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Students memorialize a tragic time

Holocaust Education Week

By Paige Reinhard
STAFF WRITER

This week faculty, students and members of the community come together to remember those who survived and died during the Holocaust.

"It's awe-inspiring when you sit down and think about it," said Dndra Walker, senior history student.

One of the main events of Holocaust Education Week is the annual reading of Holocaust victims' names. The names were read Monday and Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the steps of Ramsey Library.

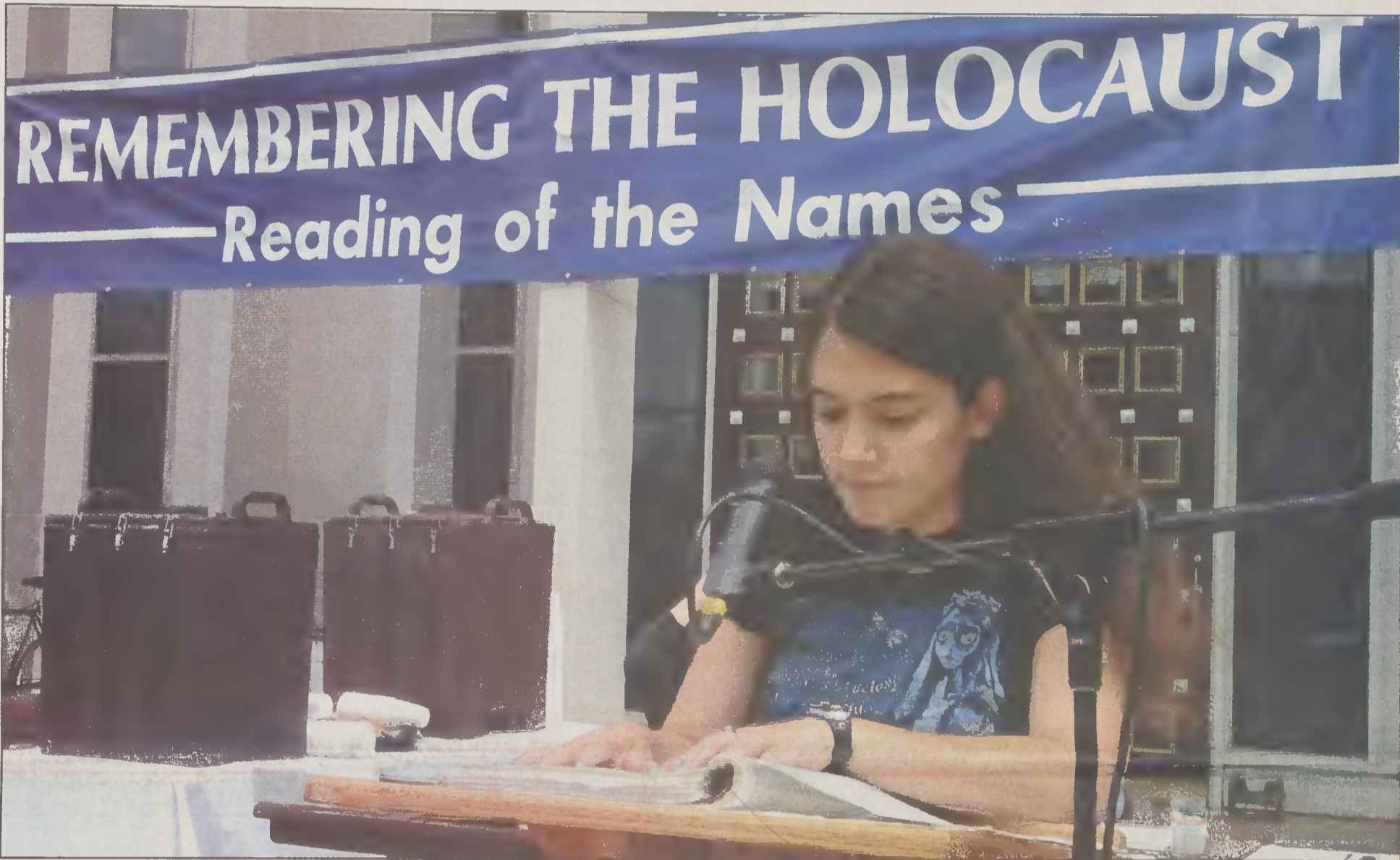
Some students say it takes time for the impact of the names to make an impression on them.

"Usually I'm kind of going somewhere so I hear it, but I don't register it," Walker said. "But when I have time to stop and listen to what they're doing and I think about it, it's kind of awe-inspiring to think of so many people that died."

Other students say they have had similar experiences during previous Holocaust Education Weeks.

"If you're just walking by and you hear a few names on your way to class or something, you don't feel that affected," said Jenna Ausbon, junior environmental science and Spanish student. "But then, after a few classes they're still reading it, and throughout the day they're still reading it."

The memorial puts names to what students are taught in their classes, according to Walker.



SHANNA ARNEY - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman student Erica Grabon reads the names of Holocaust victims from the steps of Ramsey Library Monday. The names were read Monday and Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Holocaust survivor Hal Marienthal also gave a lecture about his autobiography "Good Germans: A Child's Fateful Journey Through Hitler's Third Reich."

