

Editorial: The Closet TV Junkie

You know you're a TV addict when you plan your social life around your favourite TV programmes. You schedule heart to heart conversations during commercials. Your idea of extreme sports is channel surfing. And your mom has to buy air-time on TV to announce that dinner is ready.

We have become so dependent on television that it has changed the way we want to be entertained. Our expectations of a show to be more sophisticated, more shocking have led to an increase in the violent content of shows. We are responsible for the increasing levels of violence on TV and yet we still watch them. Statistics from the Center for Media Education in America show, "By the time children complete elementary school, the average child will witness more than 100,000 acts of violence on TV, including 8,000 murders. These numbers double to 200,000 acts of violence and 16,000 murders by the time they graduate from high school." As we import a large number of TV programmes from America, the rest of the world isn't spared from exposure to violence either. Many other countries also produce shows of highly violent content. Looks like there will be an over supply of mass murderers in future job markets.

For youth, television is the largest channel of exposure to violence but a more disturbing source comes from something that cannot be turned off with a remote control. Domestic (family) violence is not a myth. "Women of all cultures, races, occupations, income levels, and ages are battered – by husbands, boyfriends, lovers and partners." (Surgeon General Antonia Novello, as quoted in *Domestic Violence: Battered Women*, publication of the Reference Department of the Cambridge Public Library, Cambridge, MA) Studies have tried to prove a correlation between exposure to violence from television and domestic violence, but whatever the reason, it is still prevalent in our modern society. Is this something we wish to bring into the 21st Century? We all know the answer, but how can we control the amount of violence we are exposed to?

Before we try to repair the world, the first step is to repair our minds. Find alternative programmes to watch. There are many interesting shows that don't glorify violence. Expand your entertainment sources. There are many fun things to do apart from staring at the "goggle-box". Have a picnic with friends, read more (preferably non-violent material of course), take up a sport or simply do something that relaxes you. Always offer yourself options. No one else should decide for you what you can see or do.

The next time you turn on your television, treat yourself to a mind-feast of interesting programmes and don't binge on a junk-fest of violence.

Goh

YI Marianne



In This Issue of Youth World:

The New Violence	2
Dishing the Dirt on the Task Force	3
Jubilate Deo	4
We Want You to Lead Us... Yes You!	4
News From Our Y's Friends	5
My Conception of Violence ... and lots more!	6

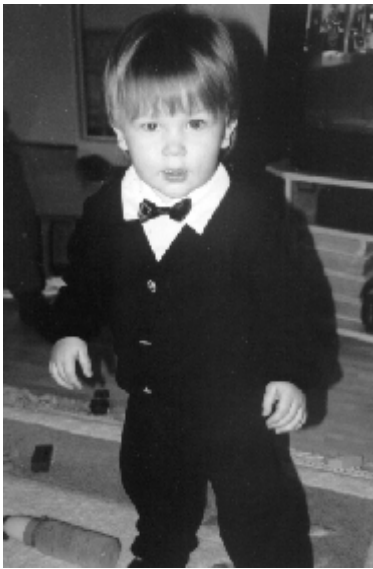


The New Violence

The next time we watch a movie PYR Isabella Souza Lima asks us to choose our films carefully.

We are always so worried about the brutality we find on the streets, in big cities and in crowded places. However, we forget the hidden violence found in our daily lives. It is the kind of violence parents allow their children and indeed themselves to be influenced by. These are the so-called family movies, such as Home Alone, Batman, Gremlins, Star Wars, ET, Indiana Jones, and others. They may appear to be harmless entertainment, but they all have many scenes of pure cruelty. However, instead of disapproval, this kind of violence provokes laughter. That's what's dangerous about it!!

Children think real life should imitate the screen and what is funny in a film may cause disaster, hurt or even kill someone. There is always a villain who is spanked, stabbed, shot or mutilated. Using the excuse that nobody dies, we have made an entertainment out of watching people suffer. Who is to blame? We are. We are not paying attention. We must be more careful in choosing and approving what our next generation watches. We can also help violence to go away, little by little. The next time you watch a movie, check all the "brutality" it contains before showing it to little ones. You will be grateful for that. And so will future grown-ups. IT ALL DEPENDS ON US!!!



