

editorial

Give your support to African relief

Hunger in Africa is a topic that Americans have heard a lot about during the past year. Newspapers and magazines have carried a succession of stories about the need for food aid to help relieve famine victims in Africa. On television, scenes of human misery in places like Ethiopia and Sudan have become commonplace as aid organizations seek donations, and news stations show footage of refugees searching for a place to find food.

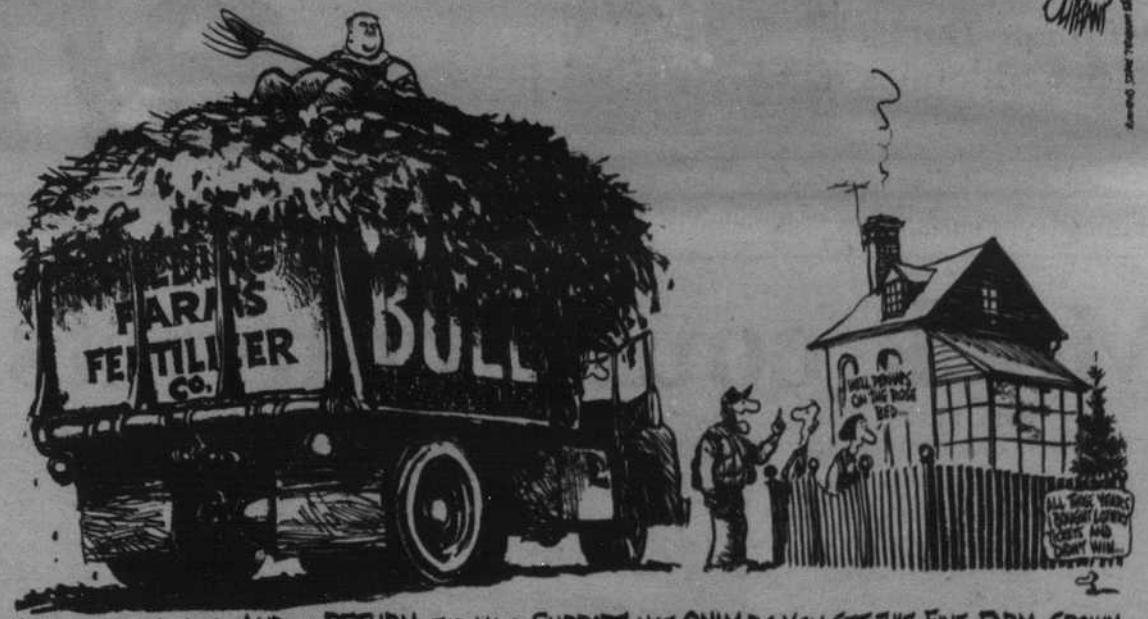
Faced with such a crisis, many Americans have been left stunned as they try to comprehend what starvation means. Many become overwhelmed by what they see and hear about the victims of starvation. Some people have been overcome by a sense of helplessness, brought about by the feeling that nothing can be done for the 10 million people now facing hunger and starvation in Ethiopia.

But something can be done, and in a small but extremely important way, University students are doing it. Groups like the International Studies Association, the Foreign Students Organization, the EMU Cultural Forum, sororities, fraternities and others have all joined in campus efforts to aid famine victims in Africa. We should be proud of these groups, and of those individuals who have contributed their time and money to such an important cause. As a University, we should continue to do as much as we can to educate ourselves about the problems of hunger in the world, and to support famine relief and indigenous efforts at grassroots development in places like Africa.

One aid organization that deserves all of our support is Oxfam America. Unlike many government-sponsored aid organizations, Oxfam supports indigenous programs in underdeveloped nations aimed at growing more food, obtaining better health services, and strengthening economic self-reliance at the grass-roots level. They have especially focused on the needs of women, many of whom are the poorest of the world's poor.

During the current African Relief Week on campus, we all have a chance to contribute towards Oxfam and their ongoing efforts to bring assistance to the world's poor. When you pass by the Oxfam table in the EMU lobby, give whatever donation you can afford. Furthermore, learn about the problem of hunger in Africa and elsewhere by attending the educational events being held as part of African Relief Week. On Saturday, there will be a benefit dance at the W.O.W. Hall, located at West 8th Avenue and Lincoln Street. Two bands, Shumba and the Balafones, will be there to provide good dancing music, with the proceeds from the event going towards an important and urgent cause: famine relief in Africa.

