

Academic year  
1992/93

UNIVERSITÄT  
BAYREUTH

SPEKTRUM

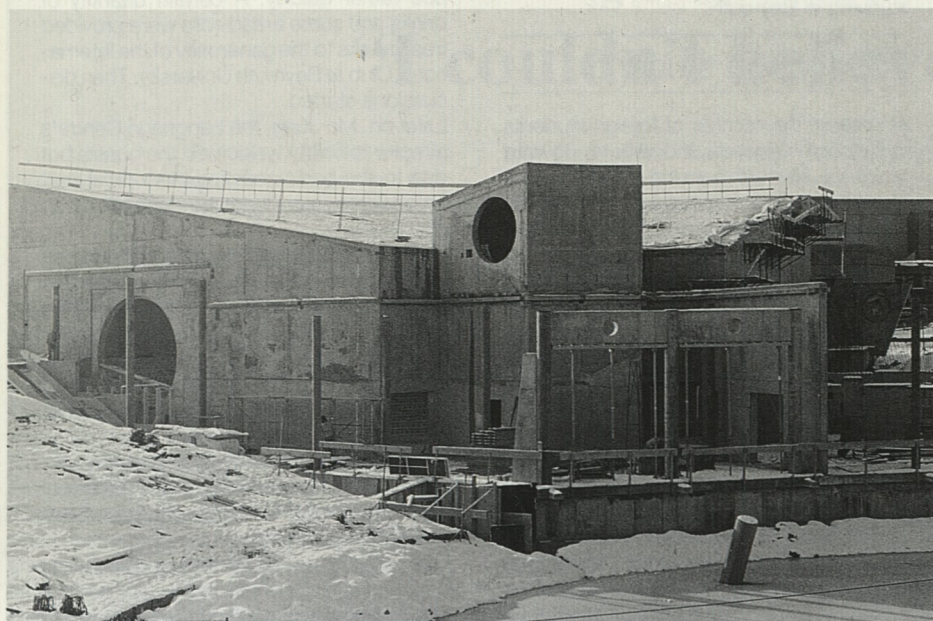
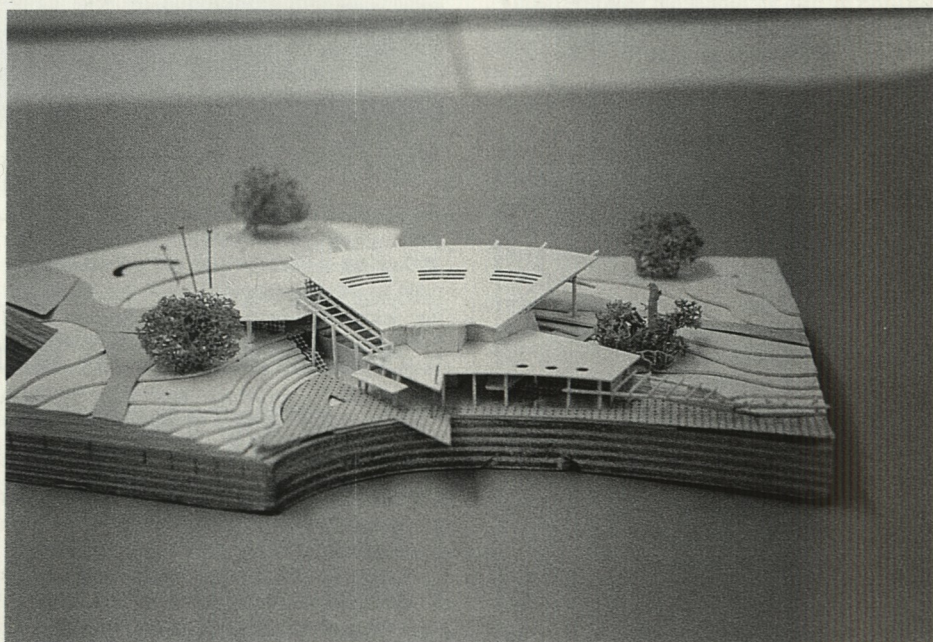
*Special  
English  
Edition*

## Construction is under way

# The new Audimax

In March last year the work for the new lecture theatre started under the supervision of the Landbauamt Bayreuth. In the meantime the new edifice is nearly finished and if the work goes according to schedule, it will be completed in Spring 1994. That means a respectable time of only 24 months for the construction and will mean that it is right on time for Bayreuth's 800th anniversary.

Responsible for the architecture is the office of Peter Dürschinger, a young and creative team from Fürth-Ammerndorf, who were the successful tender back in 1990. The basic material of their structure is steel concrete with an application of very large glass planes. Although this signifies a return to the style of the early university buildings, it also assimilates contemporary requirements, e.g. the use of verdure for the roof construction, the adaption to the slope of the building site and the alignment to the pond. Essentially the whole building is divided into three parts: the foyer, the lecture theatre and practice rooms for the Theatre Studies department.



Above: Model of the finished building

Left: The building site in February 1993 — front view

Moreover there is an outside extension: the row of seats is continued in a similar way to a Roman amphitheatre. (Unemployed gladiators and Christians may apply to the university for further information.)

For the students the most important progress of the new lecture theatre is its capacity of 700 seats. In the future the wrangling for seats will have an end and also the dangerous situation of overcrowding in the present lecture halls, e.g. in the case of fire. Not only for the students will the new lecture theatre be a great enrichment, but also for the staff of the university. In the vacations the building will mainly be used for congresses and exhibitions that in the past have had to be cancelled or transferred elsewhere.

Continued on the next page

The university of Bayreuth is in a lucky position with grants for new buildings while other universities have no money at their disposal though their capacities are overstrained. 50 % of the building is being paid for by the Federal Government and the other 50 % by the State of Bavaria. This is a comparatively low amount of the total of 350 Million DM for the whole university complex.

Finally, cyclists have reason to be glad. In the course of the new building work the approach to the university area from the city will be reorganized. That means that the path under the railway bridge will be straightened, so the barriers may not be necessary anymore. But most of all, the ducks who populated the pond before will be happy when the construction is finished. To them the beginning of the work must have seemed like an expulsion from paradise and so they are impatiently waiting for their comeback.

Reinhard Ipsen



Above: The new "headquarters" for lectures.

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## Another way to learn a language

### TWINS

Bayreuth University is known for its good foreign language programme.

Originally founded as the idea of teaching staff in the Economics department, the Es-Zett (Language Centre) soon took over the language education of students from all faculties. It also looks after foreign students studying in Bayreuth.

### 350 foreign students

At present the number of foreign students in Bayreuth exceeds 350 with an upward tendency. Most of them are from European countries (often supported by EEC exchange programmes) and the Far East is also well represented.

To optimize the learning conditions, the Es-Zett tries to find so-called twins. This means putting a native German and a native speaker of another language in touch with each other. The twins then form a couple for the period of the foreign student's stay and they help each other in learning German and the foreign language.

To publicize this programme and to help the students to get to know each other the EsZett held a Twins' Party on Monday, 26th November 1992 in the Aktien-Keller of a

Bayreuth brewery. Not only twins but any other students who were interested were invited to come.

### Free drinks

The party started at 8.30 p.m. and the room soon filled. The various languages were allocated tables and the participants grouped rather quickly. A certain quantity of drinks and some bread-rolls were provided free, thanks to the generosity of the International Club at Bayreuth University. Then discussions started.

Later on, Mr. Jung, the Language Centre's director, officially welcomed the guests but due to the bad acoustics this official part unfortunately could not be understood by everybody.

Though the free drinks and bread had soon disappeared, the party only ended at around 2 o'clock in the morning. Attracting some 150 to 200 participants the party was a step in the direction of integrating the foreigners at our University. Personally I got lots of new impressions and, of course, new addresses and contacts.

Following the success of this event, another Twins' Party is to be held at the end of the semester for students who have been learning together regularly.

Martin Bennewitz

## **“An interdisciplinary approach to the ecological challenge”**

# **Business Ecology**

It can no longer be denied that a long term reconstruction of the economy along ecological lines must take place. Only by doing this can we guarantee a durable and sustainable development of humankind and society. In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary for an interdisciplinary approach to be taken: professions of all areas and disciplines must establish an open, constructive dialogue. An integral understanding of ecological problems is essential for this dialogue to take place.

“Business Ecology” establishes a link between traditional business education and a modern integral, interdisciplinary approach to the ecological challenge. The term ecology encompasses not only the biological but also social, ethical, legal, as well as economic aspects of modern business. An integral understanding of the world is necessary to influence the change of conduct in individuals, business, institutions and society as a whole.

The BAYREUTHER INITIATIVE for Business Ecology consists of students who want to actively participate in the challenging developments of our time. In their opinion the discussion of complex environmental questions has to be included in an academic education. They strive to understand the world's interdepen-

dencies because we need an integral education today in order to meet the complex needs of tomorrow.

The primary goal of the BAYREUTHER INITIATIVE is to integrate ecological aspects into university education. To achieve this a lot of activities were started. Three of them will be described now:

- An inquiry of the BAYREUTHER INITIATIVE among 700 companies shows the need for ecologically-trained business people. But only the European Business School in Oestrich-Winkel and the Hochschule St. Gallen have started to incorporate business ecology into business administration lectures. So the BAYREUTHER INITIATIVE applied for a professorship for Business Ecology at the University of Bayreuth. This year they organized lectures in Business Ecology held by professors from different departments.

- Beside the Business Ecology lectures at the university it is necessary to have practice in this field. Therefore the BAYREUTHER INITIATIVE has organized, in co-operation with the VÖW in Berlin, a practical course in environmental management. This programme will bring together companies which offer internship places in this area and students who want to collect practical experiences especially in this important field.

- For next summer the BAYREUTHER INITIATIVE together with the EPEA-Environmentinstitut, is organizing an international three-day conference about “Intelligent Product Systems” in Bayreuth. At this conference scientists, managers, journalists and, of course, interested students will discuss different models to replace “waste management”. A lot of practical examples will be included.

For more information about the BAYREUTHER INITIATIVE, please write to the following address, as a continuing exchange of ideas between different disciplines as well as between different countries is essential for the development of sound ecological and economical solutions:

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Tom Behrmann

## **A day with a student reading a different subject**

# **“I couldn't believe it!”**

I started studying Business Administration at the University of Bayreuth in November 1992. There were 350 of us who were beginning to study this subject.

At the end of each semester we have to pass several exams. If you fail you can retake them after the break or one year later. Most students wait one year before taking the exam again, because it is better to go to the lessons again. For that reason there are always more than 350 students in my lectures, sometimes there are about 500 of us. To have lectures with such a crowd the largest room is needed. Because of that most of the time the lectures are in the “Emil-Warburg-theatre”, a room with 450 seats. But sometimes we are in smaller rooms. Then it is better to be there at least half an hour earlier than the lecture starts in order to get a seat. Even classes which are called “exercises”

are attended by more than 100 students. That's the reason why even there we can't discuss individual questions.

Studying with such a crowd is a situation you can get used to.

Then I met Thomas and I was totally astonished.

He studies Technical Physics and is in his seventh semester. In his semester there are only seven students. I couldn't believe it! They use the smallest rooms and the professor knows each student by name and his interests and problems. Furthermore they can discuss the subject very well during their lectures and the professor can answer the students' specific questions and help everyone to understand the subject. Of course they don't only have lectures with seven students, in some lectures there are almost 100 students.

But one thing is better when you are studying in a crowd: only some of your friends notice when you miss a lecture or when you are sitting in the room, but aren't listening.

In Thomas' lectures it is very important to be there and to be attentive. If you are not, the professor will ask you a question and it is embarrassing to admit that you weren't listening.

So, what is my conclusion?

On the one hand I like studying in a crowd, when I get a seat and the crowd is quiet when the professor speaks.

