond

F A X - T H I N K - L I N K F A X - T H I N K - L I N K

HOW MUCH INFLUENCE DOES THE MASS MEDIA HAVE ON OUR LIVES?

Shazni Marwan and Chrishanth Fernando, Sri Lanka:

The mass media has grown rapidly over the past few years, mainly due to the curiosity of people. Everyone has a right to know about current events in the world but we totally disagree that people's private lives should be the focus of major stories. However popular a person is, they have a right to a certain privacy. Instead of homing in on the British royal family for example, why not concentrate on issues that concern the whole world such as the destruction brought on by nuclear waste? ✕

Ben McSkimming, Australia:

The question should be, 'How much influence doesn't the media have on our lives?!' Is there a waking hour that passes where one is not infested by the menacing cancer that is the mass media? I don't think so. Perhaps I underestimate GE readers. Perhaps someone out there has the capacity to see through the media's transparent profit motives. The 'brainwashing machines' are not invincible. We just need to stop complaining and ignore them. That's right. Put into action the best filter there is - the human brain and separate the trash from the 'recyclables'. ✕

Often during their travels the course participants told of new insights they had gained through the course. Insights such as:

Elsbeth Herring



If we search for truth, we must start with honesty in our own lives. Instead of constant self-protection, I have learnt to accept criticism. I have discovered new dimensions to my character.

Elsbeth Herring, Australia

We need forgiveness in Cambodia. That is the way we will turn enemies into friends so that we can all work to solve our problems. Lord Buddha said, "Hatred does not cease by hatred, conquer the angry man with love, conquer the miser with generosity, conquer the liar with truth."

Chiv You Meng, Cambodia

I came to the course with many expectations, but at first was disappointed and frustrated. Then I realised it is easy to be critical. I had to ask myself, 'Am I going to be a bystander or try to make a difference?' During our travels, living with

Indian families, I have been touched by their sincerity and hospitality. Although India has more poverty than Taiwan, the spirit here has a lot to teach us. My time in India has made me feel responsible to care for the people in Mainland China.

Hsu Show Feng, Taiwan

I have come to understand that freedom comes with responsibility. To live is to grow, and to grow is to change, and to grow fully involves changing many times for the better. This is possible if you have a direction to follow and the determination to stick to it with discipline and divine help.

Duma Ngono, South Africa

Park Young Ho



One night a friend told me that he had cheated in his exams, then had decided to be honest. I thought of my professor and my cheating in his exam. I couldn't get rid of the thought. I felt ashamed and sorry. So I have written him a letter of apology. In my heart I discovered hatred towards Japan. After a Japanese friend apologised to us for the hurts her country had inflicted on Korea, I was able to change and to love the Japanese. I have

written to a Japanese friend I had lost touch with, and he has written back.

Park Young Ho, Korea

I have found this an enriching, painful and challenging time. I found it hard to interact with people from other parts of the world. There were many fears and conflicts within me and I wanted to be free. I prayed hard, crying to God. One night I had a deep spiritual experience. I felt a warm electricity in my whole being. I felt at peace. After this I prayed every day for strength and learning. In times of quiet I have begun to see what I should do about my life.

It was not easy to decide to stay for the second phase of the course. But my great grandfather, Chief Walking Buffalo, said that you learn from people, from God and even from trees; trees make room to grow side by side without crowding. The beauty of this country made me see beauty inside myself that I didn't know was there.

Traci Crawler,

Stoney First Nation, Canada ☒

Traci Crawler



F A X - T H I N K - L I N K : *What is the Media's Influence?*

Hom Chhorn, Cambodia/Australia:

In a word, "lots" - from the way we eat to the way we dress. The media even plays the role of parent and teacher and attempts to instil moral values in us.

Ehm...what is it that I like about McDonalds? Well, nothing really; the food tastes terrible - the only thing I like are the chips. But hey, it looks good on TV, especially the smiling girl at the counter. The way she smiles is so sincere, I even tried to smile like her. But it doesn't get you very far, especially in a job interview. My sales manager says, "You will remember what you see longer than what you hear." So, beware of what TV is telling and selling you!