Now that Riku's seen in *Youth World*, Ricky Martin will have to compete with him for fan mail.

Dear friends,

I want to wish you all a great new millennium!

I was hoping to meet you all at the International Convention 1998 in Helsinki but our baby boy, Riku, was born 2 weeks before the event.

Our Y's Men's Club of Oulu is growing fast. We've have 50 members now and some of them are young people with families. Our club is a mixed-gender club with older and younger people. All the young members have important responsibilities. For example, one of the young members is the Secretary while I liaise with our brother club in Petrozavodsk, Russia. I was also elected to be the first female member of the local YMCA committee. Last Christmas our club sold over 5000 advent calendars, we took care of the YMCA camp centre, raised money for children, and arranged trips and bigger events.

Our family will experience many changes this year. I'll start my new job as a Youth Worker at the Lutheran Church of Muhas and we are planning to find a new apartment nearer my job. One of the other main plans is to have enough time for "Y'sdom" and family.

I send my best regards to all the Y's Men I've met in Minneapolis, Oslo, Tampere, Australia, Singapore, Sweden and Russia.

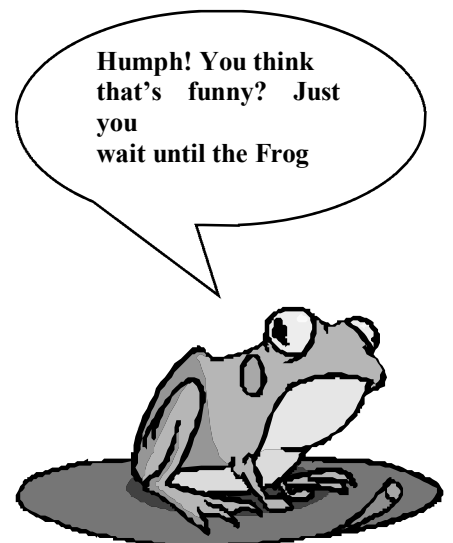
Love, Päin Sutinen
(Visuri)Matilaisentie
3A2

A Princess for the 21st Century

Taken from Y's Cracks, Bulletin of the Hilo Y's Men's Club.

Once upon a time in a land far away, a beautiful, independent, self-assured princess happened upon a frog as she sat contemplating ecological issues on the shores of an unpolluted pond in a verdant meadow near her castle. The frog hopped into the princess's lap and said, "Elegant lady, I was once a handsome prince until an evil witch cast a spell upon me. One kiss from you, however, and I will turn back into the dapper young prince that I am; then, my sweet, we can marry and set up housekeeping in yon castle with my mother where you can prepare my meals, clean my clothes, bear my children and forever feel grateful and happy doing so."

That night, as the princess dined sumptuously on a repast of lightly sautéed frog legs seasoned in a white wine and onion cream sauce, she



Dishing the Dirt on the Task Force

Alright, so you know many YEEP stories where they always say it's a great experience. But do they ever reveal the juicy details? No? Well, now we're taking it one step further. Some of the members of the Task Force on the 30th Anniversary of the YEEP Programme confess their quirky or embarrassing moments as YEEP students.



Ole Dammeyer, YEEP in Ottawa, Canada, 1984-85

It's a Dog's Life

At her work, my host mother referred to me as her "Great Dane" whenever she told her colleagues about me. One day some weeks after my arrival she spoke about something I said. One of the colleagues said, "I have been wondering how a dog could do some of the things your 'Great Dane' does. But one thing I know, dogs do not speak! So what is your "Great Dane?" And so my host mother told her about her exchange student from Denmark.

