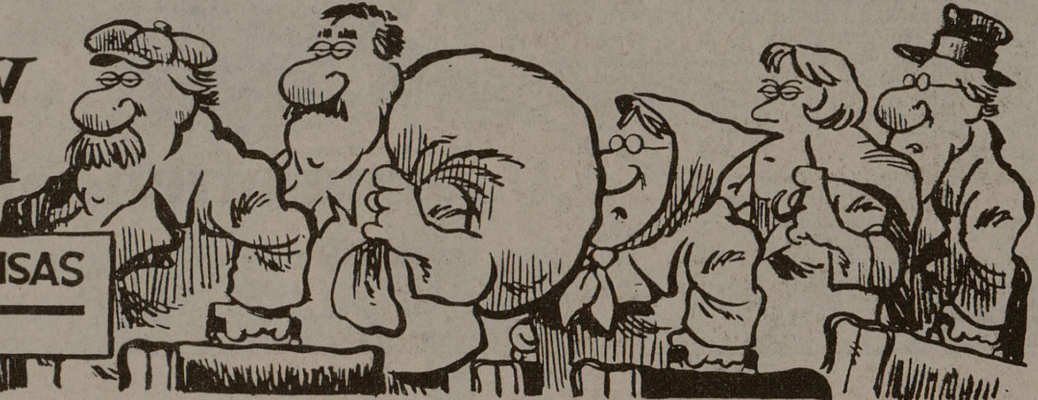
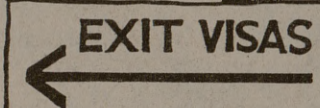


NATO

MARGULIES
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Warsaw Packed



Germanies grow closer, but should not unify

Over the last few weeks, thousands of East Germans have left their country. Though they are not starving, they have good reasons to leave even close relatives and friends behind.

A lot of individuals, including all young people, lack personal prospects in East Germany. The wages are low, especially regarding highly skilled persons. There is no freedom in choosing an employer; after graduation from a university, a job is assigned, to which the individual is supposed to stick.

East German cities are polluted in winter due to burning large amounts of soft coal with high sulfur contents. There has been hardly any *glasnost* so far, not to talk about *perestroika*. And since *Pravda* became interesting, it is no longer easily available in East Berlin.

The government under its aged leader, Erich Honecker, is opposing any change. Although there is a crisis looming, the East German economy is still the strongest in the eastern bloc.

The upcoming generation of communist leaders does not provide many hopes. They utter the same reservations about *perestroika* as the present leaders. East Germans are leaving with signs that read, "Erich, give up!"

Let's go beyond the political reality and imagine what it would be like if the government met the citizens' wishes. Suddenly, for any nonviolent reason whatsoever, it would be possible in East Germany to think, talk and publish whatever they want.

People could gather, demonstrate and engage in different political parties. Free elections would be held and the majority would form a government. Individual rights would be adopted.

The economy would be untied from the state bureaucracy. Private enterprise would be encouraged and people would work for the salary they obtain. The legislature would enforce pollution control. Free international trade and travel could boost the economy.

For such a free and democratic East Germany, the current ties to the eastern bloc would soon become obsolete.

There would exist two states neighboring each other, based on the same principles and whose people speak the same language. They would have a lot more in common. Hence, why two states?

The implicit answer, however, has its difficulties — difficulties with deep roots in history. Since economic and po-

Hermann Koch
Guest Columnist

litical power are always interconnected, the combination of the strongest economy in western Europe with another economic potential makes people remember the last period of German hegemony over Europe.

But the recent history, after World War II, plays its role too. West Germany is the biggest exporter in the world. West Germans spend the most money per capita on traveling. And one of the best of my own experiences is that they are welcome in the United States, Mexico, Italy and France.

I think the relationship between West Germany and France especially is one of the greatest achievements in post-war history. After three devastating wars in 75 years, many German and French cities are now associated and there are common cultural programs and high school exchanges that often lead to close international friendships. That's not to mention the economic links, of which both countries benefit from their strength.

There are many more examples of noticeable developments which were not possible without close political ties. Would it be worth sacrificing any of that for a greater Germany?

My answer to this question is a definite no.

Besides the fear of a German supremacy among the European countries, I personally worry about an upcoming German nationalism which has been buried for the last four decades, for good reasons. Recently, there has been an increase in votes for national conservative parties in West Germany and even public statements were made which could be taken as arguing about Germany's eastern border.

It is not wise to make foreign nations suspicious and gamble with the credit the Germanies have won during the last few decades. However, initially these considerations were based on the situation of the people in present East Germany. Hence, is there no way out of the dilemma?

