

Decay threatens remains of concentration camp

OSWIECIM, Poland (AP) — If the masses of human hair turn matted and the piles of inmates' shoes fall apart, museum conservators wonder how future generations will know the horror of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Alarmed by the worsening condition of the barracks, gas chambers, crematoria and archives of victims' belongings, a team of Western specialists has volunteered to map out a preservation effort that could cost up to \$40 million.

The Culture Ministry of the new non-Communist Polish government also has formed a commission to change the 35-year-old museum exhibition, which highlights the Soviet

Curators fear future generations will forget horrors

army's liberation of the camp but mentions the Holocaust only in passing.

"If nothing is done, in 10 to 20 years, this site will be practically nonexistent," Frank Reiss, vice president of the New York-based Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, said. "It is falling apart. It is in urgent need of repair."

The foundation struck an agreement with the government-run museum to provide technical advice and raise funds for the preservation. It sent a team of experts, including

the chief conservator from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, to assess the damage in December.

"The tens of thousands of pairs of shoes ... if you touch them, they fall to dust," Reiss said. "The ruins of the gas chambers ... they have to be preserved — but as ruins, not put back together Hollywood style."

Nazi Germany built the Auschwitz concentration camp and the adjacent Birkenau death camp in southern Poland to carry out Adolf Hitler's "Final Solution." Estimates of the number of people killed there

range to 4 million, mostly Jews from across Europe. Victims also included Gypsies, homosexuals and political prisoners.

Partly demolished as the Red Army approached, Auschwitz was liberated on Jan. 27, 1945. The camp remains much as it was left: the sign reading in German "Work Makes You Free" above the gates, the train tracks bisecting the vast expanse of Birkenau and ending feet from its destroyed crematoria.

Inside a brick barracks at Auschwitz is a museum exhibit opened in

the mid-1950s. The masses of hair, piles of shoes and mounds of eyeglasses, artificial limbs, suitcases and baby clothes give the human toll a vivid dimension.

The museum staff, headed by former inmate Kazimierz Smolen, has struggled with the beautifying effect of ever-growing grass, the soothing sound of birds singing and the government's limited resources to maintain the camp's hellish authenticity.

It is left largely to the silent testimony of the names on the suitcases and a separate, less-visited exhibit

supported by foreign Jewish groups to remind visitors that the camp existed mainly to exterminate Jews.

The Polish and international teams face difficult conservation problems, such as how to preserve barracks built by inmate laborers. "We cannot just replace the barracks with new timber or strengthen the roofs with concrete, as they tell us later that we have falsified all," Marszalek-Mlynarczyk said.

Pollution and a rainy climate make things worse, Smolen said.

Still, there is no imminent danger to the artifacts, the museum director said. His staff of 175 already has a preservation program in place, though with limited funds.

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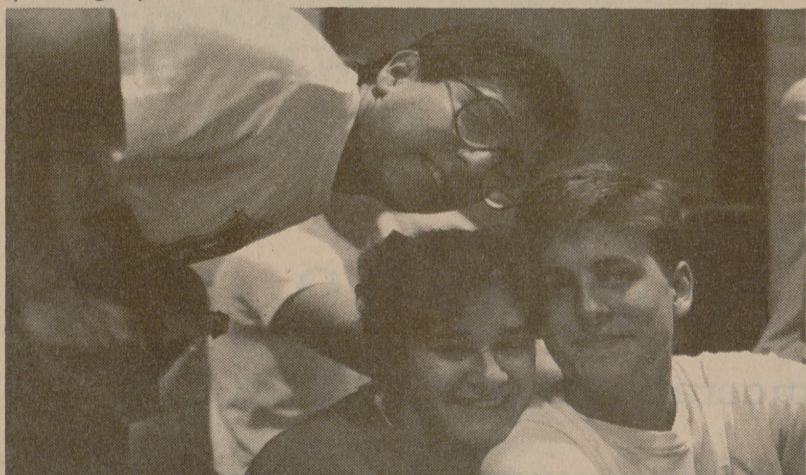
Rec Sports needs a student with artistic ability to provide drawings, cartoons, flyer artwork, and t-shirt designs. Applications will be taken through Feb. 19 in 159 Read. For more information call P.J. Miller at 845-2302.

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Don't miss the Rockets vs. Lakers Tuesday, March 6, 1990

Leave your keys at home and ride a chartered bus to the Summit in Houston, Texas, to see the Houston Rockets take on the L.A. Lakers. Tickets are \$22.

Ticket price includes round trip transportation via B/C.S. Charters (depart Read Bldg. at 4:30) and game tickets. Trip is open to students, faculty, staff, spouses, and a limit of one guest each. All dependants must be accompanied by parent. Sign up by March 2 in 159 Read, or call Carrieann or Holly at 845-7826 for more information.

Acknowledgements: McDonald's Rec Sports Highlights is sponsored by your local McDonald's Restaurant at University Drive, Manor East Mall, Hwy 21, Texas Ave. at SW Parkway and Post Oak Mall. This ad is a creation of Mark Figart and P.J. Miller, cartoons are by Paul Irwin and photographs are by Rec Sports photographers.

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Tired of the same old Spring Break vacation? Sure, everybody loves the beach, but why not get away to the mountains, see some of the most beautiful scenery in North America, and share a meaningful experience with nine other participants who, like yourself, are seeking new adventure. We'll begin our journey from Presidio on the border, where we'll take a bus to Chihuahua, Mexico. From there it's the famous "Train Ride in the Sky," the Chihuahua/Pacific Railway known to many as the Eighth Wonder of the World. Our Indian guide (interpreter will be on hand to answer your questions) will lead us in our descent into Copper Canyon, where we'll camp and backpack three or four days in this beautiful wilderness of the Sierra Madre Mountains.

TAMU Outdoors sponsors camping trips, kayak workshops, backpacking excursions, as well as other programs for rock climbers, scuba divers, and general outdoor enthusiasts. All programs are conducted by experienced personnel, and offer participants an opportunity for personal growth through challenge and group fellowship.

Registration opens February 5th for:

	Date	Rating*	Fee**
Rock Climbing Clinic	Feb. 24	B	\$15/10
Mountain Bike Day Trip	Feb. 25	B/1	\$6
Rock Climbing, Hueco Tanks	March 10-18	B/1	232/245
Canoe Big Bend	March 10-18	B/1	235/250
Backpacking Copper Canyon	March 10-18	B/1	399/425

Registration opens February 12th for:

Canoe Day Trip	March 3	B	\$25/30
Backpacking Trip	March 2-4	B	\$25/30

*B=Beginner, I= Intermediate

**Second price is for non-A&M participants

All registration for TAMU Outdoors is taken in 159 Read. For more information, call Patsy Greiner at 845-7826.

CLUB NOTES

The TAMU Women's Polo Team fared well at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins February 10, overtaking the Bulldogs 12-5. The men's team was defeated 13-5. The women's team is seeded #1 going into the Central Regionals in Katy, Tx. March 1-4, while the men are ranked #2 in the Southeast Regionals at the University of Virginia March 15-18.

REC SPORTS WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY February 19	TUESDAY February 20	WEDNESDAY February 21	THURSDAY February 22	FRIDAY February 23	SATURDAY February 24	SUNDAY February 25
	Entries Close: Preseason Softball Softball Free Throw Horseshoe Singles	Preseason Softball Brackets Posted, 3 pm	Softball Captain's Meeting 5:30 pm, 701 Rudder	Entries Open: Penberthy Softball Tournament Horseshoe Singles Brackets Posted, 1 pm		