On the other hand I hate sitting in overcrowded rooms, not hearing what the professor is saying because of the noise, and not understanding the subject he is talking about.

Then I wish I could study with only seven students in my semester.

Annette Böttger

See the world and your own country

## Handbook for the native traveller

If you have some time to spare and you decide to travel around a bit, the first thought that comes to mind is to go abroad. Asia, Australia, the Caribbean Islands, the U.S., Spain, Italy, even the great country of Austria. But if you ask a native German what he has seen of his own country you will find him puzzled, admitting that he knows his way around just about everywhere in the universe but in his own country. OK, there are some people who stay on their home turf, but how could they possibly explain that to their friends and relatives: "Right, Jack, this year we went to Oberschönmatte, but you know my wife and kids like the home cooking . . . How was your scuba diving course on Maui??"

### This is the place you want to be

You say that doesn't sound exciting to you? Now here is our suggestion:

Consider going to Bay City, Central Europe, home of the bag sausage. Now this is the place you want to be. Since Bay City is in the middle of nowhere the most convenient way to get there is to take a plane. That will save you hours of strenuous and slow car travel. So we advise you to book with BAY ROUTE AIRWAYS, a daily non-stop service from Frankfurt International to the Greater Bay City Airport.

### Learn the Language!

Once you have solid ground beneath your feet you should make sure that you get acquainted with the local dialect and the local habits:

1) You have to pronounce all hard t and p sounds softly, e.g. *dodal*=total, *Babier*=Papier.  
2) To form an I you have to push your tongue with all its mass through your teeth so that "Milch" becomes "Milch".

3) Pronounce all a's as o's, all o's as u's, e.g. *Hosn*=Hasen, *Husn*=Hosen.

4) In every senseless sentence you should include equally senseless words such as "fei", "halt" and "gell", e.g. "Halt' halt amol, oba fei richtig, gell!" = "Halt' mal, aber richtig!"

5) Every word should be lessened in meaning by the addition of "-la" at the end, every statement should be lessened by the expressions "a klaans" (= ein kleines) or "a weng" (= ein wenig), e.g. "A klaans Schlächla hot na halt a weng getroffen" = "Ihn hat der Schlag getroffen" (and it is very likely that he is already dead).

6) In case you get lost and you have to ask for directions, be aware that a local minority sometimes refers to Bay City as Bayreuth.

Equipped with your new linguistic tools you should hit the road heading south. On a scenic

drive which will lead you through the beautiful little villages of Mistletoe Creek and Bumble Bee Valley, you will finally arrive in Courageous Man's Settlement. The first building you will see is the Linden Tree Inn. You should stop there to enjoy the local speciality of bag sausage with roast potatoes, and make sure to order one of the local beers along with your meal. As time is precious for a true globe trotter, you should take the Federal Highway 9 northbound and drive about 20 kilometers. Then take the southern Bay City exit and follow the signs leading to the township of Meyerreuth.

Meyerreuth has had its silent and rather uninteresting place in history ever since its foundation way back in the Middle Ages. But it was just recently that this settlement became the subject of unexpected fame: it was in house no. 6 that the four noble students Marcus Colli, Timm Kellermann, Kai Scholz and Rainer Staud will live and study until late May 1994. The so-called Colli-Kellermann-Scholz-Staud-Connection is a great bunch of people. They are role models to all students, great buddies to their friends and perfect lovers to their girlfriends. Just a few months ago a museum

opened on the first floor of the building presenting an authentic and informative account of the lives of these most honorable students of Bay City.

Lastly, but not to be forgotten, a final intermission should be taken at Bay City University, an institution of technological know-how and philosophical wisdom as is rarely found anywhere else in Europe.

### Students burn the midnight oil

Special attention should be paid to the Language Center. The lecturers, from the English department in particular, understand like no other teaching staff in the world, how to keep their students busy with homework till late at night. But see for yourself . . .

We have come to the conclusion of our little excursion to Bay City, Central Europe, home of the bag sausage. Now you can honestly say that you have seen the world and your own country. It's even better than a scuba diving course on Maui, is it not? Timm Kellermann



FILIALE  
REISEBÜRO PEGNITZ  
HAUPTSTRASSE 55

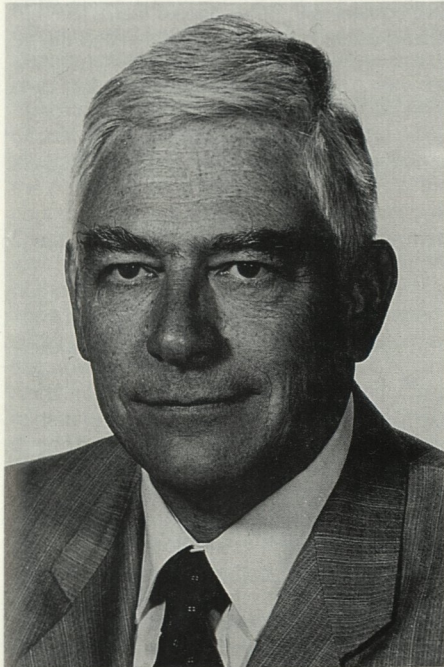
**REISEBÜRO BAYREUTH**

LUITPOLDPLATZ 9 · 8580 BAYREUTH · TEL. 0921 / 8850

**Professor Peter Huber**

# An introduction to a Bayreuth Professor



Peter J. Huber was born in Wohlen, Switzerland in 1934. In 1961 he completed his doctoral thesis in pure mathematics (homotopy theory in general categories) at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) in Zürich for which he was awarded the ETH Prize. After this he was asked by two of his tutors whether he would like to change over to mathematical statistics. Since it had proved impossible for years to appoint a first class statistician from outside, they decided to train one themselves.

As the challenge of practical application attracted him more than the ethereal realm of pure mathematics, he decided to take the risk of accepting a scholarship from the Swiss National Fund from 1961-2 at the University of California, Berkeley, which was at that time the stronghold in the field of mathematical statistics.

## Mathematical Statistics

Sometimes statistics have been defined as the art of collecting and interpreting data and thereby creating a rational basis for decision-making.

Abraham Wald's Statistical Decision Theory (1950) had shortly before given a comprehensive mathematically strict basis to this field. The vision of a mathematical statistic method came into being which develops provable optimal decision-making processes (tests, approximations) for precisely-specified models.

Mathematical statistics do not belong to the field of pure mathematics but to the field of applied mathematics. Therefore the methods ultimately have not only to be evaluated by their logical correctness and elegance but also by their practical usefulness.

Unfortunately optimal methods often have proved to be instable so that even the slightest discrepancy from the ideal model may result in unreliability.

## Robust Statistics

As a Miller Fellow at the Statistics Department at Berkeley from 1962-3, Huber worked out the theoretical basis of robust statistics in a piece of work on robust location approximation which was published in the volume of essays "Breakthrough in Statistics 1890-1989" (edited by N.L. Johnson and S. Kotz). It is considered to be one of the most important pieces of work in statistics in the last century. It deals with processes which remain stable when slight changes are made to the model. This meant progress, as Huber was unexpectedly able to make an apparently amorphous concept useable through recording it mathematically. It was thus a particular pleasure and honour for him to be invited to hold the "Wald Lecture" at the annual conference of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, named after the creator of the Statistical Decision Theory.

After a guest professorship at Cornell University, Huber took the chair of the Mathematical Statistics Department at the ETH in Zürich in 1964, which he occupied until 1978. After this he developed the robustness theory further, both conceptually and mathematically and found new applications for it: regression covariance matrices, experimental planning and the smoothing of curves. His book "Robust Statistics", which was published in 1981, was the first comprehensive work on the robustness theory.

## Data Analysis

With the arrival and stormy development of computers, a completely new situation had come about for collecting and analysing data. (The analyst's close contact with the data, vital for analysis and interpretation, was endangered and often lost altogether due to the enormous growth in the quantity and complexity of the data). To complement mathematical statistics it is thus all the more important to develop the methodology of interactive data analysis, to systematize it and support it by means of appropriate computer software. Huber has been involved with data recording and processing since the end of the 1960's, mostly in

association with medics (in the analysis of electroencephalogram and growth data). During a visit to the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley from 1982-3, he created the theoretical basis of "Projection Pursuit", a computer-supported method to find structures in data of high dimensions. He was later invited to publish his findings in the "Annals of Statistics" in 1985. He was also the driving force behind the development of the Interactive Scientific Processor (ISP) with its own command language and real-time graphics. ISP has been pioneered for various industrial and scientific applications, for example in market and environmental research and air security.

## Assyriology

Statistical methods also play a role in Huber's hobby — the analysis and dating of Babylonian observations of stars, which have fascinated him since he was a student. He is an internationally recognized expert on astronomy in cuneiform script, having published in scientific journals on assyriology and held lectures at international conferences, including the AAAS meeting in San Francisco in 1974 and the international meeting of assyriologists in London in 1982.

While a professor at the ETH in Zürich, he made research visits to the USA, some of which were funded by the American National Science Foundation: in Cornell from 1966-7, Princeton from 1970-1 and Yale from 1971-2. He declined offers of a professorship at Princeton and Yale in favour of the ETH but accepted a professorship at Harvard in 1978. In 1988 he moved to the nearby Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He had hoped for many years to be able to return to Europe and the award of the Humboldt Prize in 1988 enabled him to come to Dortmund for research visits of several months' duration. In 1992, the University of Bayreuth succeeded in gaining this scientist on its staff.



# Hi, you're a student in Bayreuth. It is 7 p.m. and your fridge is empty?

## Eating out in and around Bayreuth

... Don't worry, there are a lot of places where you can find something to eat.

### "Fledermaus"

The Fledermaus is situated in the Spitalgasse. The bar is downstairs in the cellar and is furnished with plain wooden chairs and tables. The lights look like bats which is the translation of "Fledermaus". This might not sound too exciting but wait until you see it. The atmosphere is just great.

Of course, that is not the only reason to visit the "Fledermaus": The variety of dishes is big. Portions are made for people who are very hungry and whatever you try is just delicious. Furthermore prices for drinks are reasonable.

### "Zum Gottsmannsgrüner"

The "Gottsmannsgrüner" is situated in the Dammallee. It sounds like a typical Frankonian restaurant, doesn't it? But don't worry! That's the place where you can find the biggest variety of Italian noodle dishes for around DM 10.

The furniture is a mixture of more or less antique elements and modern elements. The music is nothing special, just something in the background, so that this is perfect for having a delicious meal and a nice chat with friends.

### "Jojo"

The "Jojo" is situated in the Schulstraße. It is one of the newer bars/restaurants in Bayreuth. Like the "Fledermaus" it is one of the typical students' places with students of all subjects. The offer of dishes ranges from noodles to sweet crepes and I would also recommend the baguettes. Prices are reasonable also.

### "Wahnfried"

The "Wahnfried" is situated in the "Steingraber-Passage". It is different to most bars in Bayreuth. The furniture is very modern and original. You don't go there just to eat or to have a drink. You want to watch people and gossip and you want to be seen.

So what about food and drinks? Compared to most other places in Bayreuth they are rather expensive. This doesn't matter to most of the students because they are used to even higher prices at home. The "Wahnfried" offers various dishes of which I would especially recommend the salads.

### "Grizzly's"

"Grizzly's" is situated in the Gabelsberger Straße. The name "Grizzly's" alludes to the bear so every dish has a name that is somehow connected to it. For example the honey-fried

spare ribs (which are delicious) are called "bear-ribs".

Because of the delicious reasonably priced food and the friendly waiters "Grizzly's" is very popular among students so that seats are taken already early in the evening.

### "Eule"

The "Eule" is situated in the Kirchgasse. It is one of Bayreuth's meeting places for artists. There are pictures of a lot of famous musicians and composers on the walls and the clock still shows the hour of Wagner's death.