George Choimes, Australia:

The first thing that must be said with regards to the effect of the mass media on us, is that we can and do have as much of an effect on the mass media as it does on us. On the simplest level a secular trend, like grunge music, is developed in a certain community. This in turn is realised by the "mass media" which then spreads the message to the rest of the world. In this case, the media can be looked upon as a discoverer and a provider of information.

However, all too often the mass media has a damaging effect. One of the most obvious examples is the development of the disease Anorexia Nervosa. A lot of the influence

Letting Off STEAM

Slavery in the 90's

I think we're all guilty. Guilty of not standing up to governments that enforce slavery in Third World countries to obtain a more decadent standard of living for themselves.

Every time we buy inexpensive coffee from supermarkets, some poor labourers in Asia, Africa or South America have been paid about 20c an hour for their work because they owe money 'given' to them as aid from Western countries. Each time we buy these goods, the money comes straight back to a First World country in the form of repayments on the interest of huge loans that can never be paid off. In 1985, the year Live Aid raised millions of dollars for starving people in Africa, the poorest African countries gave twice as much money to Western countries as they received. Almost half the Filipino national budget is devoted to paying off foreign debt.

The gap between rich and poor has never been greater. 40,000 people are dying of starvation every day and there's little the people who care can do because our countries don't seem to want an equal distribution of wealth. As 'wealth equals power equals wealth', there are too few people who will sacrifice this for the satisfaction of seeing starving mouths fed. As long as the poor are kept poor, they will work for next to nothing just so we can save an extra dollar or two.

Although it seems we can't do much, we can do some things. We can buy products from companies like *Community Aid Abroad* where the money goes back into schemes in Third World countries to help the people help themselves. We can educate people by writing to magazines. We can write to politicians and let them know we are not happy with the way we are treating our Third World brothers and sisters. And we can actively try to change our own lives: use resources sparingly, live simply

and spend money on schemes run by genuine organisations aimed to help people worse off than ourselves.

People power is the only way we are ever going to change the injustices of the world. Let's change the attitude so many of us have - 'rape the Earth and its inhabitants and damn the consequences as long as number one's alright'.

Dan Davies, Australia



LETTER

Dear Editors,
I agree with Sean Healy (p.11, No.3). We must put more effort into thinking about the future of the planet. In my first profession I worked as an aero engine designer and had a small part in making mass transport much more fuel efficient.

Recently my wife Lyn and I built what is perhaps the most energy efficient and low maintenance house in the area. We used carefully chosen materials and use only about 1/4 the electricity our neighbours do. Our vehicles use environmentally friendly fuel and we are part of a distribution system that markets household goods from one of the two companies in the world that received a UN Award for Environmentally Friendly Products.

We need more rather than less technology to house, clothe and feed the world! A friend had a six hour operation recently. They have been able to replace bone from his hip into his wrist and connect up some of the nerves that were severed in an accident. Five years ago, when the accident happened, this operation would not have been possible. We're glad that technology is going ahead to improve such possibilities. Sincerely,
Rob Pattison, Australia

F A X - T H I N K - L I N K : What is the Media's Influence?

from the media is through advertising. In the 90's, more so than any other decade, the female body has become a great marketing tool. It is used to sell anything from make-up to Pepsi. It is hardly surprising therefore that many girls and women strive to develop bodies like those which are put forward by the media as 'perfect'. In this way, the mass media is having an effect of great magnitude on us. In some cases these effects are not seen as consequences of the media, which is worrying. Sixty years ago, the effects were nowhere near as global as they are now. In this day and age, the physical distances between countries are lessening but the communication between individuals is diminishing.

Thus the mass media fills the void created by technological advances, communicating with individuals, albeit in a very limited and distorted manner. X

Eva Okwonga, Uganda/UK

How many of your friends don't watch the news because it's too depressing? It contains so many graphic scenes of human suffering that it could be rated 15+ if sold on video. The global humanitarian situation seems to be getting worse.

