

Students fast to fight famine

■ The 30-hour World Vision drive held at the YWCA benefits hungry people all over the world

By Brian Goodell
Oregon Daily Emerald

University students will join young people all over the country who will be going without food for 30 hours this weekend to help fight hunger and poverty. The money raised from the fast will go to World Vision, an international Christian relief and development agency.

"The effect one individual can have on so many others is what I think would motivate a student to participate in the 30-hour famine," World Vision Public Relations Associate Yvonne Bennett said. "I see this as an opportunity for young people all over the world to make a

difference in the world and make a difference in themselves."

Participants in the hunger strike will hold a vigil at the campus YWCA house in an effort to raise money and get a better understanding of what it feels like to go without food for an extended period of time.

"We're doing this to help students identify with people who live without food on a regular basis," YWCA volunteer India Jensen said. "As a world, we need to help each other more."

Funds raised during the ninth annual hunger strike will be used in Rwanda, Kenya, North Korea, Tanzania, Peru and the United States.

Last year, more than 600,000 students across the country raised \$8 million through sponsor pledges. Similar World Vision efforts worldwide involved more than 1.2 million students in 21 countries, who

collectively raised more than \$22 million to fight hunger. World Vision hopes to raise more than \$9 million in pledges from the United States this year.

"Fifty cents a day can feed a child in Africa who doesn't have a chance to make money," Bennett said. "A simple 30 hours can provide enough food for a number of people for months."

Diana Sakai, a graduate student in planning, public policy and management, said there are plenty of opportunities for students to help out in the cause if they do not feel comfortable going without food for 30 hours.

"People can sponsor a participant, help out in the cleanup or just show up at the YWCA for support," Sakai said. "This is just one of many ways to get involved and make a difference."

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Piven forum

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bilize and influence Congress to support their profit-based interests.

"Well, they've had their run of the country for years and they've done a lot of harm," she said. "The good news is that a lot of Americans are beginning to notice, and I believe we're on the cusp of a new movement for justice."

Another panelist, Kate Barry, director of the Women in Transition program at Lane Community College, said recent welfare reforms have significantly decreased poor women's access to education, a proven boost to higher-paying and secure jobs.

She said five years ago 65 percent of her program participants, who are predominately low-income working mothers, were receiving welfare benefits to help with school expenses. Today, less than 5 percent of such women are enrolled in her program.

"Reducing welfare rolls and eliminating poverty are two very different things," she said.

ESSN has promoted events and grassroots activities since 1989, and, according to organizer Lisa McCormack, Thursday's panel was but the first of many planned



Francis Fox Piven addresses economic and social justice issues at a forum Thursday.

forums to discuss economic issues particular to Lane County in the coming months.

"We hope to get the momentum going and start to really work on

these things," she said. "Knowledge of the consequences of labor and welfare reform will help us make the issues more visible to the community."

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Saturday, February 26th.
146 Straub Hall.
6 pm.

Hitchhikers 47 min. Color. Hebrew with English subtitles. On his way to Tel Aviv, Yehezkel picks up three hitchhikers — an orthodox soldier, a free-spirited young woman and an Israeli Arab. Each traveler is representative of different segments of Israeli society today in a most poignant and humorous way. Explicit Language

Song of the Siren 91 min. Color. Hebrew with English Subtitles. Thirty-two-year-old Talila is preoccupied with her love life and couldn't possibly care less about the wailing sirens that pierce Tel Aviv skies nightly during the Gulf War. This film is playful, mature and full of sass. * There will be a 15 minute intermission.

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