

Holocaust

Speakers warn that event should be remembered

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"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." This quote by George Santayana summed up the purpose of a holocaust commemoration held last week.

Approximately 100 students, faculty, and visitors attended a program held at Houston Cole Library to commemorate the holocaust. The program included a French-made film about the prison camps and a student panel discussion of various components of the Nazi regime and prison camps.

The film, titled *Night and Fog*, included actual scenes of prisoners being deported to the prison camps, and also gave graphic evidence of the inhuman treatment which occurred in the camps themselves.

Paul Chassay, moderator of the student panel, said that the purpose of the program was to remind everyone of what actually took place.

"We want everybody to realize the horrible treatment of the Jewish

people," Chassay said. "We cannot allow a fanatic like Hitler to come to power again.

Greg Spoon, panel member, discussed the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche. According to Spoon this philosophy "came to life during the Nazi regime.

"Nietzsche's philosophy was against Judaism and Christianity," Spoon said.

"He believed that these religions made people like puppets with no free will. He said that the constraints of religion inhibit work and creativity...the racist ideas of the Nazis were derived from Nietzsche."

Spoon read the following quote from Nietzsche's work: "He who must be a creator in good and evil, verily he must first be a destroyer and break values into pieces.

Chassay discussed the lifestyle of the prisoners in the "death camps."

"The Nazis tested gases on them, attempted high altitude tests, experimented with freeze-drying to see if they would survive...the prisoners were infected with malaria...their

gold fillings were extracted and used for the benefit of the Nazis.

Chassay added that the prisoners' days consisted of labor from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., with a meal (usually a soup or mush) served only once a day.

Roy Williams, a student panel member who visited Dachau Concentration Camp near Munich last summer, shared his experience.

"When we first entered the parking lot, we met the parking lot attendant," Williams said. "He had been a prisoner at the camp some forty years ago.

Williams said the first part of the tour consisted of visiting a museum which depicted the development of Nazi power in Germany.

"We watched a film about the camp," he said. "The film was very traumatic because we were at the site where it happened."

"The crematory still had a bad odor," he said. "The fowl odor of burnt flesh still lingered."

"The bunkers were built to accommodate about 200 people, but 400 were crammed into one bunker,"

"Forty thousand survivors were found there during the camp's liberation," Williams said. "A camp built to hold 5,000 had held up to 600,000."

Steve Whitton, English professor, read several selections of poetry written by children at a "false camp, or a camp used to fool the world. These children lived in a ghetto of the camp Teretzen. The name of the book, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, is also the title of one of the children's poems.

Attending the program were three Jewish-Germans of the holocaust era. Greta and Rudy Kemp and Walter Israel, all now living in Anniston, agreed that the most important purpose of the program should be to understand the holocaust so that it will not happen again.

"I am one of the few who was one day ahead of the trains in 1942," Israel said. "I escaped through occupied land and went to the Netherlands.

The Kemps also managed to get out of Germany just in time.

"I lost 27 first cousins, uncles, and aunts," R. Kemp said. "I have no idea of where they went or how they died.

The Kemps are from a small border town, Emmerich on the Rhein. It is about half the size of Anniston. According to R. Kemp, who helped research what happened to Jews from this town, 92 Jews lived in Emmerich at the beginning of the war. Forty of these Jews, the Kemps among them, managed to get out. Five committed suicide; forty died in concentration camps, and only seven survived the camps.

Kemp was able to locate a Menorah (Jewish candelabra) which had been in the Emmerich Synagogue prior to Nazi occupation. Although he assumed everything had been burned, an Emmerich editor told him where he could find the menorah. The candelabra now rests at the Beth-El Synagogue in Anniston.

The holocaust commemoration began two years ago when Dr. Mark

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Fagan of the sociology department asked several instructors to help him organize the program.

"I feel like the program is very good," Israel said. "Young people should understand so that nothing like that can happen again. **The more people know about the holocaust, the more they will realize they cannot let it happen again.**"

Fagan said that a \$40 million United States museum for the Holocaust is currently under construction in Washington D.C. He plans to submit the literature from the Jacksonville State commemoration program to a state program being held April 27 in Montgomery; from there, the literature will be sent to the new

museum. Other members of the student panel included Arnie Nelson and Ellen Alexander. Gloria Helm read a paper titled, "The Ovens" about her experience when she toured the Dachau camp. Linda Cain, Librarian, compiled a list of reading selections, several of which were used for display.

Music was provided by Dr. Richard Armstrong, Mrs. Diane Armstrong, and Elizabeth Attinger, and included the traditional Jewish prayer for the dead, "Kaddish." Reverend Bob Ford, Baptist Campus Minister, gave a benediction in which he asked "may all of us aspire to the highest commitment to the best that man can offer."