

Aggielife

A Time for Sacrifice Jewish observe Yom Kippur

BY TRAVIS IRBY
The Battalion

Few people want to miss a meal and even fewer want to go without food for an entire day. Jewish students make these sacrifices when they celebrate Yom Kippur.

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish year, when everyone is an equal and shares in the same experience.

Yom Kippur is the end of the 10-day period known as Teshuvah — the high holidays — which starts with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.

Like Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur has to do with forgiveness and atonement.

While the holidays are closely related, Yom Kippur has its own unique practices.

A fast, involving no food, water, sex, work or bathing from Tuesday evening to Wednesday evening, is one practice of Yom Kippur.

The holiday starts with Kol Midri, a piece of religious music. At sundown Wednesday, the shofar, a ram's horn, is blown to signal the end of the fast.

Rabbi Peter Tarlow of Texas A&M Hillel said the fast has a humbling effect on its participants.

"When people get very tired without food or water for a day, it shows we're pretty weak little animals," Tarlow said.

While the fast exhibits followers' will to make sacrifices, another principle is at work — equality.

"Everyone is equal," Tarlow said. "It doesn't matter whether you are rich or poor, everyone suffers."

Marc Wolf, a junior accounting and finance major, said equality is an important aspect of fasting.

"The sacrifice of the fast puts everyone on the same plane," Wolf said.

Another purpose of Yom Kippur is to prepare followers for the Jewish New Year. During the holiday, the faithful reflect on the past year.

Wolf said this time of introspection provides a great service.

"Yom Kippur reminds you of all sins," Wolf said. "Once you realize and atone for those sins, it wipes the slate clean for the new year."

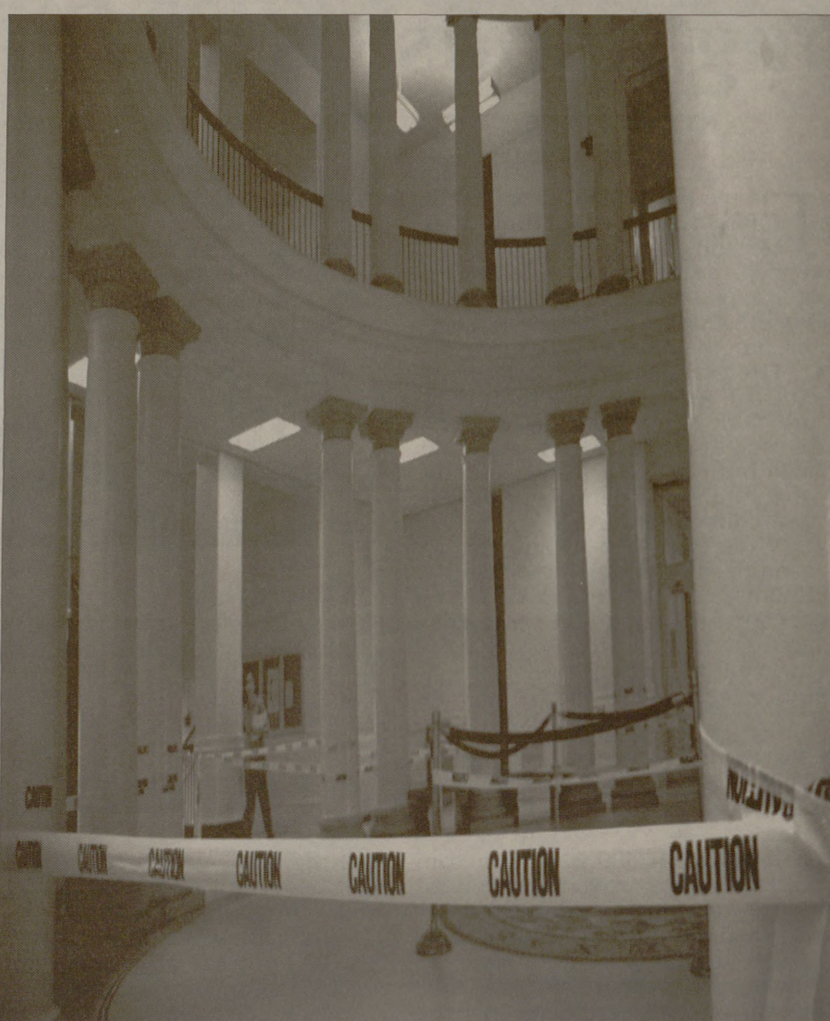
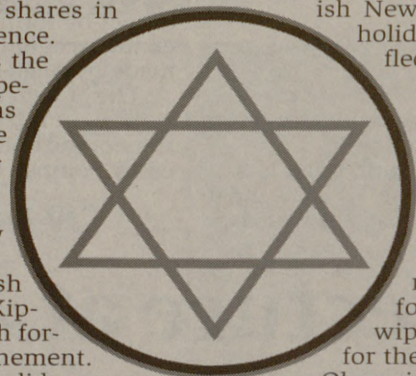
Observing the holiday can be difficult. Not only does the fast take its toll, missing school and work can also cause students to fall behind.