Though it might look appealing, a significant change in the eastern political system does not necessarily lead to a reunified Germany. In my opinion, people in and outside of Germany must start to think about two different Ger-

man states not separated by an iron curtain, but with closer political, economical and personal links.

And there should be ways to handle worries about extended political influence due to economic power. (Hypocritical question: Why is the USSR so influential though having such a weak economy?)

But any sort of model going in the direction of two more closely connected German states requires a broad public debate in West Germany in order to achieve a consensus. And the requirement that the West German government must work towards reunification, which is given in our constitution, must be interpreted. I wish Germans would be satisfied having obtained significant progress (almost nothing seemed realistic five years ago), without quite fulfilling all of their dreams.

On the other hand, other parameters also determine the future of East and West Germans. After the second world war, Europe was divided and NATO was formed, whose goal was to curb Soviet influence in Europe. NATO is committed to never accepting a communist system. In my mind, it would twist its original task if it did not foster a possible change in an East European country by maintaining the principle of a Europe divided by a sharp line.

Though it is still the time to be cautious rather than enthusiastic, more should happen due to new eastern development than just food aid and political reaction. For necessary initiatives there must be extended political discussions in the open without taboos or exaggerated expectations, which is not yet possible for a lot of people on this planet. But we will never be able to create an undivided better world if we don't have something like that in mind.

Hermann Koch is an exchange graduate student in mechanical engineering from Ruhr-University, Bochum, West Germany.

Benefits justify effort to attract Bush Library

The Bush Library has been in the news lately, though its site may not be selected for years. The publicity has centered around the possibility of the library being located on Texas A&M's campus. A committee has been formed to help bring it to A&M, a giant, multi-page petition is circulating around campus seeking student support for the idea and most prominently, the College Station City Council has given Jersey Street a new name: George Bush Drive.



Jim Hayes
Columnist

College Station has a better-than-average chance at getting the library; President Bush recently remarked to *Newsweek*, regarding the library, "It's a little premature, but I want Texas to be the recipient." Because the Lyndon B. Johnson Library is located on the campus of the University of Texas, A&M is the largest university in Texas without a presidential library.

If the Bush Library were located in College Station, it justifies the current efforts to attract it because it would bring academic and economic benefits to the campus and community, as well as enhance the images of both.

Academic benefits could be significant. As a research facility, the library would attract waves of scholars from many disciplines to do research. Their presence around campus could lead to contacts with A&M faculty members. The University might even attract new faculty members who are interested in using the library. And the fast-growing College of Liberal Arts would receive a big boost.

Economic benefits would emerge from the tourist attraction aspect of the library. Assuming that it contained a museum like the others, that museum would draw a lot of visitors. Those visitors would stay in local hotels and motels, dine in local restaurants and fill up at local gas pumps, all feeding the local economy.

Image benefits certainly will follow wherever the Bush Library goes. Presidential libraries enhance the reputation of a University and community in a unique way. Exclusivity may have something to do with this — currently, only nine presidential libraries operate.

A look at the John F. Kennedy Library, located in Boston, gives some perspective on the size and scope of presidential libraries.

The Kennedy Library holds roughly 28 million manuscript pages in all its collections, including over 8 million pages belonging to former President Kennedy. It contains roughly 115,000 still photographs, 1,000 audio tapes, and 6 million feet of film and video tape. It also has 20,000 volumes of printed material and over 150 collections of personal papers, and it contains more than 1,000 oral history interviews.

In addition, the museum component of the John F. Kennedy Library houses 15,000 objects related to Kennedy family history.

The idea of the Bush Library being

located here is very hypothetical right now, though, for President Bush took office just this January. Any benefits such efforts would come much later, an obvious question arises: Why are we going all out now?

We have competition. An article printed in Saturday's *Houston Chronicle* listed Yale University, Texas Tech University, the University of Houston and Rice University as other schools which have expressed an interest in the library. Every university listed can surely present an attractive package and each would benefit by receiving the library.

The early formation of a committee, the petition drive, and the street renaming all appear to be competitively based efforts to send a signal to the Bush Library site selectors.