So where does all the money raised actually go? DOES it have any effect, and if so, why aren't we seeing it? We are

PROFILE

Name: Delia Paul **Age:** 31
Nationality: Malaysian
 (married to an Australian)
Qualifications: General Arts Degree
 (English Literature)
Occupation: Researcher,
World Vision, Australia

Do you miss Malaysia?

Yes. I miss the spontaneity...the chance meeting with someone.

How did you get into your work with *World Vision*?

I worked as a journalist in Kuala Lumpur for three years. Starting out, I did lots of freelance work; then I worked for a commercial publisher on fashion and lifestyle magazines. It was all models, socialites and cocktail parties (which were pretty boring even back then!) but it was quite fun. Then I was offered work on *The Star* which at the time was probably the best English language paper in the country. I found that much more interesting and the pace of constant deadlines was really quite exciting. When I moved to Melbourne I worked for an environmental organization. It was a real education learning about the Australian political system which obviously is quite different to the way things work in Asia. By the time the job came up at *World Vision* I'd become very interested in development issues, e.g. why poor people are poor and why they stay that way.

How would you describe a typical day with *World Vision*?

I might be writing, in meetings, at a conference or a mixture. Basically I

support the policy-making process by researching specific areas. I've just done a submission to a parliamentary committee on paedophilia and a couple of months ago I did one on human rights in Burma. We are saying to the government, "This is *World Vision's* view on the matter and we consider that these recommendations would have some impact in helping the people who are being exploited." I also put out a newsletter for those who are interested in the causes of poverty and want to take action.



Photo: Christine Karrer

Do you think the aid agencies are successful?

On the whole I think they are doing a fantastic job, but the problem is that people expect the aid agencies alone to overcome poverty in the Third World which is absolutely ridiculous.

How can the ordinary person in the street help the Third World?

The message most people pick up from

the aid agencies is that money needs to be donated but that's only a small part of what we're doing. I tell people, "Watch the news, take an interest in the issues and find out how to make your voice heard." If enough people write to their MP, he/she is obliged to take notice. I also believe that change comes from the inside rather than the outside. We need to be as aware of the needs around us as much as far away. T.S. Eliot says something like that, "The desert is not in the tropics. The desert is in the tube train next to you. The desert is in the heart of your brother."

Have you changed much?

I've got more experience of the world and hopefully because of that more feeling for what other people are going through.

Do you have a global dream?

That's something I'm still trying to articulate. I'm interested in who manipulates the trends in society and change between generations. In my life I've seen an enormous increase in prosperity in Malaysia and South East Asia generally. I feel (this is all really pretentious) that, as people become more comfortable and less pressed with matters of daily survival, it would be wonderful to see a flowering of the arts... that sort of cross fertilization you get when people have time and money to travel. Of course it's all pretty debatable whether Fine Art comes out of that sort of comfort or whether it comes out of people's suffering. ☒

LT

F A X - T H I N K - L I N K : *What is the Media's Influence?*

all too aware of the terrible scenes being enacted on every continent. But if the public is to be encouraged to give generously, it needs to see the positive aspects of charity work - the successes and possibilities, not just the effects of tragedies.

Each day brings fresh reports of a plague in India or more photo montages of skeletal figures scrabbling towards an aid convoy in Africa. Aerial footage of sprawling disaster areas depicts problems too big to solve and too far away to matter; it inspires pessimism, not hope. It does not show the achievements of dedicated charity workers, or the difference that each pound, dollar or franc can make.

Charities like *Save the Children* often use images of a single child or family in their advertising campaigns. They draw the viewer into real lives. They make us see the people on the other side of the camera lens as human beings, with a sense of humour, able to express opinions.

Therefore, the media should be responsible and use their influence to benefit the people they are documenting as well as themselves. Journalists who skillfully arouse our emotions over less important issues shouldn't write off these people who need our interest and help more than ever. So don't dismiss the facts, even if they are frightening; REACT, and give someone the hope of a better tomorrow. ☒

Generation gap... room with a view

Modern societies have lost the art of marking passages from childhood to adulthood. There used to be complex and sometimes painful rituals alongside celebrations. They still exist in places. People knew where they stood and there was mutual respect.