The variety of dishes is big. There are a lot of different meat dishes and a variety of dishes with potato pancakes. Prices are acceptable.

### "Brückenschänke"

The "Brückenschänke" is situated in the Schulstraße next to the Roter Main. It is one of those old brown stone houses which you see quite often in Bayreuth. The furniture is more fancy and pictures of different artists that can be bought are exhibited on the walls.

The food is a mixture of Frankonian and French cuisine which combine really well. Prices are reasonable.

### "Schloßhotel Thiergarten"

This castle is situated a couple kilometers south of Bayreuth. It was built in 1716 by the Earl Georg Wilhelm who used it during the hunting season. Today it is owned by the town which runs a hotel and restaurant there.

The dining rooms are in the former halls which are still furnished with original furniture or at least with pieces that look like it. The food is fancy and good but you definitely pay for the atmosphere which I think is worth it at least once. Now I would like to introduce you to some great and fun places around Bayreuth. I can imagine that it is very hard for people who are new in Bayreuth to find out about places which are well known to everybody who has been living here for a longer period of time.

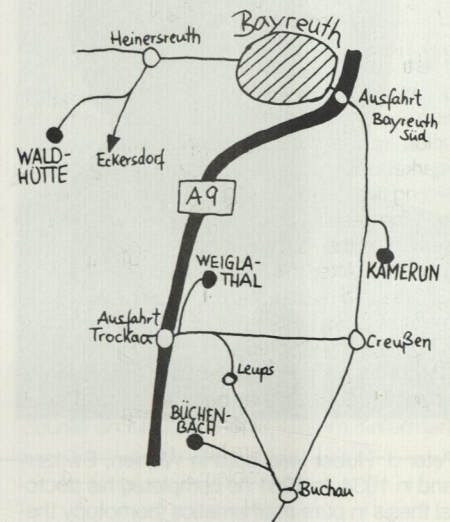
## AROUND BAYREUTH

In general it is not hard to find places to eat out around Bayreuth. The best hint I can give you is simply to drive somewhere, to look for signs saying "GASTHAUS" or "WIRTSHAUS", to try them out and to see what they are like.

In order to make it easier for you I can recommend a number of places in the Bayreuth region which are also very typical for Franconia. Especially in summer it is great to go there because you can stay outside and enjoy your food and drinks in the pubs and beer gardens.

As the places are relatively small it is easy to get into contact with other people there, too.

This is a little map where you can find them.



Of course the list of restaurants and bars could be continued for a while. It is definitely not complete. But that was not the purpose of this article anyway. It was just supposed to give you an impression of some places.

There is, however, a problem that I must not forget to mention. I know that a lot of you, especially our foreign students, do not have a car and consequently have to face the question of how to get there. If you are in such a situation, why don't YOU ask people who have a car to go there with you. Just take the initiative yourself and don't wait for somebody to ask you! ... you might wait forever ...

Well, the only thing left for me to say is: Have fun! Enjoy yourself! And don't think that this is all that Bayreuth can offer.

Birgit Voll and Andrea Küfner

## An Economics seminar in Hungary

# System transformation

In the last week of October, a seminar was held at Pecs university under the direction of Prof. Görgens and his assistants of the economics department at Bayreuth university. Pecs is situated in the south of Hungary (35 km from the Yugoslav border) and has about 180,000 inhabitants. The German participants of the seminar had the opportunity to get an impression of the economic situation of the country and the conditions Hungarian students face. Moreover it was a great chance to become acquainted with the joy of life and, not least, the hospitality of the people.

The theme of this seminar was the very important and acute problem of system transformation, that is, the question about a suitable transition from a centrally planned economy to a market economy. This subject was discussed during five lectures in the rooms of the university. The results of these meetings were presented in the form of reports by the German students. After this, discussions about the topic dealt with took place. It was pleasing that the Hungarian students took the opportunity to follow up the reports.

Unfortunately this interest decreased in the course of the seminar because the language gap proved to be a hindrance in understanding the reports, which were held in German. So the complexity of the problems and the technical language made discussions after the seminar difficult.

Beside the academic part of the seminar, the leaders of the Hungarian delegation, Dr. Agota Borgulya and Dr. Zoltan Varro, had arranged an informative and entertaining extra-curricular programme.

Thus we visited the company Sir Limited, which produces clothes, and Dr. Lazlo Szabo from the Inter-Europa Bank Pecs gave a lecture on the current situation of the Hungarian banks.

### "This here is the Wild East"

These arrangements offered an insight into the difficult economic situation of Hungary; as Dr. Szabo said: "This here is the Wild East". The present insecurity about future developments is, of course, a major problem for the Hungarian students.

We also viewed a park with sculptures in Villany (30 kilometres south of Pecs) and afterwards the participants of the seminar had the possibility to do some wine-tasting and to enjoy a fantastic meal with hard sausage, ham etc. Then we were able to convince ourselves of the great taste and the fabulous effect of the Hungarian red and white wine. Naturally the beautiful churches and mosques (left from the Turkish invasion) in Pecs were a cultural climax of the seminar. In the evening we often went to one of the very good and cheap restaurants

and pubs or some of us danced in the discotheque "Pepita". But the best address for a frolicsome atmosphere was the student hall of residence in which we were accommodated. Almost every night the Hungarian students showed that they are real experts in the art of enjoying themselves. They celebrated till 3 o'clock in the morning every night!

I must mention the heartiness and the open-mindedness of our Hungarian fellow students, because they received us very warmly in the student hall of residence.

After five unforgettable days we had to say goodbye to Pecs. The homeward journey led us to the Hungarian metropolis Budapest, which is, in my opinion, one of the nicest capitals in Europe. In Budapest we had enough time to go on a sightseeing tour or to visit an old thermal spa. Some of these old thermal spas have the same architecture as the old Roman thermal spas and if you go to such a public bath, you will feel just like an ancient Roman 2000 years ago. After spending one night at the student hall of residence in Budapest, we returned to Bayreuth after eleven boring hours in the bus on Saturday, 31st October.

Finally I would like to thank Dr. Agota Borgulya, Dr. Zoltan Varro, Prof. Dr. Görgens, his assistants Mr. Thuy, Mr. Pfahler, Mrs. Wiesel and last but not least all the Hungarian helpers for the organization of this seminar.

Michael Rödel

## Exchange programmes with partner universities throughout the world

Bayreuth University offers to interested students exchange programmes with partner universities throughout the world.

Lots of activities in this direction are coordinated independently by the different faculties but it is the Academic Foreign Students' Office which surveys and deals with student exchanges connected to the Erasmus programme.

### More and more students involved

During the last years the number of students participating in this programme and studying for one or two semesters in a foreign country has increased steadily. The total number of vacancies supported by the Erasmus programme comes to about 80, of which most places are in America/England (30), France (23) and Spain (8).

### Simple procedure

The Academic Foreign Students' Office tries to keep the application procedure as simple as

possible. The only thing students have to present is a language certificate and a filled-out application form. It is important to know that applicants for America definitely need a Toefl-Test.

### Adaptability needed

Before applying the students should think a little about their plans and wishes for their course. To be allowed to attend suitable lectures at the university you want to go to, it is often recommendable to have completed the Vordiplom. This, and your idea about the period of time you wish to spend abroad already sets the time frame. Often the exchange is only possible for a complete year. Of course the applicant should also be willing to adapt to the different education system.

### Plan ahead to avoid surprises

To make the stay even more effective, a student wishing to go abroad should clarify in ad-

vance with the faculty responsible the conditions for exams passed or seminars attended abroad to be recognized for the studies at the home university. As this is always a very individual decision this should be done before leaving to avoid surprises afterwards.

### Financial Support

As the exchanges coordinated by the Academic Foreign Students' Office are linked to the Erasmus programme there is financial support for the students. Students applying for other programmes should be aware that application for financial support may easily take about 1 year's preparation time.

Though it is rather easy to apply for the programmes coordinated by the Academic Foreign Students' Office these are, of course, not the only possibilities for students to study abroad. If you don't get a place on this scheme don't give up! Personal initiative and ideas can also ensure that you can spend some time studying abroad.

Martin Bennewitz

## Profiles of staff at the Language Centre

# Ring out the old, ring in the new!



### Susan Whitmore

Date of birth: 29th July 1970  
 Native town: Manchester  
 Education and university:  
 Comprehensive school (south of Manchester),  
 then attendance at Leeds university.  
 Course of studies:  
 4 years, including 1 year in Germany (Koblenz)  
 Hobbies:  
 Going out with friends to cinemas and pubs;  
 Learning about the countryside around Bayreuth  
 Reasons for coming to Bayreuth:  
 The job was advertised in England at university  
 and so she decided to take this job, because  
 she likes Germany very much, and also be-  
 cause the job situation in England is very bad  
 Her opinion about Bayreuth:  
 She says that it is a bit quiet compared to  
 Leeds and Manchester, but what she has seen  
 so far is nice  
 Her immediate plans:  
 She plans a trip to England with students in  
 March and at the moment she is starting a film  
 and pub club with Sian Richards, another lec-  
 turer, where students have the possibility to im-  
 prove their English knowledge  
 Contact to lecturers and students:  
 She knows the other lecturers very well and  
 has already met some students.  
 We wish Susan good luck for her teaching and  
 a nice time in Bayreuth! Michael Rödel

### Philippe Chesser

Philippe Chesser is one of the lecturers of  
 French at the language center at Bayreuth Uni-  
 versity.  
 The first thing that struck me about Mr Chesser  
 when I interviewed him was the fact that his  
 German is so excellent that he could be mis-  
 taken for a native speaker. His proficiency in

the language can easily be accounted for con-  
 sidering the fact that the Chesser family lived in  
 Lorraine for 10 years, an area near the German  
 border, where people speak a dialect very simi-  
 lar to German.

Mr Chesser started to learn German at school  
 in Nancy, where many of the students spoke  
 the Lorraine dialect, but at that time he was not  
 particularly interested in the language. His high  
 school diploma stressed natural science.  
 After finishing high school he was occupied  
 more closely with German as it was one of the  
 subjects he studied in the course of classes he  
 took for 3 years in preparation for the military  
 academy.

Mr Chesser later started to study German at  
 the University of Grenoble to become a Ger-  
 man teacher, also taking courses in the basics  
 of French as a foreign language.

In his third year of studies, he worked as an as-  
 sistant teacher of French at a comprehensive  
 school in Hesse, Germany.

Back in Grenoble, he finished his studies of  
 German and prepared for the selective exam  
 that teacher trainees in France have to take. He  
 could then have worked as a substitute teacher  
 in France, but instead applied for a job at Bay-  
 reuth University and was accepted in 1988.  
 In his leisure time, he loves athletics which is, as  
 he put it, also a good way to get in touch with  
 locals.

Important facts that make his job as a lecturer  
 preferable to teaching in a school are, accord-  
 ing to Mr Chesser, the better working condi-  
 tions at a rather small university and the higher  
 level of instruction. The student-teacher ratio is  
 much better than in French schools and, what  
 is even more important, language skills are  
 more developed. As a result, conversation be-  
 tween teacher and students in the foreign lan-  
 guage can be directed to more sophisticated  
 and demanding topics, which means that the  
 possibilities of in-class discussions are enor-  
 mous compared to school lessons.

Another important aspect of this situation is  
 that the work of the lecturer can be more inter-  
 esting due to better communication with the  
 students and the wide fields of instruction to  
 choose from.

Since the contracts of lecturers at Bayreuth  
 University are limited to 5 years, Mr Chesser is  
 going to leave the university at the end of this  
 semester.

### Mercedes Colomer

Mercedes Colomer teaches Spanish as a lec-  
 turer at the language center of Bayreuth Uni-  
 versity.

She grew up and went to school in Tarrasa, a  
 city near Barcelona. At 17, she began studying  
 English and German at the "Universidad Auto-  
 noma de Barcelona" in order to become a  
 teacher.



