

West Germans Worry About Education

Editor's note: This is the third of a three-part series on student demonstrations at the Free University of West Berlin.

By LINN THOMPSON
Collegiate Press Service

Students in West Germany today are concerned about the state of the educational system in their country, as they showed on July 1, 1965, when 100,000 of them filled the streets of German university towns to demonstrate.

Unlike American students, who have traditionally paid little attention to shortages of classrooms and teaching staff, German students have not left the solution of their problems on the espousal of theme to administration and state government.

Too Little Attention

Feeling that too little attention has been paid to the weaknesses of the German educational system by politicians and the general public alike, student leaders began preparing a plan of ac-

tion early last spring. Compared to West Germany, the shortage of teachers in the United States seems insignificant. By 1970, 95 per cent of all German students would have to become teachers in order to fill the needs in all branches of the educational system (the percentage of the population attending a university is much smaller than in the United States—only about five per cent of college-age persons.)

In a study of student-teacher ratios at universities, which was based on the year 1960, it was stated that in Germany there was one professor for every 35 students. In the United States the ratio was 1 to 13; in Great Britain, 1 to 8. And there is a large number of teaching positions in

German institutions which are not filled due to lack of qualified personnel.

Education Catastrophe

In view of these figures, German students felt that something had to be done to at least lessen the impending "education catastrophe." A group of them brought the problem before the Organization of German Student Associations and soon definite plans had been made for "Action July First," a nationwide day for demonstrations.

The main demands of the students were: a promotion of the position of education policy in comparison with defense, the economy, foreign and domestic policy, and social legislation; national education planning and education planning and education

financing; and in addition a unified policy in the co-operation between the federal government and the states in the area of education.

The demands and plans of the students were not heeded or taken seriously by officials and politicians in Bonn, the West German capital, before July 1. Even on July 1, Chancellor Erhard remarked to the press that the student demonstration had not made the slightest impression on him.

Primary Activity

The primary activity of the student groups before July 1 was to distribute large amounts of information on impending "catastrophe" to students at all the universities and technical schools in the country and to publicize as fully as possible the action planned for the chosen day.

On that Thursday at the Free University of Berlin students were urged to attend all of their classes—and see if they could find a place to sit or even stand in the auditorium.

This was presumably the first sit-in in Germany. Students were

called upon to try and be served lunch at the student cafeteria at noon (supposedly every student is entitled to a balanced meal at a low price.) The University cafeteria holds 800 students. There are over 15,000 enrolled at the University.

Torch-light Parades

All over Germany on the evening of July 1, torch-light parades filled the main streets of the cities. In West Berlin alone, 6,000 students turned out. At the end of the procession, speakers addressed the crowd. Often the rector of the university, the chairman of the student association and prominent local and national politicians were on the program.

Whether or not the student mass demonstration served any purposes has yet to be seen. The immediate reaction of government leaders was not favorable and the results of the election in September did not show any great public unhappiness with the education policies of the Erhard government.

Perhaps the main achievement of "Action July First" was that it was a milestone in post-war German student activity.

German students are finally beginning to work actively for their own interests and social goals, as their American counterparts did not long ago.

Joe Richards Set For YR Meeting

State Representative Joe Richards will speak at the first Young Republican meeting of winter term at 7 p.m. tonight in the Student Union. He will discuss "The New Look in Political Parties."

Richards was elected to his freshman term of the legislature in 1964 after an outstanding record of community work in Eugene as an 11-year practicing lawyer.

In 1958 Richards was the Eugene Junior First Citizen. He has also been a member of the District 4 (Eugene) School Board, Eugene Civic Service Board, United Appeal, and is past president of the Eugene Active Club.

Currently Richards is a member of the education, judiciary, and elections committees of the State Legislature.

A short business meeting will precede Richards' talk. Anyone wishing to take part in the many activities of YR's during winter and spring terms may join at this time and all interested are invited to attend.

Refreshments will be served.

TODAY'S STAFF

Night Editor: Maxine Elliott.
Desk Editor: Jaqi Thompson.
Reporters: Starla Stoddard, John Denny, Annette Buchanan, Jim Chaskin.
Proofreader: Chrissy D. Florea.

Faculty Meeting . . .

(Continued from page 1) how long it would take before Flemming would take the plans to the State Board.

100,000 Librarians Needed
During the discussion of the School of Librarianship, proponents of the plan quoted President Lyndon B. Johnson in his Education Message to Congress in 1965, in which he said: "At least 100,000 more professional librarians are needed for service in public libraries and in schools and colleges."

Johnson said that only about

"3,000" new librarians are added to the labor force each year.

15 Hours Only

Presently at the University, there are about 15 term hours offered in library studies to meet high school education requirements. These credits are offered through the School of Education.

Up to now the University has not sought accreditation for its librarianship program, because only professional schools can qualify. There is no accredited school of librarianship in the state. The closest professional school in the field is located at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The University has offered a master's degree program in librarianship since 1960, but candidates must obtain a master of fine arts degree with a major in librarianship. There are nine master's degree candidates in the program this year.

Penney said that if the new school is established the emphasis will be on the undergraduate level.

As the lengthy faculty meeting drew to a close, one disgruntled young administrator exclaimed to the Emerald: "Now I know why the class hour is 50 minutes long; it takes them (the faculty members) that long to make a point."

Faculty meetings are closed to the public and the press. Only faculty members are allowed to attend the meetings.

Fadeley to Speak at YD's Meeting

"Why Keep It a Secret?" will be State Sen. Edward Fadeley's topic when he speaks at the Young Democrats meeting at 7:30 p.m. today in the SU.

The YDs plan to assist Fadeley in placing a lobbyist registration and reporting act on the November ballot. The title of Fadeley's lecture refers to the proposed act.

A business meeting will follow Fadeley's talk.

Arnold Air Society Initiates Pledges

Three pledges have been initiated into the Don Zimmerman Squadron of Arnold Air Society, an Air Force honorary organization for selected Air Force ROTC Cadets. The new members are David L. Schildmeyer, Curtis Scott, and William Zurow.

Enrollment . . .

(Continued from page 1) The usual percentage of disqualifications is near 4.1 per cent. Last year 4.4 per cent of the student body was disqualified because of grade point deficiency.

The Scholastic Deficiency Committee, which started reviewing students with grade deficiency in late December, reinstated 16 students this term.

Dean of Men Robert Bowlin reported 1328 students on probation this term through Jan. 12. Some late grade reports may raise the total, Bowlin added.

Of the students on probation, 1268 are undergraduates and 59 are graduates.

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Swim Hours Set At Gerlinger Pool

The following hours have been designated for open swim for women at Gerlinger pool:

MWF: 4-5:30 p.m.
UH: 3-5:30 p.m.
Sat. 10-11:45 a.m.

All women students and faculty members are welcome to swim during these hours. Women faculty members must pay a small towel fee.

Swim Clinic, a help session, will be conducted from 3-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays this term. Mary Alice Helikson teaches at the clinic.

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