

Is there courage?



"We have the technology to rid the world of famine. The money invested for research into the Star Wars Project was enough to make all of Africa arable...We have to ask ourselves...Are we a civilization that invests in death or one that invests in life?"

-Bono of U2

by T.H. Heathrow

In 1978, I had arrived in India. A severe deluge had devastated the land—leaving whole cities of people homeless. I was walking in the chaotic streets, and on this one occasion, I bent down to tie my shoes. I looked up and saw a boy. He had no shoes. In fact he had no clothes.

I was fully clothed.

I looked behind him, and saw thousands of shabby bivouacs housing schools of families. I cannot begin to describe the overwhelming effect it has on an individual to stand before the face of homeless thousands.

"Powaqqatsi" is a word from the Hopi language. It is defined as being "an entity, a way of life, which consumes the life forces of other beings in order to further its own life." Famine continues to live in Africa. We have separated ourselves from it.

Did we aid famine for the sake of their humanity or for the sake of the morale of this nation?

Today, we are still perceived as "Powaqqatsi" in their eyes.

North Americans have frequently been criticized for having knowledge of human crises, and doing nothing but continuing to invest in their desires.

For critics, it must be said that there is an extreme difference between "knowledge of" and "realization of" a situation. In order for a situation like the thirty million homeless people in Bangladesh to "truly" mean something, you have to have been there. But everyone—everyone—has access to "understanding" humanity. There is no problem in being there.

Can you imagine all of Canada homeless?

There are two kinds of attitudes which exist in the world: One kind sabotages human ideals and the other builds or supports them.

A Voice of Camelot:
With Bangladesh.

KNOWLEDGE IS OUR BEST PROTECTION

By: Laura Kilfoil

Before the early 1980's, social diseases were rapidly spreading but most of them were curable. Since the vast outburst of AIDS cases, the words "sexually transmitted diseases" and AIDS have become synonymous. The seemingly sudden appearance of this deadly disease has caused panic. The misconceptions have spread more quickly than the virus itself.

What are the origins of the AIDS virus? Do we understand how the HIV virus evolved the unique but lethal qualities that cause the Acquired Immunities Deficiency Syndrome?

To answer the question on the origin of the virus, retroviruses have been studied in apes. This led to the discovery of the SIV—which is related to HIV—in the African Green Monkeys. The SIV virus in the monkeys is similar to AIDS and is thought to have been transmitted from the Green Monkeys in South Africa. The SIV doesn't cause disease in the Green Monkeys, but when the

virus is introduced into Madagascari Monkeys, these monkeys which were newly infected developed symptoms of the disease. For a clearer understanding, consult David Suzuki's book on AIDS, or *Scientific American*, Oct., 1988, p.64.

Our knowledge of the AIDS virus is new but retroviruses have been a part of our world for a time. As early as 1910 a retrovirus that caused cancer in chickens was discovered.

Sexually transmitted diseases have plagued society and have been carried around the world for centuries. Syphilis was once thought to be a punishment to sinners as AIDS is now. Syphilis is cured with penicillin and hopefully soon the AIDS virus will have a cure.

For now it is best to drop beliefs that AIDS is a homosexual disease, or that it affects only certain people and will not affect us. It is time to fight it—through education.

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Planned Famine a Success

UPEI students raised about \$2000 last week to be sent to Zimbabwe for a water project. This "Planned Famine" was organized by WUSC and open to the public for participation.

"The main objective wasn't to raise money. It was to raise people's awareness," says Susan Arbing, a student who took part in the Planned Famine.

About fifty people took part in the project which started on October 12 at 9:00 AM and ran until 3:00 on the 13th. However, it was not compulsory to fast for

the entire 30 hours that marked National Food Day.

As well as making a sizeable contribution to the \$7,700 which was needed for the water project in Zimbabwe, this Planned Famine managed to raise awareness of the students, professors, and others who took part.

Many people aren't aware of the struggle for life that takes place every day in many third-world countries. The participants of Planned Famine were able to experience for a brief moment what the pain and suffering is all about.

"It was nowhere on the same scale," says Arbing. "I felt more weak and tired than hungry."

However, the advantage that these participants had was that they could eat at any time, and they knew that once the thirty hours were over they could eat again. Unlike the citizens of Zimbabwe, they weren't being forced into starvation.

If anyone has more contributions to make, or has collected more pledges, the money can be dropped off at Dr. Morrison's office on the second floor of Main.