

NEWS
BRIEFS

Holocaust survivor shares war story

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Sol Wachsberg told students how he survived the Holocaust and of his experiences beginning as a 14-year-old boy in a Jewish concentration camp in Germany Tuesday on the Texas A&M campus.

As a 72-year-old resident of Houston, Wachsberg said his survival hinged upon his youth and his movement from camp to camp.

"I had an advantage because I was a 14-year-old teenager," Wachsberg said. "Those people who were married and had families broke down at the very first. And I made 11 different camps and this may have been the reason that I have survived."

Wachsberg said the Germans launched their initial attack when he was 13 years old living with his family in Poland, only a few miles from the German border.

"The Germans bombed our

towns and we had casualties in the first hours of the war," Wachsberg said. "The Germans overrun us immediately. They were the most ruthless people on earth. They were murderers with no feelings inside."

Wachsberg entered his first camp in 1940, where he said he faced freezing weather and near starvation.

"Many of us worked on the streets and worked for Germans," Wachsberg said. "We waited seven and eight hours to get a half a loaf of bread in zero-degree temperatures."

Wachsberg's next move was to the concentration camp at Auschwitz and a year later to an adjacent camp at Bobreck, where he remained from 1941 to 1942. He said the conditions varied from camp to camp but most were overcrowded, unsanitary and ridden with dysentery and typhus.

"During the 53 months I was in concentration camps, I moved to transition camps where I could get

a little better before I faced the next," Wachsberg said. "In one of the camps, if you wanted to go to the bathroom, then you had to go with only your shoes and no clothes. You might have to walk one-quarter to one-half a mile."

The camp at Faulbrik did not have any sanitary facilities and was crowded with more than 8,000 people, Wachsberg said.

"The camp was one very long building with one bathroom," Wachsberg said. "We couldn't wash ourselves, but there were hundreds who did not even get up in the mornings. They had died the night before."

Allen Wayne, a Holocaust survivor and a Houston resident, joined Wachsberg to answer questions from the audience.

Wayne said he spent time in six concentration camps and a work camp.

"We were not treated as people in the camps," Wayne said. "Every-

one had a number and they were called by their number."

Wayne entered the concentration camps at age 9 and said he survived at Auschwitz because his father and brother lifted him up a few inches off the ground when the guard made the inspection.

"I told the guard I was 15 and he passed me by," Wayne said. "You were disposed of, shot to death, hanged or beaten if you were not needed. What I can't understand is how some of the most enlightened people in Europe could stoop to such bestiality."

Dr. Arnold Kramer, an A&M history professor, said he has worked to bring in speakers of history during his 24 years at the University.

"I think history is a living subject," Kramer said. "I am a firm believer that if you can find people who experience things that it's important to learn first hand to ask questions and to turn back the clock. The students



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Sol Wachsberg, a Holocaust survivor, speaks Tuesday to students. can't get this from a history book."

Kristin Lodholz, a student in Kramer's history 106 class and a freshman education major, said hearing Holocaust survivors speak provides a new perspective on history.

"Reading about what somebody went through and hearing a person

A&M bestows 1998 Diversity Awards

Texas A&M University paid tribute Tuesday in the 1998 Diversity Awards ceremony to members of campus community who are showing understanding and the rejection of diversity.

The provost's office recognized by Amato, computer science professor, L.S. "Skip" Fletcher, mechanical engineering professor and then Stark, educational administration professor, for their efforts. Also recognized were the Department of Animal Science and the Mays College & Graduate School of Business.

The Department of Multicultural Studies presented the following individuals and organizations with awards — undergraduate Tamara Davis; business graduate student Shom Davis; and Donna Larche, support staff member. In the Center for Academic Engagement; Sallie Sheppard, associate provost for undergraduate programs; and Mary Broussard, coordinator of special programs, of the associate provost for undergraduate programs.

High school to host feline health lectures

Old wives' tales aside, cats are born with nine lives. They fall prey to a wide range of ailments, from stress to brain tumors.

To help feline health professionals meet such health care challenges, the College of Veterinary Medicine is sponsoring its annual Feline Medicine Symposium Saturday and Sunday.

The college will host the symposium as part of its Veterinary Continuing Education Program.

Veterinarians who attend will receive 10 hours of continuing education credit.

The symposium is made possible through the support of Cook Veterinary Products, Inc. Tuition for the symposium is \$235.

Former student donates scholarship

An \$11,000 scholarship with the Hatching College of Agriculture Development Council funds has been donated to Texas A&M University.

Bob and Margaret Palm of Nacogdoches are providing the scholarship to students in the Department of Botany Science. Bob Palm is the service president for Pilgrim's Pride Corporation and a 1965 graduate of Texas A&M.

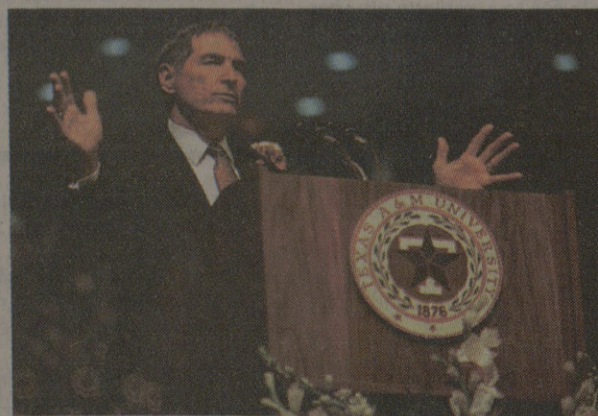
"We wanted to give more than just a name," Palm said.

