

Academic Freedom an Issue

German Students Demonstrate

Editor's Note: This is the first of a three-part series on student protests in Berlin. Miss Thompson is a senior at the University of Minnesota, and spent last year studying in West Germany.

By LINN THOMPSON
Collegiate Press Service

Disputes about academic freedom, which caused demonstrations and protests at many universities in the United States in recent years, were the crux of similar protests in Germany last year.

Last May the Free University of Berlin experienced student protests and demonstrations for the first time in history.

A philosopher and a journalist were refused permission to speak at the university and students used the incident to express their opposition to the administration's attempt to de-politicize the Free University.

(The Free University was founded in 1948 as a cooperative effort of faculty and students—a unique experiment in German education which gave students more rights and responsibilities than ever before, or since.)

Anniversary Program

The split between students and faculty arose in connection with plans for programs commemorating May 8, 1965, the 20th anniversary of the end of World War II. Professor Sontheimer, in the name of the university, but on his own initiative, invited Karl Jaspers, a well known philosopher, to give a lecture. The Allgemine Studenten Ausschuss (ASTA), the student governing body, invited the journalist Erich Kuby to take part in a panel discussion.

Consequently, the president of the university and the faculty senate voted to reprimand Sontheimer for his independent action, decided against holding any program in connection with May 8, and withdrew the invitation to Jaspers.

In the case of the journalist Kuby, the rector (German equivalent for president) refused the

student association the use of a room in the university for its discussion.

The reason for the refusal was the claim that Kuby, in a 1958 appearance had "insulted" the university.

Criticized Name

At that time, Kuby had criticized the name "Free University." He stated that the title had an internal, antithetical connection to the un-free university in East Berlin and thus was not worthy of an institution of learning.

The immediate solutions to the problems were relatively simple—Jaspers declined the invitation due to illness, and the ASTA program was held in the student house of the Technical University in West Berlin. But there were lasting repercussions.

Feeling that the guarantee of freedom of speech was being violated, student groups undertook various forms of protest. Posters soon appeared all over the campus, flyers were distributed daily in the student cafeteria, coffee shops and lounges, and the ASTA collected over 3,000 signatures on

a petition protesting the arbitrary action of the administration.

The majority of students was first aroused, however, when the acting rector of the university threatened to withdraw permission to represent students, from the demonstration groups. At this point even American students at the university began to take an active part in the proceedings.

Five-Hour Strike

But most noteworthy was a five-hour-long strike held in the Otto-Suhr-Institut, the political science institute. For German uni-

versities, this was a bold step, which had been long debated before being actually carried out.

Some 800 political science students stayed away from classes for the morning, many of them gathering on the lawn in front of the Institute with hand-lettered signs. Only one professor lectured that morning, to a group of about forty students.

Yet not only did these events at the Free University of Berlin cause a split between the students and professors, but a split within the faculty as well.



13th Ave. Laundromat
365 E. 13th

WASH DRYER

Coin & Bill Changers

Vending Machines

Hair Dryers

Weekday Laundry & Ironing

Complete

24 hour Laundry Service



You make your best impression when your glasses are appropriate, becoming and up to date. With our new frames, in new shapes, styles, materials and colors we can fit you with the seeing you need, the comfort you want and the look you'll like.

Contact Lenses Fitted

Dr. Robert J. Williamson
Optometrist

Standard Optical
820 Willamette 344-5371

Author to Read
Epic, 'Briseis'

"Briseis," an epic poem of the Trojan War, by Ernest Moll, professor of English, will be read at the Browning Room lecture at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Union.

The poem is written as though Briseis herself (she was the mistress of Achilles) is the author, and tells her feelings and emotional reactions to the various events.

When the gods demand that he give up his mistress, Agamemnon, to humiliate his rival Achilles, demands that Achilles hand over Briseis. Achilles does so, but is so angered that he refuses to let his men help fight the Trojans. Without Achilles and his men, the Greeks haven't a chance.

When his friend Patroclus dies fighting in Achilles' place, Achilles decides to fight again. Then the Trojans are defeated, so Agamemnon relents and returns Briseis to Achilles.

Briseis doesn't live happily ever after, though, as Achilles is fated to fall in battle within a few days.

Australian-born Moll has published thirteen books prior to "Briseis." A Phi Beta Kappa, he received his M.A. from Harvard in 1923. He has been at the University since 1928.

Discussion leader for "Briseis" will be A. K. Weatherhead, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and associate professor of English.

Prof Presents Paper

Walter Youngquist, professor of geology, travelled to Berkeley, Calif., for the December meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Youngquist presented a paper on "Fossil Systematics" at the annual meeting.

Sure
we
have
desk
jobs.

Desk jobs at Cape Kennedy, helping
check out the Apollo moon rocket.
Desk jobs at an air base, testing the
world's most powerful jet engines.
Desk jobs in Samoa, setting up a TV
network to help teach schoolchildren.
The most interesting desk jobs in the
world are at General Electric.

(Have a seat.)

First, why not sit down with the man from G.E. when he visits campus. Talk with him about your goals. He'll talk with you about the hundred different avenues available at G.E. to help you reach those goals.

You may be working anywhere in the world, doing anything in the world. From marketing appliances like a new oven that cleans itself electrically . . . to designing a computer that's no bigger than a suitcase.

Interesting problems. Important challenges. Real rewards, in money and opportunity. They're all part of holding down a desk job at G.E.

Come to General Electric, where the young men are important men.

Progress Is Our Most Important Product

GENERAL  ELECTRIC