

**CINEPLEX ODEON AND PLITT THEATRES**  
 \$3.00 BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6 PM AT SELECTED THEATRES CHECK SHOWTIMES

<b>POST OAK THREE</b> 1500 Harvey Road 693-2796	<b>CINEMA THREE</b> 315 College Ave. 693-2796
Her Alibi pg 7:10 9:20	The Fly II r 7:15 9:15
The Burbs pg 7:00 9:15	Harry Crumb pg-13 7:20
Bill & Ted pg 7:20 9:30	Tap pg-13 9:10
	True Believer r 7:00 9:05

**SCHULMAN THEATRES**

AFTERNOON TIMES LISTED BELOW ARE FOR SAT & SUN ONLY

2.50 ADMISSION  
 1. Any Show Before 6 PM  
 2. Tuesday - All Seats  
 3. Mon.-Wed. - Local Students With Current IDs  
 4. Thur.-KORA "Over 30 night"

<b>SCHULMAN 6</b> 2002 E. 29th 775-2463	<b>PLAZA 3</b> 226 Southwest Pkwy. 693-2457
THE ACCIDENTAL TOURIST PG 7:30 9:30	RAINMAN R 2:00 7:00
PHYSICAL EVIDENCE R 4:30 6:30	BEACHES PG-13 2:15 7:10
BIRD PG 2:15 7:15	THREE FUGITIVES PG 2:10 7:20
	MANOR EAST 3 4:30 6:45
<b>\$ DOLLAR DAYS \$</b>	<b>MANOR EAST MALL</b> 823-8300
BIG R 2:30 7:10	MISSISSIPPI BURNING R 2:00 7:05
SCROOGED R 2:15 7:05	COUSINS R 2:15 7:15
DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDREL PG-13 2:10 7:00	ANGELIC LIASON R 2:15 7:30

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 FEBRUARY 20, 1989 7:30 PM  
 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT RUDDER BOX OFFICE 6:45pm \$2.00 w/TAMU ID  
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 TYNE DALY • DANIEL VALDEZ as Henry Reyna

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**GE Supply Distribution Management Program**

Interviewing May 1989 Business and Industrial Distribution Graduates

Wednesday 2/22 (8:30 & 4:30)  
 Thursday 2/23

Reception to be held Tuesday, February 21 at 7 p.m. in the College Station Hilton

All students interested in a Distribution Mgmt. Career with General Electric are invited to attend. Students not on interviewing schedule are encouraged to bring resume and complete an application. For more info please call Tony Datessandro, (713) 939-5265

# '5,000 people died one day...'

## Former Ethiopian revolutionary remembers struggle for freedom

By Sharon Maberry  
 STAFF WRITER

Revolution, persecution and starvation are not simply newspaper headlines, but a tragic episode in the life of at least one Texas A&M student.

A first-year A&M veterinary student was forced to flee his country or face prison and probable death.

Ayalew Mekonnen, 32, spent most of his life in Ethiopia with his family. The third child of eight, he lived in central Ethiopia until he was 13. He then went to live with his uncle in northern Ethiopia where he graduated from high school. Following graduation, Mekonnen lived in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, until a bloody revolution forced him to flee his country.

In 1979, Ethiopia's monarch of forty years, Hileselasse, was deposed by a military regime.

"They said they wanted to change the system," Mekonnen said. "They said that they were representing the people, but they really came from different military groups throughout the country, including police, army, air force and marines."

In the beginning, about 10 members of the regime held the real power, Mekonnen said.

"It was a revolution," he said. "People were demonstrating, asking for economic, social and political change. Every part of the society wanted change. It was a kind of chaos. Peasants were asking for land, workers wanted higher wages and students and teachers wanted reforms. The whole society was demonstrating against the system."

In an effort to quell demonstrators, the military resorted to force.

"That's when so many people were killed (by government offi-

cial)," he said. "Five thousand people died one day in one demonstration in Addis Ababa."