Now we just have a gap. For some it's small - for others it's a yawning abyss. But gaps can be good for fresh perspectives. Some react so much they dig themselves in deep and have a hard time getting out. Others just step across, taking it all in their stride.

I had a problem with my dad. He probably had a problem with me. I erected a huge wall in my heart which made progress difficult. Over time, it dawned on me that my anger and reactions were my responsibility, not his. Sure, he'd done some mean things, but my response was my problem and was wearing me down. One stormy night I plucked up the courage to talk to him and even said sorry for my reactions. That wasn't condoning what he had done, it was dealing with my stuff. Later, I was conscious of the wall dissolving and a bridge forming.

It's what you do with your generation gaps that matters, not whether they exist or not. ✕

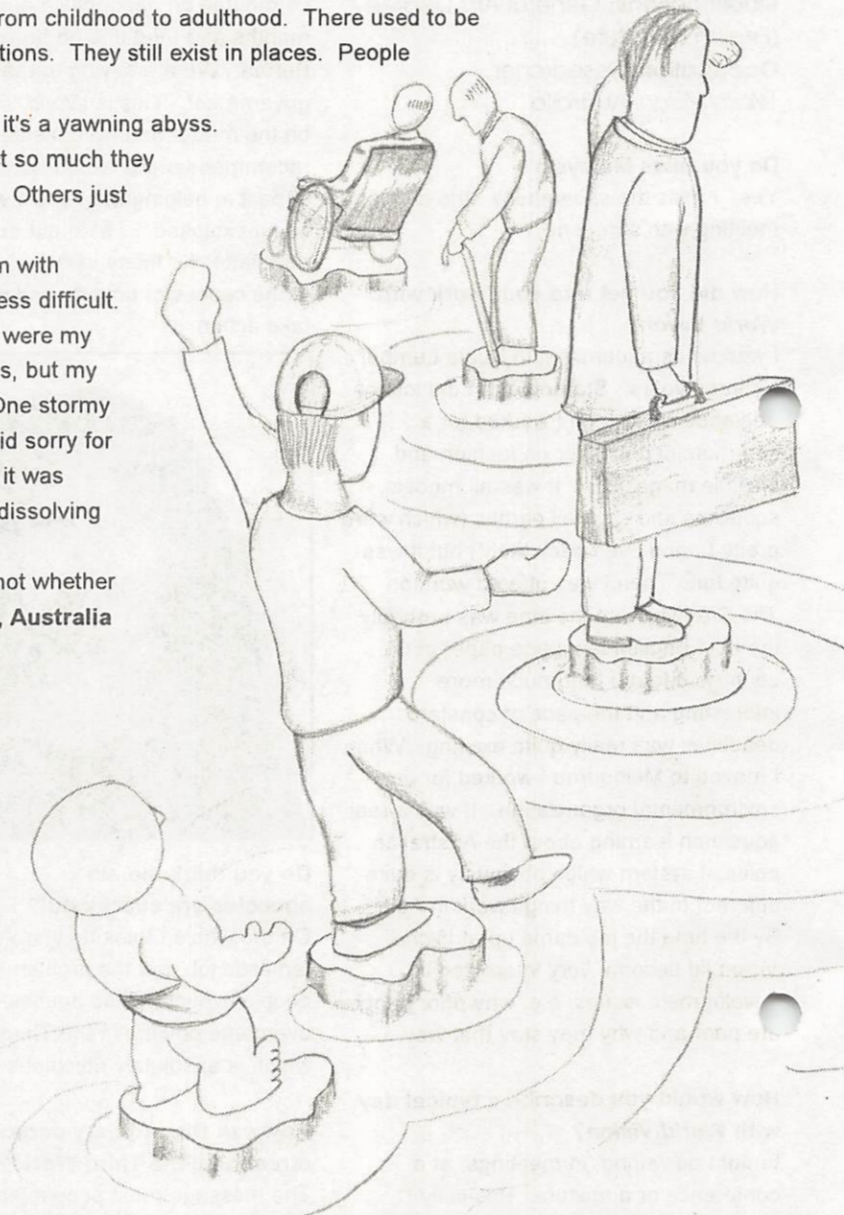
Jean Brown, Australia

When I was your age...

