

Holocaust survivor inspires students

By Matt Scorzafave
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

More than 200 students gathered Wednesday night in 26 Hosler Building to hear Holocaust survivor Judy Meisel tell her story of tragedy and triumph.

Meisel spoke to students about individual responsibility and making a difference.

"I hope students walk away inspired," Aaron Kaufman said.

Kaufman, the executive director of Penn State Hillel, also emphasized the importance for students to hear Meisel's message.

"Holocaust survivors are aging rapidly and unfortunately won't be around much longer," he said. "I hope students get a good insight and understand some of what someone like her has gone through."

Hillel, as well as a number of other organizations sponsored the event, including Schreyer Honors College, Center for Ethics and Religious Affairs, NAACP, and the Presidential Leadership Academy.

Students said they were excited to hear Meisel's story.

"I'm looking forward to learning more about a topic I'm not



Kelley King, Collegian

Holocaust survivor Judy Meisel speaks on "Individual Responsibility and Making a Difference" Wednesday night in Hosler building.

familiar with and to see how Meisel was able to overcome such tragic events." Katelyn Mullen (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said before the speech.

The event opened with a 45-minute film that profiled Meisel's life, and included a question and answer session at the documentary's end.

"We shot the film in 1998. We retraced my steps through Europe," Meisel said.

The film detailed Meisel's journey from her home in Lithuania to a Jewish ghetto, and then to Stutthof concentration camp, where Meisel said she narrowly escaped death.

"The hardest part of the Holocaust is that none of us thought we would survive to tell our story," she said in the documentary.

Meisel, who is also a civil rights activist, said that after surviving a Nazi concentration camp in Poland with her sib-

lings, she was ready to share her story with the world.

"I was very involved with civil rights in Philadelphia," Meisel said. "I had the privilege of working with Martin Luther King, Jr.," she said.

Meisel said she was compelled to relive her account to remember those who died.

"We promised ourselves that whoever survived must tell our story to the world," Meisel said of her and her fellow survivors.

Brad Smith said he was looking forward to gaining a new perspective on the Holocaust from Wednesday's event.

"You always learn something new with a personal story, both emotional and factual," Smith (junior-film) said.

Kaufman agreed.

"It's unbelievable and inspiring that she turned her tragedy into good, educational work," Kaufman said.

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Pipe holds HUB town hall meeting

By Katrina Wehr
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After graduating from Penn State in September of 2009, Michael Pipe thought he had given up energy drinks for good.

But after the last few days of campaigning for Pennsylvania's 5th district U.S. Senate seat, energy drinks have found their way back into Pipe's routine, he said at a town hall meeting in the HUB-Robeson Center Wednesday night.

Between 12 town hall meetings, seven candidate forums, and working as the assistant manager at Five Guys Burgers, 226 W. College Ave., Pipe said he's been busy, hence the return of the energy drinks.

"With six days left before the elections, I'm excited to see the end result," Pipe said.

Though he didn't get to hold these town hall meetings in all the places he wanted to, Pipe said he still made time to hold a question and answer-style meeting with Penn State students to listen to and address their concerns. He took questions about Marcellus Shale, Pennsylvania's job market, and student loan reform.

He said he is in favor of a moratorium on drilling, and believes that there is still some serious research that needs to be done regarding risks to the environment and the potential for water contamination. Pipe

said he also supports a severance tax for the industry to encourage drilling companies to hire workers from Pennsylvania.

Pipe's other ideas for increasing Pennsylvania's job prospects span from tax breaks for companies just starting up to further exploring green energy.

"Investing in green technology is key," he said. "Those jobs will be around for many decades to come."

Rob Ghormoz, president of the Penn State College Democrats, asked Pipe about student loan reform that passed with the healthcare bill last March.

Pipe said the loan reform, which includes a cap on monthly repayments and increased availability of Pell Grants, is in danger if the Republican Party takes back control of Washington.

Chris Shanahan, an attendee at the meeting, said he supports Pipe because he breaks the stereotypical politician mold.

"He's similar to us," Shanahan (senior-political science) said.

"He's a recent college graduate and he's in the same boat as a lot of us."

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Pipe

Wheelchair basketball held for Disability Awareness month

By Paul McMullen
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Ian Davis walked into the White Building gym Wednesday night wearing a shirt that displayed a simple message: Keep staring, I might do a trick.

Davis (senior-material sciences engineering) says that despite the stares, he is just like any other Penn State student, except for his disability, which hinders his ability to walk without the help of crutches.

But on the hardwood court, none of that matters.

Davis and others wheeled themselves around the basketball court in the White Building gymnasium last night, as they participated in weekly wheelchair basketball practice, which is being held as a part of Penn State Disability Awareness month.

"This is an extremely eye-opening experience for people who have not given adaptive athletics a try," he said. "It shatters a lot of the stereotypes that people have about sports adapted for those who are disabled."

Davis said that most people

believe that wheelchair basketball is a step below able-bodied basketball in terms of intensity. Although that is a popular belief, he said, it is one that people make without giving it a try.

"Besides the obvious difference of playing from a wheelchair, the sport is the same if not harder than able-bodied basketball," he said. "Not only do you have to worry about steering the chair, you have to be aware of your surroundings so that you don't wreck into other chairs."

Teri Jordan, disabilities recreation program coordinator and

athletics coach, said he believes wheelchair basketball is a great experience that not many people know about, but need to become more familiar with.

She said the event is open to both able-bodied people as well as those with disabilities. Participating in the event is every bit as important and beneficial for those with disabilities as it is for those who are not confined by a disability, she said.

Adam Fisher (senior-recreation, park and tourism management), who is able-bodied, has been participating in the event

for two years and has more fun playing from a wheelchair than playing typical basketball, he said.

Though he admits he was intimidated at first, players like Davis welcomed him and provided a unique athletic experience.

"Playing with those who are disabled has been inspirational for me," he said. "It is awesome to see that the disabled are not just sitting back and they are doing something they love, regardless of their disability."

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