



ALL HE COULD EAT — David O'Neill gives it his best shot during the third annual Pizza Eating contest in the Student Activities Center during Homecoming Week but to no avail — the contest was won by Pete Widel and Rudy Jauregui. (Photo by Beth Sherrard.)

Lecturer defends veracity of diary

By DAN MOYNIHAN

Dr. David J. Barnouw held a group of students and faculty entranced Oct. 5 as he defended the veracity of the diary of Anne Frank and the existence of the Holocaust against attacks by neo-Nazi and fascist groups who are trying to discredit the Holocaust in general and the diary in particular.

Having studied political science and modern history at the University of Amsterdam, Barnouw has been a researcher and staff member at the Netherlands State Institute for War Documentation for the last decade. The Institute deals with World War II and the German occupation of the Netherlands.

Barnouw began his lecture with background information on Holland, where Anne Frank lived, during World War II through the present. Barnouw explained how Nazi Germany invaded and conquered Holland, then began their ruthless persecution of the Jewish people who lived there. First, the Germans merely made the Jews fifth class citizens, then on Oct. 15, 1942, the Jews in the Netherlands were outlawed, rounded up, and sent to concentration camps where many of them died.

After remaining in a "secret annex" unobserved by the Nazis for a couple of years, the Franks and their hiding companions were discovered, arrested, and deported to concentration camps. Anne died about seven months later in

Bergen-Belsen concentration camp at the age of 15. Her diary was written during her stay in the annex in the Netherlands. Her father, Otto, was the only survivor of the Holocaust from the annex.

Late in 1980 after Otto Frank's death, the Institute became the new owner of the diary. In 1986, Barnouw published *The Diary of Anne Frank: The Critical Edition* with two colleagues in the Netherlands. This edition, which sold 20,000 in the first year, was translated into German, English, and French. After its publication, Barnouw gave lectures in the Netherlands, Germany, and the United States.

Although the diary has been under neo-Nazi criticism since 1957, the attacks on it have been increasing dramatically in the last decade. Barnouw said the reason people are working so hard to discredit the book is that this diary is many young people's first experience with Nazism. Critics hope that if the book can be proved fraudulent, perhaps people will more likely believe the Holocaust never happened.

Barnouw also explained how in modern Germany, neo-Nazis are being arrested and jailed for passing out pamphlets and other literature that implies or explicitly states that the Holocaust is a hoax. In Holland, usually a liberal nation when it comes to imprisonment (a life sentence typically means about 10 years before release), World War II Nazi war criminals are still in prison.

Student interest in politics growing as election nears

By JOHN WILLIAMS

With just a few weeks until the presidential election, student interest in the race between President Bush and Democratic contender Bill Clinton is keen, political observers said, belying the notion that young people don't care about government.

"There is more interest in this election than we've probably seen in the last three elections," said Ralph Baker, a political science professor at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

With the economy in the doldrums and issues such as abortion and the environment in the forefront of the campaign, this year's presidential election has captured the interest of thousands of colleges and university students, activists say, pointing to the number of young people who have registered to vote.

"Smart politicians are refocusing efforts on campus, especially to bring in a new and empowered electorate," said Mike Dolan, field director for California-based Rock the Vote, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that organized student voter registration drives nationwide. "The thematic reason is that the youth vote has become a target, a real opportunity for change."

The opportunity to register to vote for the Nov. 3 election is over in most states. However, representatives of several organizations that held voter registration

Flowers joins state council

Dr. Linda Flowers, professor of English and chair of the Department of English at North Carolina Wesleyan College, has been elected to a three-year term on the North Carolina Humanities Council (NCHC).

The NCHC is composed of 23 citizen volunteers and maintains an office in Greensboro. Through financial and technical assistance, the Council enables North Carolinians to develop public humanities programs in their own communities. The Council also conducts statewide projects. All programs sponsored by the Council offer an arena for dialogue which leads toward a great awareness of what it means to be human.

drives said they registered hundreds of thousands of students in time for the election, indicating that interest in the election is high.

Rock the Vote has registered 225,000 students as voters, Dolan said. Rock the Vote, based in Beverly Hills, was founded in 1990 by leading record labels and musicians in response to perceived threats to artistic expression. It was broadened to include registering the youth and getting them out to vote.

"Something is percolating on college campuses among the voters," Dolan said. "Young people are ready and eager to take back the system from the politics as usual."

The Center for Policy Alternatives and the National Civil League held a voter registration drive Oct. 1 at 44 colleges, community colleges, and universities. Although a final count hasn't been tabulated, some of the results included registering 4,300 students at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, 2,000 at the University of New Mexico, and 900 at the University of Colorado at Boulder, said Burck Smith, a program assistant for the center.

"I think there is a resurgence of youth interest in politics again. The issues are imposing," he said. "All the talk about the national debt weighs on our nation's youth. They look at the job market and there's not much available. College students say the environment and other issues are starting to hit home."

According to the latest Census Bureau figures available, 26

million men and women in the 18-24 age group are eligible to vote, and about 40 percent of this group is registered. In contrast, there are 40.7 million people ages 25 to 44 years, and 58 percent are registered to vote. The highest percentage of those registered to vote — 76 percent — are those age 65 years old and older.

"Students are less cynical, less than in the last four to eight years," Baker said. "They talk of change, but maybe they're putting too much hope in change. Maybe they are tired of the same people running the country."

The next step is to get registered voters to the polls, Dolan and Smith said. An ad hoc coalition made up of Rock the Vote, the Center for Policy Alternatives, the United States Student Association, the Americans for Democratic Action, and the Campus Green Vote is working on a plan to get out the vote.

Tony Zagotta, president of the College Republicans, said his group's registration drive was a success. College Republicans registered 10,000 students at Texas A&M, 500 students at Memphis State University in Tennessee, and 3,000 young people in Colorado.

"Both campaigns are reaching out to young people. There is anxiety about the future of our country," he said. "America is in a transitional period. This election will decide what path the U.S. will take into the 21st century."

The College Democrats have also registered thousands of students.

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