Time is something that the Palms definitely given to A&M. Last year, they were named Texas A&M Students of the Year.

Far Right: Heather Teel, Class of '99, holds a candle for Devi Jean Spencer, Class of '68.

Right: Gene Stallings, Class of '57, gives the Muster address in Reed Arena last night.

Below: The Ross Volunteers fire volleys after the lighting of the candles.



MUSTER '98



Photos by: Ryan Rogers & Brandon Bolom

Students celebrate Earth Day at A&M

By KELLY HACKWORTH
Staff writer

Today marks the national celebration of Earth Day and several events are planned at Texas A&M this week to celebrate.

Joanne Skidmore, president of the Texas Environmental Action Coalition (TEAC) and a senior bio-environmental sciences major said many events are planned to celebrate Earth Day Week.

Events include a performance by Darryl Purpose, a nationally recognized folk singer and acoustic guitar player, on Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rudder Fountain.

Thursday activities include exhibitors such as the Animal Humane Society, Aggie Zoological Society, Habitat for Humanity and Aggie Democrats. Artwork from a local school with drawings of the spirit of recycling will also be displayed.

Saturday is the State Beach Cleanup sponsored by Gary Mauro, Texas land commissioner. TEAC and Environmental Issues Committee (EIC) members will travel to Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston to participate.

Also on Saturday, the Brazos Valley community will celebrate Earth Day with a free

Earth Day '98 festival at Simpson Drill Field from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festival will take place at the end of the field near the All-Faiths Chapel. More than 25 exhibitors with different activities for children of all ages are planned.

The festival is cosponsored by the Texas Environmental Action Coalition and College Station Baha'i Community with assistance from the Friends Just Peace Institute. Other sponsors include the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Kinko's Copies and Cafe Eccell.

Ande Bloom, coordinator for the Earth Day festival, said the festival provides an opportunity for the community to express its concerns about the environment with one voice.

"There are a lot of things we can individually do, but there's even more when a group of 2,000 people are all working toward a better environment," she said.

Dr. Mike Manson, TEAC faculty advisor, said it's important to keep the environment in mind.

"We want people to keep things off the back burner and realize these are ongoing issues which require constant vigilance."

The rain date for Saturday's event is May 2 at the Texas A&M Archery Fields (next to the Bonfire site).



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Hackworth soundtrack offers something new in rap music, provides decent background beats.

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A&M Baseball Team Cougars to 10th inning loses 9-7.

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Airlines must take steps in debate over in-flight smoking.

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online

http://battalion.tamu.edu Look up with state and national news through The Wire, AP's 24-hour online news service.

Derby Days to kick off

Sigma Chi sponsors event to benefit Brazos County

By KELLY HACKWORTH
Staff writer

The 22nd annual Derby Days sponsored by the Sigma Chi fraternity benefiting the Children's Miracle Network and The Brazos Food Bank begins tomorrow.

Each participating Texas A&M sorority brings 200 canned goods to benefit the Brazos Food Bank.

Adam Bitner, member of Sigma Chi and a senior industrial distribution major, is one of the "Derby Daddies," the coordinators of the event. He said the best part of Derby Days is that the money raised for Children's Miracle Network stays in Brazos County. This year's Derby Days is expected to bring in \$8,000, Bitner said. Sigma Chi also donates \$100 to each participating

sorority, he said.

"The fact that all money stays local and helps those in Brazos County is great," he said. "The sororities are all working toward a common goal and doing well for the community also."

The event begins with the Queen's Entrance and Queen Interviews at the Sigma Chi house on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. with a kickoff party at Barracuda Bar beginning at 8 p.m. Friday night events include skit night at Hurricane Harry's with a concert following. The sorority banner contest will also be on Friday with judging at 3 p.m. on sorority row.

Saturday is game day beginning at 2 p.m. at the Sigma Chi house. An awards party will follow at 9 p.m. at the Tap.

Sororities are given a certain number of

PLEASE SEE DERBY ON PAGE 6.

Undercover operations attempt to curtail alcohol use in minors

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Minors purchased alcohol with the consent of the College Station Police Department, in the latest undercover operations designed to deter alcohol sales to individuals under the legal drinking age of 21.

Major Mason Newton, the officer coordinating the programs, said there is a need for continued efforts to combat alcohol and "loud party" problems within College Station, after the program ended last September.

"It's evident that we need to keep checking with the stores and bars," Newton said. "We need to make sure that stores and bars maintain compliance with the law. We found out that a majority of the violations are minors who are getting

the alcohol from their older friends."

People of age to buy alcohol who give alcohol to a minor may receive a fine of up to \$500. Newton said the problem is of concern to law enforcement agencies but was a secondary concern in the recent programs, which targeted monitoring alcohol sales at College Station alcohol retail stores and bars.

"There are a lot of bar tenders and store owners that do a real good job (on alcohol sales enforcement)," said Newton.

Three high school students and three college students under 18 participated in the program and accompanied the undercover police into the local bars and alcohol retail stores to attempt to purchase alcohol.

Of 186 attempts made by these volunteer

PLEASE SEE ALCOHOL ON PAGE 6.