Does a certain hairstyle, dress, manner or TV program that your children love annoy you? If so, welcome to the generation gap.

We are all products of our formative years and our habits reflect this. A generation gap ensues when we transfer the values of one age to another set of circumstances. Where there is no difference in values there is no generation gap. As a parent I have learnt the odd truth whispered on the howling winds of family conflict.

1) It is a tremendous asset to be good friends. This is preferably started early as it is hard to commence during adolescence. ►



FAX - THINK - LINK : What is the Media's Influence?

Barbara Lawler, Australia:

What makes the media tick?

In the private sector, the driving forces behind broadcasts and publications are audience ratings on which in turn the really BIG money-spinner, advertising, depends. Many large businesses would not exist without the market penetration that radio, TV and the press provide; the media would not exist without advertising. And radio, TV and the press wouldn't exist if we did not consume them.

The escapist mentality

Image-making - slim is beautiful. Do we all agree? That is what our television screens and glossy magazines tell us -

sometimes useful information - but more often than not providing a superficial escape from reality. These magazines now also seem to have the licence to promote pornography and perverse or abnormal sexual behaviour. Australia has the highest circulation (per capita) in the world of these magazines. What does that say about us?

International impacts

South Africa and its struggles have been brought to us in graphic form. We have experienced the hope of a bright future for that country, and need to continue to do so. We need more statesmen like Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela to create hopeful news that the media can't ignore.

A GENERATION GAP?

- 2) Communicate without too many negatives.
- 3) Nobody, young or old(er), likes being preached to. Keep unsolicited advice to a minimum.

Generally, adults view events in the light of experience. The young look forward; they do not want the fetters of history. They try to stretch out that rare period of life where they enjoy privilege without responsibility. They don't want to shoulder the demands of adulthood before being assured of their value.

My children seem to think that youth should be "downhill, one ski". This can entail risk-taking with alcohol, drugs and sex. Meanwhile, we adults see youth as a preparation for more important issues, such as job-training, long-term happiness, relationships and finding a purpose in life. We cringe at the "damage" they expose themselves to. Often, I have tried to impose my standards. In retrospect, there were only a few times where it was important to do so. When my children are asked to justify their position, they do it quite well, sometimes painfully so. A tirade from my 19 year old reminds me of the need for more openness and a less rigid role. Learning can be fun but it is usually hard work! I have had to learn to think quickly and seize the moment. Am I prepared to modify my attitudes? Are there some things I still feel are really important?

Despite difficulties, my life has been enriched by contact with the younger generation. By the time the grandchildren arrive, we figure we should have just about got it right.

Footnote from a resident of a different generation:

- 1) There is no such thing as a generation gap. There is only a difference in personalities. Some people easily get along together and others not!
- 2) It is a myth that parents are responsible for how their kids turn out. Your personality is an individual thing; you acquire those things it fits! ☒

Ana Bailey (and family), Australia



"Generation X" in Hong Kong

In our Chinese tradition, family unity is very important. Hong Kong has such 'hustle and bustle' that people find it hard

to strike a balance between work and family life. Few parents have enough time for their children. Hong Kong's uncertain political future makes them worry a lot, and their plans and expectations for their children do not always facilitate mutual understanding.

The education system in Hong Kong is extremely competitive. Inside many young people's hearts lie fears and doubts. They aren't sure what they are chasing, or what their future will be. As 1997 approaches, even kids say they are afraid of political changes. They think that no-one understands them. They seek excitement to deal with these fears.

