

# Teacher expected to get job at A&M

## Austrian finds trip to America a disheartening experience

By LAURIE MATUSEK  
Reporter

Disappointment and mental anguish were the two emotions Wiltraut Holub says she experienced when she arrived in the United States for her first time from her native homeland of Vienna, Austria.

Being in a new country for the first time is usually portrayed as being fun and exciting, but, for Holub, it didn't work that way. Holub, 40, came to the United States in August expecting to be employed by Texas A&M as a German literature teacher in the Department of Modern Languages.

Upon arrival, Holub says she discovered that there were no positions available. In Vienna, Holub was teaching German literature to high school students preparing for college. After finishing the semester, she was given the opportunity to take a one-year leave of absence.

In the spring, Holub decided to spend her one-year break teaching German classes at A&M after a friend from College Station told Holub that the University would need teachers for the 1985 summer school session, she says.

"Because I could not get enough concrete information in May concerning the position, I decided to wait until August to travel to the United States," Holub says. Information was limited because Holub and her friend spoke only in short intervals. Often the cost of the phone calls exceeded \$100, she says.

"At that time (May), I was assured by my friend and the hearsay of others that there would be plenty of positions available for the fall semester," Holub says.

"I looked forward to coming to Texas. When I arrived and found that I did not have a teaching position for the fall semester, I was very upset."

But there was not very much she could do. The time had come for Holub to accept the fact that the University did not have a position open for her.

"When I went to the Department of Modern Language and asked about the job for the fall semester, I was told to come back in the spring because there was a good possibility that something would be available then," she says.

Holub says that she was not going to wait until spring and be upset again. Instead, she says, she has made plans to return to Vienna in January 1986.

Holub may still be bitter, but she is learning to cope with the situation, she says.

"Even though I did not get the job with the University, I decided I must get a job just to stay busy," she says.

Holub left her name in the department where she had been denied a job. Her specialty was the German language and she was still optimistic that she could find a private job teaching German.

She also placed an advertisement in The Battalion for private tutoring in German.

Holub says the advertisement did the trick. She is now privately tutoring German and babysitting part time.

Holub considers her method of teaching German to her pupils quite different from the manner in which she learned the English language.

"In Austria, I was taught English by a woman who could not speak any German," she says. "All she could say was 'tell me in English.'"

So Holub did. "I learned a great deal this way," she says. "It was a hard at first but it worked because I had to try."

Holub says she considers her mastering of the English language far from complete.

"I do not speak it (English) very well, and often it is hard for me to understand the people here," she says. "It is easier for me to understand people from Boston because they speak in a manner similar to the British."

She may not understand all the phrases and slang students use, but Holub says she is not afraid to ask questions, especially to those with smiles on their faces.

"Texas A&M is a nice, polite and friendly campus," she says. "I noticed that right away. In Austria a person could walk across campus twice and not be greeted with a smile."

College Station is different, though, she says.

Holub is taking an adult education class sponsored by Community Education of College Station in which she says she has met many interesting and friendly people. In that class, she says, she has met many other individuals from foreign nations who are also trying to perfect their English skills.

Although she has met many nice people here, Holub says she misses her husband very much. Holub's husband is a jewelry salesman in Vienna. He did not join his wife in her leave of absence because of his work obligations. She says that in a few months people will start considering what Christmas presents they will purchase, and College Station is not the city in which to make money in his line of work.

The feasible solution was for Holub's husband to remain in Vienna.

Because of the distance involved, she says they send care packages and write to each other often. Holub says this communication bridges the gap between the two.



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER  
Wiltraut Holub tutors Margaret Murry, a graduate student in the mechanical engineering program at A&M.

After everything that has happened, Holub says she has decided to stay until January because of a matter of pride that is involved.

Although the simple thing for Holub to do would be to go back to Vienna right now, she says she does not intend to go back to Vienna until she has fulfilled her own sense of accomplishment.

In the meantime, she continues to adjust to her new part-time occupations and enjoy those things in life that make her content.