During her studies, she worked as a school-  
 teacher in a school in Spain. Finding that this  
 was not an occupation she really enjoyed, she  
 decided to leave Spain after graduation and  
 applied for jobs at colleges and universities in  
 Britain and Germany.

Through a teacher exchange program, she re-  
 ceived a job at a college in Cardiff, Wales,  
 where she prepared students for their oral uni-  
 versity entrance examination. After seven  
 months in Wales, Mercedes Colomer came to  
 Bayreuth in 1988.

Although she found the differences between  
 Spain and Germany great, she had no prob-  
 lems adjusting because she was glad to be  
 able to stay in a foreign country with the com-  
 fort of a secure job. Now she even prefers the  
 German neatness and discipline to the chaos in  
 Spain, as she put it, although people are more  
 relaxed there.

As she is married to a German physicist, she  
 will stay in Germany after her contract with  
 Bayreuth University ends this semester and  
 take up home in Augsburg. Therefore she is  
 trying to find a full-time job in Southern Ger-  
 many.

She enjoys teaching students very much. She  
 feels more comfortable teaching adults that  
 are, in contrast to schoolchildren, interested in  
 the Spanish language and culture. This situa-  
 tion enables the lecturer to act naturally and en-  
 joy working while the students enjoy learning.  
 According to Mercedes Colomer, another im-  
 portant factor in teaching is to find other activi-  
 ties for the students besides just learning from  
 books and to get them to communicate.

Her hobbies are foreign languages: besides  
 German, she speaks English, French and Ital-  
 ian and even took Russian. She is now learning  
 Portuguese.

Andrea Mombauer

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## An introduction to the university, past and present

# Once upon a time in Bayreuth

Situated in the north-east of Bavaria, close to the Czech and the former German-German border, the town of Bayreuth with its 73,000 inhabitants was in a rather isolated position during the time of tensions between East and West. For this reason the University of Bayreuth was founded in the Winter Semester of 1975/76 with the political aim of developing the weak structure of the region.

### 625 students

At that time the teaching and research started with 32 professors and 625 students. Though designed as a modern campus university for 5,000 students and at the present only having a capacity for 4,400 students, there are about 8,755 students and more than 160 professors. As a comparatively young university, uninfluenced by occasionally limiting traditional structures, it can probably better adapt to contemporary issues.

### Focussing

Its academic image is distinguished by the concept of "focussing" and "interdisciplinary subjects", which means the overlapping of different traditional disciplines. This should anticipate future needs and new "market gaps" and has been very successful up till now.

This intention can be seen in the combination of subjects in the five faculties at Bayreuth:

- Mathematics and Physics
- Biology, Chemistry and Geology/Geography

— Law, Business Administration and Economics

- Languages and Literature
- Cultural Studies

Some examples of the concept should be mentioned here:

In the field of Physics and Chemistry the emphasis is placed on polymers and eco-system research.

As far as Mathematics is concerned, this subject is taught in a more conventional manner but it is also important as the basis of the other sciences.

An interesting aspect of the Geography department is the popular combination of Geography and Ecology that gives the students an insight into both natural sciences and eco-systems.

A further point worth mentioning here is the co-operation of the Law and Economic Sciences which is reflected in the curriculum. As a result the Law students who graduate from Bayreuth have also studied Economics. Similarly, students studying Business Administration or Economics are also expected to study Law. Moreover they have to choose between taking one or more languages or Computer Science.

### Qualified Professionals

The intention is to provide the export-oriented German economy with qualified professionals who can operate on an international level.

The interdisciplinary element once again becomes apparent in the special activities of the Sports students where the course Sports Economics is offered. This is a combination of Sports with Law and Economics leading to a diploma. The course is unique in Germany and trains students in the management of sports, leisure time and tourism.

Perhaps the clearest example of the Bayreuth philosophy may be seen in the department of African Studies. In comparison with other universities, Bayreuth is much wider in scope, including not only African language studies but also the study of climate, geography, vegetation, culture, history and law. A central meeting point for this department is the IWALEWA-House, a centre for African art and culture.

The research institute for Music Theatre is undoubtedly of importance in the city of the famous composer, Richard Wagner. Its main work at present is the compilation and publication of a comprehensive handbook of music theatre, the first of its kind.

### Languages

Anyone wishing to learn languages in Bayreuth can do so. 23 languages are offered, among them really exotic ones like Chinese and Arabic. It is thus hardly surprising that the University of Bayreuth has partnerships with several universities and research centres in Europe, America and Africa.

Moreover Bayreuth has a modern efficient computer centre, a botanic garden, which concentrates on the study of eco-systems and a well-equipped sports centre.

An important future institute will probably be the Institute for Material Sciences which is being set up. The institute's work should mainly deal with the development of new synthetics. These are only a few examples of what is offered at the University of Bayreuth but it shows the continuing process of development. Nevertheless there is still a lot to achieve.

Reinhard Ipsen

## A race against the clock: Bayreuth's split campus

Like many universities in Germany the university of Bayreuth is divided. On the one side of town there is the campus and on the other is the Geschwister-Scholl-Platz, GSP for short.

Most of the students work on the campus: students of Natural Science, Law, Business Administration, Sport and Languages. On the GSP there is a smaller number of students: those who study for example Theology, History, Education, Sociology, Music and Ethnology. All the university's musical activities take place on the GSP. The choir and the orchestra rehearse there once a week. There are special practice rooms and courses in dance and aerobics.

But a problem of students of these subjects is

that they often have to commute between the campus and the GSP because lessons take place at both places.

### Poor bus service

To manage that in time is sometimes a race against the clock especially in the rush hour or if you go by bus, because of the bad bus service. There is only one direct bus per hour that goes from the centre to the university directly but no direct bus service from the campus to the GSP. In contrast to the campus the GSP is an old

building. The atmosphere is more familiar and lecturers know students personally. The staff in the library often know students by name and remember their student number. Most books are available unlike in the library of Law where students often can't borrow books for a longer period.

Finally students of the GSP often feel left out of university life. They only have some lessons on the campus, but these are important to show the other students that they are still alive and want to be together with the others. This avoids a situation arising where a student of Law asks a student of History: "Oh, so you can study History in Bayreuth?"

Esther Traßl

# The Flying Dutchman calls on students

In August 1992, as in the previous four years, there were reliable sightings of some "spooky" students hanging around in Bayreuth. They were mostly spotted near to the Wagner Festival Theatre and they were only seen in a group of about twenty "persons".

According to an eye-witness the students were bald-headed, had pale faces and wore clothes that seemed to be from the Middle Ages. Their only job seemed to be to scare the guests of the world famous Bayreuth Wagner Festival.

## Spooky Spökos

Closer investigations proved that the management of the Wagner festival had hired twenty-one students, most of them students of Sports or Sports Economics, to form the so-called "special choir" in the romantic opera "The Flying Dutchman" by Richard Wagner.

As one of the students who was participating for the first time told our reporter, the management had asked them at the end of June if they wanted to take the vacant places of some of the old generation of ghosts.

As the financial side and the job itself looked very attractive there were seven new ghosts last year. The rehearsals started at the beginning of July and there were twenty of them before the dress rehearsal took place at the end of



July. During those three weeks every "ghost" had to learn how to behave as a member of a crew of the souls of sailors on the Flying Dutchman's sailing ship. All of the crew were involved in several short scenes in which they had to

throw the Dutchman on the stage or to crawl over their ship several times.

So at the end of the six performances every ghost decided to be a part of the Wagner Festival in 1993.

Karsten Bentlage

## The Phenomenon of Uni-Feten

In the last few years, since the mid-eighties, a certain phenomenon has been developing in Bayreuth: "UNI-FETEN", a fixed phrase which has no equivalent in the English language. Right from the beginning each party attracted between 200 and 1500 students. As a result, the number of parties has been increasing rapidly. By now, two or three events take place per week, more than in any other German university town.

### Three different types

There are three different types of "UNI-FETEN". The first is organized by students of different faculties. These happenings are non-profit-making parties and therefore the cheapest, but sometimes a badly organized alternative (e.g. the DJ's choice of music is unfortunate or the technical equipment is poor). These parties often take place on the University campus especially at the beginning or end of a term. They are famous for their spontaneity and their less formal atmosphere.

The parties of the second type are arranged by semi-professional agencies like "tc-promo" or "cymru concerts". These organizations were

created by students, who some years ago began to manage such parties in a more professional way with a certain commercial aspect. These happenings are thought to be somewhere between unprofessional non-profit-making parties and expensive discos. These organizations work together with professional DJ's and sound & light teams. Last but not least one has to mention that these events take place e.g. at the "Komm" or at the "Herzog-Keller" (these are some of the establishments with big halls, which can be rented by the organizers of "UNI-FETEN"), that the average entrance fee is about five marks and that the prices for drinks are relatively low (between DM 2.50 and DM 3.50). These parties are the most regular ones, too.

The third category comprises parties that are organized by the owners of local pubs or discos like "Rosenau" or the "Etagé". This is the most expensive type. Although the entrance fee is comparatively low or equal to the above, the prices for drinks are very high (between DM 4 and DM 5.50). These parties sometimes suffer from an over-professional management. Spontaneity seems to be lacking. In the last 2 years the number of these parties has been decreasing. The students seem to prefer parties for students, organized by students.

### Why are so many students attracted by "UNI-FETEN"?

The question why these events attract so many students although all parties are organized along similar lines and follow a similar pattern is not difficult to answer. "UNI-FETEN" take place most in relatively small cities with about 50,000 to 100,000 inhabitants of which the percentage of students is comparatively high (10% — 30%). Bayreuth, Bamberg or Passau would serve as examples of this. In cities like these one can find many young people but only a few discos or pubs. "UNI-FETEN" are considered to be the cheapest and best possibility to spend an evening together with other students as an alternative to the daily visit to one's favourite pub. Another point is that the name "UNI-FETEN" nearly has the status of a trademark: parties with only a few people or a bad atmosphere are hard to find.

"UNI-FETEN" cover a large variety of music and styles and everyone can decide whether he (or she) spends time at the "Etagé" or at the "Herzog-Keller". It is a matter of taste!

Matthias Mayer  
Thorsten Schreiber

# The growth in the number of students at the University of Bayreuth

## Plans and realities

The very first semester of student education at the University of Bayreuth began with the official opening celebration on 27th November 1975 in the winter semester of 1975/76. In comparison to today the university began with the unbelievably low total number of 625 students (see figure 1). Ten of them started to study mathematics and twenty-seven biology. The others were students of education, training to teach at primary and secondary schools who were taken over by the Department of Education in Bayreuth but were formerly connected to the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg. As you can see on figure 1, the total number of students has grown constantly to 8755 people in the winter semester of 1992/93. At the very beginning of the university the so-called "Strukturbeirat" (structure planning commission), which had to coordinate the development of the university, planned the buildings to cater for a total number of about 6000 students. 2500 were planned for Mathematics and the Natural Sciences, 2000 for the Humanities including education and 1500 for Law and Economics.

### Inaccurate Prognoses

As you can see in figure 2, these planning prognoses were totally inaccurate. Especially in the courses Business Administration and Law the expected number of students was underestimated. For example in the winter semester of 1992/93 the total number of Law and Business Administration students (3432) was double the prognosis number.

However, the reasons for this planning failure are to be found outside the university in the education policy of society at large.

