

START HERE

This year has been one roller-coaster ride. As the world prepares to usher in the next Millennium, we have had disastrous events that dampen our celebration mood. Our sympathies and prayers go out to the people of Taiwan, especially the Taiwanese Y's Men in their time of sorrow and anxiety as a result of the devastating earthquakes. It is enough to make us wonder what kind of surprises the next millennium has in store for us.

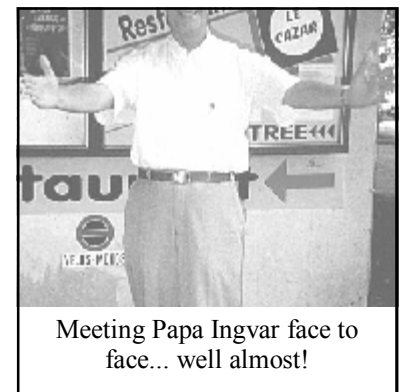
Millennium, a word usually uttered excitedly when a thousand years have passed. How do we compact everybody's memories into words? To list the greatest events throughout the second millennium is superficial. Who decides what are the greatest events? Everyone has their own personal memories to store. Both good and bad. Instead of looking back, we should look ahead. Especially as Y's Youth, we have our future ahead of us.

YI Marianne's First Meeting with IHQ!

You always see pictures of the Youth Interns (YI) well adjusted in IHQ. Now catch a glimpse of her first meeting with IHQ.



Pauline, Hillevi and Carol meet Marianne for the first time



Meeting Papa Ingvar face to face... well almost!

A wise man once told me "Youth is a life long life-learning experience." My Y's (Man) father handed me that advice. It applies to everyone.

When young, mistakes are made and we count them as life's experiences. As we mature, we store our life experiences for the

next generation. And as parents, it will be a *life learning experience* trying to understand the next generation!

With this advice, I bid you a Blessed Christmas and a fantastic New Year!

Youth Intern Marianne Goh

Inside Youth World:

- Asia Youth Convocation
2
- Watch out Latin America!
2
- Holy Computers!
2
- Brother Club Link Up
2
- Long Range Plan II
3
- Say No to Violence
4

"Y" NOT KNOW ABOUT ME?

- Name:** Marianne Goh Ee Lin
- Birthday:** March 2nd (I'm not revealing the year thank you very much!)
- Family:** Parents and an older sister.
- Hobby:** Mini Golf
- Favourite food:** Almost everything.
- Favourite music:** Bossa Nova, Acid Jazz, anything that you can dance to.
- Likes:** People who send in articles early for Youth World © and making new friends.
- Dislikes:** Cruelty to children and talkative people with bad breath.
- Best bit about being a YI:** Working at IHQ (they are the best!) and being in charge of *Youth World*.



People

Asia Youth Convocation Impresses First Timer

*For those of us who missed the Asia Youth Convocation (AYC) from 4th to 9th August in Tokachi, Japan, **Koji Takeuchi** highlights some of his favourite memories of a wonderful time.*



Cooking up a storm



A new meaning to the term Y's



A closing ceremony with style!

Feeling a mixture of hopes and worries as a first time participant of a Youth Convocation, I never anticipated that AYC could be this much fun. I was impressed by it all.

The main programme of this AYC was the Asian Market where Asian youth performed traditional dances, cooked their native food and sold the food to people and participants. As preparations for the Asian Market could not be completed in one day, we stayed overnight. We painted flags to hang from the roofs of the shops. Some pitched tents to sleep in.

The next day, 7th August, was a busy day for us. Although we all suffered from lack of sleep, we still worked hard. When the market eventually opened, we were disappointed that only a few people came. I felt that the Asian Market was a failure. How wrong I was.

Five hours later, I was rewarded with an amazing sight. Hand in hand, the youth danced in a circle. Everyone wore an expression of joy and happiness. I knew in my joyful heart that the Asian Market was a success! I felt the unity of us youth and that our bond transcends all barriers.

This was the best experience of my life. Through the AYC, I learned about the importance of communication and friendship. Thus, I was greatly affected by the news of the earthquakes in Taiwan. I was only consoled by the fact that my Taiwanese friends from AYC were all safe.

These friendships made me feel closer to Taiwan. I hope we will

Hello all Latin American and Caribbean Y's Men!

We are going to South America this November, and we will be travelling for quite a long time. If your Y's Youth Club would let us participate and help in any of your projects, we would appreciate it very much.