As open opposition of the government became more dangerous, underground organizations began forming. Workers, students, teachers and women started organizing and Mekonnen joined in.

"When a society is deprived of its rights, it creates its own organizations to practice those rights," Mekonnen said. "In America, you can say whatever you want. But we couldn't do that in my country."

The government responded with imprisonment, torture and murder of the protestors.

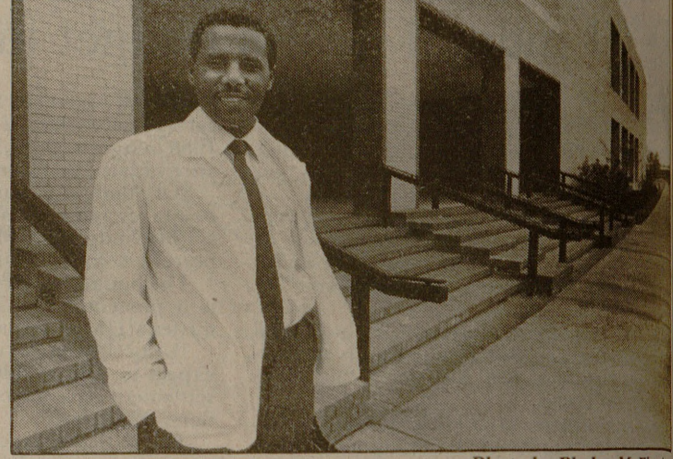
"I had three close friends imprisoned," Mekonnen said. "Two of them were beaten so badly in prison that they had scars all over their bodies. I was shocked to see that. One of them was in prison for about six months and they killed him."

Shortly thereafter, a friend of Mekonnen was coming to visit him. During the 26-mile walk, he joined another traveler and began discussing Ethiopia's plight. Mekonnen's friend told the stranger about some underground activities in an effort to win the man over for the cause.

However, the traveler was a government official and upon reaching Mekonnen's city, his friend was imprisoned. When he was tortured, he gave officials more information about government dissenters, including Mekonnen's involvement.

Through various connections, Mekonnen heard that the government soon would be coming for him.

"I knew then that I would be next and I would go to prison," he said. "I fled, although I didn't know where to go. I stayed in hiding for two days until a friend arranged for me to go where people wouldn't know me."



Ayalew Mekonnen, a former political subversive, now is a student in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Mekonnen traveled by bus and walked for eight hours to reach his destination. When he finally located the man with whom he was to stay, he said he had received no message, so Mekonnen stayed in a nearby hotel.

The message about Mekonnen came the next day and the man brought him to his home. Mekonnen stayed with him for five days, during which two other government dissenters joined them.

On the fifth day, a rainstorm washed out the roads and several military troops were forced to stay in the village. While there, they became suspicious of Mekonnen and his companions.

"That evening, the guy we were staying with told us we were in trouble and we had to get out," Mekonnen said. "But there was nowhere to go. We started at about 8 p.m. and walked through a rainstorm almost

until morning when we reached a place where a friend's relative lived. They were surprised to see us. We were wet, tired and hungry.

"We stayed there for two days. They didn't want to tell us we were going, but they were very poor and nothing to offer us. We didn't have anything."

On the second day, Mekonnen and his two friends disguised themselves as peasants and waited for a man who was to take them to another safe place. But the weather had caused the man to flood before the man could reach Mekonnen.

"The people we were staying with said we could go another two days journey and stay with someone for at least four months until the rains subsided," Mekonnen said. "We had no choice."

When the men arrived at

## Graduation in 4 years becomes less common

By Sherri Roberts  
 STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M tradition says students become "dead zips" upon reaching the fourth year of their college education. However, more than a few seniors are prolonging life at college beyond a four-year degree plan.

Although the actual statistics will not be available until later this year, many University officials agree the number of undergraduates who take more than four years to graduate is increasing.

"As a rule, students are taking longer to graduate," Daniel Orozco, assistant director of the Placement Center, said. "The trend is four-and-a-half to five years."