### Overcrowded Conditions

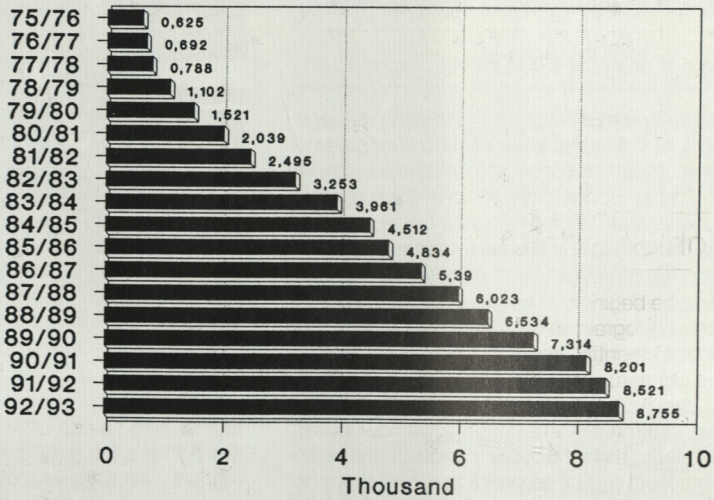
The results of the overcrowded conditions on these courses are serious. A lack of rooms and staff have led to a worse quality of education. In the future it seems that there will be a smaller increase in the total number of students. The number of students in their first semester has decreased. But this effect is caused less by the decline in the population or the number of potential students than by the restrictive entrance requirements imposed because of the high number of applicants.

Although everyone accepts that the system and education policy have to be reformed, nobody knows what should be done.

Andreas Rösch

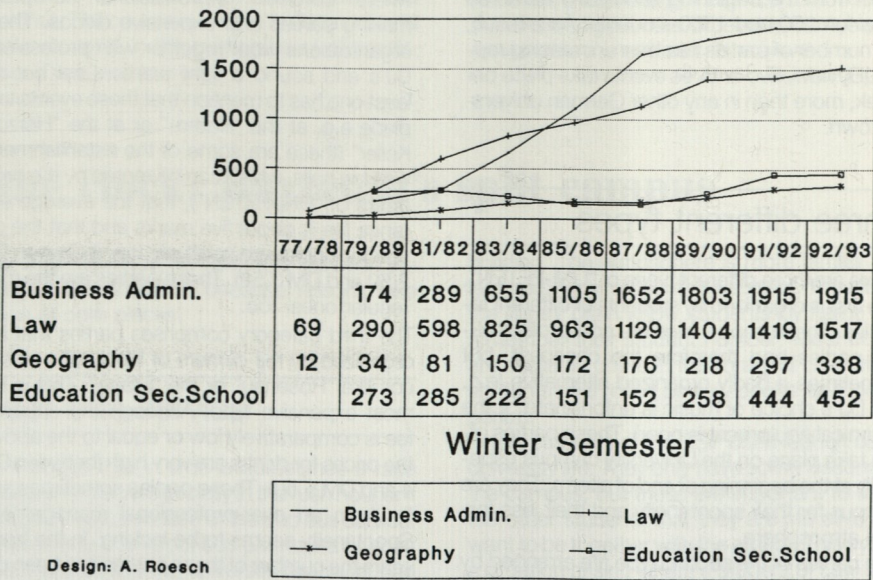
Fig. 1: STUDENTS AT BAYREUTH UNIVERSITY

#### Winter Semester



Design: A. Roesch  
Source: Lecture Tables of the University

Fig. 2: STUDENTS AT BAYREUTH UNIVERSITY  
Studying Courses



Design: A. Roesch  
Source: Lecture Tables of the University

## The life and soul of the university

# The Sports Institute

The University of Bayreuth fortunately can still boast a rather familiar atmosphere — despite its immense growth and overcrowded lecture halls in the last years. The feeling that anonymity has not taken over is doubtless to a great extent a merit of the sports institute. This institute — home to no less than about 160 sports-teacher-trainees and 400 sports economics students — is one of the university's show-pieces. The facilities include 4 very well-cared for sports fields, 3 modern gymnasiums and several tennis-courts, as well as an aerobics room. The only drawback is the lack of a swimming pool, but this problem can easily be solved, in particular in the summer, because of the neighbouring public swimming pool.

### High Standards

Since the beginning of the sports institute's rebuilding programme in 1988 the institute also has met scientific requirements, a satisfactory conclusion to industrial research work. This has also had a positive effect on the quality of the numerous dissertations written. But these dissertations have caused quite a problem in the institute: after the professors were on the

point of collapsing under the responsibility of supervising the many dissertations of the sports economics students (=SPÖKOS) last year, the course of studies was seriously threatened in its very existence. So it was up to the students and to Prof. Zieschang and Prof. Sigloch — the heads of the department — to undertake something to prevent this. They succeeded together in convincing the Bavarian Ministry of Education of the need for another professor who is to begin his appointment in the winter semester of 1993/1994.

### Unique in Germany

Without the Sports Economics diploma-course, the university would have lost one of its main attractions, especially since the course is unique in Germany and because the Bayreuth-concept is one of the most highly regarded throughout Europe.

The rare species of the Spökös still numbers barely 400 specimens this semester, of whom exactly 44 rookies had to succeed in a merciless trial against several hundred competitors. In the course of their studies they should acquire the competence to assume leading re-

sponsibilities in the expanding field of sports management.

Because Spökös — despite all rumours — won't end up as sports-teachers the course of studies will be reformed in the winter semester of 93/94. In connection with the new professorship the stress will be shifted in the direction of Business Administration.

However, whether you like the Spökös and the sports students in general or not, there is one thing they will guarantee in any event: they make the dreary university-mood a little bit more colourful and that is not only because they are showily dressed.

As the organizers of regular sports practice at the university they are decisively responsible for its popularity. They also organize such university-top-events as the famous "badminton-night" and the "volleyball-mixed-tournament".

### Wildest parties

Last but not least, they are notorious for celebrating the wildest university-parties of all. But that's no surprise. 'Cos sport unites !!!

Andreas Heim

## Aid for Bosnia

In November 1992, AIESEC-Bayreuth received an invitation to attend a meeting of all local Croatian AIESEC groups taking place from December 18th — 22nd on the island of Brac in the area of Split (Note: AIESEC is the international confederation of students specializing in economics). Of the German AIESEC groups who received the invitation about 15 students, including 5 from Bayreuth, were willing to take part in the AIESEC meeting in Split. The invitation was followed by the idea of AIESEC groups from Siegen, Cologne and Bayreuth to provide help for Bosnian refugees.

A fax coming from the hospital "Klinicki Bolnicki Centar" in Split told them which items were desperately needed over there:

- food: sugar, flour, noodles, vegetable oil, tomatoes in tins, beetroot
- medical supplies: narcotics, pain-killing drugs, antibiotics and many more
- clothes

### Food and money collected

Following this list, AIESEC started to collect basic food and money to buy the medical supplies. After several weeks they had collected a huge quantity of food and clothes and 11,000

Continued on the next page



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DM to be spent on the necessary medical supplies. The donation of medical supplies is especially important, because of the five existing medical factories in Yugoslavia, only two have been situated on Croatian territory since the country's division. These two factories, obviously, are not able to produce all the medicines needed in the Croatian region.

## The Journey

On December 16th the five students from Bayreuth left for Munich in order to meet the two other groups from Siegen and Cologne. In Munich, they loaded all the goods onto one big truck and started the trip to Croatia (see map on next page).

As they were given special documents, certifying that they were transporting humanitarian help to Croatia they were permitted to pass the borders of Austria and Yugoslavia without having to go through the usual formalities. Their journey took them from Munich via Salzburg, Ljubljana and Zagreb to Karlovac, where they had to use a ferry in order to reach the island Pag, the bridge having been occupied by the Serbs at the time. From the top of the hill they had a good view of the main road leading down to the port. What they saw was an immense queue of cars and trucks waiting — as they were — to catch a ferry to Pag. Thinking of the long hours they were going to have to wait, one of the group's drivers made his way down to the port to get the permission to take an earlier ferry. Fortunately, the officials down at the port rapidly understood the urgency of his request and after only 20 minutes the group set out on the ferry for Pag. Having reached Pag, they left the island by way of the second bridge leading to the mainland and continued their journey via Zadar near the combat-zone, to their final destination, Split.

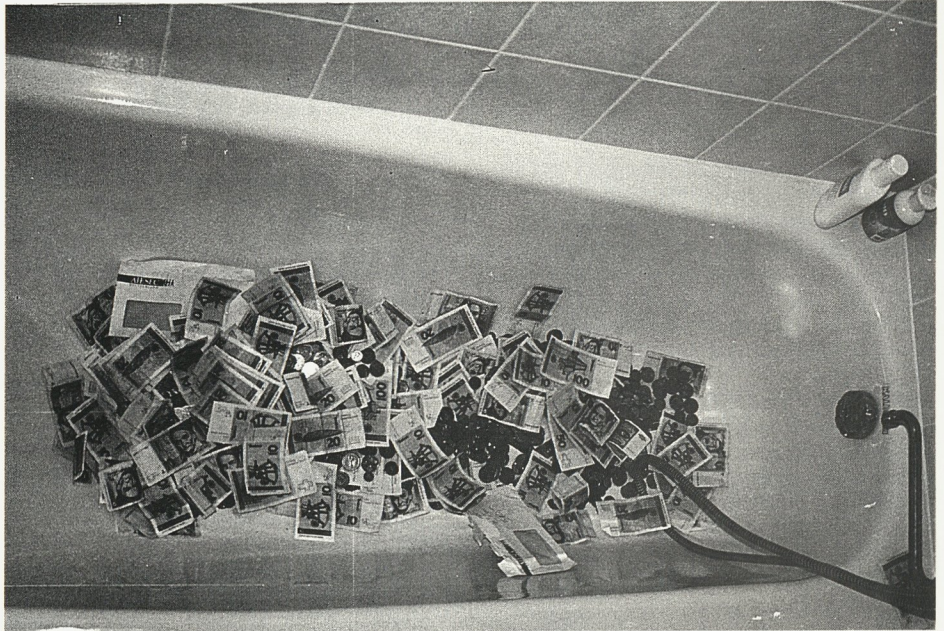
## Goods handed over

At the refugee camp in Split the food was immediately loaded onto two other trucks, one belonging to the hospital in Split and another one coming from Travnik (Bosnia Herzegovina), while the clothes were directly given to the Caritas-institution at the camp.

Their next stop was the hospital of Split where they handed over the medical supplies to the senior nurse. The hospital with its 1400 beds was dramatically overcrowded mostly with children and many people suffering injuries from the war.

## Impressions of war

Their own impression of the civil war was completed by a short trip to the combat-zone, which was situated 20 kilometres from Split. There they got an idea of the difficult situation of the war and the despair of the Croatian soldiers.



Above: 11,000 DM for refugee aid: definitely not money down the drain.

Below: A war-torn home near the front line.



Having finished their task, the German AIESEC members then attended the Croatian AIESEC meeting in Split where they got to know other students from seven towns in Yugoslavia (Pula, Rijeka, Opatija, Zagreb, Varazdin, Split, Osijek and Sarajewo).

Together they planned a further action to support Bosnian refugees:

AIESEC students from Yugoslavia agreed to make a list of items desperately needed in the hospitals and refugee camps of their towns. These lists are going to be sent to the head office of AIESEC/Germany, which will then distri-

bute the requests for help to all German AIESEC groups who will again start an appeal for help among the students of their university. Caritas/Würzburg has already promised its cooperation to sign receipts for donations and to support transports to Yugoslavia with logistical equipment.

Actions like these, of course, won't put an end to the bloody confrontations between the two ethnic groups but they will help save the lives of many people who — without medical care or food — would surely die.

Continued on the next page

If you would like to get further information about ways of helping civil war refugees from Croatia, please call or write to:

AIESEC Bayreuth, Postfach 10 12 51  
8580 Bayreuth, Tel. 0921/55-28 68

Jörg Werner

Right: The journey to Croatia.

## Students against hatred Dies Academicus

Last year the reunified Germany suffered more than 2000 violent hate crimes including beatings, firebombings and 17 killings. The victims were gays, homeless people, handicapped, people, Gypsies, German Jews and — in most cases — guest workers and asylum seekers.

