

German Leader Apologizes to Knesset

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The first German words ever spoken in Israel's parliament were a plea Wednesday for forgiveness for the Holocaust.

Nonetheless, they made some Israelis shiver. Speaker Avraham Burg, whose father fled Nazi Germany in 1939, said he thought and hard before allowing German President Johannes Rau to address the Knesset in what Burg called "the language of the murderers and the murdered."

Some lawmakers stayed away in protest.

However, former Speaker Shevah Weiss, a Holocaust survivor, said that while he had very mixed feelings about

German — the first German word he ever heard was "Achtung," shouted by Nazi troops in the Warsaw Ghetto — he believed Rau should be heard.

Most Knesset members did turn up for the speech, and listened politely to Rau, introduced as an "old friend" who had chosen Israel for his first foreign trip since his May election.

Rau opened with an emotional apology for the Holocaust, the Nazi genocide in World War II during which 6 million Jews perished.

"With the people of Israel watching, I bow in humility before those murdered, before those who don't have graves where I could ask them for forgiveness," Rau said.

"I am asking for forgiveness for what

Germans have done, for myself and my generation, for the sake of our children and grandchildren, whose future I would like to see alongside the children of Israel."

Rau then raised familiar themes, such as the need to teach the younger generation about Germany's troubled past, and the special relationship between Israel and Germany.

He referred indirectly to Austrian far-right leader Joerg Haider, saying Europe would not allow racism and hatred of foreigners to take root again.

Israel recalled its ambassador to Austria in protest after Haider's Freedom Party became a member of Austria's government earlier in February.

In addition to plans for advancing service, they said they would create a Senior C-TOPS to help seniors on the road to life.

The University Editor can be reached at adesk@unc.edu.

SENIOR CLASS

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events.
Their campaign was also centered on diversity issues and urging all seniors to

take part in the senior gift and other senior issues.

Jen Santhouse and James Hampton, who hoped to bring the close feeling of high school's senior year to seniors, said they campaigned for an interactive Web site where ideas could be exchanged.

BERSTICKER

From Page 3
not think Bersticker voters would make the difference in Tuesday's runoff.
Bersticker attributed his vote total to

the school's dedication to basketball. "People around here definitely love basketball. A lot of them have been kind of down on us this year. I guess it's good that they're still behind us," he said.

Bersticker, who has not played since December because of a broken foot,

would not rule out getting involved in next year's race if he decides to take a medical redshirt this season.
"If I stay another year, who knows?"

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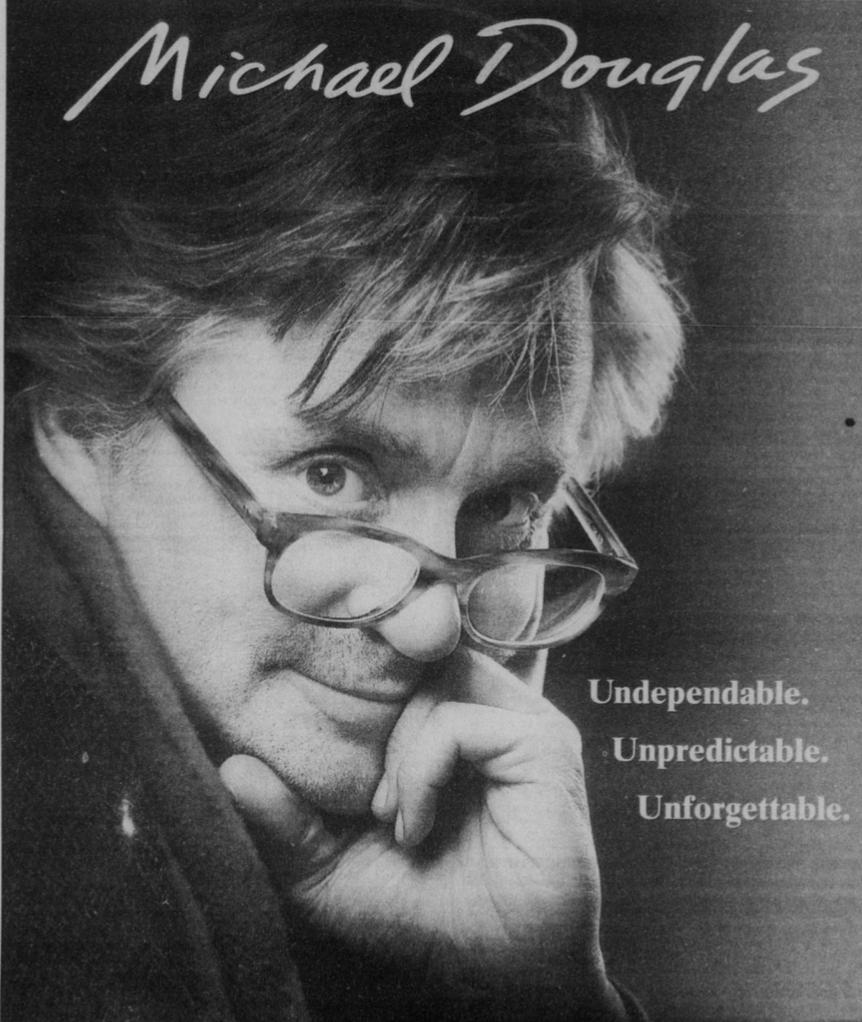
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