

COLLEGIATE TIMES

102nd Year, No. 102 • Blacksburg, Virginia • April 14, 2005
 An independent student-run newspaper serving the Virginia Tech community since 1903

www.collegiatetimes.com

Nobel Peace Prize winner shares message of pain, hope

by Noelle Landers
 News Assistant

"Indifference is not an option." Those were the words that fueled Elie Wiesel's speech to a sold-out Burruss Auditorium last night. After months of planning and a year in the making, Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize winner and survivor of the Holocaust, spoke to a sold out crowd of people of every age who came to hear about his experiences.

He spoke of the effects of indifference, and how it can be worse than hatred. He related it to his own experience, and how the people who he considered to be his neighbors and friends did not warn him about Auschwitz.

"Our neighbors, our friends didn't tell us not to get on that train," he said. "After we left our home was ransacked and pillaged. That indifference was painful ... Those who perish perish because of the enemy, but they also perish because of the indifference of friends."

Only two Germans supervised the removal of Jews from Wiesel's town. There were mountains on all sides, and in Wiesel's opinion, it would have been easy to get away had they been warned.

"Why didn't anyone tell us?" he asked. "It was so easy then to run away."

Wiesel's maid Maria asked the family to come to a hut she had in the mountains where she would take care of them, but Elie and his family did not believe the stories they had heard about the concentration camps and did not go. His family got on the train, and in Auschwitz his mother and his sister perished, and in 1945, after being sent from one concentration camp to another, Wiesel lost his



AL FAYEZ/SPPS

Speaker Elie Wiesel, author of the famous book 'Night,' spoke last night in Burruss Auditorium about his experience surviving the Holocaust.

father. But, despite all the tragedy he's faced, he has not lived his life in anger.

"I don't believe in collective judgement and condemnation," he said. "Who was more human? ... the moment you start learning about the period you realize it's more complicated than you thought."

It is Wiesel's belief that nothing like

the Holocaust will ever happen again.

"The Holocaust was a unique event and therefore must remain unique. I cannot believe that (it could) happen (again)," he said. "I believe we were not alone to suffer under Hitler. Humanity

See **NOBEL**, page 2

Cadets question uniform costs

by Ellen Biltz & Jenna Licursi
 News Staff

Students in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets formally complained to corps administration that they are being illegally charged for their uniforms.

A near 3,400-dollar fee includes uniform rental for four years and tailoring services — the uniforms must be returned upon graduation.

"Students in the corps are only supposed to pay for uniforms, not other things like the tailor shop," said senior David Weidenhamer.

Weidenhamer said the total uniform cost is about 3,100. He said cadets should not be required to pay the extra "tailor fee." Weidenhamer said Department of Defense regulations support his argument.

A program cannot require students to pay more than \$25 annually on alterations or maintenance of the uniform, according to the DOD regulations for the Military Academy Uniform Fees Report.

Gen. Jerry Allen of the Corps

of Cadets said Weidenhamer had approached him with the concern and he explained the way uniform fees work at Tech.

"The uniform fee is established by the uniform budget process. This fee includes the uniform itself as well as the upkeep of the tailor shop," Allen said.

Operation of the shop includes all electric and water bills, as well as payroll and general operational costs, Allen said.

Allen said the current rate a student pays in their uniform fee is \$3, 375 for their four years in the corps. This includes the tailor shop cost.

Allen said this difference was because they were not including the tailor shop upkeep into that total.

"The way the tailor shop is funded is through these fees. We have to pay the people that work there, and pay to operate the shop," he said.

Weidenhamer said he felt the students should not have to pay for this

See **UNIFORM**, page 2

To never forget ...

