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#### from LOWER on front

Lower has documented multiple accounts similar to Petri's. Most people do not believe women had the same roles as Nazi men in the Holocaust. Certain groups still are in denial that the horrendous event ever occurred.

“Often you read in the testimony and it's articulated as well, this German phrase, ‘I don't feel myself to be guilty,’” Lower said. “It was the Nazi system, I was part of the system, I was condoning the system, it was expected of me, that system is defeated, I'm no longer part of that system. So I must not be guilty.”

In several interviews with Holocaust survivors, Lower explained that denial was a common theme.

“Those who did have blood on their hands, they go through all kinds of psychological rationalizations and tricks and kind of process this in a way that, in my experience, has been various forms of rationalization and denial,” Lower said. “And the history of denial — Holocaust denial — women are part of this history too in the way that they relate to their husbands, who were male perpetrators in many cases.”

Although the Holocaust was a period of darkness in the past, there are still horrific events that occur in today's world.

“These commemorative occasions make us painfully aware that the willingness to commit these atrocities has not come to an end,” Krondorfer said. “Rather the flames of destruction continuously fuelled by new and old hatreds, and committed with old and new justifications why it is even necessary to destroy a specific group of people.”

Wendy Lower presents “I Want to Prove Myself to the Men: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields” commemorating 70 years of the liberation in Auschwitz and the end of World War II in the Ardrey Memorial Auditorium Jan. 27. (Photo by Ryan J. Wesson)

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