

April 16, 1996
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THE BATTALION

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A&M remembers Holocaust

By Marissa Alanis
 THE BATTALION

As part of an effort to recognize the survivors and the estimated 5.1 million Jews who died in the Holocaust, Israel has created an international calendar day known as Holocaust Remembrance.

Established in the 1950s, Yomha-Shoah, the Hebrew name for Holocaust Remembrance, takes place midway between Passover and Israel Independence Day on April 16.

In observance of Holocaust Remembrance, Texas A&M's Campus Ministry Association and Interdisciplinary Academic program sponsored a two-part series Monday and Tuesday. The series included presentations about the Holocaust, a reading of victims' names and a multi-denominational Holocaust service at A&M Presbyterian Church.

Emilio Rendon, an educational and instructional curriculum assistant lecturer, spoke at the presentation titled, "Three Scholars Face the Holocaust,"

Monday night at the MSC.

While teaching at Harlandale High School in San Antonio, Rendon noticed that only half of a page of literature was devoted to the Holocaust in a history book.

This triggered Rendon to focus on telling his students about the Holocaust in a way they would appreciate and understand.

Rendon said students think the Holocaust was a Jewish problem, but in essence, it was a human problem because human beings had judged themselves to be superior over others.

Rendon recalled that at one Holocaust seminar at Harlandale, he noticed students with swastikas drawn on their blue jeans and books because they thought it was cool. But, he said, they were ignorant of the fact that the symbol stood for oppression and murder.

Jay Locey, a professor in the Baylor English department and lecturer at the presentation, offered the viewpoints of four Holocaust survivors, such as Eli Wizzell.

Locey said Wizzell treated his writings about his imprisonment at the Auschwitz concentration camp in a subjective manner with a raw emotional intensity that is devastating for the reader and Wizzell.

Locey said the central concern in documenting the Holocaust experience is that a language barrier must be dealt with to accurately describe the experience.

David Myers, an associate professor of English, spoke about the Holocaust Denial Movement that emerged in the late 1970s with published books that claim the Holocaust was a hoax.

"It is a deliberate misrepresentation of fact in order to deprive Jews a major portion of their history," Myers said.

In August 1994, Myers discovered at least a dozen Holocaust denial books at Sterling C. Evans Library and tried to have them removed.

After negotiations, the library reclassified the books into the category of Holocaust Eras and Inventions.

"No reputable library would hold books disputing the historical existence of slavery," Myers said. "But when it turns to the question of debate whether or not the Holocaust existed, some libraries think these books ought to be represented, which is due to latent anti-Semitism."

Myers said latent anti-Semitism is the secret suspicion that Jews are liars and are involved in a world conspiracy with their partner, the U.S. government.

Myers said the intentions of the Holocaust Denial Movement is to call into justification the state of Israel.

Holocaust victims who were deported to the concentration camp of Terezin from Vienna had their names read Tuesday at noon in front of Rudder Fountain.

Myers said that since a third generation has emerged since the Holocaust, people must attempt to fix the rupture in human values that it created.

"Our responsibility as post-Holocaust human beings is to somehow mend that rupture," he said.



Gwendolyn Struve THE BATTALION
 Karen Hild, a student from Hearne High School, plays a young Jewish survivor of a concentration camp during the Holocaust.

Muster week arrives at A&M

By Courtney Walker
 THE BATTALION

Each year on April 21, Texas A&M current and former students pack themselves into a candle-lit G. Rollie White Coliseum to honor those who have died during the past year.

This year's Muster is the 50th year anniversary of the 1946 muster on Corregidor Island during World War II.

Members of the Student Government Muster Committee are already preparing for the sacred Muster tradition.

Information tables will be set up this week in the Kleberg Center, the Commons, Wehner Building, the MSC and the Zachry Engineering Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for students who have questions about the Muster ceremony.

Along with information tables throughout campus, an Aggie Muster Reception and slide show will be presented at 6 p.m. in 292B MSC.

Muster Committee members are offering the reception this year to let people know more about the spirit of Muster.

Dr. Lee Phillips, Class of '53, will be the keynote speaker for the reception and was also the speaker at last year's Muster ceremony. Phillips will talk about what current students have in common with the Class of '46.

Susan Ayotte, a Muster Committee subchair and sophomore marketing major, said she was amazed that many fifth-year seniors do not know what Muster is about.

"They may know about it or may have heard about Muster through Fish Camp or T-camp, but are more concerned with academics and don't

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Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

READY, AIM, FIRE

Nicole Sitz, a senior history major, aims at a target in her archery class.

See GSC, Page 5

Ebola kills monkey

The virus outbreak is not a threat to humans

ALICE, Texas (AP) — Looking to erase dramatic images of a widespread outbreak, health officials Tuesday said the Ebola virus that claimed two monkeys at a primate center posed virtually no threat to humans.

"Nobody's sick. There's not a big outbreak of something," said Dr. Pierre Rollin, chief of the special pathogens branch for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Rollin, a top Ebola expert who has studied the infection's deadly strain in Africa, acknowledged

human infection was not impossible but said it has never occurred with the particular strain that was diagnosed at the Texas Primate Center.

