

U.P.E.I. International Development Week an eye-opening display

Atrocities around the globe opens eyes for all those who took part

By **Michael Conway**
Post Contributor

"You've come a long way, Baby!" bragged the 1968 Philip Morris cigarette commercial. As sexist as that was, and is, it may have been an accurate statement for North American society, but it was not the reality reflected in the photo documentary screened during the Women in Development Symposium at the Student Centre.

"Resilience and Dreams," a slide show of black and white images documented traumatic situations that are, still today, the scourge of women and children throughout the world. Horrendous conditions in the Soweto Townships, women dying of HIV/Aids in Uganda, refugees in Afghanistan and Pakistan or young sex-trade workers in Guatemala, illustrated the urgency of action required by the world community to end these deplorable conditions.

A stroll along the Student Centre thoroughfare evoked conflicting emotions ranging from despair to hope. Static photo displays depicted the horrors of disease in India, while others captured images of angry child soldiers.

Facts and figures are startling. Fully three quarters of child deaths occur in Africa or South East Asia; world conflicts result in thirty-nine million refugees; every twenty-two minutes someone is

killed by a land mine, and; child soldiers are forced into fighting to escape servitude and poverty. Mind-numbing photographs of twelve-year-old boys, armed to the teeth with automatic weapons, stare back at you through dead eyes, their childhood ripped from them and gone forever - another lost generation!

Amongst this heartache and despair hope lives. It lives in dedicated women who are actively committed to doing what is necessary to foster change. It lives in young students like Lisa MacLeod who will go to Kenya in March as part of her program in international development and education. It lives in the organization Farmers Helping Farmers, whose good works have been well documented by Island print and electronic media. It lives in young students who are attempting to educate others in the value of diversity, particularly as it pertains to life at UPEI, and it lives in grandmothers in Canada and Africa who are drawn together by their similarities in The Grandmothers Campaign, as they seek to ease the pain and struggle for survival from HIV/Aids in Africa.

I overheard my professor telling another student that the purpose of this assignment was to provide students with a point of reflection. It would be difficult to walk through the Student Centre and not reflect on our privi-

leged place in the world. We are fortunate to be living the Canadian experience. Protected, as we are, from the horrors that vast parts of the world endure on a daily basis, begs reflection. This reflection, however, should be focused directly on third

world countries and the daily trials they encounter in living their lives. I believe, as do others, that our privileged existence comes with the moral obligation to do what is required to improve the human condition. People intent on fulfilling that ob-

ligation were evident at the Student Centre. Their courage in tackling such a daunting task is inspiring and their efforts are beacons of hope as they seek practical solutions to solving our world's problems. We owe them our gratitude and support.

Coolest thing I saw in the Galapagos: Darwin's Finches

COORDINATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVER TRAINING.

I'm still searching for my motto.

Spent a Summer in Kunming China, helping people living with HIV/AIDS.

Africa next.

VERIFY YOUR THOUGHTS.

I study the "drill" part of the HIV virus. I'm trying to stop it from working.

Some roll a tennis ball down a hill. I ask them to think what if it was a bowling ball?

Protecting the environment is good. Living in harmony with it is BETTER.

HONOURS DEGREE in Biochemistry with a minor in social studies of medicine.

I've done fundraising for Kosovo refugees.

Born and raised in Baie-Comeau, PQ.

Le Canadian de Montreal!

Ideal job philosopher in Ancient Greece.

My nickname is Jumpy. Never mind why.

Average basketball player. Better Biochemist.

I love to hike.

There's no such thing as a stupid invention.

WORKING ON A VACCINE FOR HIV.

Internship in France for HIV prevention campaign.

I speak 3/4 languages. (I'm learning Mandarin.) → 一起 (together)

STUDENTS TAKING ACTION IN CHIAPAS.

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