

casserole

a supplement section
of the gateway

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Once more Casserole has undergone a change of editors. Hopefully yours truly will survive longer than the others. Please, no Molotov cocktails in my front window.

Winston Gereluk, columnist of renown with The Gateway, joins the growing ranks of Casserole staffers with a rather surprising revelation of what is happening in Ethiopia.

Centre-spread this week takes a look at Crossroads Africa, and relates the experiences of two who ventured into the Dark Continent last summer.

The arts pages welcome new staffer Stephen Scobie and old staffer W. W. P. Burns. Leona Gom takes a swipe at Cold Mountain Institutes and Holger Petersen (yes, we finally found room for you!) reappears with his music column.

Plans are in the offing for more gastronomically pleasing Casseroles in the next harried months, and any kind of feedback or volunteer help is going to be snatched at with the desperation of a starving man.

Lion of Lions governs

By WINSTON GERELUK

About 45 people gathered in SUB 142 to hear Hago Yesus disclose his version of the truth about his homeland, Ethiopia.

Hago is supposed to be completing a Ph.D. at Dalhousie, but is at present spending most of his time trying to inform students on Canadian campuses of the atrocious conditions in Ethiopia, "not by accident one of the world's least known countries." The truth about his country, he claims, is being kept from us by a "conspiracy of sciences perpetuated by the criminal regime of Emperor Haile Selassie."

Haile Selassie, he went on, is "one of the most ruthless tyrants that the world has ever seen." This 'Lion of Lions' heads a theocracy and a feudal land aristocracy.

CHURCH AIDS OPPRESSION

A large part of the ideological basis of Selassie's rule is provided by the powerful Ethiopian Coptic Church, an organization which has supposedly made Ethiopia a "Christian island in a Moslem sea." According to an edict of this

behalf of God", and therefore, to question him would be to question the omnipotence of God himself. With the Church's blessing, "God's own will is being effected by the most barbaric and oppressive of regimes."

Over 95 per cent of the people who inhabit Ethiopia's 25,000,000 square miles are serfs tied to land which is controlled by three groups. Roughly 1/3 is owned directly and free of tax by the clergy of the Church. Another portion is owned directly by the royal house to which Selassie belongs. Finally, the last 1/3 is owned by about 200 feudal lords. As a point of interest, a 'liberal' law which was recently passed exhorts them not to take more than 75 per cent of the produce from the peasants under them.

PEASANTS LIVE IN DESTITUTION

This means that peasants must eke out an existence from 25 per cent of what they produce, and even this fraction is depleted by a multitude of 'specialized taxes'.

The lot of the peasant is a life of absolute destitution. Over 90 per cent of the Ethiopian people are completely il-

literate "a necessity in a system which survives only through the ignorance of the needy." Only 3 per cent of the total population ever go to school; only 10 per cent of these ever enter college.

According to UN statistics, Yesus said, the per capita income of Ethiopians is \$35 which, low as it is, is misleading because the calculation includes the yearly income of the very rich.

LIFE SPAN: 31 YEARS

The average life-span in Ethiopia is 31 years, "according to which standard", quipped Hago, "I should have been dead two years ago." Finally, according to WHO statistics, 60 per cent of the babies born in Ethiopia never live to see their second year.

"In the midst of absolute misery, this degradation, you have the opulence of the ruling class living in absolute luxury," added Yesus. "They are the toast of socialites the world over."

The government chooses carefully the services it provides the peasants. There are 317 doctors in Ethiopia; but 75 per cent of them are stationed in Addis Abba (the capital) and a few other



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For application forms, employment information and interview appointment please contact:

Canada Manpower Center, 4th Floor, Students' Union Building

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Edmonton Public School Board	November 10, 14
Deloitte, Plender, Haskins & Sells	November 12, 13
Gulf Oil Canada Limited	November 12, 13, 14
Texaco Canada Limited	November 12, 13
Texaco Exploration Company	November 12, 13
Arthur Andersen & Company	November 13, 14
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