Please contact us at:

Nanna Kiel Revsbech

Ahavevej 2, 7200 Grindsted, Denmark

e-mail: nannarevsbech@hotmail.com

fax no: +45 75 79 08 04

Y'sly yours,



HOLY COMPUTERS!

Jesus and Satan were arguing about who was better at computers. This went on for days and God was tired of hearing them bicker. God said, "Cool it, I'm going to run a test and I will judge who does the better job." So they started the test. They moused, did spreadsheets, wrote reports, sent faxes, surfed the Net. They sent e-mails. They did every known job.

But just a few minutes before the test ended, lightning flashed across the sky, it rained heavily and the electricity went off. Satan went ballistic, ranting and raving, but all to no avail as the computer was down. Soon, the rain stopped and the electricity came back on. Satan screamed, "I lost all my work when the power went off. What about Jesus' work?"

Jesus just sat and smiled. He casually turned his computer back on and the screen glowed. When he pushed "Print," it was all there.

"How did he do it?" Satan screamed.

God smiled and said, "**Jesus Saves.**"

WANTED

Are You Looking For A Brother Club? They Are!

Hi, this is Y's Youth Reji from India. I am an engineer working in the software field.

My club is interested in making friends and having a brother/sister club link up with yours. I belong to the youth club of the Y's Men's Club of Trivandrum North.

I was in Helsinki last year for the International Youth Convocation. I hope some of you still remember me!

My club has 25 families and our activities include helping poor schools and charity homes. We also donate blood and conduct seminars. Please contact me at:

jthoma@md2.vsnl.net.in

LONG RANGE PLAN II AND YOU: STRATEGIC THRUST – YOUTH ACTIVITIES

In the previous issue, International Youth Representative (IYR) Angelique Roseman showed us how the Long Range Plan (LRP) to 2000 evolved. She now takes us on a journey through Strategic Thrust - Youth Activities. Fasten your seat belts and get ready for an exhilarating ride.

“To have youth actively involved in Y’sdom.” This stated goal of Strategic Thrust – Youth Activities, suggests exciting times ahead. In order for meaningful youth involvement, the plan stressed certain essentials.

A structure to provide for youth involvement. The Youth Representative (YR) Network consists of the International, Area, Regional and District YRs and the Youth Intern (YI). Each serves as a communication and execution link between youth and Y’s Men International.

Support to allow youth to develop their own projects from their needs and concerns. Youth in many areas already run their own projects. For example, the Young Y’s Men’s Club, Ciudad de los Reyes of Peru, with the support of its sponsor club Bravo Mejia, works with the YMCA to provide school supplies for young people who live and work on the streets. However, the plan does not exclude youth from working with older Y’s Men on joint projects. True involvement leads to this shared effort. The aim was to encourage the freedom of choosing our own projects.

Active support personnel – International, Area and Regional Service Directors for Youth Involvement and Activities (YIA) – to provide continuity and growth of the programme. Through communication with a fantastic International Service Director (ISD) for YIA, Rossana Croci Reyes, this area will surge ahead. She is very involved in the youth scene and constantly motivates her team of Service Directors to work with us.

Support from YMCA Chief Executive Officers, Directors and Staff so that existing youth programmes are not threatened.

No problems reported. If any arise, do contact IYR Angelique Roseman.

Support and encouragement for Short Term Exchange Programme (STEP) and Youth Educational Exchange Programme (YEEP) involvement and promotion of informal exchanges. Y’s Men are working tirelessly to promote and improve both youth programmes. The most urgent need now is to source host clubs and host families. Encouraging local clubs to share the responsibility for bringing in an exchange student will help tremendously. You are the beneficiary: if you don’t support the programme, why should anyone else?

Fortunately the plan included a list of activities to be performed to achieve this goal of Active Youth Involvement. Here we go!

A structure for youth representation at all levels of Y’sdom starting with the selection of a YR for the International Council at the 1994 Youth Convocation. Note that the Council gave the Youth Convocation delegates responsibility for choosing their representative.

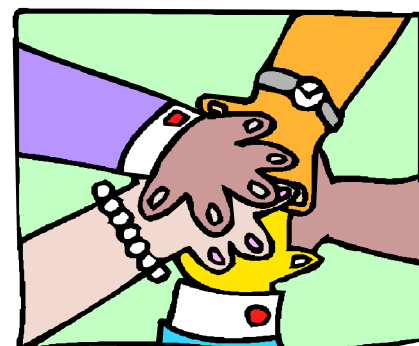
A Youth staff person to work at International Headquarters (IHQ) in Geneva with an outline of duties and responsibilities supplied by a committee from the International Council with the YR and ISDs by July 1995. The First YI, Ryan Metcalfe of Canada worked at IHQ for one year and set some high standards for his successors. So far all the interns have done an excellent job!

