

Student views Holocaust horrors

By Susan Buck
staff writer

It was a mission as well as a trip. Todd Wolfe, a Farmington Hills resident and North Farmington High School senior, recently returned as part of a two-week international delegation, which visited old German death camps in Poland.

On Holocaust Remembrance Day April 22, Wolfe, along with six other Oakland County teens, took part in the second March of the Living (Yom HaShoah) established in memory of the six million Jews who perished during the war. This group was part of the B'nai Brith Youth Organization.

Wolfe was accompanied by other local youths: Sherry Domstein, Oak Park; Ellen Kogan, Birmingham; Randall Fogelman, West Bloomfield; Sarah Guyer, Huntington Woods; Evie Rogers, Birmingham; and Amy Simon, West Bloomfield.

Wolfe was one of 3,000 Jewish teens from 37 countries who took part in the two-mile silent march, which went from Auschwitz to Birkenau, the largest concentration camp complex built by the Nazis during World War II.

"I felt that God was there," said Wolfe who was moved by his experience.

ELIE WEISEL, Nobel prize winner and Holocaust survivor, spoke at a memorial service at Birkenau.

Wolfe knows of no one in his family who died in German death camps.

In addition to Auschwitz and Birkenau, Wolfe also visited concentration camps at Majdanek and Treblinka.

He also spent a week in Israel and April 30, celebrated Israel's 42nd Independence Day.

Now Wolfe hopes to speak to both Jewish and non-Jewish groups about

his travel experience and reaffirmation of his Jewish identity.

"They (Israelis) have a lot more pride in their country than we do here," Wolfe said.

Old death camps in Poland left the biggest impression.

"The most shocking part of Auschwitz, besides seeing the crematorium, was walking upstairs to two of the buildings and seeing a huge pile of human hair, some braided, some not," Wolfe said.

"It was disgusting. They used the hair for stuffing mattresses and material. They had rooms filled with shoes that smelled. They had cans of the chemical used to gas people."

DURING THE March of the Living, the group also included teens from Israel, Canada, Mexico, France, Britain, South Africa, South America and Australia as well as the Soviet Union, Hungary and Rumania.

The march recreated the fateful walk of death that took the Jews from Auschwitz to Birkenau. "We did it to show that Hitler did not succeed. Jewish people are alive," Wolfe said.

Even as the March of the Living, 5,000-4,000 teens progressed, Wolfe said some people on the sidelines showed no respect by laughing, eating ice cream cones and, in one instance, showing an obscene gesture. "In my mind, it was anti-Semitism," Wolfe said.

Once at Birkenau, Wolfe was taken back by all the barbed wire.

"It felt like God was there," Wolfe said. "As someone was lighting a candle for the children who died, there was a sprinkle of rain like God was crying. At that one moment, it started to rain. It was strange, because it hadn't rained the whole day. Others thought that, too."



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

North Farmington student Todd Wolfe kneels behind a chair in his Farmington Hills home, symbolizing the imprisonment of Jews during the Holocaust.



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Artsy encounter

Third graders from Retta London's Wooddale Elementary class in Farmington Hills present Michael Flanagan (left), Farmington Public Schools superintendent, with "Walking in the Footsteps of Jackson Pollock," their version of an "action painting" by Pol-

lack, an American abstract expressionist, May 24. Presenters of the acrylic paint on canvas, the product of cooperative learning groups, were Natalie DaBoul (second from left), Juliana Snodgrass, Adam Dinnel and Michael Stein.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

● FELONIOUS ASSAULT

A 23-year-old Mount Clemens man faces felonious assault charges after a man pushed a patrol car door into a Farmington Hills police officer Saturday.

While officer Wayne Beerbower was questioning a suspected intoxicated driver behind a pickup at 5:15 a.m., a sleeping passenger awoke and began an argument.

The argument intensified and Beerbower wound up forcibly arresting the passenger for interfering with a police officer.

At the police department, Beerbower opened his patrol car's rear door, but his prisoner kicked it into him, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● SCHOOL VICTIMIZED

Five aluminum picnic-table tops were reported stolen from the playground at Gill Elementary, 21195 Gill, May 24-25, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● CARBON MONOXIDE

Two Chatham Hills Apartments residents suffered carbon monoxide poisoning after a basement hot-water-heater vent pipe became dislocated, letting the potentially deadly gas leak out Friday.

The two residents were treated at

Providence Hospital-Novici and released.

A 28-year-old woman felt sick soon after arriving home at 9 p.m. last Thursday. When her boyfriend arrived 2½ hours later, he also quickly became sick. They drove to the hospital, where their condition was diagnosed.

The apartment building basement was found to contain low levels of carbon monoxide. One apartment was found to contain 100-percent carbon monoxide.

Farmington police joined a Consumers Power representative and the Chatham Hills maintenance supervisor in turning off and red-tagging the faulty 85-gallon heater until repairs could be made.

The resident of the affected apartment unit was allowed to return after a few hours, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

● PLANT TAKEN

A potted, 3-foot-high corn plant, valued at \$400, was reported stolen from the hallway at Michigan Neurological Institute, 28595 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, Saturday morning.

● HOST LIABILITY

An 18-year-old man was ticketed under the city's host liability ordinance when officers, responding to a house party complaint on Willow Creek, found five teenagers, ages 18-19, drinking beer on the front lawn at 11 p.m. Saturday, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● OLD FRIDGE

A Farmington homeowner was ticketed under city ordinance for not removing the doors before putting an old refrigerator by the curb in front of his house on Hawthorne Sunday. The doors were removed before the officer left, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Accuracy Test will be taken by the Farmington Public School District for the June 11, 1990, Annual Election. This test is to demonstrate the accuracy of the computer tabulation procedures used on election night. The test will be taken on Wednesday, the 6th day of June, 1990, at 1:30 P.M., at the City Clerk's Office, City of Farmington Hills, 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

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