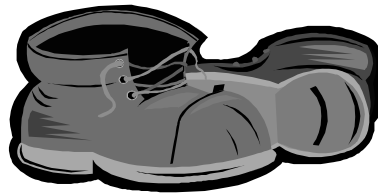
Radhika Hettiarachchi
From Sri Lanka to Canada 1997-98

Melting Soles

As a YEEP student in Canada, I participated in many school activities one of which was being on an Environmental quiz team (that won third prize in all of Ontario, I'll have you know).

As part of the one-with-nature routine, we decided to rough it in the forest. This would have been fine under normal circumstances but unfortunately we chose early April for this communion with mother nature. Not one of the brightest ideas, but

everything went smoothly and on the first night we sat around the fire until the wee hours of the morning discussing trees, leaves, dirt, water-



sheds and other equally fascinating stuff. Coming from a tropical country and not used to Canadian weather, I sat really close to the fire and for added warmth kept my feet on a rock by the fire. After a while we decided to go to bed and I crept into my tent after taking my boots

off.

Next morning, I woke up, stepped out of the tent and put my boots on. I noticed they had mud or leaves attached to them which refused to come off. Upon a closer look I realised the soles of my rubber boots had actually melted from the heat of the fire. I could see my brightly coloured socks through the very thin layer of rubber still attached. I had to spend the next two days wearing that ridiculous pair of boots as I had nothing else to wear. Everybody there and those who heard the story, teased me for the rest of the year as "stupid enough not to know her own feet were on fire!"

Ryan Metcalfe
From Canada to Norway in 1990-1991

YEEP - Making a Big Noise!

During my YEEP year I was involved in the student production of the musical *Little Shop of Horrors* at my school. I joined the little orchestra as a great way to practise the trumpet during my year away from home.

With two weeks left to the opening night, we had just finished a good practice and started clearing up. Many of the props and musical instruments were stored in a room next to the stage. Being a helpful person, I wheeled the old, out of tune piano into the little room where it was kept. Everything went fine until I got to the doorway which had a raised edge on the floor. The edge wasn't high, but what I didn't re-

alise was that the old piano was missing a wheel.

I gave the tinny sounding antique a good shove over the threshold. It went up and over the bump fine, but then started tilting. The world seemed to go into slow motion as the piano leaned over where the wheel was missing and started its backward plunge. I held onto it for all it was worth, but my grip wasn't strong enough. For a brief moment I imagined I could save myself all the embarrassment if I jumped under the piano to break its fall!

The sound of a crashing piano is *not* music to the ears. It was the most painful musical experience I've ever heard. The wooden frame hit the floor with a loud crunch, followed by the haunting sound of 88 strings being played at once. Springs broke and black and white keys flew in all directions. Worst, the sound echoed around the gymnasium letting the cast and crew witness my most embarrassing YEEP moment.

Now that you've read theirs, it's your turn to tell us yours. We dare you to send your craziest YEEP stories to **Ole Dammeyer** at:

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“Jubilate Deo” — The Challenge of Being Together

A Youth group in Romania shares with us their love of fellowship and how Y's Men plays an important role in their spiritual growth. Written by Viorella Manolache.

“Young and beautiful.

We are a prayer,

We are Love.

High mountain we build from bodies of light.

With Christ faces Teenagers – waves of wheat...

Souls – candles in death agony Like Him, through Resurrection We will bring the Salvation...” (hymn—Jubilate Deo)

Written initially to explain teenagers’ major problems and questions, “Jubilate Deo” later became a group open to all young people of different denominations and orientations, cultivating true and sincere relationships in which the Christian spirit dominates.

Having no models of such groups in Medias, “Jubilate Deo” places emphasis in its activities on an attempt to find and know God. The Y’s Men’s Club in Medias supports it through cultural and spiritual programs. Singing concerts for the old homeless people from Biertan, performing for a little community in Bratei or at the International Catholic Congress for Education in Oradea, participating at National Teenagers’ meetings in Bucur-esti, Ciocarlau, Cluj, Blaj and Carbanari, recording a tape and putting together in a book religious songs, having group meetings on various themes once a month, initiating an Adoration Hour, participating actively with songs and concerts in our Greek Catholic Church, and participating in the Youth Meeting in Denmark. “Jubilate Deo” tries to re-build the initial harmony through love, peace and hope, a world unchained by the old mentalities without false conversations and hypocrisy.