There are many reasons for poverty and hunger in the world today. Social, political, economic and natural events all play their part. But we do not live in a world that is fated to hunger and starvation. On the contrary, with advancements in technology and science made during the past two centuries, humankind is in a position as never before to eradicate starvation from the planet. Solutions to the problems of economic distribution and political cooperation between nations will not come overnight. It will take years of joint international effort to work through our social differences for the common good of all people. But technology has provided humanity with the ability to achieve abundance on all levels: food, clothing, housing, medicine etc. We must now find a way to share this abundance, placing human need beyond profit motives and political objectives. A good way to start is by taking the time to learn about the issue of world hunger, and by supporting African Relief Week to help those for whom tomorrow may be a day too late.



'AND - LISTEN TO THIS - AND, IN RETURN FOR YOUR SUPPORT, NOT ONLY DO YOU GET THIS FINE, FARM-GROWN FERTILIZER, BUT YOU ALSO GET, ABSOLUTELY FREE, AN ED MEESE TO SHOVEL IT FOR YOU! IMAGINE!'

letters

Strong case

I believe I should elaborate that an overwhelming case for the passage of the Community Right-to-Know Bill was built during the public testimony, which the Emerald did not stay to cover in its story (ODE, Feb. 20). Over 20 different people, including toxic victims, citizens of communities with toxic waste dumps, medical and health agencies, and groups such as OSPIRG and Oregon Fair Share built an alarmingly strong case in favor of the passage of this bill.

A few examples: Morris Sweet, a toxic victim from Molalla, Oregon developed lung damage as a result of exposure to Pentaclorophenol used to treat lumber where he worked.

Paul Pather, a railroad worker in Troutdale developed cancer of the bladder due to the use of 245-D, 245-T, and diesel oil to kill blackberry vines forty feet from the sides of the tracks. The first two chemicals are the active ingredients in Agent Orange, a chemical which injured numerous American servicemen during the Vietnam War.

Finally, Dr. Phillip Levec, a physician and toxicologist from Molalla claimed to have diagnosed some 40-45 cases of pentaclorophenol poisoning in the Molalla area alone, a number which he believes is the largest in the world. Levec referred to numerous cases in which toxic victims were told by ignorant doctors that their problem was "psychological"

or that it did not exist at all.

These are but a few of many cases. It is clear from such testimony that a Community Right to Know Bill should be passed.

Sean Nelson
OSPIRG

Far enough?

The Women's Referral and Resource Service obviously hasn't pushed you far enough, Vince Adams (ODE, Feb. 22). Your knee-jerk response to the pornography display indicates that a lot more work, which you call "women crap," is needed.

While you may have a strong case against the displaying of pornography in the EMU lobby, name calling and attempting to degrade the work of the WRRS is hardly the way to get your point across. I find your disclosure about reading Playboy and your argument about juvenile exposure to pornography quite interesting. Pornography is all around us, on movie advertisements, billboards, and in magazines. Those magazines are often found at very low levels in grocery stores, drug stores, etc. Any curious child has ample access to pornography in our society. And while the connection between consumption of pornography and sexual assault is continually denied, it is children who often suffer the brutal consequences of this connection.

Hiding porn magazines between the spring and the mattress doesn't change the fact that pornography has violent implications, particularly for women and children. People are shocked and revolted to see pornography displayed in the full light of day, but it is an aspect of our darker side that needs exposure. Condemning the WRRS for exposing what exists only contributes to the continuing unwillingness of socie-

ty to deal with this important issue.

Pat Dixon
Eugene

Clean killing

It strikes me as strange that when the Marines, the smallest of the Department of Defense armed forces, puts up a recruiting table in the EMU, everyone of the radical chic persuasion raises holy hell about it. But when the Navy trucks in a big, blue tractor-trailer, plunks it down beside Friendly Hall, and keeps churning its motors to maintain an air-conditioned and sophisticated recruiting station, no one bats an eyelash.

Maybe students like the idea of killing the neat and clean Navy and Air Force way: thunder from offshore eight and sixteen-inch naval guns; the latter which, in a single salvo, can blast an entire square kilometer free of the enemy, rice paddies, desert villages, dogs, cows, and children. Better yet, witness the magnificent aria, as Randy Floyd called it, of an air strike by Navy fighter-bombers; their graceful peregrine dives followed by lovely orange and black blossoms. Or best of all, watch a B-52 strip-bombing mission. Picture the air crews from miles high, safe, clean, and above all else so serenely disassociated from what they do, silently raining thousands of bombs, eradicating square miles of earth.

How clean it is, being able to kill so indiscriminately, miles away without having to face your enemy or your actions. But let's not worry about that. Those big, bad Marines kill the old-fashioned, dirty-handed way, and we just can't have all that mess lying about. So let's kick those crew cut Prussians off the campus, right?

Michael Peterson
Graduate
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oregon daily emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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