The virus killed one monkey and caused another to be euthanized at the South Texas breeding facility, which provides primates to researchers worldwide. An additional 98 monkeys, which were among a shipment that arrived March 21 from the Philippines, remained quarantined and were being tested.

Federal, state and local officials stressed Tuesday that the Texas strain poses no similar threat to the more lethal strain of Ebola, which infected 316 people and killed 245 last year in the central African nation of Zaire. Earlier this year, at least 13 people died from Ebola in Gabon in western Africa.

To make the case, state Health Commissioner David Smith said rabies and tuberculosis were more serious health threats.

"These are issues that are far more concerning to us," he said.

Class travels tough course

Permanent A&M courses must be thoroughly reviewed

By Lisa Johnson
 THE BATTALION

The gay and lesbian literature course, currently a temporary course offering, will go before the Faculty Senate at its May meeting.

If the Senate approves the course, the English Department would need only the approval of Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, to become a permanent course offering.

Linda Lacey, director of Academic Support Services, said the course will be available as a permanent course cross-listed as English 333 and Women's Studies 333 for Fall 1997 if approved by the Faculty Senate and Bowen.

Jeanette Phariss, assistant provost and academic vice president, said the selection process for permanent courses is detailed. She said each course is reviewed at several levels within its department and college before it is considered by the administration.

"Any course that makes it through this selection process is thoroughly reviewed," she said. "On each decision, there is lots of input by both faculty and students."

"That's one of the best things about A&M's selection process. We don't just pick up a course and decide to teach it tomorrow."

Courses are first reviewed by the departments within the respective college. If it is deemed a viable course at that level, it progresses to the department head and then on to the college's curriculum committee.

The college dean must give approval before the course is given to Lacey's office, where the appropriate information is filed with the University's curriculum committee.

It then progresses to the Academic Programs Council and to the Faculty Senate.

Before the course is presented to the Academic

See Course, Page 7

GSC reviews day care decision

By Lily Aguilar
 THE BATTALION

The Graduate Student Council voted Tuesday night to continue to seat members on the Day Care Advisory Committee, despite debate to remove graduate students from the committee to send a strong message to administrators.

The GSC voted two weeks ago to support University-sponsored child care, but the organization refused to support use of the Grenada Building located at 1 Research Park.

Stephni Moore, former GSC

president and graduate meteorology student, said her experience on the advisory committee has been frustrating.

She said she has been chastised by committee members for publicly stating her disapproval for measures the committee has made.

Moore said she did not think the committee paid attention to her suggestions and that many decisions already seem to be made.

Amy Kardell, a graduate sociology major, said students need to let the University know they do not support the direc-

tion child care on campus is heading. She said participation on the advisory committee might be equated with support of all committee decisions.

Kardell said the committee has ignored past graduate student members and suggested students attend as vocal, non-voting members.

"I think this is an ill-fated idea that we will regret getting into," Kardell said. "If you believe in something, you should act on it."

"I think this is a good chance for the graduate student body to

Groovin' with words

By Eleanor Colvin
 THE BATTALION

As if Texas A&M students do not have enough to master in required English and foreign language courses, slang is another language that students must stay on top of to show that they are all that.

The resurgence of valley girl-type phrases, such as *as if* and *hell-o*, used in recent movies like *Clueless*, and more hip-hop sayings, such as *all that*, show that although slang varies among groups, its usage is fairly universal.

A&M linguistics professors describe slang as a specialized vocabulary that students use to define groups and establish solidarity among peers.

Noelle Newby, a senior English major, said she thinks slang unifies the individuals that use it.

"Sometimes if groups of people differ in terms of race, gen-

der or where they're from," she said, "you may not understand what they're talking about because of different ways they describe the same things."

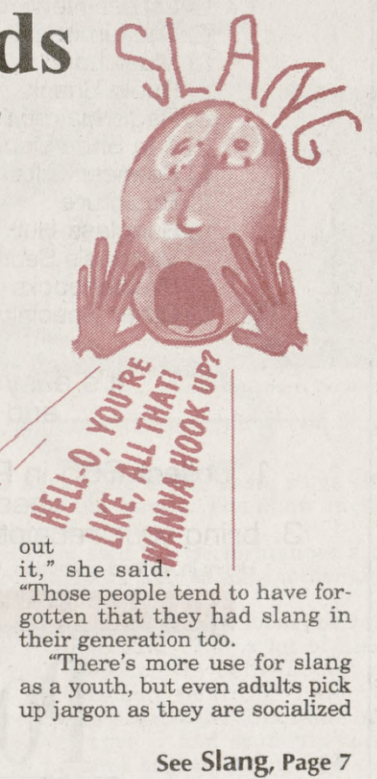
The differences in ways A&M students refer to sexual intercourse, attractive members of the opposite sex, or having fun illustrate the range of slang Newby describes.

On the A&M campus attractive students, or those who have it going on, are thought to be *tight*, *hot* and *all that*, among other things.

The multiple meaning of words such as *tight*, which can be good or bad, reflect the complexity and evolution of slang.

Dr. Barbara Johnstone, a professor of linguistics, said the unique uses of slang show that slang is not a mindless and sloppy choice of words, but a useful means of communication.

"Lots of people think that since slang is not used in formal settings, we could do with-



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