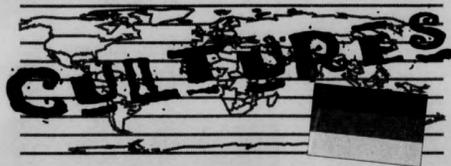


CAMPUS



Germany: Christiane Werner

DENNIS GERMAN
The Brunswickian

The country in focus this week is Germany and the student is Christiane Werner. Christiane arrived in Canada approximately five and a half years ago. This is her first year at UNB. That is, if you were talking about the Fredericton campus. For the past four years Christiane has gone to UNBSJ. She did a business major in economics. She decided to come to Canada because her father had a friend who lived in Saint John who was looking for a nanny. "I remember when I flew into the Saint John airport it was night time. It was also very foggy. I couldn't see a thing. But I was amazed that there were hardly any houses around. Germany is densely populated. Take approximately eighty million people and put them into a space that's roughly the size of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia put together, that is Germany."

If I had asked Christiane eight years ago where she came from, she would have told me West Germany. The Berlin Wall came down in 1989. Prior to the wall coming down, Germany was still split into two parts, East and West. Christiane had this to say about the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. "It was exhilarating. No one really expected it. At least in the West it was really hushed up. There was a feeling in the East, like people knew something was going on but they didn't know exactly what it was. I had a friend in East Berlin who called me

saying, 'I'm in West Berlin right now. I'm standing here and everyone is coming over. The borders are open,' and that was at three in the morning on November 9. I couldn't believe it. I thought she was pulling my leg. I thought yeah you're kidding, but she wasn't, it was true. I spent the New Years following the break down of the Wall in Berlin. I was there with some friends. We were standing on top of the wall. There was a huge party going on at the time. It was just amazing. I really couldn't believe it was happening."

Looking for a university education? You don't have to be rich or rely on loans to pay for your education. "There's no tuition there. You do have to buy your books and you pay for your normal cost of living. The thing is you don't get told what books you have to buy for your classes. You're completely on your own. The profs do have lectures but it's up to you to find reading material for the course. Also because university is free there is a space problem. You could have 1200 students in one lecture. The professors don't know you. You're just a number to them. They've got this attitude like 'I don't have to talk to you, I'm the professor, speak with my assistant, they're really snobbish.'"

There is a growing trend in Germany to become Atheist. The reason is that in Germany you have to pay a church tax. The church tax is deducted from your income. If you wanted to go to church you would be allowed to attend. However, don't expect to be married in a church or even have a burial service. If you choose not to pay the church tax you will not receive the benefits of a paid member. "It's become quite expensive. A lot of the younger generation have become Atheist to save on the taxes." The two main religions in Germany are Protestant and Catholic.

"The northern part of Germany is predominantly Protestant while the southern part is predominantly Catholic. You can actually see a gradual change as you go from north to south."

So what about those stereotypical German trademarks, like the Autobahn, German beer and the Black Forest. For all of you who are wondering if the great and fantastic Autobahn is everything that it's cracked up to be, it is. For those of you who don't know what it is, it is the main highway of Germany. It goes all over the country connecting all the major cities. Yeah, yeah so what, it's just a highway right? Wrong. The Autobahn does not have a speed limit. "I remember one time when my ex-boyfriend, Brian, and I were in Germany. My uncle invited us to go to Munich with him. From my place to Munich is a seven hour drive.

Destruction of natural habitat is not only a North American problem it's happening worldwide. Germany is faced with the same problem. Germany's fabled Black Forest is dying. "Around seventy percent of the trees in the Black Forest are dead or are dying. It's because of industry, acid rain and disease as the main contributors to the deterioration of the forest. It's gorgeous there. It's very similar to certain parts of Canada. There are a lot of tall pine trees and brooks. It used to be so dense with trees that the forest actually appeared dark. Hence the name Black Forest. But now it's thinning out quite a bit and nothing can be done about it. It also hasn't been raining as much lately. During the winter it rains more than it snows. The winters there are not quite as cold as they are here. It's strange because on a world map Germany is located further north than where we are right now. Yet the winters are colder here than they are in Germany."