There are families who have overcome the generation gap. Some parents form co-operative groups with teachers to help their children's studies (and get to know their kids better). The Hong Kong Government and voluntary organisations arrange activities, such as picnics or leisure classes, which parents and children can enjoy together and thereby develop understanding.

We should not immediately put a negative label on the generation gap. It is a reality. If you believe that it can be overcome then the gap can disappear. Better communication creates better relationships. The generation gap need not block friendship and love. ☒

Man-Yi 'Ari' Chow, Hong Kong

F A X - T H I N K - L I N K : *What is the Media's Influence?*

The "information superhighway" is a medium which has international impact, of great concern and potential.

Positive impact and the Challenge

The potential for the media's positive impact on public opinion is massive. Take the environment issues. Did we care about the ozone layer or the quality of our oxygen intake 25 years ago? Pop stars who take up a cause can have a big impact on public opinion through the media eg. Sir Bob Geldof and Live Aid.

There are plenty of opportunities through the media to create a climate of care and to set new trends which will meet the needs of an extremely needy world. The avenues

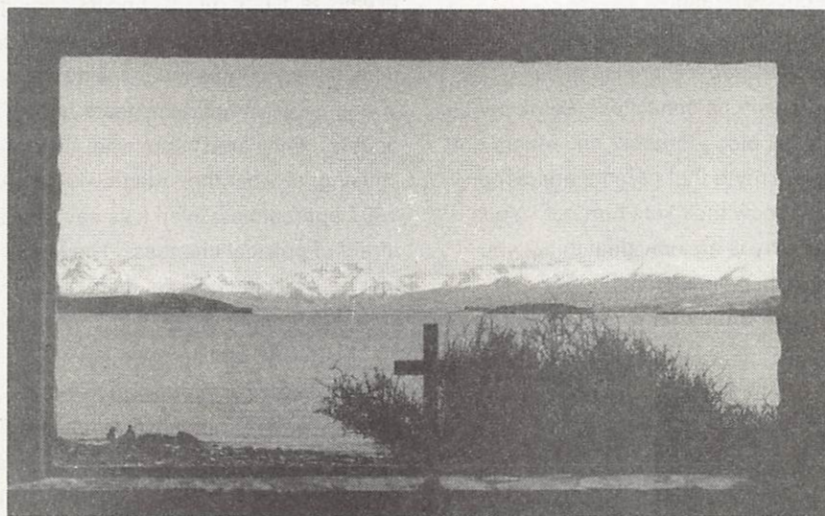
are through letters to the editors, letters of protest and praise to editors and program-makers. The media does take notice of its audience/readers!

There may be an even more personal contribution some of us are meant to make. The reason I am working with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, in the industrial relations/human resources area is because I had a compellingly clear thought about ten years ago, which I am sure came from God, to get a job in the media. I can assure you from the inside, there is never a dull moment. The question must therefore be asked, 'Which of you feels a sense inside you to work in the media?' ☒

Dreamtime

Dreamtime

Dreamtime



New Zealand

Photo: Christine Karrer

I dream a dream of a society without fear. We have become afraid of tackling issues which are rooted in moral and spiritual decline. I would like our world to be a place where everyone feels loved, accepted, respected and useful, where their thoughts and actions are valued by the whole world. I would like to do a creative production to express these kinds of ideas. Where those involved feel they can also express their dreams.

In sharing our dreams we can all learn to look at life and the world in a new way and be challenged to be responsible and to live accordingly. Using different forms of creative art, there is a unique opportunity to say things we would never dare to say. I don't have the when or the how, but feel this is something I am meant to do, but know it is impossible to do on my own.

Jacqui Daukes, UK

My generation isn't lost

Being 19, I am part of what has been labelled the "Lost Generation". I live happily at home and study dance at college, having successfully completed high school. I am not lost.

Like many of my peers, I wonder about the future. But for now, I would rather concentrate on the present.

I have seen the "Lost Generation" drunk, stoned, depressed and disillusioned, but which generation has not been? I have also seen the "Lost Generation" having fun - being happy, responsible, successful and dedicated. We can and do enjoy our youth.