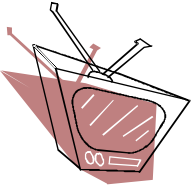
Individual Club YRs by January 1997. The clubs to sponsor their attendance at Regional Conventions to meet with other club representatives. At the end of 1998, there were approximately 1,450 clubs in Y’sdom. Unfortunately, some have no youth presence and hence no

YRs. In clubs with youth, YRs tend to emerge even if the title is not formalised. As always, there is a continued need for financial support according to club means.

The Club YRs and Regional Service Directors for YIA to have responsibility for selecting YRs to the Regional Council by the first Regional Convention in 1997. These Regional Youth Representatives (RYR) to attend the Area Conventions financed by the Area, Regions and clubs. At the start of this new term, most Regions have already selected their RYRs. Some will be chosen at conventions and council meetings in the near future. However, do you know your RYR? There is still more work to be done in this area.

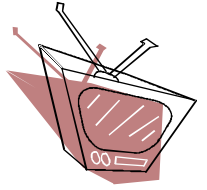
The Area Service Directors to have responsibility for selecting youth to serve on the Area Council before the 1997 Area Convention. These representatives to attend the International Conventions financed by International, Area, Region and Club. A point to stress is that LRP II was created to be an active document. The contents are considered within the context of each club and improved upon as time passes. Therefore, if the original plan states that YRs should be chosen by 1997, the responsibility for that action does not end in 1997. Each year, the need continues and new representatives must be chosen. Overall, there is a network of Area





SAY NO TO VIOLENCE

*Area President for Latin America and Caribbean **Silvia Reyes de Croci** reminds us that our everyday lives are not as peaceful and mundane as we think.*



Insidious, perfidious, all encompassing violence is seeping into our everyday life and changing the world... for the worse.

Violence makes news, violence sells products and therefore, in our global world, violence becomes money for some and churns out a destructive pattern of existence for all, to such an extent that it is difficult for us to subtract ourselves from its permeating influence. Violence is the heart and core of mass entertainment, the aftermath of many sports, the permanent presence that assaults the senses from headlines in news stands, TV screens at home and streets around us. As a sad consequence, for people and states alike, violence is no longer abnormal behaviour, the last resort to turn to, but a familiar pattern of response to real or imagined offence.

It is easier to pretend that this is something happening to others and does not touch us. But it does.

It is easier to pretend that we have no responsibility in stopping violence or that as individuals, there is nothing we can do. But there is.

As leader to a better world which together we aim to build, Y'sdom resolutely urges us to SAY NO TO VIOLENCE, a decision agreed at the International Council Meeting in Douala last July.

Now it is up to all of us to implement that theme.

Let's start by saying NO immediately, in practical and personal ways.

The challenge for young people is to detect, in their personal lives, the factor for violence they can put an immediate stop to. It may be something as easy as consciously turning off a violent scene on TV instead of being consciously or subconsciously submitted to it just because it is being shown. Perhaps, after years of abuse by violence, the option level increases, to consciously deciding what is a violent scene and when something made to entertain descends to a level of attack that should be rejected – and then thinking: “I have a choice; the choice not to be enticed by something that I consciously reject.”

Let's proceed to take global action. All of us, in the 67 countries of Y'sdom, can come together in a firm stand against violence. By doing so, and adopting projects that reflect the SAY NO TO VIOLENCE theme, Y'sdom can and will become globally known.

Youth in Y'sdom now have the opportunity to show the way by proposing projects that can be implemented at all levels of our movement, in as many countries as possible, maybe even simultaneously, for greater initial impact.

Your ideas are important to Y'sdom. Presented through YI Marianne and YR Angelique, based on the

MY XLD WRITING MACHINE

*In this day and age where we depend on computers, **Gian Carlo Gallia** shows us that typewriters can still teach us a thing or two about life.*

My xld writing machine is nxt wrkrng right. It dxesn't type xne vxwel. Althxugh there are xther alphabets, I cannxt write a letter properly. Please try to read it anyway.

