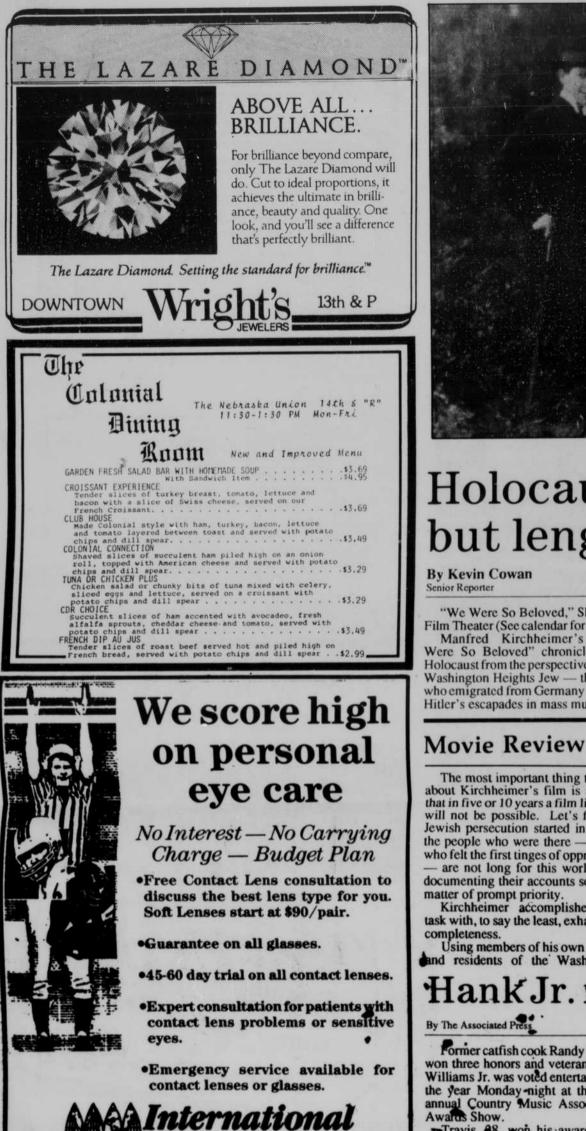
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Holocaust film a noble effort, but length, pacing bog down

By Kevin Cowan Senior Reporter

'We Were So Beloved," Sheldon Film Theater (See calendar for times) Manfred Kirchheimer's "We Were So Beloved" chronicles the Holocaust from the perspective of the Washington Heights Jew - the Jew who emigrated from Germany before Hitler's escapades in mass murder.

Heights district, Kirchheimer gets first-hand accounts of the initial social violence experienced by the entire Jewish community. Bouncing the accounts off quotes from Hitler's "Mein Kampf," Kirchheimer forms the necessary dichotomy. The quotes bring out Hitler's "magic essence" of collective societal control. And the interviews show just how well those theories worked.

Unlike the nine-hour epic "Shoah," "We Were So Beloved" concentrates on the people who weren't killed, just hassled. But all those interviewed had family or friends who were exterminated. Others had husbands who were lost simply because the United States wouldn't let them in, so they had to return to Germany or move on to Belgium, never to see their family again.

vital As documentation. Kirchheimer's film is humane and noble. However, the 2 1/2 hour film ports added weight that renders it slow and redundant. While what the German Jews have to say is emotion-

nent, the way Kirchheimer films them - with straight-on camera work and extremely sparse editing results in a film that, unless you are incredibly interested in the persecution perspective alone, will not hold your attention. A few hundred feet of celluloid on Kirchheimer's editingroom floor would solve this problem. Recounting the horror stories is truly honorable, but you should turn the camera off when the person isn't talking. Kirchheimer may be aiming for dramatic pause, but the end result is like a lecture given by a foreign pro-fessor who talks in slow, broken and

ing such gallant work, and the subject matter is, of course, significant as well as delicate, but the film could have made the same point with much more impact if Kirchheimer had lost

If the Zeitgeist plight of the German Jews interests you, "We Were So Beloved" will strike you as "provoca-tive and riveting;" if your interest is vague or unsparked, bring a pillow and go simply for the knowledge.

The most important thing to note

about Kirchheimer's film is simply that in five or 10 years a film like this will not be possible. Let's face it, Jewish persecution started in 1933; the people who were there - those who felt the first tinges of oppression are not long for this world. So documenting their accounts seems a

matter of prompt priority. Kirchheimer accomplishes this task with, to say the least, exhaustive completeness.

Using members of his own family and residents of the Washington

ly moving and historically perti-

incoherent English. I feel somewhat obscene criticizsome of the dramatic silence.

Hank Jr. named entertainer of year

By The Associated Press

won three honors and veteran Hank Williams Jr. was voted entertainer of the year Monday-night at the 21st annual Country Music Association Awards Show.

Travis, 28, won his awards less than three years after working as a cook in a Nashville nightclub where he also sang part-time. His awards included male vocalist

of the year, album of the year for "Always and Forever" and single of the year for "Forever and Ever, Amen.

'It's a good night for me," Travis Former catfish cook Randy Travis n three honors and veteran Hank said in accepting his male-vocalist ward. "It's great to be nominated with people I've been a fan of for years

The awards ceremony was tele-vised nationally from Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House. Williams, 38, the son of the coun-

try-music legend, has an album at No. 2 on the country-music charts, "Born to Boogie." His albums "Hank Live" and "Montana Cafe" have both been on the charts during the past year. Bocephus has been looking for, I'll uarantee you," said Williams in

accepting the entertainer-of-the-year award. His nickname is Bocephus.

Reba McEntire, a former rodeo barrel racer, won top female vocalist for an unprecedented fourth straight year. She broke the record set be-tween 1968 and 1970 by Tammy Wynette.

"It's absolutely fabulous," she said. "I'm thrilled to death."

The Judds were voted vocal group of the year for the third straight time.

"I'm not going to say our music is the most important thing in our life, but it's right up there with oxygen," said Naomi Judd, the mother in the mother-daughter duo.