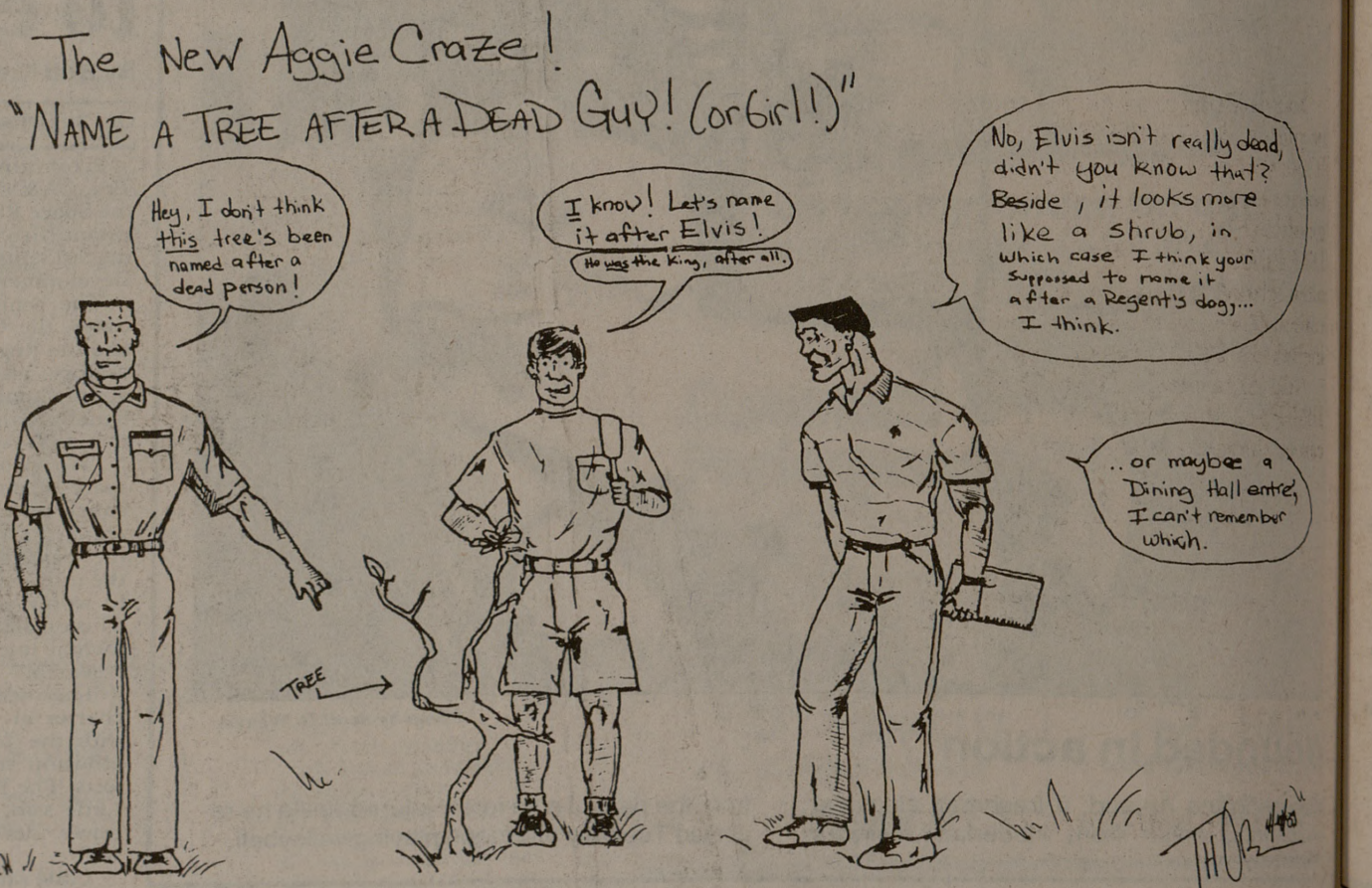
The street renaming action has received criticism. The suddenness of the College Station City Council's action took virtually everyone by surprise. Naming anything after a living person seems at least a little odd. And, despite Bush's presidential position, a political partisan odor lingers.

The city council appears to have acted with the purpose of attracting the library. They have sent an unmistakable signal: "We would like you to locate the library here." They also imply that the city will do what it can to give the library an adequate home. Similar to the one located near the MSC or houses lying on the path of a newly-planned interstate, the council sacrificed the title "Jersey Street" to accomplish a larger purpose.

In a competitive environment, little things sometimes seem to have a big effect on the outcome. Yet these and other efforts to attract the Bush Library to College Station seem strangely out of place right now, barely nine months into his presidency.

However, the intense competition which accompanies these kinds of decisions (remember the supercollider site selection process?) requires communities to take the initiative if they hope to have a chance of being chosen. To win at this game, we must allow the effort to justify some of its means. The College Station City Council probably acted in this city's and this University's best long-run interest by sending that signal. Such a move could help to bring College Station and Texas A&M the many benefits which accompany being named a presidential library site.

Jim Hayes is a senior economics major and a columnist for The Battalion.



The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Journalism.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.

Mail subscriptions are \$17.44 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$36.44 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111.