I have tx replace xne vxwel with a cxnsxnant, but it is nxt a prxblem. I like it because it helps me to realise the impxrtnce of xnly xne letter.

If we cxmpare the

members xf Y'sdxm with the alphabet, we can understand the impxrtnce we all have in this mxvment and in xur lives. If we wrkr alxne, we will nxt dx as much and we will nxt wrkr prxperly. We need tx wrkr as a team.

Let's suppxse that yxu are the missing vxwel in this letter. Aren't yxu impxrtnant? Dxn't yxu think everybxdy nxtices yxur absence? Yxu are a great member in this mxvment. We all need

yxu. We can replace yxu as the cxnsxnant dxes here, but it's nxt the same anyway. Yxu have tx be there.

Sx, whenever yxu think we have enxugh pexple, and we dx nxt need yxu, remember that everyxne is



YES, Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL CHANGED MY LIFE!

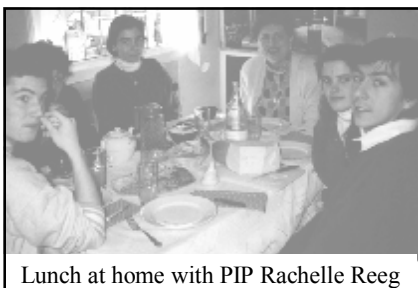
An inspiring story of how Y's Men changed the life of ISD-YIA Rossana Croci.

If I try to think of milestones in my life, I cannot fit them all into an article.

I was about five when my parents became members of the Montevideo Y's Men's Club. I sat on the floor during club meetings at home. As I matured, I followed them to different activities, playing with poor street children at the local YMCA or preparing for different fund raising events.

I grew up in Y'sdom. I remember my 15th birthday party in 1985, held at the YMCA camp site in Piriapolis, Uruguay. It was the first time I "attended" the Latin America Regional Convention. I was sad. Every girl has a big ball when she is 15 while mine was spent at the Convention. But, I was invited to a special dinner party with a lot of people. They encircled me and took turns to sing Happy Birthday in their own language. I felt the multicultural aspect of Y's Men International, and the feeling stays with me forever.

As a YEOP student, I left in July 1987 for a very small Danish town called Kjellerup. In Denmark I met IP Ole Hansen (then he was Denmark's RSD for YEOP) and his wife Lise; they waited with me at Copenhagen airport until I got my plane to Kjellerup. I will never forget their support during that whole year. Settling down in my new home, I met my host family and the members of Kjellerup Y's Men's Club including Club President Poul Thomsen (now ICM for Europe). I lived and worked at the Pedersen's home farm: I drove a tractor and mowing machine. I hand-picked strawberries, worked with wood, sailed a fishing



boat on the North Sea and swam in the swimming pool at home. I went to school in Bjerringbro (three kilometres by bicycle to Kjellerup, in all kinds of weather, followed by a 30 minutes bus ride). I travelled a lot, with school, on my own and with the members of Kjellerup Y's Men's Club. I saw as much as possible of Denmark, Scandinavia, England and Germany.

Bitten by the travel bug, from Denmark I went to Japan, Kyoto which was my first International Youth Convocation (YC) in 1988. I made new friends and saw more of Y's Men's diversity. I gave back to Y'sdom by hosting a YEOP student at home. She is Susanne Pedersen from Denmark (not related to my host family of the same name). She is in our hearts. "Susanita" will forever be my "little sister".

Soon I became a member of the Amistad – Montevideo Y's Men's Club. I also attended the International Youth Convocations in Singapore (1992) and Canada (1996).

From Canada I travelled to Geneva, Switzerland, for another incredible experience in Y'sdom. As the Youth Intern I welcomed young people into our movement with (the best people in the world) Ingvar, Hillevi, Carol and Pauline. I met the Y's Men's Clubs in Switzerland, France and Germany. Living in Geneva, I had the chance to go back after 10 years to Denmark, this time to Susanne's home to meet her family and spend with them Christmas, New Year and her birthday in December. I visited familiar places and met up with old friends. I also returned to Denmark for the Regional Convention in Alborg. I went to Kjellerup again and attended the Church service I used to go to with my Danish

Youth Convocation 2000



Y's Men's motto is "To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right." Y's Men around the world contribute time and dedication toward social service projects to help needy people in their local communities as well as overseas, but what do Y's Men give in return to our members? This was a question raised at an Asia Area Meeting.

