

# Ethiopian Air Force bombs civilians

by Robert Lothian

Two African aid experts with Portland-based Mercy Corps International, speaking in Portland last week, said that while drought and structural economic problems such as lack of market roads are causing starvation in the rest of Africa, in Ethiopia people are dying because of politics.

"That's Ethiopia today," said Terry R. Norr, an economist who has spent 12 years working on various African relief projects and who was recently in Ethiopia.

Norr said Ethiopia's Marxist government, which is fighting rebels in four northern provinces, is denying aid to those provinces, and bombing starving villagers as they flee to neighboring Sudan, which is friendly to the U.S.

"The policy of the Ethiopian government is to starve those people to death. . . . or into submission," he said. "The lack of rain has played into the hands of the government."

Fred S. Gregory, director of overseas operations for Mercy Corps., recently accompanied a truck convoy carrying aid from Sudan into the con-

tested province of Tigre. He brought back slides of refugees fleeing to camps in Sudan, lured by the promise of food.

"They walk out village by village and then come together in larger groups," he said, sometimes walking for weeks and camping under trees during the day to avoid being bombed by the Ethiopian Air Force.

"Sudan itself is besieged by drought," but carries the brunt of the refugees who are leaving Ethiopia at the rate of about 4,000 per day, said Gregory. His slides showed the pitiful camps along the border which have offered refuge to over 1 million Ethiopians.

"Refugee camps are the worst way to go," he said. "Our job is to try to get food into Ethiopia, to try and stem the tide, so that people can stay at home."

Norr said that in the northern province of Eritrea, once an Italian colony and where a secession movement has fought a lingering guerilla war for 25 years, 2 million people are affected by the famine and of those, 750,000 could die soon. In Tigre province, 200,000

have died since September, he said. About 60 percent of the country's population lies outside the reach of government-sanctioned relief efforts because they live in contested areas, according to Norr.

Ethiopia's problems are exacerbated by religion, he continued. Christians who live in the highlands and Moslems who live in the lowlands have fought for centuries. Also, he said, most of Ethiopia's 43 million people live at least ten miles from one of the country's few roads, which means they can't easily get their crops to market. The basic structure for a market system that could help alleviate some of the problems doesn't exist, and that is the kind of aid Ethiopia and other African countries desperately need, said Norr.

Norr neglected to list among Ethiopia's current problems, however, the Reagan Administration's admitted neglect of the starving, even though administration officials knew about the problem two years ago, because Ethiopia has a Marxist government.

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## Housing study commissioned

The Portland Community Housing Resource Board Inc. (CHRB) has been awarded a \$55,000 "New Horizons Housing Opportunity" grant by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to study the issues of fair housing in the city of Portland, Multnomah County and State of Oregon.

The award, one of fifteen granted nation-wide, will be used to develop a task force, representing both the public and private sectors, which will examine the barriers to equal housing opportunity and develop a comprehensive strategy plan to eliminate those barriers.

The "New Horizons Program" reflects the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's emphasis on public/private sector sectors, which will examine the barriers to equal housing opportunity and de-

velop a comprehensive strategy plan to eliminate those barriers.

The "New Horizons Program" reflects the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's emphasis on public/private sector cooperation in the area of fair housing.

"The New Horizons Program affords us the opportunity to stand back and take another look at the issues of housing discrimination and the housing opportunities available to the protected classes," said LeRoy Patton, CHRB chairman.

"It will also allow us to determine what we are doing right and where we can make improvements," Patton added.

The program will last 18 months and is a continuation of the resource board's work in the area of fair housing. The resource board is a six-year old private, non-profit organization.



Chef Schmidt of the Riverside Country Club gives children from the Reading Tree a tour of one of his kitchens. Chef Schmidt will cook the spaghetti dinner for the Feb. 15 Reading Tree Benefit. Dinner will be served from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church, N.E. 15th and Knott. Donations: \$3.00/person; children under 12, \$1.50 each.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Exhibit on Black women to grace state capitol galleries

State Representative Margaret Carter announced today that "Black Women: Achievement Against All the Odds," an exhibit on Black women and their contributions to American history, culture and society will open at the State Capitol galleries on March 4 at noon, and be followed by a reception hosted by the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs. Ribbon cutting ceremonies will be by Rep. Carter and Delores Atiyeh, wife of Oregon Governor Victor Atiyeh.

The exhibition, which will be on display until March 27, contains a set of 20 graphic posters produced by the Smithsonian Institution, Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES). The special event will acquaint viewers at the Capitol with 120 Black women representing over 200 years of achievement

in business, science and math, medicine, literature, music, art, entertainment, sports, education, civil rights, religion and other areas.

Included in the exhibition will also be historical artifacts, photographs, and news items covering contributions to Oregon and the nation. Examples of women featured are Beatrice Morrow Cannady, a graduate of Northwestern College of Law in 1922, and Harriet Tubman.

"Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds" is made possible through funding from the Portland Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, grants from the Little and Phillips families, and the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs.

## Youth Employment Institute now accepting applications

Located at 1704 N.E. 26th, the Youth Employment Institute will begin accepting applications immediately. Economically disadvantaged High School drop-outs, between the ages of 16 and 21, are encouraged to pick up an application at the office, or call 280-1058.

The Youth Employment Institute offers eligible youth GED preparation and basic skill upgrading, as well as job-search skills training. In addition, the Youth Employment Institute can, in some cases, offer one-the-job-

training positions.

The Youth Employment Institute represents an expansion of the Portland Private Industry Council's youth-oriented programs. The Youth Employment Institute will operate throughout the year, complementing the historic, intensive summer youth program operated by the Portland Private Industry Council.

Interested youth, parents, organizations and individuals should visit the Youth Employment Institute's office or call 280-1058.

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