### Xenophobia

These attacks were caused by a new wave of xenophobia spreading across Germany. As the cruelty among the mostly young and far right wing rioters was unbelievable, something had to be done.

### Response

Therefore one response to this disaster were pro-foreigner marches, demonstrations, rock-concerts and "light-chains" against hostility to strangers, which have drawn hundreds of thousands of marchers in cities all over Germany, like in Berlin, Chemnitz, Cologne, Dresden, and Frankfurt.

In Bayreuth one of these demonstrations was held, too.

### Panel Discussions

In addition to this, hostility to foreigners was the theme of last year's dies academicus, which is an annual event at the University of Bayreuth. On these days current political and social topics are examined by means of reports and within panel discussions.

For example, one report was held concerning the possibility of reducing far right wing violence by intensifying the penal laws. As a conclusion it was stressed that suitable laws theoretically do exist, but that there are severe problems in applying these laws in practical cases, e.g. to arrest people standing in an anonymous mass cheering on rioters firebombing asylum-seekers' homes.

Another question was whether foreigners are more criminal than Germans. As an expert, the leader of the local police station presented several figures revealing that the local crime-rate among foreigners is higher than the one among Germans.



But in our opinion these statistics give a wrong impression. On the one hand "the foreigners" in general are compared with "the Germans" without considering the social differences within these groups. Consequently "the middle-class German" is compared with the guest worker who earns less. And it is a fact that criminality and income are anti-proportional. So we are of the opinion that it would be much better to split crime-statistics without referring to nationality (in which we do not see any sense) but to "social groups".

These statistics are very questionable as they are used by certain political groups as the basis of an argument to stir up xenophobia.

Besides, other informative lectures were given.

### A useful signal

Coming to a conclusion we want to point out that the dies academicus was a useful signal against hostility to foreigners.

Unfortunately most of the professors ignored the day's programme completely by "doing business as usual" and giving their normal lectures so that many students were not able to attend the dies' programme.

Lutz Hoheisel

Thomas Kleinheisterkamp

## A special kind of marriage bureau

# Technology Transfer

The University of Bayreuth was established in 1974 and has been called, like the universities in Passau or Regensburg, a "borderline university". The reasons for the foundation of Bayreuth University must also be seen as part of the regional development in this peripheral area in the north — eastern part of Bavaria. At that time, Oberfranken was isolated due to the frontier to the former German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia, far away from the centres, Munich and Nuremberg. Although today this condition of being in a borderland area has changed into the "beautiful location at the very heart of central Europe", as smart tourism managers proclaim, Oberfranken faces structural problems now, too. The problems of large rural areas and more small — scale and traditional industries have remained. Nevertheless it is necessary for regional policy that the University of Bayreuth gives some economic and technical knowledge to its surrounding region of Oberfranken. These can have important knock — on effects on regional development.

### Technical and business cooperation

Various contacts between the university and industry exist in connection with this regional policy aim. Firstly the Business Administration Research Centre for questions of small and middle — sized companies ("BF/M") was established at Bayreuth University in March 1979. This centre specialises in solving the economic problems of companies in the region of Oberfranken. The economic experts of the university are supposed to help the companies in special questions and to practise and apply their academic knowledge.

### Process of Diffusion

For Economics students an internship office has also been established, where it is possible for students to make contact with companies in the region but also for stays abroad. Secondly, there is technical cooperation between the university and the companies outside. In order to foster these relationships a contact office for research and technology transfer was founded ten years ago. The aim of this "liaison agency" is to build up a network between the University of Bayreuth and the regional companies, or in the words of Dr. Ludwigs, the manager of the agency, a "process of diffusion between the university and the economy" has to be developed. If you want, you can compare the work of this office to a marriage bureau.

The contact possibility is very interesting for the small and middle — sized companies in Oberfranken because they can't afford a research and technical development department of their own. With the help of this agency they have now got a better access opportunity in their neighbourhood to high — tech knowledge.

### Both sides benefit

This is, of course, an argument which supports the concept that regional policy equalizes the infrastructure disadvantages of Oberfranken. But both sides benefit from this partnership. The academics at the university also get some information about the relevance and value of their work. In general they are happy to accommodate the wishes of the company. Equipment, research costs for dissertations and theses, etc. are often sponsored by interested companies. Many research projects could not have been started without the business partner contacted by the liaison agency of the university. On the other hand neither would many companies in Oberfranken have found access to brand — new research results improving their production and sales.

### Research in traditional and modern fields

The activities of the agency are shown in the following figures: for example in 1988 altogether 127 project demands were processed. Out of this number 34 special transferring projects and 53 other actions have been started. As a result of these contacts a focal point of science at Bayreuth University has been developed in Applied Physics and Materials Chemistry. In the end the greatest success was achieved by the establishment of the "Institute of Material Research" at the University of Bayreuth. That is of interest especially for the ceramics and textile industries, which have traditionally been a part of Oberfranken. Another focal point is Biology and Ecology research: the University of Bayreuth has the special interdisciplinary study course of geocology. This discipline includes very modern aspects of environmental policy which will be of interest for the future.

### A remarkable instrument

Finally it should be pointed out that technology transfer has become an important and successful way of development for both sides: the university and the region. So far it has proved to be a remarkable instrument for effective regional policy.

Andreas Rösch

## The Badminton Night

The annual Badminton-Night, which was created in 1990 in cooperation with Mr. Wend-Uwe Boeckh-Behrens and his advanced badminton course at the University of Bayreuth, is an example of a commercially organized sports event, related to the later tasks of sports managers.

The idea was to plan a sports event like some national championship in a more limited framework. Following this idea the advanced badminton course worked out a marketing concept with all the topics that are necessary for a successful and well-frequented sports event. This marketing concept above all included working with sponsors to finance an attractive show and sideshows. This programme included a tombola in which valuable prizes could be won, a bar where you could buy beer and snacks, and music for both players and guests.

This was, in fact, an important point, because the Badminton-Night, as you can guess from the name, started at about 6 o'clock in the evening and ended when the final match finished early in the morning. Last year it ended at 5 o'clock when the birds started singing.

The highlight of the show programme was a doubles match between some players from the top of the German badminton rankings who were invited. This show match convinced all the spectators that badminton is without a doubt one of the fastest and most exciting ballgames played in the world. The visitors were enthusiastic about the art of sports shown here, so nobody left but stayed almost the whole night to miss none of the matches in the final round.

The very best players moved up through a field of about 100 participants of various ability levels into the select final round. But players of lower levels could also enjoy the atmosphere of a perfectly organized tournament, because the organization committee chose a double knockout mode, so that even players of lower levels could at least play twice. Some of them, after losing twice, were a little disappointed, but only for as long as a few beers last! So a quarter of an hour later each of them had regained his self-confidence.

The later the night got the more frequented the bar was. The effect of this was that soon the surrounding atmosphere got lost, which amused every visitor and player all night long. ALL NIGHT LO-ONG, ALL NIGHT !!!

The first Badminton-Night was such a successful idea of a little big event that it was considered to repeat it annually. It will always be organized by the 3rd advanced badminton course together with its experienced badminton lecturer Mr. Wend-Uwe Boeckh-Behrens. The basic concept will remain unmodified. New ideas therefore are always welcome and will be discussed if they make the one and only BADMINTON-NIGHT at the University of Bayreuth even better !!!! Christian Scheller

## An exhibition at the Iwalewa House

# Three Artists from Oshogbo

*"If you find yourself in a strange place, a new town, where you don't know anybody at all, then you only have got your own character to hold on to"*  
*ijala (Yoruban hunter poem)*  
*Iwalewa: "Character is beauty".*  
*(Yoruban proverb)*

The demonstration on November 28, expressing sorrow for the killings at Mölln led past the Iwalewa House. Maybe it should have gone through it. The day before the exhibition "Three artists from Oshogbo" had opened, showing works by Tijiani Mayakiri, Rufus Ogundele and Chief Muraina Oyelami, Yoruban singers, musicians, actors and painters of international renown.

The Yoruba, a people living in western Nigeria have developed a culture where the traditional Yoruba religion, Christianity and Islam coexist in comparative peace and where a highly developed musical tradition in combination with theatre and song help to preserve the Yoruban identity in a time of great change.

In 1963 Georgina Beier came to Oshogbo and established a workshop for young artists, young men in their late teens with no formal "knowledge" of art, many of whom developed their very own, distinctive style. Three of these artists are represented in this exhibition.

First, there is Tijiani Mayakiri, who was the first "artist-in-residence" in the Iwalewa House in 1981 and was to have come again last year; he died however and so the exhibition is held in his memory.

He always preferred black-and-white techniques, monotype and "Drawing from the Back". His pictures mainly deal with traditional Yoruban culture and often have Oshun as their subject, one of the great Yoruba river goddesses who is the protectress of Oshogbo. An example of this is "Arrival of Osum from Ijumu Ekiti to Osogbo".

His solemn, grave faces (masks?) have an almost frightening effect on the "naive" western viewer, one senses something very foreign, alien, even more powerful and confident in these faces, with eyes cool as pebbles. Mayakiri's images of Yoruban religious festivities are unsettling, they show a world so very different from our own.

Distinctly different, somehow more familiar are the pictures of Chief Murajina Oyelami. "Obogunde Doors", completed in 1992, makes you understand why he has been compared to Rouault and Paul Klee. Oyelami's compositions are highly refined and elegant, the subjects poetical yet somehow urban, as in "Shape of Landscape Remembered" and "City": Oyelami's highly sophisticated and reflective style contrasts sharply with Rufus

Ogundele's forceful, almost overpowering colours, barely "tamed" by strong rectangular, yet somehow sinuous, rubber-like structures, that give way to the immediacy of his yellows, greens and reds, but also restrain them.

Mr. Ogundele explained the forcefulness of pictures like "Two Inseparable" by his worship of Ogun, the god of Iron, with his double identity of bloodthirsty warrior and enchanting singer and poet.

He has been compared to Picasso, but points out the illogicality and even slight offensiveness of an African artist's work being compared to a European artist's who in turn had copied African art.

Being asked how he, an African staying in Germany, felt at this time, he said that there were

so many Germans living, travelling abroad, enjoying foreign hospitality, that friendliness towards foreigners should be only natural, only reciprocal.

Maybe a visit to this exhibition could be a gesture of goodwill to all foreign cultures in Germany.  
 Siobhan Groitl

### Materials used:

Ulli Beier (1991), Thirty Years Of Oshogbo Art, Iwalewa

Ulli Beier (1991), Yoruba, Das Überleben einer westafrikanischen Kultur. Schriften des historischen Museums Bamberg, hrsg. von Lothar Hennig.

## Stars of the Vienna Operetta

The success of the Vienna Operetta is partly due to the great contribution of its great singers. Rosa Streitmann, Josephine Gallmeyer, Lori Stubl and Karoline Finlay are only a few stars to be mentioned, who fascinated their audience with their electrifying performances.

By means of this exhibition, *Stars of the Vienna Operetta*, which was held at Thurnau castle last spring as well as at Coburg's theatre and at the library of the University of Bayreuth, the fame and the glory of these fascinating artists was shown.

The material, consisting of impressive photographs and writings, was collected by Marion

Linhardt and Sonja Sötje, members of the University of Bayreuth Institute of Research for Music Theatre at Thurnau.

If you were charmed by this exhibition, carried away into the world of the glamorous music-theatre and its celebrities, we can recommend an illustrated brochure accompanying the exhibition, which is available from the information centre of the library.

It's a pity that an exhibition can't recreate the fascinating atmosphere of the great era of Vienna Operetta.

Anja Fischer and Ute Gauermann



## The Coburg Convent

# A student association with tradition

The Convent of Coburg (CC) was developed in 1951 out of the "German Expellee Organization" (founded 1868) and the "Representative Convent for Turnerschaften" (founded 1872) at German universities.

