

# Germany's 'hot autumn' of politics

To be apolitical in Germany is rather difficult. Germany is not just a country of beer, pretzels and jolly men in Lederhosen. It is also a place of intense political opinions and action, and as the so-called "hot autumn" gets underway, one cannot help feeling as if important historical events are taking place.

## letter home kellyanne pearce

The "hot autumn" had its official beginnings last week as 10,000 people exchanged words and a few blows with the police in front of the Carl-Schurz-Kaserne, an American military base where the Military Sea-lift Command is stationed. The sea-lift command supplies Europe and the Middle East with war materials. The demonstration was little more than civil disobedience, but it proved that the German peace movement will not stand by passively as the Pershing II missiles are stationed on their land this December.

All throughout "Action Week" various demonstrations by different political groups took place, with many diverse interests uniting in a single large week of protest. Sunday was the day for the churches to rise up in protest, and Monday was the day for women, who undressed in front of sex shops, district army

recruiting offices and military bases. Tuesday was International Solidarity day, Wednesday the opposition day for the workers, Thursday for progressive teachers and high school students, and Friday was a general day of opposition against parliaments, city councils, administrations and parties.

Even though these individual events were important in themselves, in actuality they all led up to the most important event of all: the human chain between Ulm and Stuttgart. Participating in this chain was almost a historical event in itself, for there was a solid line of people, and occasionally a double line, that stretched 60 miles between the two southern German cities.

An estimated 200,000 people united in this chain to protest the stationing of Pershing II missiles at the Wiley Barracks near Ulm. For 20 minutes people joined hands, sang "We Shall Overcome," and forced traffic to come to a standstill.

Later that day there was a mass rally in Stuttgart with people of every political affiliation joining in a few hours of music, speeches by leaders of the Green Party, and simply fun. Thousands of people turned out in Bonn, Hamburg, Stockholm, Paris, Rome and many other European cities.

This is not a typical week in Germany, but it is typical that one cannot escape politics completely. Politics are everywhere — posters plastered on walls, pamphlets littering street

corners, buttons decorating lapels. There is always a sense of immediacy in the air.

As an American in Germany, and as a relatively politically active American, it's interesting to observe these events as an outsider. Many people assume that the protest is only against the American government, but it reaches much deeper than that. This "Action Week" was meant as a week of solidarity for all groups, to coalesce them into one potent force. They protest against the stationing of missiles on their land, against the German politicians who are allowing it to happen, against the moral vapidity of those Germans who turn their heads and also allow it to happen. The "hot autumn" is a time of change, of political mobilization, and the results will be seen in six weeks.

In evaluating all this one can only hope that the minority becomes the majority, and that the peace movement is successful in keeping Pershing II missiles from Germany and Europe. But the problem is very complex, and will not be easily solved by December.

A recent and popular theme among the German youth is that Germany is the Titanic and as that December day approaches, so does disaster. But, as they say, that just the tip of the iceberg.

*Kellyanne Pearce, a University student studying journalism, is now in the exchange program studying in Germany.*

## letters

### Bookish fear

Well-founded concerns were expressed by Daniel Holden, graduate, journalism (Emerald, Oct. 26) regarding the library's six-month loan period to graduate students. Those points, among others, were discussed widely during the past year when the new circulation policy was being formulated.

One reason graduate students were given a six-month loan was because their research needs often differ from those of undergraduates. Previous to Sept. 19, some, but not all, graduate students had the same borrowing privileges as faculty; that is, two-week, automatically renewed until February of the following year. The seemingly arbitrary distinction between the status of graduate students was questioned and it was decided to extend like

privileges to all graduate students.

Fears that six-month loans make library materials unavailable for extended periods are not well founded because of the recall system. Any library user who needs an item that is charged to another borrower who has had it at least two weeks, will be recalled immediately and the second borrower will be notified upon its return. If the item is needed with urgency, that fact may be explained and library staff will do its best to expedite the process.

All borrowers are encouraged to return library material as soon as they finish with it and not hold it unnecessarily until its due date.

In planning the new circulation policy the library gave careful consideration to the many types of library users. Weighing the needs of an individual researcher against the instructional needs of undergraduates and the needs of the greater community resulted in

wide discussion and study among library staff and the University Library Committee. We hope that the resulting policy will prove workable for all users and we welcome comments that may lead to its improvement.

*Patricia Silvernail  
asst. librarian*

### Opposite true

I would like to respond to an editorial (Emerald, Nov. 1) referring to Sen. Mark Hatfield. With the editorial statement "Hatfield is obviously pro-peace, anti-war, and yet has been staunchly anti-abortion" the Emerald is implying that Hatfield is inconsistent or "quirky." I would like to propose the opposite is true.

Pro-peace and anti-abortion have the same objective, the continuation of life in our world. Pro-peace, anti-war movements support life by trying to prevent our

own annihilation of the human race through nuclear arms. Anti-abortion (pro-life) backers also wish to support life by combating the murder of innocent unborn children by abortion. Because both nuclear war and abortion threaten the existence of many lives (abortions killing children now) they are the worst evils in our society today.

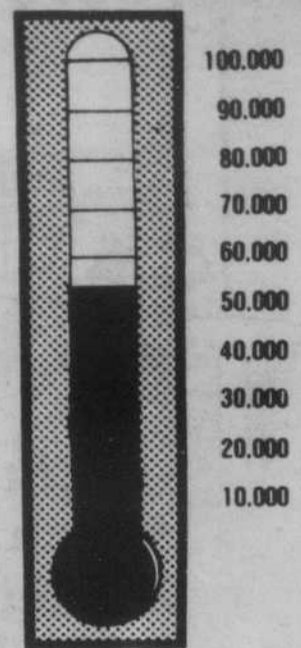
I applaud Hatfield for being both independent and consistent in his views and not falling into the trap of following party guidelines and instead following his conscience. It is too bad that more of our politicians do not follow his example. I wish the Emerald would recognize this and support the rights of all people, not just what is popular or convenient.

*John Stubblefield  
Eugene*



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