"You read about the people in books and what-not and you read about the history, but it's not the same when you hear the names of all these people that died," Walker said. The reading of the names is beneficial to students and branching out

this year might be affected more than anyone else, according to Ausbon.

"I think it's a good thing," Ausbon said. "They could do something else if they wanted to."

Students who witnessed the reading of the names for the first time

the only event to take place this week.

Hal Marienthal gave a lecture on his celebrated autobiography, "Good Germans: A Child's Fateful Journey Through Hitler's Third Reich." In addition to being an author,

Marienthal is an adjunct professor in the mass communication department and a Holocaust survivor.

Both the lecture and the reading of the names were sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies and WNC Hillel.

Students prepare for Kenya

By Kristen Marshali
STAFF WRITER

As UNCA's Student Global AIDS Campaign chapter closes out its first year, some members begin to prepare for a trip to Kenya in July as part of the Amani Scholars program. They will experience first hand the devastation caused by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

"The Amani Scholars program is designed to bridge a gap between students and professionals in the United States and Kenyan students, professionals and orphaned children," said John Stephens, junior literature student and student coordinator for the 2006 Amani Scholars trip.

By 2003, HIV/AIDS orphaned 15 million children worldwide, and nearly 12 million of these children lived in sub-Saharan Africa, according to a UNAIDS study. That number is expected to rise to more than 18 million by 2010.

Students from across the United States will travel to Kenya to begin work with professionals and natives. Once there, they will care for infants orphaned by HIV/AIDS and place them with adoptive families. The program is responsible for the rescue of over 700 infants,

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Student death leaves questions unanswered

By Jim MacKenzie
STAFF WRITER

Three months after a UNCA student and her husband were killed in Thailand, more questions remain than answers, but many still fight to keep the couple's memories alive.

On April 22, the Center for Public Policy Analysis and the United League for Democracy in Laos co-hosted a protest in front of the Lao Embassy in Washington, D.C. The protest was to keep the memory and the investigation alive for international studies student Ashley McRowan, 38, and her husband Philip, 49, according to Philip Smith, Executive Director of the Center for Public Policy Analysis.

The McRowans were shot in a Buddhist temple in January while on a diplomatic trip to Thailand.

"People were chanting the names of the McRowans," Smith said. "It was during the Lao New Year party. We're trying to keep alive this issue of the McRowans' murder."

On the home front, a tree will be planted in the McRowans' honor May 2 at 4 p.m. The location as of present time remains unknown.

Eyewitnesses said they saw two gunmen, believed to be either police or military officers, according to an article in the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY HUI TE "BRIAN" LEE

After being shot in a Buddhist temple in January, Ashley and Philip McRowan's death leaves many questions unanswered.

Bangkok newspaper, *The Nation*. "Why did people kill her? I don't understand," said Hui Te "Brian" Lee, senior UNCA student and lab assistant. "How come we have no reaction? She's still a UNCA student. She's still a U.S. citizen."

Clauses are still not surfacing, and the story remains surrounded in mystery and secrets.

"There's a huge amount of misinformation, lies and propaganda surrounding the McRowan's demise," Smith said. "It's a political assassination, plain and simple. It's very inconvenient that both governments would like to whitewash it as a mere simple crime of some sort. They're trying to camouflage and discredit

the notion that it was a political assassination."

Smith said he is convinced the Laotian government played some role in the killings.

"They were in some cooperation with elements of the Thai military and the Ministry of the Interior," Smith said. "We have no doubt that the gunmen were the Pathet Lao (secret police)."

Smith said he also believes the Laotian and Thai governments would rather see this case forgotten.

"The powers that be hope the investigation will peter out and come to naught," Smith said. "It is in the interests of the Laotian

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UNCA students speak out about disability issues

By Anna Lee
STAFF WRITER

When Richard Clark came to UNCA as a student in 1973, the building where students took humanities classes was not wheelchair accessible.

"A friend of mine was a student here and he used a wheelchair, and he couldn't get in," said Clark, 1976 alumnus who works at the Exceptional Children's Assistance Center in Asheville. "He was the first person to start picketing."

Clark spoke at the Disability Rights Forum on April 19. The American Civil Liberties Union and Equal Access, a group advocating the rights and concerns of disabled people, organized the forum.

Since the 1970s legislation has improved the lives of people with disabilities, but problems and issues remain, according to Clark.

"It seems like right now we're on the verge of some very big systemic changes that can affect the lives of people with disabilities and the families that love them," Clark said. "In North Carolina right now, we have 7,000 people with disabilities who are institutionalized for no other reason than having a dis-

ability."

Senior literature student Lynn Smith, associate professor of sociology Heidi Kelley and associate professor of political science Kenneth Betsalel also spoke at the forum.

"My disability consciousness really began when I fell out of bed and into the world of stroke about eight-years-ago," Kelley said. "Unable to move, unassisted and unable to speak, I realized that I was still a cultural anthropologist, and I applied and still apply my anthropological skills to understanding the new land I have ended up in."

Clark says funding for the disabled goes to institutions, not individuals.

"An individual with a disability who doesn't want to live in a group home, who wants to live in the community, they have a hard time getting those same funds and finding housing and the supports in the home that a person might need," Clark said.

These policies are unnecessary and discriminatory, according to Clark.

"We have children less than a year old in institutions who don't

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