

GERMAN JOURNALISTS SHARE PERSPECTIVES



Mack Harrison/The BATTALION

Visiting journalists from Germany: **Beate Werner, Connie Schulz, Ulrike Bieritz, Stephan Grafen and Toni Rupprecht** (not shown) discuss their views of Americans and of German reunification. They are visiting America to learn how the media interacts with government.

By Margaret Claughton

THE BATTALION

Over the past two weeks, members of the Texas A&M faculty and staff have been showing five visiting journalists from Germany the finer points of the University. Beate Werner, Ulrike Bieritz, Connie Schulz, Stephan Grafen and Toni Rupprecht came to the U.S. three weeks ago.

After beginning their trip in Washington D.C., they came to Texas A&M to experience an American university. The five are involved in

an exchange program to observe the way American media relates to their government.

Before coming to the U.S., the group naturally had some preconceived ideas of what America would be like. They were surprised at the differences between German and American cultures.

"You are very friendly," said Grafen, editor for a German radio newschannel.

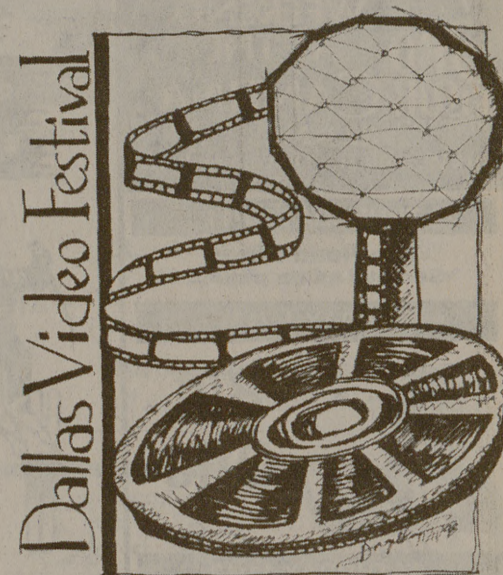
Werner, who works as a TV reporter and anchorwoman, said, "One of the big differences we noticed was how quickly you come into contact with people. For example, you wouldn't say 'Howdy' to someone on the street in Germany."

Rupprecht, a DJ, for a German radio station, said, "Even in Washington D.C., we were talking in German and someone just walked up and said, 'Hey, where are you from?' This would never happen in Germany. People in Germany are cooler, more shy."

In addition to friendly folks, the German visitors discovered America has her share of criminals as well.

"We had to get used to the fact that America is a very violent country, especially in Washington," Werner said. "People told us not to go use the metro after a certain time or not to go in

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A&M faculty and students to showcase work

By Joe Leih

THE BATTALION

Six Texas A&M student and faculty projects will be showcased at the seventh annual Dallas Video Festival.

The festival will launch its four days of approximately 250 video screenings, panel discussions and technology demonstrations tonight at the Dallas Museum of Art.

One of the exhibits that will be shown all four days is "Bentlow Stairs: An Electronic Artist's Book."

"Stairs," created by Ed Cunnius, Elnor Kinsella and Jeff Raymond, architecture graduate students; Susan Kirchman, associate professor of architecture; and Alan Staccell, professor of architecture, uses images and words to allow a user to explore a story about a futuristic sea-drifting city.

Kirchman said, "The piece is interactive. Each person travels through the story in their own way."

The user sits at a table surrounded by computer printouts of the story's characters and moves a computer mouse, directing a cursor about the images and words presented on a large screen. The user then follows one of many possible story lines by employing the mouse to find "links" to other images and words.

Kinsella said the story deals with many philosophical aspects of today's society.

"The story addresses the basic assumptions we make about building cities — the structures we operate in, environmental issues and population growth," she said.

"Beware Behave Be Still," "Be Still" and "Residue" are three other works that will be shown at the festival. These pieces, created by Brian Green, an architecture graduate student, are combinations of computer animation and

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REVIEWS

MUSIC

Dylan brings new calmness to 'World Gone Wrong'

By Jacqueline Ayotte

THE BATTALION

"World Gone Wrong"
Bob Dylan
Blues/Rock
Sony Music Inc.

What ever happened to the lively musical spirit of ole Bobby D.?

Could the answer my friend, have just blown away in the wind?

Nah. Bob Dylan's style has simply quieted down and weathered with wisdom throughout the years.

"World Gone Wrong," an album full of traditional folk songs arranged by Dylan, perfectly displays this living legend's newfound calmness.

Each song in the album features nothing more than

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Dylan

PLAY

'Seascape,' a splash of insightful humor

By Dena Dizdar

THE BATTALION

"Seascape" by Edward Albee
Starring Amy Looper, Jeff Wilson, Richard Kretzer
and Sarah Hennessy
Directed by Robert Wenck
Playing at Rudder Forum Nov. 10-13, 845-1234

A middle-aged couple meets up with two talking sea lizards, they have a philosophical discussion about life and become friends.

Sounds strange and unbelievable, but The Aggie Players manage to breathe life into Edward Albee's "Seascape" with natural performances and a steady rhythm that keeps the audience involved and interested.

In a play with only four characters and no scene changes, the only element the audience has to concentrate on is the acting and the dialogue. Luckily, the audience is led through the story by likable characters who in some way seem to remind us of ourselves or someone we know.

Amy Looper's portrayal of Nancy, a middle-aged woman who wants to find out what life has to offer, is believable and endearing. Her thoughtful performance almost makes us forget she's a college freshman. Opposite Looper is Jeff Wilson who plays Charlie, Nancy's unbudgeable husband. His mature presence brings vitality to a character whose life goal is just to get a little rest.

The couple is resting on the beach discussing what to do with their lives now that they have reached middle age. Nancy is adventurous and gives many suggestions for exciting journeys they could take. But Charlie is content just to lie on the sand and relax. He says they've earned a little rest; to which, Nancy says, "We've earned a little life."

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Lauren Donahue/The BATTALION

Sarah Hennessy, Jeff Wilson, Richard Kretzer and Amy Looper star in The Aggie Players' production of "Seascape."