

# Texas A&M student serves in Israeli army

By Holly Beeson  
 ■ The Battalion  
 Texas A&M U.

When Texas A&M U. senior Beth Morrison visited Israel, she bypassed the traditional tourist traps — she joined the army.

"I was actually part of the army," the psychology major said. "I wore the uniform and lived in the barracks. I ate with the Israeli soldiers and woke up when they did. It helped me understand their way of life."

Morrison heard about the Volunteers for Israel program through the Hillel Jewish Students Center. The program allows people to become soldiers for three weeks.

"What you're doing is little things to help out," Morrison said. "I requested to work in an infirmary, but ended up doing computer work at a base in Haifa."

Some of her friends' duties included painting, peeling potatoes, weeding and handing out uniforms to soldiers.

Morrison said it's not difficult to get around and communicate in Israel because everything is written in English as well as Hebrew, and everyone speaks at least a little English. But the people are different than those in the United States, she said.

"Israelis have been compared to the fruit *sabra* — prickly on the outside, but soft and sweet on the inside.

"They grow up faster than we do. We go to college and go to frat parties. They

go to the army before college."

All Israelis, male and female, register for the army when they turn 18 and are required to serve for three years.

Morrison originally decided to go to Israel because of its history. "You go to Israel and experience 3,000 years of history. You're walking on history — it's incredible," she said. "Jerusalem is important to Moslems, Christians and Jews. We all have history there."

This non-profit program provides an inexpensive way to enjoy all this history, Morrison said. Round-trip airfare, room and board, tours and a free stop-over in Europe are included in the \$500 fare. The program coordinator, Archie Broodo, can be reached at (214) 350-8781.



Behind Texas A&M U. student Beth Morrison, the Western Wall is one of the holiest places in Jerusalem for Jews to pray.

# Poorly designed campuses hinder handicapped students

By Brad Buckhalter  
 ■ The Pow Wow  
 Northeast Louisiana U.  
 and Marc Goldstein  
 ■ The Campus Times  
 U. of Rochester

Gavin Miller changed his major freshman year because of the location of his classes.

Confined to a wheelchair after an auto accident at 17, the Northeast Louisiana U. student found his computer science courses were almost inaccessible to him. "Hanna Hall has this big, greasy freight elevator that I was supposed to use to get to the second floor," he says. "The elevator has a door and a gate that have to be closed just right to work. Sometimes someone wouldn't get the doors closed good and I couldn't get to my classes."

After many frustrating episodes, including losing several books after they dropped through the crack between the elevator and the main floor, Miller switched his major to accounting. Most of those classes meet in the Administration Building, which has an elevator expressly for the handicapped.

"I don't see how it's feasible for a handicapped person to have classes in Hanna," the junior says. "It's really bad that you have to plan the rest of your life around campus freight elevators."

Teresa Carroll, a junior at U. of Rochester, also has been in a wheelchair since a car accident four years ago. Carroll found UR much harder to get around than the community college she transferred from, where all the buildings were interconnected.

Since UR does not have wheelchair-lift equipped buses, Carroll relies on the services of Medicab, a private van company. However, she says Medicab is frequently late, and sometimes the driver forgets to pick her up.

She says the service also allows only one pick-up and drop-off a day, restricting its patrons' travel. She must arrange her own transportation to concerts and other events, which



RICHARD LUPO, THE POW WOW, NORTHEAST LOUISIANA U.  
 Junior Gavin Miller encounters obstacles everyday at Northeast Louisiana U.

Carroll says isolates her from the rest of the campus.

Once on campus, Carroll has trouble with inaccessible buildings. Some have elevators, but the buttons are often too high and recessed. Buttons that do not protrude from the control panel are difficult for physically challenged people to operate, Carroll says.

Carroll discusses these issues at the beginning of each semester with Jean Cameron, assistant director of University Facilities Planning. The access problems at UR are due to the age of the university's buildings, Cameron says. She estimates their average age to be 43 years and says early construction planners did not foresee the problems.

But at NLU, Miller says even the newest buildings are sometimes inaccessible. His suitemate, David Berry, says, "Gavin even has trouble getting into Ewing Coliseum, and that's bad, since something that modern should have wheelchair ramps."

"The only way I can get in is to go down to the freight entrance, where they park trucks and everything," Miller says.

"Sometimes I even have trouble getting in that way, since the people don't see HANDICAPPED, Page 6

# SA passes drug-search policy despite constitutional concerns

By Beth Ziesenis  
 ■ The North Texas Daily  
 U. of North Texas

A resolution allowing residence hall staff members to search dorm rooms for illegal drugs narrowly passed, 15-13, the U. of North Texas Student Association after a two-hour debate.

Junior Wade Duchene was one of the SA representatives opposed to the resolution. "This is not a drug issue; this is a moral issue," he said. "Does the end justify the means? Are you willing to ignore some constitutional rights to get drugs out? At the University of North Texas, the housing department may be ridding the campus of drugs, but at what price? How far are we willing to go?"

Resident Assistant Council Member Joel Daboub saw the other side. "As RAs we are faced every day with people who are taking and using illegal substances," he said. "This policy is an effective tool. It gives us as RAs the ability to maintain the security and safety of our residents."

Kyev Tatem, co-author of the bill and an assistant hall director, said the policy would help students caught during the early stages of drug experimentation.

"What we're saying is, 'Hey, administration, we see you are trying to take issue with the drug problem,' and we as students support this issue," he said.

Mark Jetton, a sophomore who voted against the policy, said, "Anybody who

doesn't vote for this resolution doesn't mean in any way, shape or form that he supports drug use. The Constitution cannot be annulled for certain situations. If that's the case, what's the point of having the Constitution of the United States?"

Junior Winn Walton cited several court cases where similar search policies were found to be unconstitutional. "A student does not abandon his right to due process upon his registration at the university of his choice," Walton said. "That means if you come here and you sign a waiver or any type of policy that waives your rights, that waiver is invalid because it does not step above the whole U.S. Constitution."

SA President Paul Stevens asked the assembly to dismiss the question of constitutionality and decide on just the issue of being for or against the dorm search policy. But Texas Civil Liberties President Don Smith, a faculty member, said SA should consider the policy's constitutionality. "It's very straightforward: Either you violate the Constitution or you don't," he said.

Senior Jaelyn Dodgin proposed postponing the vote until SA polled students about the policy. "I think that people were not educated enough, were confused and voted how they personally thought they should vote," she said. "We still don't know how the students themselves feel."

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