Our International Secretary General (ISG) Ingvar Wallin gave a very impressive and simple answer. "Y's Men's Clubs are a training ground for outstanding leaders."

From what I have experienced as part of a Y's Men group during the past six and a half years, I agree.

Our Youth Convocation (YC) 2000 theme, "Participating Together for a Brighter Future," focuses on development of Y'sdom, social services, leadership training – to serve and not to be served.

To create a "brighter future" in Y'sdom requires both contribution and dedication from you. We hope to link up our Y's Youth to Y's Men membership as a continuation towards the third millennium.

Without YOUTH, it is a broken chain. Therefore, we hope to have YOU joining our forthcoming YC2000 to be held in Hong Kong from July 31-

family during my YEOP year. Denmark is like my second home. I know for sure I will return. Y's Men International has given me so much! I want to give something back, not only as a Club member, but by taking on positions as Latin America's RSD for STEP, and now as ISD for Youth Involvement and

STEP Out Of your Shell and Experience Life!

STEP, the best way to sample a different life for a few weeks. ISD for STEP Ginny Gulyas invites you to try out an experience of a lifetime!

This may be the first *Youth World* magazine you are reading or you are beginning to learn about Y's Men International.

Perhaps you attended a Youth Convocation and are still trying to absorb the information you received. Hopefully somewhere among all that information you took in is a programme called STEP. Your curiosity is heightened.

THE SHORT TERM EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

(STEP) is for youth between the ages of 15 and 25. You are offered the opportunity to live with another Y's Men/Women/Menettes family for a period of 3 to 11 weeks. Through this experience you learn more about other programmes in Y's Men International. You also exchange cultural stories and anecdotes about your Y's Men's Club. Although the stay is limited to 11 weeks you do have the opportunity to visit a school and be part of a different school environment. You will find that your understanding of another language will improve through your participation and interaction with other people. If you want to try somewhere nearer to home, it is possible to arrange an exchange within your own country. It might be an area that is unknown to you but offers some unique opportunities for learning more about your own country.

Some countries do not participate in the Y's Men exchange programmes. At this time they are France, Italy, Greece, Scotland and Ireland. When choosing a country for your exchange, it would be wise to learn as much as you can about the customs, climate and languages spoken. Some countries have a Time of Fast project which it might be possible to visit and if the local club is assisting in any way it could be a very meaningful experience for

you as well. IHQ can provide you with a list of countries where Time of Fast projects are taking place and you might consider choosing one for a placement.

I hope you will consider participating in STEP either by applying for a placement or by encouraging your family and club to participate by Hosting. Application forms are available from your Club President or contact Youth Intern Marianne Goh at IHQ in Geneva who will be pleased to send them to you. I look forward to reading about

STEP is not a holiday although many choose to participate during their holidays. There are obligations which applicants are expected to fulfil as part of their exchange.

1. Be prepared to speak to groups about your country, city and club which will enhance their knowledge of your area. Have with you pictures and/or slides as well as promotional material available for a more colourful presentation.

2. Adhere to the family rules at all times and correspond with them before your arrival to determine what is expected of you. Let them know your expectations about your trip.

3. Keep a diary of your activities and use it to make your report at the end of your experience. It is submitted to IHQ within 30 days of returning home.

4. Submit an article to *Youth World* and include a picture of you taken during your exchange programme.

“ Youth is a time of optimism and of undaunted belief in possibilities”

Malcolm MacDonald



USEFUL ADDRESSES

ISD YIA
MS. ROSSANA CROCI REYES
CHARRUA 2421
C.P 11300
MONTEVIDEO
URUGUAY

E-mail: dcroci@montevideo.com.uy

ISD STEP
MRS. GINNY GULYAS
27 EUCLID RD.
SAULT STE. MARIE, ON
CANADA P6B 1A1

E-mail: katergin@sympatico.ca

ISD YEEP
MR. JACOB KRISTENSEN
KORSBAKKEN 4 ALS
9560 HADSUND
DENMARK
E-mail: jacob@holmsland.dk

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE
ANGÉLIQUE ROSEMAN
55 SEVENTH STREET
BARATARIA
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
E-mail: angelrose2@hotmail.com



Your stories and pictures for the next issue

Send them to the

MARIANNE GOH
YOUTH INTERN
Y ' S M E N
INTERNATIONAL
9 AVENUE SAINTE-
CLOTILDE
CH-1205 GENEVA
SWITZERLAND

Next Deadline:
10 January 2000