Feel like having a beer with your Big Mac? You can in Germany. "They serve beer at McDonalds. Everybody who goes to Germany raves about it. I don't understand why it's such a big deal the beer they serve there is really gross. However, German beer is a lot better than Canadian beer. The legal drinking age for beer and wine is sixteen. For the harder stuff it's eighteen," as for the German night life Christiane had this to say about it, "There's no government instituted closing hour. It depends on the licenses of the clubs have. Some clubs close at six in the morning and others open at seven in the morning. There have been quite a few different instances where I've gone out till six in the morning, then went had breakfast somewhere and then go to a different club at seven o'clock". "Geez, I can hardly go till three in the morning."

And finally what does Christiane think of Maritimers? "I can't believe how friendly and polite they are. I could step on someone's foot by accident and they will apologize for my stepping on their foot. People are always holding doors open for me, too. Back in Germany people don't do that, they usually just slam the door in your face. Generally speaking, Canadians are more open minded than Germans."

Well how's that for living in the big ol' red, white and umm...



Christiane Werner: a German perspective at UNB.

DREW GILBERT PHOTO

So we were driving on the Autobahn in this great big Audi. My uncle is one of those people that likes to drive really fast. We were going 180 km/h and I noticed that Brian's body had tensed up. We reached 200 km/h and Brian was literally holding on to his seat. When we reached 240 km/h, I saw him close his eyes and start to pray. To me that was nothing, I was used to it. But to him he thought he was going to die any second. Needless to say it took us a little less than seven hours to reach Munich. We got there in about four and a half hours."

body spirit

When love is not enough

Couples often believe that problems in relationships happen because of a lack of love. When arguments occur, they assume it's because they don't love each other enough or because they are not right for each other. And if they felt differently about each other, then conflicts wouldn't happen. It's important to realize that in romantic relationships, you have two different people, with two different sets of needs and wants, and conflicts are inevitable.

One person might want to define her/himself as a separate person and might need a lot of independence. Establishing separate friendships, taking part in different leisure activities, or having more time alone might be especially important. At the same time, the other partner might need emotional intimacy and he/she might want to spend a lot of time hanging out together and talking a lot. Sometimes problems can occur when one partner wants to spend more time together while the other needs "space." The more one partner pushes to do things together, the more time alone the other may need. This creates a negative cycle leaving one partner feeling suffocated and the other frustrated. What's the answer? In this situation, it's important to recognize that the needs of each partner are legitimate, that neither person is to blame, and that each person plays a part in the cycle of interaction. This might lead to one person negotiating for space, when needed, or to the other person negotiating for time together.

Another common pattern in relationships occurs when one person dominates. The couple rents movies, and one person's preferences are usually favored. Or one person gets angry and

complains when the partner goes out with a friend, and may give the person the "third degree" at the end of the evening. This may happen to bolster feelings of inadequacy, or because the person feels insecure. To avoid an argument, the other partner may stop doing things, or may go along with what the partner wants. While this may work in the short run, in the long run it is usually fraught with problems. The more one partner avoids making the other angry, the more demands the other may make. While this leaves one partner feeling temporarily more secure, it happens at the expense of the other's freedom. Again, this creates a negative pattern, with one partner taking control, and the other giving up control. What's the answer here? In this situation, both people lose. One person never learns to deal with insecurity or inadequacy, while the other person loses parts of him/herself. In relationships, it's important both to learn how to share decision-making, and to preserve autonomy.

When problems occur in relationships, it's often a sign that one or both partners' needs are unmet. The answer is to be able to identify your feelings and needs, and then to communicate them directly to your partner in the hope of negotiating for them in the relationship. And while this doesn't guarantee a satisfying relationship, it does increase your chances. If you'd like more information on this or other relationship topics, contact Counseling Services.

Larry Finkelstein is a Counselor with Counseling Services.

The Festival of Cultural Diversity

RENE ALLARD
THE BRUNSWICKIAN

In our present context of global diversity and pluralism, the concept of "Unity in Diversity" - the concept that unity does not imply or require uniformity of culture, taste, thought, race, nationality or custom - is gaining wide recognition, especially the idea of an increasingly multicultural society, functioning harmoniously. Unity and diversity seem quite opposite to each other and therefore even irreconcilable. However, not only are these two words not irreconcilable, but their integration in the concept of "Unity in Diversity" is to the benefit of us all. Diversity without unity results in conflict; while unity without diversity can lead to conformity, which suffocates personal creativity and in some instances has led to tyranny and oppression.

