

FEATURE

Holocaust victim opens up to history class

by Michael L. Walker
Staff Writer

Diana Golden, Holocaust victim and prisoner in the Auschwitz death camp, gave a candid talk on Wednesday, Feb. 17 for the Jewish History-Holocaust class. For two hours she described the horrors and atrocities committed on the victims in the camp.

"The amount of absolute menace, and without any feelings. I don't know what kind of people they were. I don't know how they could close their own human instincts -- to be so perverse. I see no reason," Golden said.

Golden was young when the Germans came to her home land, the island of Rhodes, off the coast of Turkey. While Mussolini was in power life for the Jews was at least tolerable.

After Italy surrendered, "Our fate was decided. Someone came from Greece. I don't know who it was, but I do know it was a man with a white shirt. He was directing traffic -- he spoke Spanish, he spoke Greek, and he spoke Italian. He said, Get in line. We asked, where are we going? He said, 'You will know when you get there. Don't ask questions!'"

"When you are in such a hell really you feel like nobody cares."

Golden's family was taken to a boat where they were to travel to the city of Piraeus in Greece. "It was eight days of horror," she described, "people were dying everyday. It was a living hell."

They were marched for a number of miles and many were literally beaten or marched to death. Then they were loaded onto trucks and taken to a detention-transit camp. They would live there for three days before again being moved.

On the third day Golden's grandmother died. "I had mixed feelings. There was crying, but on the other hand I said, 'Grandma, your suffering is over. I'm glad you are no longer suffering.'"

Her family and other prisoners were taken to trains and were shoved into boxcars that still had "the filth of animals" in them. There were as many as 90 people to a boxcar. They were only fed a little soup and one slice of bread each day.

The only water they have on the train smells -- everything is filthy -- people were dying, "It is a complete breakdown of human emotions. You want to help...But there is nothing to be given."

The trains would stop at night and the prisoners would be exercised. The German soldiers would treat them like they would treat taking a dog out to relieve itself.

There were lice everywhere, "You could see the lice flying around. Huge body lice. We were scratching all over." "In this kind of misery it is such a horror that all that we can feel is pity for

each other. Nothing but pity."

Conditions were so bad that they would literally pray for bombs to be dropped on them. Anything to finish the horror, but it never came. It was just the beginning.

They arrived at Auschwitz three days later. The camp is located in south Poland at the border of north Germany. They barely had the strength to stand when they got there. "We were walking skeletons," Golden said.

At the camp the Germans subjected the prisoners to all types of terror. "It was to what extent a person can undergo the punishment. Dehumanization, psychological torment as well as mental -- not speaking of the conditions of our feelings."

The Germans would try to break up and separate families to destroy any self confidence the prisoners might have. They would take 400 to 500 girls to the showers at a time -- the shower room not much bigger than a master bedroom. Some got to bathe, others didn't. They were made to shovel rotting potato peelings, "The smell was so putrid, so horrible that we had feelings to throw up." And some of the work wasn't work at all: They were to take two bricks, which were as cold as blocks of ice, and press them close to their abdomens and carry them to another pile. Then, the next night they were to do just the opposite, carrying the bricks back to the first pile.

They were whipped continually day and night. It was at that point where she nearly lost all hope. "When we got in we knew the war was ending. But when you are in such a hell -- really you feel like nobody cares. The best thing I can do is die. Just let me die in peace."

But she didn't lose hope: "I couldn't die. I had two younger sisters with me and a cousin. If I died, my younger sisters would probably do the same."

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Later, Golden was moved to a camp in Germany. There she worked in a factory making machine guns until the end of the war. The food was not much better, but the living conditions were.

Student reactions were of disbelief. Said Kris Wagenknecht, "You go through a lot of emotions like: incredible, this can't be happening. You want to deny that it was as bad as it was, or that it even happened. You either believe it or it's a total denial. In the end you want to cry. What happened to the Jews happened to the entire world. There's no getting around it."

"I was amazed at what a beautiful, compassionate woman she was. She had such love for humans and human kind that I was just impressed. I question whether or not I would be filled

with hatred," said Marth Cunningham.

It is indeed a special event to have Mrs. Golden speak at the class. Said instructor Don Epstein, "It is very rare to get in a

history class people who were eye witnesses to tremendous events. She was actually one of the last ones to remember this vividly and is willing to talk about it. It's a tremendous experience for



photo by Beth Coffey

Diana Golden, death camp prisoner in the German Holocaust, spoke to the Jewish History-Holocaust class Feb. 17.