Mark Norton, a senior construction science major, said it is hard to keep the holiday in focus.

"It is difficult, because everything is going on," Norton said. "You're supposed to be concentrating on the day, but there are also tests and quizzes going on. You have to keep up and not fall behind."

Tarlow said the holiday gives people a different perspective.

"It says progress doesn't always mean better, and that in the grand scheme of things humans are pretty insignificant," Tarlow said.



The rotunda of the Academic Building has been cordoned off since a piece of the domes' stained glass fell down earlier this semester.

JAKE SCHRIKLING/THE BATTALION

REED ARENA

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Also, a larger basketball arena was needed with the demise of the Southwest Conference and the rise of the Big 12 Conference. Construction started August 1995 on West Campus next to the Student Recreation Center.

The general contract and construction cost was about \$32.2 million. Huber-Hunt & Nichols Inc. of Dallas was contracted for the construction. The architectural design of the new facility was contracted to Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam Inc. of Houston.

But in Spring '97, while Reed Arena was still under construction, a large crane fell and de-

ACADEMIC

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He sculpted other figures in United States history including the Alamo Heroes Cenotaph located in San Antonio.

The Academic Building has a rich history and holds a few surprises as well.

In 1970, a flag honoring the Aggies who served in World War I was found stuffed in a trash can during summer cleaning. It was later discovered that the flag had hung from the building for more than 20 years.

The flag was created by an official act of Congress in 1918, and hung from the Academic Building until 1943 when it fell to the floor and was damaged. Repairs on the flag were delayed and it was soon stored and forgotten.

The story of the flag may seem unbelievable at first, but when one takes into account all the hidden nooks and secret places that exist in the building, it is not a surprise after all.

The Silver Taps buglers hide in the dome of the building during the ceremony. The single dome of the Academic Building is actually one dome inside another. Between the outside and inside domes is a space accessible from a fifth floor window.

Both the window and the fifth floor itself are kept under lock and key. The floor was deemed unsafe because of poor lighting conditions and a lack of handrails on the stairway. The floor is unlocked only for Silver Taps and for maintenance.

destroyed sections of the arena. This delayed the opening of the arena by several months. Last December graduation ceremonies were to take place in the arena, but the delays prevented the ceremonies from being held in the arena.

The first event held in Reed Arena was Aggie Muster. Several concerts have taken place at Reed

In a 1996 *The Battalion* one Silver Taps team the dome is the perfect which to play Taps.

"It's an obvious play that is out of the for us to be heard and he said.

Although the idem Silver Taps team mem closely guarded secret ber inscribes his name of the inner dome at as ny. Names and dates each Silver Taps ceremon er Corps related symbol the inside of the wall. 19th An

As with all buildings its toll, and the landma Oct. 3 receives repairs from in a

For example, in 198 memorator was repaired after languages professor the Office door frame, which was of the G inches short of the formor, The professor was uncom 20 minutes and was his impor o celebr

The building also re side repairs in 1983. "Arch match the old stone with stone, the bricks were a process known as orga tion — the outside of the w during th

Recently a section stained glass from the and will be replaced Stained Glass. Altho have been problems m replacement glass to th the repairs should be next week.

Arena in the months opening, including R and Shania Twain.

Some look forward events.

Beverly Anderson, history major, said she forward to graduation.

"I'm looking forward ation in Reed Arena in person said. "I'm glad

WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES 1998 - 99 TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



Who's Who applications are now available for both undergraduate and graduate students in the following locations:

- Commandant's Office (Military Sciences Building)
- Student Programs Office (2nd floor MSC)
- Student Activities Office (125 John J. Koldus Building)
- Sterling C. Evans Library
- Office of Graduate Studies (125 Teague)
- Office of the Dean of each College
- Office of Graduate Studies (128 Teague)
- Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (10th floor Rudder)

Completed applications must be received by the Student Activities Office no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, October, 2 1998. They may be hand-carried to the Student Activities Office, sent through Campus Mail, or sent through U.S. Mail. (See application for addresses.) Questions may be addressed to Sandy Briens in Student Activities at 845-1133.

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