Unity of thought and purpose is essential to the achievement of great projects, whether in the country, or the world as a whole. Yet, to this day, leaders have tried to achieve this unity of purpose by imposing conformity and sameness, and, in totalitarian or dictatorial regimes such as the old Soviet Union or the defunct Nazi state, going so far as to negate or destroy the variety of individual identities which were seen as a threat to the stability and benefit of the whole.

Abdul-Baha, the son of the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, likened the human race to "the flowers

of a garden. Though differing in kind, colour, form and shape, yet, inasmuch as they are refreshed by the waters of one spring, revived by the breath of one wind, invigorated by the rays of one sun, this diversity increaseth their charm and addeth unto their beauty."

The Baha'i principle of "Unity in Diversity" implies that humans can retain the essential unity of purpose while preserving the interesting variety between them as something which enriches their heritage. Guided by this concept, we should strive to help improve relations among all people, to further education for all, and to promote the eradication of all forms of prejudice. This means recognizing and valuing our diversity in its broadest sense, by including race, gender, age, class, culture, differences of ability and disability, education, wealth, neighborhood or temperament. "Unity in Diversity" is not a passive concept of acceptance but rather an active principle calling for our going out of our way to cherish and celebrate our differences.

The festival, a variety of programs and events aimed at promoting cultural diversity here at UNB, is an example of such an active effort. The Association for Baha'i Studies will be hosting an information booth in the blue lounge, from 10AM to 4PM on Monday, February 3rd, until Friday, February 7th. Furthermore, the Fredericton Baha'i Youth Dance Workshop will be performing a number of dances for the final evening celebration to be held Saturday, February 8th.

IN RESIDENCE



"Being a Don is a day-to-day operation, more like a task, not a job." This is Professor Thom Workman's philosophy on being a Don.

Workman is in his second year as Don of Bridges House. Workman finds his job as Don rewarding, but he comments that sometimes things are not so rewarding. "Sometimes it is difficult, and sometimes it is not. Sometimes it's rewarding and other times it is not. I really don't have a feeling, one way or another."

As I began to talk with Professor Workman, I felt very relaxed and at ease, a quality that would allow students to find him approachable. In an environment adorned with beautiful plants and paintings, students who visit Workman are transported from the cluttered atmosphere of their tiny rooms to a warm and inviting apartment.

Workman discussed his role as Don explaining, "The role of Don and the tasks include everything from discipline

and recommending expulsion of students right through to ensuring that everybody is out in the event of a fire alarm or nursing someone through a difficult period. These difficult periods deal with things like family break-ups and even suicide and attempted suicide."

Professor Workman works in conjunction with his proctors, ARP's and House Committee to run Bridges House on a day-to-day basis. As Don, he receives both a two-bedroom apartment, and a meal plan that he can use at his own convenience.

Students do not always realize how important a Don really is to the operation and function of each house. The Don is a source of maturity and



Bridges House

AARON MACEachern PHOTO AND STORY

students who come to them with problems while the Don is an adult. Thus, the Proctor acts on a peer level, while the Don acts on more of an authoritative level. However, different students need different types of authorities, and this is the justification for having both a Proctor and a Don.

A Don's life

experience and is present in each residence as a symbol of authority; their purpose is to assist students through rough times and commend them throughout their good. Dons do this in a different way than Proctors, in that Proctors are often the same age as the

Workman similarly finds the need for having Proctors in each house important. "Proctors are important, as they act in roles of responsibility. Proctors are crucial. They're crucial," emphasizes Workman.

The Political Science Professor feels that he gets the most reward when students come to him after he has helped them to thank him and tell him that things are working out all right. Workman finds this happens often. "Students express their gratitude to you, and thank you."

Workman prides himself in being close to his students. One way he does that is through baking bread and making dinners for his house members on the Sunday nights he has free. On Superbowl Sunday, Workman baked one-hundred and sixty pizza bagels for everybody in his house. "They were quickly devoured," says Workman.

Those who go above the job of Donship, like Workman, need to be commended and thanked. Those Dons who do not are the people we need to encourage to go further on and interact more with their students. The Don is the focal point of the house; combined with the Proctors, ARP's and House Committee members, they form the integral close-knit community known as a residence.

WRONG WAY by Kent Wiesel

WOW 1996

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