



Holocaust survivor Deli Strummer shows a comb she made to help remind her of civilization while living in the Mauthausen concentration camp.

## Holocaust survivor speaks to students

by Ashley McCutcheon  
Photo by Steve Lafferty  
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In a speech presented to the College Republicans, Holocaust survivor Deli Strummer spoke to students about the similarities between the current situation with Iraq and the Holocaust.

Strummer, a native of Vienna, spoke to students about her experiences in Mauthausen Concentration Camp in Austria. She expressed her ideas about the parallels between Saddam Hussein and Adolf Hitler.

Strummer opened her talk by examining pre-war Austria.

"In 1930, nobody believed that a system could change," she said. "Ten years later we were all under dictatorship, and by 1945 we had lost 11 million people."

She went on to tell of her tragic experiences in Mauthausen and the brutal events that she witnessed there.

Strummer provided images from her time spent under Nazi control in the concentration camp; in particular she described a line-up of the women, including herself, in Mauthausen.

"We felt each other's sweat. We felt each other's fear, and we felt each other's hopelessness," she said.

After sharing her tragic experiences with students, Strummer went on to show "From Out of the Ashes -- the Deli Strummer Story," a documentary that she made during her return to Mauthausen 53 years after she'd left.

She then moved on to speak about the current situation the U.S. is facing concerning Iraq and the question of war.

"You're not looking at a woman who is ready for war, but I know that

sometimes you cannot turn your cheek, or perhaps something will haunt you, maybe for the rest of your life," Strummer said.

Sophomore Megan Goldsmith said Strummer's presentation had an emotional impact on her.

"I thought it was very frightening," Goldsmith said.

Another sophomore, Julia Smith, focused on the bold images the presentation provided.

"Deli Strummer blends vivid personal experiences and her love for America, the country that reached out to help her, with the hope that young people will not turn their cheeks on the growing danger of this war the way people did during the Holocaust," she said.

Jeff Bindord, a senior and president of the College Republicans, took a current political standpoint on the topics at hand.

"The people of Iraq cannot be heard right now," he said.

Freshmen Kirby Brooks commented that the lecture was important for students to grasp an understanding of the impact of things such as the Holocaust and parallels to current relations with Iraq.

"I think today's speech was very necessary, because you must learn from the history of your country or it will repeat itself," Brooks said. "I think it is important to hear different perspectives, and I also think Americans take for granted what we have."

Strummer concluded her speech with an explanation of the organization she created in remembrance of Holocaust victims. The foundation is called Zarhar Remembrance Fund.

Contributions to the fund may be sent to P.O. Box 65208, Baltimore MD, 21209. See [www.delistrummer.org](http://www.delistrummer.org) for more information.