English find Oregon friendly

by Lisa Graham
Staff Writer

Three students from England are here on campus this year. Sandra Jones and sister and brother Firouze'h and Ramin Moghaddam, all came to Oregon originally to visit, but liked it so much they stayed.

Jones, a history major from Liverpool, said she was taken back by all the open space. Ramin's impression was the same. "Except for the houses," he said, "the walls are thin, they don't use bricks. Everytime a neighbor sneezes I have to take an Anacin." Lack of brick housing startled Jones too. "They look frail, like they'll fall down in

heavy wind," she said.

The Moghaddam twins come from Brighton. Firouze'h described it as a coastal town and bigger than Portland. Firouze'h is majoring in business and accounting while her brother is majoring in bio-chemistry.

Firouze'h, a recent fan of basketball, commented that Oregon people were friendly but much taller. Ramin didn't find the people taller but did say that people were friendlier. He said, "I was downtown and all these people kept saying 'hi!' I'm going 'who are these people, do I know them?' In England you just don't go around saying 'hi.'"

Jones, who is learning to substitute pool for snooker, also had favorable comments for Oregon people. "The people are very down to earth here," she said. "Texans I found rather loud. Oregonians are nice people."

The differences in slang was something all three noticed quickly. "In England wasted means tired. It's not quite the same meaning here." Jones said. Ramin said that at first he had trouble buying cigarettes. "I kept asking for fags at the store and all they'd do is give me dirty looks."

Holt to try for Deaf World Olympics

by Caree Hussey
Feature Editor

Clackamas Community College may have a student competing in the Deaf World Olympics in New Zealand.

Gary Holt, a drafting and autoCAD major, has been invited to try out as a wrestler for the Deaf World Olympics, which will be held in December 1989. Tryouts for the team will be held this April. Holt has been wrestling for nine years. He was the eastern champion for the deaf and won a bronze medal at the College Open Wrestling Tournament in Canada.

Holt feels good about being invited to try out. "I'm very happy with myself," he expressed.

Holt feels that his chances of making the wrestling team are "half and half", and stated, "It'll be a challenge."

Holt grew up here in Oregon. He attended Ogden Junior High School his seventh grade and freshman years, (he skipped the eighth grade) and went to Oregon City High School his sophomore year.

Holt has been at CCC two terms. He said he enjoys school, "fine, nothing bothers me." Holt practices with the CCC wrestling team, but has not competed in his own match yet.

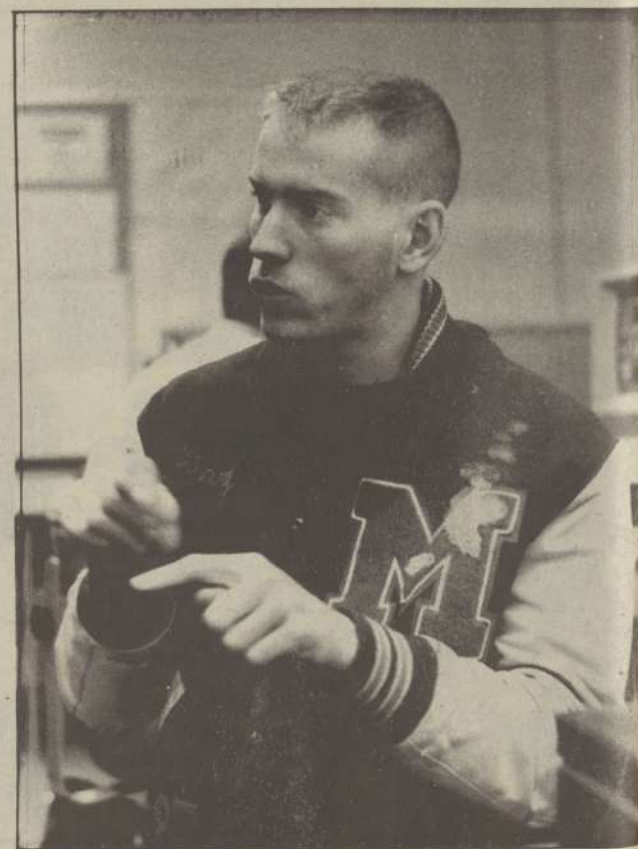


photo by Roger Hancock

CCC drafting and auto CAD major Gary Holt will be trying out in April for the Deaf World Olympics.

Clackamas Community College