Our Y’s friends from Romania

So, together it means a dialogue of spiritual accumulation, the happiness of being united, different but still the same.

YEEP, It’s PYI Nancy Hainsworth!

It is a long time since I have written an article in *Youth World* (I think I was drained from writing and editing so many articles while I was in Geneva!). I am now working in Toronto, Canada – which is about an hour from my hometown. I am the chairperson for the YEEP Task Force and as such, I want to ask you to give me any suggestions you may have on improving the YEEP Programme. It is a great programme, which offers those of us who are/were YEEP students so many opportunities – even years after we have come back home. The 30th Anniversary of the first YEEP student in 2002 is quickly approaching and it would be wonderful to have the programme back on the increase. If you have any suggestions please e-mail me at: nancyhainsworth@yahoo.com

We Want You to Lead Us... Yes You!

If you are 15-25 years old and are attending the Youth Convocation 2000 in Hong Kong, seriously consider applying for the position of International Youth Representative (IYR). It’s a brilliant opportunity for you to meet new friends from all over the world. And if you apply early, you might get featured in *Youth World* which is a great way for Youth to know about you and your plans before they elect the next IYR at the Youth Convocation in Hong Kong. So hurry and contact your Regional Director or Youth Intern Marianne Goh to get an application form.

You can even get it from the Internet at www.ysmen.org so don’t wait, fill in the form right now!



I’d apply, but I enjoy eating people more than meeting them!

My Conception of Violence

Juan Miguel Reyes from Dominican Republic encourages us to curb violence.

Talk of the increasing violence that threatens homes is on everybody's lips. Assault, robbery, and rape — it is a real horror movie some people pretend to ignore, while others do not know how to face it. Violence, among other things, is a social configuration of aggressive instinct — it depends on

Causes of violence are lack of educational alternatives, frustration, the education we receive, family separation, drugs, lack of authority, rejection, physical attacks and insults, lack of self-control and social abilities, impunity, among others.

Violence is present in all spheres of daily life. It is due to fear, the wish to impose and the intolerance of our relationships with others. Violence, like kindness, begins at home. Violence within the family: the untold tragedy of millions of people, defenceless children, the old, and women who are on the receiving end of individuals who, from a position of economic or physical strength, use the weaker ones in order to displace their own frustration at being unable to solve the vio-

We feel violence when we are wrapped in fear, insecurity and impotency. We may truly talk about violence when a person's freedom, health and life (the basic rights of all human beings) are limited.

Whoever uses violence to solve a conflict is planting the seed of violence and it increases. That is why the resolution of a conflict should go hand in hand with respect for others, because if we solve a problem by insulting others, that is not a real solution.

If we are to curb violence, every adult needs to teach their children two essential aspects of family and personal life, i.e. tolerance and the capacity to solve problems without the use of violence. Tolerance commits us to respect the rights of everybody else to be different from what we are and how we live, while trying not to damage the well-being of the community.

There are several elements that can help deal with violence: campaigning against violence, recognizing that violence is a social phenomenon and not an occasional problem, promoting laws to prevent and eliminate violence, promoting values such as order, harmony, respect, freedom, discipline, among others.

Finally, violence has many faces: it disguises and attacks the unity, solidarity, kindness, hope, respect, humility and, most important, love. What will humankind be like if we lose those values? We are all responsible. Let's start right now to assume the responsibility of learning to control our own violence within our families and our relationships with others. We all can make it happen, so join me!

One-liners to impress (or annoy) your friends!

The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.
The mind is like a parachute; it works much better when it's open.
Two wrongs don't make a right, but two Wrights made an airplane.
I considered atheism but there weren't enough holidays.
I always wanted to be a procrastinator, never got around to it.
Lead me not into temptation (I can find the way myself).
Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.



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