They had been friendly already since 1920, and the two rebuilt fraternities united. It's said in the declaration of the establishment:

"We have united our great academic federation in the realization of common tasks, to which our old traditions engaged us. Our unions are communities of life to educate the youth to responsible and free personalities. We stand for the preservation and the promotion of the occidental-Christian culture. All our energy aims to achieve a free Europe and an undivided and indivisible Germany. We appeal to the academic youth to join us for unity and justice and freedom!"

About 100 fraternities from Germany and Austria meet every year at Whitsuntide in Coburg for their congress — the union conference of the CC with sports events as well as social and cultural programmes.

### FRIENDSHIP

Friendship is the foundation of their life unions. As an open sign of membership they wear their colours, fence out their students' duels to develop their determination and practise sports together.

### NATIVE COUNTRY

They declare themselves to be for the history and the cultural heritage of our nation and they strive for an undivided, free Germany within a united Europe where every person has equal rights.

It's their aim to have peace regulations that transcend national boundaries.

The "Hochschulgespräche" (may be translated as podium discussions about international university affairs) are an important academic factor within the CC-congress. The topics are quite interesting, for instance:

- the university today and tomorrow — problems of access
- a European family of nations — an aim without alternatives
- alternatives to the educational crisis

At the beginning of the year an all-German conference is held in Berlin as a political focal point. In between there are seminars, fencing and sports events, sometimes together with other fraternities.

The CC federations — with more than 15,000 younger and older members — aim to preserve and to develop the ideal values as well as to build up the personality of the young members. Their fraternity helps and supports them.

The CC considers the intellectual and the moral education of its members as its most distinguished duty.

It lays down the following principles (which are equal in value):

### HONOUR

Honourable intentions and acts are their principles of real humanity, that means e.g. that the honour of human beings — regardless of their origin and religious confession — has to be attended to.

### FREEDOM

The freedom of the personality is the greatest good, that means freedom of conscience, freedom to express one's opinion, freedom to act in the scope of constitutional basic rights.

The CC tries to make incentives for pupils to attain good A-level grades at Coburg's secondary schools through awarding a scholarship to the best one from each school.

As a last word it has to be said that this article is only a small insight into the various matters that concern the CC and to learn more about it it would be worthwhile attending the CC-congress in Coburg over Whitsun.

Celia Schamberger

## A newcomer from the Ruhrgebiet

# Culture Shock in Franconia

Some weeks ago I asked myself again and again what the hell induced me to leave this wonderful part of Germany between Düsseldorf and Cologne to move to Bayreuth. I could not find an answer. Of course it was the Universities' Council for Admissions in Dortmund which had sent me here. On the application form for a place for Business Administration you can name eight cities. It is a well-known fact that anyone putting down Bayreuth anywhere on the application form will be set here. So it happened to me, too.

As the University of Bayreuth is famous for its unique language programme for students of Business Administration I was not unhappy about my place here. In addition, students finish their studies rather quickly with relatively good results. The university is not too large, has nice surroundings, and it would probably not be difficult to find a flat.

### Oak-furnished rooms and PVC parquet

Concerning the last point, my error soon became apparent. No, it was not impossible to find an apartment — if you can cope with completely oak-furnished rooms or PVC-parquet-imitation on the floor. Landlords around here seem to have a strange kind of taste, eh? Even the assistant at the carpet shop mocked this particular landlord, who is known for his parquet-imitation passion, which was only a waste of money because all the tenants ordered something neutral at the carpet shop.

### Tendency to criminality

Hints of a tendency to criminality were also found. An old lady showed me a 25 square

metre flat for DM 600 a month. In addition, she demanded DM 1000 cash in hand: a so-called "mediation fee". As it was her own flat that she was trying to "mediate", I told her that I did not want to accept this condition (not knowing that it was simply illegal). She answered, "Well, you don't have to take my apartment. There are others who are interested." So finally, on my third visit to Bayreuth, I decided to take an unfurnished flat close to the university. On Sunday mornings at 8 o'clock I desperately try to ignore the fact that below my flat there is a bus depot where buses are being repaired. I often wish I was deaf.

### "I could hardly understand anybody"

The next shock was that I could hardly understand anybody. Neither my landlord nor the old

man at the drinks shop. The old man was telling me the story of his life including a visit to my hometown in Nordrhein-Westfalen 30 years ago. After five minutes' talk I had only a vague idea about what he was talking about. Friendly as I am, I listened to him and smiled. Unfortunately, I was unable to answer. And I cannot imagine that I will ever get used to that farewell salute "adele". Brrrrr. But unlike other Bavarians I have met, people in Bayreuth are very friendly to strangers. Yes, there are stories of someone from Bielefeld not being sold water at the filling station because he spoke High German. But so far this seems to be an exception that is told among non-Bavarians from generation to generation. Remember the man from the drinks shop with the story of his life? Well, in gratitude for me listening to him for so long, he gave me a present of a bottle of orange-lemonade. A really kind gesture, I thought.

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### "... a culture vacuum"

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What about spare-time activities? Now it is getting difficult for me to stay optimistic. Spoiled by the ideal constellation of Düsseldorf, Cologne, Essen, Solingen, Wuppertal and ten other interesting cities, I consider it to be a real

cultural vacuum here. Anybody thinking of Bayreuth as the Wagner Festival City cannot imagine how little is offered in the remaining 11 months of the year. No concerts, no theatre, no exhibitions or interesting museums — nothing, compared to the enormous cultural variety of the Rhine/Ruhr area. So what can be done? Besides enjoying the world's best pasta at the "Gotts", there are only a few possibilities of places to go to. After one week of living here I already knew all the cafes that are considered worth going to. After two years of working in Düsseldorf I probably only got to know a fraction of the nice restaurants and cafes in and around the area. And that is really frustrating. Besides that, Bayreuth is a kind of gossip-platform. Everybody knows everybody (this is sometimes not too bad), everybody knows the latest scandals about you (mostly bad) and your mistakes are stored irrevocably in peoples' minds (very bad).

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### Romantic walks in the snow

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You are wondering why I am still here? I resisted the temptation to change to another university because ... ahem, yes. You drive

twenty minutes and you find yourself in the most beautiful snow-covered surroundings you can imagine. You can undertake all the romantic walks in the snow you have been dreaming of all your life (as long as you find the right person to walk with you to hold the umbrella and prevent you from slipping into the snow). You drive fifteen minutes and you can even go skiing! Unbelievable! In the summer it must be even more beautiful, with all the beer-gardens and open-air restaurants ... As a matter of fact, it is not too bad to study here.

You meet a lot of nice people — and they have all overcome this depression of the beginning. During the lectures you even find a seat, in contrast to Cologne. Due to the lack of distractions you have to concentrate on your studies. Is this the reason for students getting through university in Bayreuth so quickly?

Despite the positive impressions, I am very much looking forward to going home for the Christmas holidays and to surrendering to all the allurements of the Rhineland. I am sure I will be as glad to escape the restrictions of being at home in about three weeks' time to live my own life again. That is something that I do not want to miss.

Christine Steingaß

# The Library Service at the University of Bayreuth

The library at Bayreuth University is not one building only, but is split up into a central library and the libraries of the different faculties in their buildings. Every student can be registered at the library of his faculty and receives his library card. The administration of his data like the renewal and the return of borrowed books is done there.

The library distinguishes between two kinds of books: ones which can be borrowed for four weeks (an extension is possible) and others which can only be read in the library. If you want to borrow a book, you first have to look for the call number in the microfiches. With the call number you can find the place where the book is shelved. Then, you have to fill in a library slip by hand: they want to know the call number, title and author of the book and the user's address and his library card number. After giving the slip to the librarian at the counter you can take the book with you. If the desired book is not in the library you can reserve it by giving a completed slip to the library staff. They might tell you when you can expect your book. So, you can ask at this time but you should expect a delay. It is also possible to get a book from another faculty library or the central library by giving the slip to "your" library. One or two days later you can call for the book. If you don't have that much time, you can look for it directly in the particular library.

If the desired book is not available at Bayreuth University, there is a special service called "Fernleihe". Twice a week, a special "book-

bus" delivers and collects books from other universities in Germany. To do this you must fill in both the white slip, hand-written, for Bayreuth University and also a red one, type-written. You should allow at least two weeks or more for the process.

So, to sum up, we can say that the administration at Bayreuth University is done by hand and that no electronic security system exists.

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### Partner universities

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How is the situation at Bayreuth's partner universities?

The situation at the ESC (Ecole supérieure de commerce), Nantes is hardly comparable. There is only one library for a few hundred students. The supply consists of books, journals and newspapers. The number of books is much smaller than in Bayreuth, but there are a great number of journals. You can borrow these journals for one day, the books can be borrowed for one week. If you want to find a book, you first have to look into a card-index box to get its call number. When you have found the desired book, you give it to the librarian who lists by hand its title and your name and student year in a book. He also decodes the book, so that you can pass through the security system. If you need books which are not available, you go to the university library which is just across the street.

Dublin City University with about 4,000 students is more comparable with Bayreuth University. But the system is different from that in Bayreuth. First, they have only one library which has, unlike Bayreuth, electronic security gates.

It is divided into two sections: the first one where you can get "normal books" for three weeks. They are renewable as often as you want. The second section has a restricted loan. Here, you will find the popular, expensive books. You can take them out for three hours and you can renew twice, so that you can take them out overnight. If you look for a book, you can use microfiches or a computer system. The computer system gives you every piece of information about the book: how many copies the library has, if they are in the library or on loan. It also includes a summary of the book. To borrow it, you do not have to fill in a slip. The data on the label of the book and on your library card are read automatically. At the same time, the book is decoded, so that you can get through the security system. A reservation of a book which is on loan is also possible.

If you only want to look for terms, you can use a data bank. It gives you information about books and summaries about the terms and tells you in which libraries they are available. The request for these books can be done in your own library. If a book is not available in Ireland, the library orders it from abroad in a short time.

Continued on the next page

But be careful of the strict regulations, if a book is overdue. You have to pay 10 p per day for a "normal book" and 10 p per hour for a restricted book. And if one of your borrowed books is overdue, you will get no other book. There is also a restriction on the number of borrowed books. You will not get more than six books at a time.

One similarity to Bayreuth exists. The journals and newspapers have to be read in the library. But for everything else concerning the library the students of Dublin City University coming to Bayreuth University have to change their habits.

Brigitte Siegler

## Bayreuth ist not just Wagner

Every year a splendid concert is celebrated during the season of Advent at the Christuskirche in Bayreuth. In 1991, Handel's Messiah was performed, last year the challenge for the musicians was even greater. The chorus of the

Christuskirche, the Bach Soloists Ensemble from Bayreuth and a Trumpet-Ensemble played parts of the Christmas Oratorio by Johann Sebastian Bach (cantatas 1—3 and 6).

On this occasion, many lovers of sacred music came to listen to the musical performance which took place on the second Sunday in Advent. On entering the church a helpful and friendly usher welcomed us and showed us to our seats.

After a few introductory words by the priest of the Christuskirche the conductor and only three soloists (two women and a man) entered the church, which was very astonishing as the Christmas Oratorio is generally presented by four voices, namely tenor, baritone, contralto and soprano. One of the male voices was obviously missing. This mystery was soon to be explained.

At the end of the first cantata the conductor quite unexpectedly turned to the audience and started to sing the baritone part. This is something I have never experienced in any other concert before.

All the same, I found it pleasurable, as it created a familiar atmosphere between the audience and the musicians.

During the course of the musical presentation I

was very impressed by the vocal performance of the chorus, consisting of 62 singers. The relatively small orchestra was constantly fighting the predominance of the chorus. In spite of this, I think that the orchestra did a good job, even when the conductor was concentrating on his singing part, as it was perfectly able to go on playing all by itself.

