

## Don't pinch that bum

The Yes-Building Policy Committee is presenting the postcards from our awareness campaign to the Students' Union Executive. We talked with many students during the campaign and found a great concern with most about the effects of racism and sexism within our society. It is our hope that both this year's executive and Students' Council and next will make efforts going far beyond a building policy to address racism and sexism within our university.

Siobhan Avery  
Spokesperson for  
"Yes" Building Policy Committee

## Diplomacy lacking?

Re: Complaint on staffs of the Science Faculty  
With reference to the above, I would like to draw your kind attention that the attitude of the staffs of the Science Faculty towards students especially the foreign students is very bad, displeasing and a great disappointment.

They are indeed very rude and unhelpful. Moreover, they have also deliberately caused many unnecessary inconveniences: for example when accep-

tances of students and registration of courses are concerned.

I have tried to bear their poor attitude for some time now, but sad to say, their attitude did not change for the better. As their attitudes are now too unbearable, I feel I should bring your kind attention to this matter. From my point of view, they are obviously discriminating us foreign students.

Yvonne Aroong  
(An Unsatisfied Foreign Student)

*How -- in the word--will I.  
be wonderful/wise  
and perspectoculous?  
Frabjous -- hey  
calooh -- calay:  
wander in my joy.  
wonder, to be wise:  
Will I?  
Why a wide-bearded man in a  
melifluous high chair  
tugs at his whiskers  
before a hot fire.*

Lisa A. Trofymow

# SECOND WIND

by David Marples

The army jeep grinds to a halt at the side of a sentry box. On all sides of the street, soldiers, male and female, stroll along in their camouflage outfits. The driver of the jeep shows his pass and is waved through into the complex known as McGraw Kaserne, the U.S. army base in southern Munich. The base and the U.S. military settlement in Fasangarten occupy a large area, some five miles from the center of the city. Elsewhere in the city, the U.S. presence is unobtrusive. Here, however, it is all pervading, an area inaccessible to the average German citizen.

The U.S. presence in southern Germany is something of a fixture. The military personnel have a high standard of living and are well paid for their services. The Armed Forces Network possesses its own TV and radio stations, which are available to residents in the region with an antenna that can pick up the signal. These are the front-line troops. In the event of a Warsaw Pact attack, few would survive. In almost all scenarios concerning such a conflict, NATO forces would fight their rearguard action west of this line, depending upon how quickly reinforcements could be mustered. The exception to this line is one propounded by Harvard university's Sam Huntington, who proposes an advance by NATO conventional forces into Eastern Europe at the start of a Warsaw Pact invasion of West Germany.

The current Soviet attitude toward West Germany is xenophobic. The Soviet press charges that "revanchism" is rampant in the country, i.e., that there is a large and influential movement to regain territories lost in the last war, particularly in Silesia. West German Chancellor Kohl has given some credence to this claim by agreeing to attend a meeting of Silesian Germans committed to rejoining the former German lands that were taken over by Poland after the last war. One should be aware of reading too much into this Soviet propaganda campaign. May 8, 1945 marks the fortieth anniversary of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany, by which was "justified," among other things, the Soviet domination of Eastern Europe. It is fitting, in the eyes of Soviet leaders, to maintain that a German danger still remains; there is no chance that harsh words will be accompanied by actions.

The attitude of the Germans themselves is particularly difficult to discern. The Greens (*Die Gruenen*), a pro-ecology, anti-nuclear party have captured recent headlines, but at the most can hope only to hold the balance of power in the Federal Parliament. The West Berlin faction of the party has become tainted through its association with neo-Nazi groups, and there are other examples that the party is lacking unity. Further to the left, the Red Army Faction (RAF) terrorist group has stepped up its activity of late, attacking NATO installations—the potentially most serious attack, a bomb planted at a military school in Oberammugua, was unsuccessful—and assassinating a West German industrialist involved in weapons production at his home in Munich.

The majority of Germans, however, seem to have

accepted both West Germany's key role in the NATO alliance, particularly after the installation of the Pershing missiles; and the division of Germany as a permanent entity (at least according to a recent poll.) The Germans are far more accommodating to U.S. troops and their mission in Europe than, for example, are the Dutch or Belgians.

At the same time, and in spite of the above statement, trade with East Germany continues to flourish. There is no clear contradiction between trade and political relations, President Carter's former grain embargo on the USSR notwithstanding, but trade between the two Germanies is beginning to outweigh that of their respective neighbours.

The future of Europe's most militarized country may well depend upon the fate of the Geneva talks and Reagan's SDI. But forty years after the war, the retrenchment, arms build-ups and further retrenchments on both sides of the German border have paradoxically given the situation a rare stability. A Dutch diplomat, with a memory longer than his years for the last war, noted recently that Europe has finally acquired the stability it has lacked since the turn of the century. By this, he meant that the problem of German expansionism has been resolved by the division of the country, and that this division must remain in place for that stability to continue. This same argument has been evolved brilliantly by the American historian De Porte, who argues that Europe in its former guise of nineteenth-century nation states can never re-emerge, and that these states were, in the first place, superficial since they depend upon who held the balance of power at the time.

Such arguments would hold little sway with emigre East Europeans, or among those who view the Soviet threat as paramount. But for West Germans, now enjoying the highest standard of living of all NATO countries, there are good reasons for wishing to preserve the status quo. The U.S. troops, to follow this line, might destabilize the situation by pulling out, just as any talk of reuniting the two Germanies would also upset the current balance. By the same token, the USSR might also be reluctant to countenance an American withdrawal from Europe if this was likely to result in a German reunion—the USSR has perhaps more reasons than any country to fear such a reunion.

West Germany in the 1980s is a military zone of NATO, let us be frank. But it is at the same time part of a new order that is still taking shape. Hitler's Third Reich, which even now seems somehow typically German to many outsiders, lasted only twelve years. But for the past thirty years, the two Germanies have coexisted. Perhaps even more significant, the American preoccupation with Europe has lasted most of this century—the Wall Street collapse of 1929 was in part responsible for the rise of Hitler, such was the closeness of economic ties between the U.S. and Europe—so that the present situation appears less as an anachronism that might be thought. West Germany has always had its American troops, for good or ill. They are almost part of society's fabric.

West Germany is part of New Europe.

by Shane Berg

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