A plea for help in Pakistan

BY ASAD KHURJAR

Nature has displayed its destructive powers too often during the past year. Tsunamis, hurricanes, droughts, floods and earthquakes, just to mention a few. For the average citizen of the world these natural disasters are ones that are experienced casually as a demand attention and induce feelings of helplessness and compassion for the victims.

Often these feelings translate into concrete forms of action in kind for relief efforts. How does it feel to be helpless or lose a loved one?

What is it that makes us feel for, vote for, donate money as often as we do be oblivious to their plight?

It's true that everyone has their own problems to worry about, and we find it wise to set up deadlines to meet. But it is possible to forget about human suffering and not feel conscious about our duties and responsibilities to fellow human beings. Evidently it is, and that's saddening me the most.

If we had a brother in distress, say sitting on the roof of his house after a hurricane waiting for help to arrive, or for that matter buried under the rubble of his house waiting for somebody to pull him out before he breathes his last, would we not want to help him?

We care less if our youthful fling of 10 years ago was a success or not. We do not want to know whether the sums of our lives are worth living or not. We do not want to be bothered about the future of the country. We live in an era of indifference, apathy, and complacency.

But what's more of our children's play compared to our two large projects. As more and more of our St. Olaf has planned to go its own wind turbines, which will be operational in 2005 and will provide a share of their energy. An additional project, and one that our school should be proud and showered by, is the computer. Their school projects have found gigantic and a computer, one that can handle up to a ter- port day and 14 days later produce valuable information as it can tolerate. Two...