One of the things she enjoys most is bicycling. Not only does she cycle for exercise but it is also her only mode of transportation besides by foot.

As she pedals to the library, perspiring from the heat and the exasperating ride from Southwest Park way to campus, she hops off her bike with incredible energy and exuberance.

"I love to ride," she says. "It wakes me up."

The weather here is a major adjustment for Holub. She says it is much more humid in Texas than in Europe.

"The humidity makes it so hard to wake up, but riding my bicycle takes care of that," she says.

Although Holub likes to ride her bicycle, she says there are times when a car would come in handy. When she first arrived in the United States, Holub considered purchasing a car but changed her mind because she thought it might be hard to sell it when she decided to leave.

Her solution was to ride the bus. However, when she discovered that there was not a city busing service, she decided to rely upon her bicycle.

The absence of busing services for College Station residents is one of the few criticisms she has about the city.

Holub also has found a few minor problems with the city.

Whenever Holub decides to eat at restaurants, she says she finds it very expensive. Although there is a lot of food on the plate and the food is very good, the price is more than she wishes to pay.

One thing Holub says she misses is Vienna bread. It's difficult to find the hard rolls that she loves to eat in Vienna.

# Dallas nightclub bouncer imitates Stallone's Rambo

Associated Press

DALLAS — Rambo came stalking into the office the other day, a bow hooked over one arm, a quiver of arrows strapped to his powerful back. Camouflage pants and combat boots concealed his lower body; from the waist up, it was strictly biceps, triceps and brawn.

He looked big. He looked broad. He looked Ram Tough.

Women came from every corner of the building to gawk at this live action Rambo, a character seemingly plucked from the silver screen and dropped into an ordinary downtown conference room. Clearly, it was Rambo, but was it ... could it also be Sylvester Stallone?

No, ladies, it was Jaffe Roberts, 26, a Dallas nightclub bouncer who has looked like Stallone all his life, but until "Rocky" made Stallone's voluptuous face and beefy bod a familiar one, nobody noticed the resemblance. After "Rocky," people started staring.

In 1983 Roberts entered his second Stallone look alike contest in Dallas. He won \$100 and a contract with Ron Smith's Celebrity Look-alikes, the Los Angeles-based agency. A few gigs, including an interview on "PM Magazine," followed.

Then came Rambo, this summer's mega-hit. The movie already is pop-culture phenomenon. It has spawned books, posters, toys and weaponry.

And, for Roberts, Stallone is money in the bank.

Roberts has found yet another way to exploit his Rambo-ness. Since July, Roberts has been delivering Rambograms at \$75 a shot. About five times a week, Roberts dons his Rambo gear and shows up to wish somebody a happy birthday or

happy anniversary in some public place.

"I don't sing the message," Roberts notes. "I talk it. I say whatever the customer wants me to say, plus I might add a line or two from the movie."

Because another Rambo look alike recently tangled with the law while delivering a Rambogram in New York, Dallas version lets the police know when he's traveling with any of his arsenal — the bow and arrows, a knife or an automatic weapon.

"It's neat that I can represent such a popular character," said Roberts. "And I feel obligated to portray him as an upstanding citizen."

That's partly because kids are his biggest fans. Roberts said two 7-year-old girls regularly call him to say "We love you, Rambo," but only as friends.

"Most kids want an autograph or a

kiss on the cheek," Roberts said, pointing out that he cannot identify himself, sign himself, or sign autographs as Sylvester Stallone. He signs "John Rambo."

At 6-foot-1 and 205 pounds, Roberts is taller than Sylvester Stallone and less beefy than the star was in "Rocky." Although he was born in Michigan and grew up in Florida, Roberts easily falls into the "deese" and "dose" vernacular of Stallone's native Philadelphia.

Roberts must depend on Stallone, and his continuing popularity with moviegoers for his livelihood. Roberts' personal manager, a Hollywood stuntman and local model named Ski Lawrence, hopes to get his client a job as Stallone's double. And, if something should happen to Stallone:

"God forbid," said Lawrence. "But if it did, we'd be rich."

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