Our concerns are shared by many older people: employment, environment, war, poverty etc... We should not waste our time feeling sorry for ourselves. If we work and think for the present, we can

face the future with optimism, strength and the ability to deal with whatever arises. ☒ **Suzy Edwards, Australia**

Intergenerational dialogue

Last year I went to an international conference in Switzerland. The theme was "Past, Present, Future - a shared responsibility". My daughter was involved and persuaded me to attend.

Its purpose was to foster intergenerational dialogue. My discussion group included people from Croatia, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Australia. Ages ranged from 11 to 82 - truly a challenge to break down barriers.

In addition to main meetings and discussion groups, there was ample time for participants to relax, mix and talk informally. In these times, friendships

were made. The freshness and eagerness of youth blended with the experience of the older generation to produce greater tolerance and understanding. Surely we would like to see this in everyday life in all countries.

Prejudices and stereotypes hinder our personal development and separate us from others. We need to look honestly at ourselves and try to discard these faults. Then we can truly communicate, regardless of age and background.

During the conference, an informal vote was taken on the question, "Is there a generation gap?" 1/3 agreed, 1/3 disagreed and 1/3 were undecided.

I left feeling that we can bridge divides in our families, societies and nations. No person, group or generation has all the answers. Everyone has something to offer, but change must begin with ME. ☒

David Mattingley (age 72), Australia

Interview With The Vampire



"Interview With The Vampire" is a terrific blend of menace, mystery, decadence and black humour. It is a roller-coaster ride through 200 years of history in the company of a small coven of our blood-sucking friends. From 18th century Paris to modern day San Francisco, the vampires explore their world and the dark powers they possess.

The film is a worthwhile adaptation of the novel by Anne Rice and captures her vision of the vampire as both monster and hero. Louis (Brad Pitt) clings to his humanity the most and tries hard not to drink human blood.

Lestat (Tom Cruise) is laughingly scornful and tempts him slowly but surely into the rites of the true vampire, culminating into Louis making a beautiful young girl one of the 'undead'.

Lestat, Louis and the undead girl have all been made vampires against their will. They

revel in their powers and their immortality. They also experience terrifying loneliness, seeing humans around them love in a way they can never do again. Indeed, this desperate search for love is the central theme of all Anne Rice's books. If you like the film, read the books. They represent a dark fantasy of great depth and astonishing imagination. Rice offers a unique exploration of morality and the problem of evil through the minds of her vampire characters.

Despite being apparently damned and forced to continually kill, they still cling to the desire to do good and to use their supernatural powers for the benefit of humanity. These books are by no means trivial fantasy, but a very worthwhile read indeed. Don't be put off by the flashy, sensationalist covers. You'll love them!

Andrew Smith, Scotland

Pret-A-Porter/Ready to Wear



With a plot lurking in the vicinity of absolute zero, 'Ready to wear', wisely renamed 'Pret-A-Porter'

for the benefit of Australian audiences, is an instant disaster. With beauties Helena Christenson, Julia Roberts and a cameo from Claudia Schiffer, there should be plenty of

incentive for some to plough through this baffling sequence of unrelated scenes - but this incentive wears perilously thin after about ten minutes.

Set in Paris, the

film is a glimpse at the fashion industry - but doesn't work as a visual feast. It's not even a documentary, it just exists. It has too many recognisable faces to be classified as "art house". I tried to be fair in the cinema, viewing it as something above the common tastes of the cinema goer who needs a mystery to solve and the 'classic Hollywood style', but it is just so boring!

If you are going to see this, then go expecting one of the most pointless films ever made. It is pathetic.

2/10 BMCS, Australia



The Guru, on eternal study leave . . .

SUEDE - dog man star



"The pop album of the decade" raved one rather earnest publication. Well, maybe not, but each track is immediately enthralling, yet with sufficient depth to maintain captivation. From the hypnotic layers of sound in the opening track 'Introducing the Band', to the classical closer 'Still Life', one knows this is going to be a different, yet exciting listening experience.