Orozco said reasons for the trend vary among students.

Students involved in the cooperative education program often take longer than four years to graduate, he said. The program requires students to include in their degree plan three semesters of work experience at a company related to their career interest.

Because of the difficulty of their curriculum, many students prefer to take fewer hours per semester than the number required to graduate in four years, he said.

William Von Gonten, professor and head of the petroleum engineering department, said students enrolled in the College of Engineering receive undergraduate degrees in an average of four-and-a-half years.

In order to graduate in four years, students must complete at least 18 hours each semester. Because the courses they take are demanding, many engineering stu-

dents take fewer than 18 hours a semester in order to maintain a good grade-point ratio, he said.

Orozco said students often choose to take fewer hours a semester because they work or want to devote time to extracurricular activities.

In general, recruiters do not look negatively upon students who have taken more than four years to graduate, he said. Most prefer to hire these students if they have been involved in extracurricular activities, rather than students with little extracurricular involvement who are graduating in four years, he said. Often prospective employers feel students who have been involved in extracurricular activities will be more likely to adjust to their company than those who have not, he said.

Orozco said graduation is delayed for some because they take classes outside of their curriculum requirements.

Paul Parrish, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said students who have been exposed to a wide variety of curricula often are perceived as being well-rounded by potential employers.

"Professionals in a variety of fields say students with a wide background are better for it," he said.

Parrish said the attitude of students has shifted from the attitude of many students who attended college in the 1960s and 1970s. Whereas many individuals of the past two decades attended college for vocational and practical careers purposes, many current students perceive college as being more than a training ground for a particular vocation, he said.

## In Advance

Cavalry travels to Houston for rodeo, parade

The Parsons Mounted Cavalry will travel to Houston this weekend to participate in the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo parade and grand entry.

Thirty-five cadets, 26 horses, two mules, the wagon and the cannon will participate in the 10 a.m. parade Saturday through downtown Houston on Main Street.

"The Washington parade was fun, but parades are more fun in Texas," Matt Lindsey, a senior member of the Cavalry, said. "They know how to have them."

Eleven mounted riders also will

be participating in the grand entry of the rodeo in the Astrodome Sunday at 4 p.m.

The cadets will have Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning free to enjoy the livestock show exhibits.

"It's always a fun trip," Lindsey said. "There will be a lot of Aggies there and a lot of horses."

The Bryan-College Station "Go Texan" Committee is helping the Cavalry raise the \$500 needed for transportation. The parade and grand entry will be televised by Houston television stations and can be seen locally on cable.

## Phone line provides financial aid information

The Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators can help students in search of information about scholarships, loans, grants, part-time jobs and other options to pay for college.

On Feb. 18 and 19, the association will have its third annual Paying for College Information Line. People can call 1-800-253-8989 for toll-free financial aid information from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Educators learn about needs of gifted children

The 1989 Conference for Early Childhood Educators, "Unlocking Giftedness in Young Children," is being held today and Saturday in the MSC and Rudder Tower.

The conference will begin tonight with a reception for participants including performances by the Kim Family String Quartet and Inagination String.

Dr. Nancy Robinson, director of the Center for the Study of Capable Youth at the University of Washington, will be the keynote speaker at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Robinson will speak on matching the needs of gifted children with their instruction.

Workshops will be offered for teachers, administrators and parents on identifying ability in gifted children and planning curriculum to aid social and emotional development.

The conference is sponsored by Texas A&M's Institute for the Gifted and Talented and the Education Service Center, Region VI in Huntsville. For more information, contact Dr. Patricia Haensly at 845-1802.

**MSC CAMERA GENERAL MEETING**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1989 7:00 P.M. 146 MSC  
 Special Guest: Tony Rydzewski will speak on the visual art of photography. He is a graduate of the L.A. College of Design and a photographer for Texas A&M. All members of the TAMU community are invited to attend.