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CIDER HOUSE RULES (PG13)	THE NEXT BEST THING (PG13)
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Pope expresses remorse for Jews

JOHN PAUL II

"I have come to

... pay homage to

Jewish people who

the millions of

... were mur-

dered in the

Holocaust."

JERUSALEM (AP) - Standing before the ashes of death camp victims in the candlelit shadows of Israel's Holocaust memorial, a visibly moved Pope John Paul II told the Jewish people on Thursday that his church is "deeply saddened" by Christian persecution of Jews through the centuries.

The tribute in the drafty stone halls of the Yad Vashem Memorial was both historic and personal for a pope who lost

boyhood friends in the Nazi genocide. But it did not satisfy those looking for an apology from the leader of the world's 1 billion Roman Catholics for the church's official silence amidst the mass killing of Europe's Jews.

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The somber ceremony attended by Israeli officials, Holocaust survivors and Jewish friends from the pope's own hometown in Poland was punctuated by small, touching moments as well as grand gestures.

A Holocaust survivor greeting the pope began crying, and he gently patted her arm in consolation. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, his voice hoarse with emotion, at one point helped the frail pontiff from his chair and handed him his cane.

A letter from a Holocaust victim to her son, read out in Polish at the ceremony as John Paul followed intently, moved many to tears. In an anguished voice, a Jewish cantor sang a Prayer for the Martyrs. A police commander in uniform wept.

"I have come to Yad Vashem to pay homage to the millions of Jewish people who, stripped of everything, especially of their human dignity, were murdered in the Holocaust," John Paul said.

"As bishop of Rome and successor of the Apostle Peter, I assure the Jewish people that the Catholic Church, motivated by the Gospel law of truth and love, and by no political considerations, is deeply saddened by the hatred, acts of persecution and displays of anti-Semitism directed against the Jews by. Christians at any time and in any place," the pope said.

He said he hoped good would come from the bad and that followers of the two faiths would build a new future, based on their common roots.

Afterwards, Barak said John Paul had done more than any other church leader "to dress the bitter wounds that festered over many bitter centuries." The prime minister's grandparents perished in the Treblinka death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

"I think I can say, your Holiness, that your coming here today ... is a climax of this historic journey of healing," he said. "This very moment holds within it 2,000 years of history.

Still, many were frustrated at John Paul's refusal to assign blame to the Roman Catholic church hierarchy - in particular Pius XII, the World War II-era pontiff — for the church's failure to speak out against the Holocaust. The pope is one of the staunchest

defenders of Pius, who is being considered by the Vatican for beatification, a step before sainthood. The Vatican has said Pius did not know the extent of

Hitler's purges, and John Paul has called him "a great pope." Israel's chief rabbi, Israel Meir Lau, a Holocaust survivor, said he was disappointed that the pontiff did not mention Pius XII, "a pope who didn't say a word at a time when rivers of blood were streaming all over Europe."

"Pius XII didn't like us, he was silent. At least this pope is speaking out," said Jacov Silverstein, 75, wearing a black-andwhite-striped cap of concentration camp inmates. He was one of 20 Holocaust survivors at Yad Vashem during the pope's address. The hour at the Holocaust memorial was the emotional

highlight of his groundbreaking visit to the Jewish state and sealed his legacy of unprecedented activism to reconcile Catholics and Jews. However, at an interfaith gathering hosted by the pope later Thursday, it quickly became clear that religious harmony is still difficult to attain in the troubled Middle East.

Sci-fi surprise



Harlan Ellison, a science-fiction writer who contributed to orig nal "Star Trek" material, receives a gift from a fan at his boo signing at the MSC Thursday as part of AggieCon 31.



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At a time when crude prices have tripled from 1998 lows, the world's sixth-largest exporter has some of the industry's largest untapped oil fields. Community activists in the

some of that wealth for the impoverished region and stage frequent attacks against petroleum comes from Nigeria, and the

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) facilities, kidnapping workers Beneath the swamps where poor Nigerians eke out a living

Petroleum Corp. has warned it will fund a police unit authorized to shoot saboteurs on sight. But the government has also made vague promises of development money to appease restive communities.

Nigeria produces about 2 million barrels of oil a day, worth nearly \$17 billion last year. Roughly one-twelfth of the oil imported by the United States

country has proven reserves of and sabotaging pipelines. The state Nigerian National 25 billion barrels. Yet despite its oil wealth, years of corrupt military rule have left Nigeria one of the

world's 25 poorest nations. And the Delta, where most of the drilling occurs, is one of its poorest regions.

At least 35 people, including children, were killed Wednesday when a fire broke out while they were siphoning off gasoline in a remote part of southeastern Abia state

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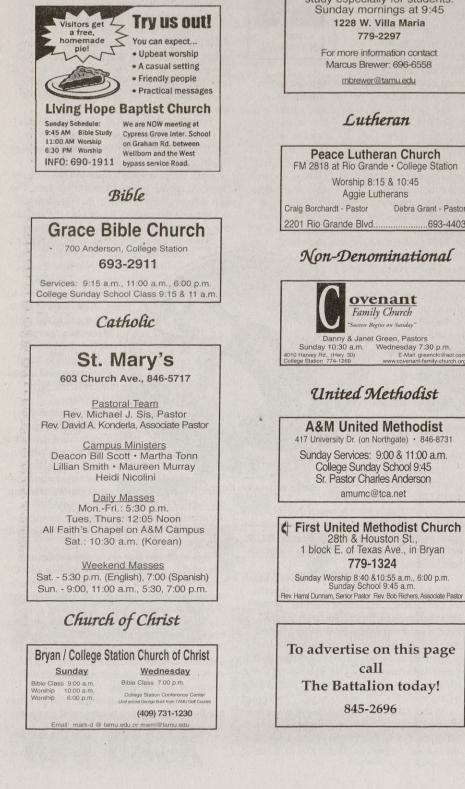


Assembly of God

Bethel Temple Assembly of God 2608 Villa Maria, Bryan 776-4835 Sunday Worship 8:30, 10:45, 6:00 pm College & Career Class Sun. 9:30 Randy Scott, Pastor

Baptist

Texas Avenue Baptist Church 3400 Texas Avenue South, C.S. ion of Deacon & Texas Ave.) 696-6000 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 4 p.m. Wednesday 7 p.m. Pastor Eric Do



Episcopal

St. Thomas Episcopal 906 George Bush Dr. • College Station, TX (Across from Duncan Dining Hall) Sunday services at 8:00, 9:00 and especially for late rising Ags, 11:15 a.m. Next door to Canterbury House

Free Will Baptist

Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church College & Career Class You are invited to a Bible study especially for students. Sunday mornings at 9:45

1228 W. Villa Maria 779-2297 For more information contact

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The Gay Transgender celebrating Texas A&M Week. March ognized as (is dedicated the GLBTA erance on ca Kent Car

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