"dog man star" is almost split into two halves, joined by two or three comparatively weaker tracks. The first four are the alternative pop/rock stuff - the "hooks". 'We Are the Pigs' and 'Heroine' are both incredibly catchy. The last four are the "epics". Bassist Mat Osman slides around the fretboard effortlessly and melodically in the nine minute 'Asphalt World', and a Ba-Wu flute interrupts an otherwise piano/vocal ditty in 'The 2 of Us'. The largely orchestral 'Still Life' grows into a

monster, reminiscent of film scores to happy Hollywood endings.

What makes these songs special is the instrumentation and the mix (listen to 'Daddy's Speeding' as the most original example). Melodic vocals, numerous guitars and a harmonising bass line are supported by keyboards and an apparent infatuation with reverb (echo), especially on the vocals. This production mastery is best enjoyed whilst listening through headphones or in a dark room.

Listen to "dog man star" honestly and with an open mind. If you can get past vocalist Brett Anderson's constant switching from normal voice to falsetto and appreciate intelligent song-writing and musicianship, you may understand why Suede is just too good for mass appeal.

9/10 BMCS, Australia

SCATTERED THOUGHTS

A COLLECTION OF QUOTES, THOUGHTS OR SNIPPETS OF WISDOM FOR YOU TO SHARE WITH THE WORLD.

If you have something to share, please send it to us and let's see if 'words, ideas and actions can change the world'.

MIRIAM BOXER, P.O. BOX 207, BELAIR 5052, SOUTH AUSTRALIA. Fax +61 8 378 3379 globalen@melbourne.dialix.oz.au

BETWEEN TOMORROW'S
DREAMS AND YESTERDAY'S
REGRETS IS TODAY'S
OPPORTUNITY.

MIX A LITTLE
FOOLISHNESS
WITH YOUR
SERIOUS
PLANS; IT'S
LOVELY TO
BE SILLY AT
THE RIGHT
MOMENT.

HORACE

THE ARROW HAS TO
BE PULLED INWARD
SO THAT IT MAY
SHOOT OUTWARDS
...FAR INTO THE
DISTANCE. SO ALSO
THE JOURNEY OF
LIBERATION WILL
DEPEND ON THE
INTERIOR JOURNEY
WE MAKE.

TEXT STUCK ON DELIA PAUL'S COMPUTER

WE MAKE A VESSEL FROM A LUMP
OF CLAY; IT IS THE EMPTY SPACE
WITHIN THE VESSEL THAT MAKES
IT USEFUL. WE MAKE DOORS AND
WINDOWS FOR A ROOM; BUT IT IS
THESE EMPTY SPACES THAT MAKE
THE ROOM LIVABLE. THUS WHILE
THE TANGIBLE HAS ADVANTAGES,
IT IS THE INTANGIBLE THAT
MAKES IT USEFUL.

THE ONLY
THING
NECESSARY
FOR THE
TRIUMPH OF
EVIL IS FOR
GOOD
PEOPLE TO
DO NOTHING.

EDMUND BOURKE

LAO TZU

AT ALL.
DARING A

QUOTES ARE ONLY USED BY PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING INTERESTING TO SAY THEMSELVES.
ALFRED E. NEUMAN

IT TAKES THE BACKGROUND COLOUR
OF MANY SMALLER POPPIES TO
DISPLAY A TALL ONE.

G.T. WARD

WE ARE
ALL IN
THE
GUTTER
BUT SOME
OF US ARE
LOOKING
AT THE
STARS.

OSCAR WILDE

ALL UP
PAST.
BETTER
IS
GIVING
OF
HOPE
FORGIVENESS

THE SOLE REASON OF
HUMANITY'S
UNHAPPINESS IS THAT
WE DO NOT KNOW
HOW TO SIT QUIETLY
IN OUR OWN ROOM.

PASCAL

LOVE IS
ABOUT
FEELINGS,
ABOUT
DOING.

ROB WOOD
EDITORS BEDROOM WALL
LIFE IS
ADVENTURE OR NOTHING

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