

Coeur d'Alene Press, The (ID)

A little girl shall lead them

Anne Frank exhibit a learning experience for all generations

LYNN BERK Staff writer

Published: October 19, 2006

COEUR d'ALENE - In the years following the Holocaust, **as** the words she scribbled in hiding gradually came to light, Anne Frank would become an enduring symbol of the Holocaust. But **as** the monthlong program presented by the Human Rights Education Institute in North Idaho emphasizes, the genocide by the Nazis was not the first, the last, or the only. It went on before. It's going on now.

"When I was growing up, we were so horrified by the Holocaust," said Mary Lou Reed, the Institute's program director.

"But since then, we've had **a** number of situations where genocide took place. Even with the United Nations, it's been hard to intervene and control."

The exhibit, "Anne Frank: **A** Private Photo Album" - including 70 black-and-white photographs see EXHIBIT, C9

from C1

taken by Otto Frank of his daughters, Anne and Margo - is on special loan from The Anne Frank Center USA in New York City. The free presentation can be viewed at the Human Rights Education Center adjacent to Coeur d'Alene Park on the southwest corner of Northwest Boulevard and West Mullan Road.

At 7 p.m. Thursday, Whitworth College psychology professor Dr. James Waller will speak on "How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Killing." But, said Reed, Waller's focus isn't on the German residents who turned **a** blind eye to the "factories" belching out human remains on their bucolic countrysides.

It focuses, instead, on the present.

"I was intrigued by Coeur d'Alene School District Superintendent Harry Amend's remark that Anne Frank's story is one of the things that connects between generations," Reed said. "Most of the parents of school children today have read 'The Diary of Anne Frank,' and it's an experience they share.

"But we don't want to look at the past **as** much **as** we want to look at the genocide and atrocities going on right now," she added. "We want people to talk about, and read about, what's going on in the world today."

For **a** month, the Institute will put the spotlight on horrors past, present and future. Next Thursday, on Oct. 26, **a** movie and discussion will focus on "Invisible Children: Discover the Unseen," **a** documentary about the effects of **a** 20-year-long war on the children of northern Uganda.

A speakers panel at 7 p.m. Nov. 2 will examine the lessons of the Holocaust, with Spokane resident and Holocaust survivor Eva Lassman included in the discussion; while another panel at 7 p.m. on Nov. 9 will examine the ongoing issues in the Middle East.

"(Institute president) Michelle Fink and I leapt at the opportunity to bring this exhibit here with the help of our sister group in Boise," Reed said.

"This is the sort of thing we've wanted to do from the beginning. The opportunity chose us, is what Michelle has been saying, and it's marvelous to be able to cooperate with our sister group."

Anne Frank's story still resonates, Reed said, because she kept a diary, she wanted to be a writer, and she was an ordinary **little girl** in extraordinary circumstances.

"Eighth-graders and middle school students through the generations have identified with her. It's important to identify with individual stories rather than the broad figure of 6 million Jews," Reed said.

"The ability to connect with someone very much like you is a marvelous introduction to teenagers to the genocide then, and the genocide now, and to ask **them**, "What are we going to do about it?"

"What are you going to do about it?"

Michelle Fink helps set up chairs at the Human Rights Education Institute in preparation for "Anne Frank: **A Private Photo Album**" Wednesday.

JASON HUNT/Press

Infobox

· "Anne Frank: **A Private Photo Album**," on exhibit today through Nov. 18 in the Human Rights Education Center, 414 W. Mullan, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday; and 10a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Special evening programs throughout. (208) 292-2359.

Copyright, 2006, The Coeur d'Alene Press. All Rights Reserved.