



# Holocaust survivor Walter Blass visits Brevard College

By Carmen Boone  
Copy Editor

Walter P. Blass, an 88 year-old Holocaust survivor, came to Brevard College on Monday, Feb. 18 to speak about his experience during the Holocaust. He spoke in Ingram Auditorium at 7 p.m.

The presentation was titled "Refugee, World Citizen, Holocaust Survivor and Storyteller." He began by talking about his childhood.

He was born in 1930, three years before Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933. Hitler decreed that no Jews were allowed to work in law, medicine, as university professors or in government.

Walter's father, Richard Blass, asked him if he wanted to go on a business trip with him to Brussels when Walter was five. Once they arrived, Walter's father took him into a place surrounded by a big iron fence. Walter was left there alone for three weeks while his father went to get his mother. If all three of them had tried to flee Germany at the same time, they would have been caught because of suspicion.

On May 10, 1940, Walter felt what he thought was an earthquake. He was told to go down and hide in a cellar because air raids were happening in their area. Walter found out at breakfast the next day that his father had been arrested at 8 a.m. that same morning. Four days later, the rumor was that all the men who were arrested were piled into a box car and taken across the French frontier. No one knew where they were after that.

After that, Walter, his mother and a couple they were living with were arrested and taken to jail. The two women were sent to a concentration camp. Walter was sent to a home for delinquent children. He stayed there for four months, all the while receiving postcards and letters from his mother.

Refugee, World Citizen, Holocaust Survivor and Storyteller  
Walter P. Blass



Walter Blass is also a successful business man and advocates for liberal arts colleges.

One day, he read that she had been liberated by the French. While in the camp, she learned that Walter's father was in a camp on the other side of France. She decided to go get her husband out of the concentration camp. Walter was then picked up by his father from the Veterans Hospital next door to where the home was.

While his parents continued to travel, Walter lived with a family in Masai who had three girls, one of which was his age. His mother had acquired a visa to the Dominican Republic and his father was sent to another concentration camp north of Masai.

Richard Blass learned that men were going to be transferred to Gurse and climbed over the fence to escape before the transport. He hid on

See 'Holocaust survivor Walter Blass' on page 3

# Clarions removed in Scholarship Day prep

By Jeni Welch  
Editor in Chief

Scholarship Day offers an opportunity for prospective new students the chance to tour the college and interview for different scholarships offered from Brevard College. Last Friday, Feb. 15, the BC Admissions office began setting up the event in different areas on campus for Saturday's visitors.

Part of the process of setting up for the admissions event is adding chairs to the buildings and tidying things up, which Admissions personnel say includes removing the clutter of The Clarion newspapers, other magazines, publications and selected posters. According to Director of Admissions and Financial Aid David Volrath, this is a protocol that the college has followed for past events.

"We typically remove anything that is laying around or loose as we need the spaces to be as neat and clean as possible so that we make a good first impression on these future Brevard College students," Volrath said in an email on Friday. The college was expecting more than 100 students to visit campus with their families on Saturday for Scholarship Day, he wrote.

English professor Alyse Bensel assisted with interviews at Scholarship Day on Saturday. "I noticed that all of the issues of The Clarion had been removed from the building [McLarty-Goodson], with the exceptions of an issue behind the glass display case," Bensel said. "I was mostly confused, as I had never noticed The Clarion missing during other admissions events."

However, on Friday afternoon, a comment was made to Mary Harris, administrative assistant for the Humanities and Social Sciences divisions in MG, suggesting that in addition to the issue of tidiness, last week's Clarion may have been removed in part because of the content.

See 'Clarion removal' on page 3