Now, let us come to the review of the four soloists:

The baritone and the tenor gave a very convincing performance. Especially the tenor, who took over the narrative part all through the Oratorio, was of an exceedingly high standard. However, I was rather disappointed by the two female voices (soprano and contralto) which were far too weak and not clear enough to be really enjoyed.

Considering that the ensemble which presented the Christmas Oratorio was not an ensemble comparable to the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra or any other famous orchestra it still showed an amazing musical capability.

Another positive aspect of the concert, which may have been especially important to students, was the matter of admission charges which were considerably low (9, — DM) in comparison to other concerts.

Jörg Werner

## Readers' Letters

### First and second impressions of Bayreuth University

Dear Editor,

When I decided to study law in Bayreuth I had several aspects in mind.

First of all I had heard that Bayreuth has a rather small university which is not as crowded with students as all the big and well-known universities like Münster, Freiburg or Hamburg where students have to sit on the floor or outside the lecture hall. So I was expecting to get a place in the lecture-hall and to find some books in the library.

The second point was the special kind of qualification you are offered as a Law student in Bayreuth: the additional education in Economics. I thought this might improve my chances of getting a job afterwards.

I was also very interested in the possibilities the university offers concerning languages. I planned to go on with English and French and/or even start learning another language.

Another aspect was that I expected Bayreuth to be a nice little town where life was not so anonymous and which had a beautiful environment.

Now that I have been studying and living here for about three months, I can draw a first conclusion as to which of my expectations have become, or will become true.

It is true that the university is rather small and you make personal contacts quite easily. In spite of this, you notice that there are more students than the university was built for and so the lecture-halls and the library are also sometimes crowded. But I still think that the situation is not as bad as in other towns. The additional qualification in economics is really a good opportunity in my opinion, and I will try to go on taking part in the course, but I can already see that it involves lots of extra work.

The Language Centre is a very good institution. I am taking part in specialization courses in English and French but unfortunately I have less time for languages than I had hoped, and at the moment I see no chance to learn a new language.

My first impression of the town is that it is pleasant. There are interesting places to visit in the town as well as in the environs. It is so small that you often meet students or other people you know, which is important at first when living in a new place. Sometimes I find it a bit too small because I am used to a town with about 150,000 inhabitants, the ideal size in my opinion.

All in all I can say that my principal expectations have been fulfilled and that it was a good decision to come to Bayreuth.

Kerstin Wenzel

### Think of the vegetarians!

Dear Editor,

Entering the canteen (Mensa) for the first time. I was delighted to notice the vegetarian meal. After two months of practical experience, I am no longer so enthusiastic. The canteen on the Geschwister-Scholl-Platz in particular forgets the vegetarian students time and again. When offered turkey, Currywurst or a ham sandwich, I really get angry. The central canteen, which prepares up to 4 different dishes a day, sometimes misuses that great choice by offering 4 different meat dishes. Since vegetarian food is, for health reasons, widespread, I would like to remind the management of the canteen to keep the large vegetarian minority in mind and to offer one vegetarian meal each day.

Christina Pillasch

## Readers' Letters

### It's your fault if you're bored

Dear Editor,

A lot of students often complain about the lack of cultural activities at the University of Bayreuth. That's true, only little is done for the cultural life of students here in Bayreuth. But it's up to you to change it. As a member of the Akkuk (the study group for culture and communication), let me tell you that students could change a lot. There is the possibility of joining a cultural group at the university, for example, the Akkuk, the Ak Presse (the study group for journalism), the Ak Geschichte (the study group for history), etc. or founding a new group. If you want to join the Akkuk, we meet every week at 6 p.m. in the Fachschaft of the Biology, Chemistry and Geology Departments. Here are our plans for the next summer semester:

1. A cultural week with the theme 'future'. We plan to hold an exhibition of photos and paintings by students about what they think about their future, the future of Bayreuth and the future of the whole world. There will also be some presentations about the 'future', a film night with funny and serious science fiction films and, of course, a very spacy party.

2. The cultural high point of the summer semester will be the NW II Open Air Event with a lot of live music, juggling, cabaret and many more activities.

So, do something! Help needed immediately.

Holger Töpfer

Dear Editor,

If you're feeling bored here, it's your own fault. Especially as a local student from Oberfranken, you often hear the complaint of your fellow students from elsewhere that Bayreuth is practically the most tiresome city they know and completely unsuitable for studying and enjoying their spare time.

But if you ask them why they came to Bayreuth, they'll answer that they chose voluntarily to come to a small university.

Of course, it's natural that you can't expect the same student life here in Bayreuth that you would find in cities like Heidelberg, for example, where the traditional university is several hundred years old.

But Bayreuth is not only the town of the Richard Wagner Festival, it also has other attractions. I am thinking, for example, of the wide variety of sports facilities (ice-hockey, basketball, skateboarding, squash, tennis, skiing in the winter in the nearby Fichtelgebirge), the cosy beer-gar-

dens and the atmospheric student parties, held almost every week.

So come on, your initiative is wanted. Bayreuth is waiting for you!

Bianca Hempfling

### Should students pay to study?

Dear Editor,

In view of the tense financial situation of the public budget in Germany, the introduction of a study charge has been discussed as an economy measure.

German students regard the possibility of studying without paying any charge as a matter of course. In fact, it is a privilege we shouldn't understate, but the financial burden that study charges would cause for students and their parents would result in a classification into poor and rich. This would particularly affect students just below the income level for receiving Bafög (a student grant). To study or not would be a question of the costs, not of performance. Wouldn't this be a step backwards?

Another fact is that the conditions in most German universities are not good enough for the government to demand high charges, for example, if I want to borrow a book in the university library it is usually not there or there is only an old edition. Overcrowded lecture halls, seminars, language courses and inadequate EDP training are as normal in Bayreuth as the never-ending search for a flat. But I could imagine that such problems are even bigger at larger universities in more attractive towns. Something must be done, either to reduce the number of students or to improve study conditions. But study charges are not the right way because of the social injustice they would cause.

(Name provided)

Dear Editor,

At the moment the Academic Council is dealing in Berlin with the idea of introducing a general fee for all students. According to their concept, each student should pay 2000 DM every year, that is about 166 DM monthly. The Academic Council claims that this measure would remove the problem of overcrowded universities and lead to a financial exoneration of the public budget. Nobody will deny the truth of this statement, but I can't go all the way with the Academic Council on that point, because there are many reasons for rejecting this suggestion. The main problem is that the introduction of study fees would make universities select stu-

dents by their ability to pay rather than their ability to think. In the current situation of rising rents and growing costs of living, many of the students would not be able to finish or begin a university education any longer (especially when you take the planned reduction of the student grants into consideration).

In this situation the only criterion for selection is the money of the parents and not the knowledge of the student. But our performance-orientated society needs the best students and not those who can pay the fee. In terms of educational policy it's unbelievable that only students with rich parents have the possibility to study. Only a selection based on individual skills would ensure the future development of our society and economy.

Another problem I must mention in this context is that this measure would force many students to work (in addition to their studies). In my opinion this would lengthen the duration of study and therefore destroy the aspired aim of reducing student numbers. But what can we do to solve these problems instead of introducing a fee? There can be no doubt that there are many possibilities. Some of them I want to list now. First of all we can limit the number of students and improve the conditions of study by taking the following measures:

- Introduction of a university entrance examination or high grades for entrance
- Vocational guidance, which would show the alternatives to going to university
- Last but not least the improvement of the public budget, which would allow the desirable extension of the universities, could be financed by reductions of the subsidies made to unsuccessful companies.

Summing up, you can see that there are many possibilities to improve the situation of the universities without demanding a fee from students.

Michael Rödel

### Forced to work with old books

The necessity of reading books, magazines and specific literature as a main part of the student's life is the reason for the existence of university libraries.

There are many differences between the library standards of the various universities in Germany.

What can be said about the libraries at the University of Bayreuth — especially the "RW-BIB", the Law and Business Library?

Continued on the next page

## Readers' Letters

Entering the "RW-BIB" for the first time everybody tends to say, "Bad situation". Besides the fact that the library is often crowded another aspect that should be mentioned is the fact that the university can't afford to buy a lot of new books. When you have successfully managed to get a good place in the library you are often forced to work with old books because of the book shortage!

The students are not able to solve this financial problem.

But there are other problems caused by the egoistic behaviour of (some) students.

Sometimes you aren't able to find the books you need at the place where they are usually situated because someone else who also needs the book has "parked" it somewhere else in the library. During the morning hours sometimes students reserve seats in the library even though they don't use them until the evening! If you leave the "RW-BIB" for other libraries like the "NW-BIB" (science library) for example, you sometimes hear comments from the students of that faculty because of the occupation of their seats.

This situation will get worse if the libraries in general have to cut their opening-hours due to the latest financial decisions of the federal government.

But it also has to be mentioned that although the situation in Bayreuth is difficult, it is not as difficult as in other universities.

Gunther Plohr

## We are one of the luckier ones

Dear Editor,

When the University of Bayreuth was founded in 1975, the intention was to build a small and modern university with close contact between students and teachers.

About 5,000 students were to learn and live here in Bayreuth but now there are more than 8,000 students and the situation has changed. Although not every subject is as overcrowded as Business Administration and Law, all students suffer from this situation. Not enough rooms are available for the huge number of people and the rooms that there are are not big enough. The same problem is the reason for the difficulties students have in getting books in the Law library (e.g. since last year we haven't been allowed to borrow books overnight and when we want to use certain books in the library we have to sign them out — these facts don't make studying in Bayreuth any easier). But not only the university in Bayreuth is facing these problems. All over the country students have these problems and in comparison with other universities, we are one of the luckier ones.

(Name provided)

## The hazards of getting to university

Dear Editor,

First, I have to emphasize that I have no prejudices against students. As a citizen of Bayreuth, I have always had contact with them and I have been a student here myself since last semester. But I am never going to understand why a high percentage of the students behave so irresponsibly in the traffic. I have been observing this phenomenon for a long time.

The students who come to university by bike regularly endanger pedestrians and even car drivers. It is like an assault, regardless of the consequences. For example, they ride their bikes too fast, don't pay attention to the priority of car drivers, pass pedestrians at a distance of about 10 cm and ride their bikes at night without lights. They simply make streets and pavements unsafe. This behaviour by some students is no longer tolerable for other students and the citizens of Bayreuth. If students want to be respected by local people and regarded as intelligent and responsible, they will have to behave better. Students must obey the law like everybody else: there are no exceptions!

Susanne Breuer

Dear Editor,

How does Bayreuth University justify the issue of parking fines on university land without providing more parking space/ arranging improved methods of alternative transport for the annually increasing number of students it accepts?

Sian Richards, English teacher.

Dear victims of the law,

I'm fed up of hearing students and staff alike complaining about the parking facilities at Bayreuth university. My personal advice to the President is to demolish the building currently under construction and replace it with a McDonalds-style drive-in lecture theatre. This would, I'm sure, satisfy the demands of all those hypocrites who drive half a kilometre to university and then scribble their notes on recycled paper. Most of these people won't park in the furthest carpark at the Kreuzsteinbad because their homes are nearer. Maybe if the aforementioned got off their proverbials, took the bus, the bike or even walked (God forbid!), those people who genuinely live far enough away to warrant driving would have a *legal* parking space.

Mary O'Connell, English teacher.



As you might have already suspected, the picture above illustrates the hard work that went into the making of this special edition of SPEKTRUM. (From left to right Jörg Werner, Eileen Vick, Reinhard Ipsen and Martin Bennewitz). The articles were written at the University of Bayreuth by students of English in courses at the Language Centre.

## Editorial



UNIVERSITY OF  
BAYREUTH

**SPEKTRUM**

Published by the President of the University of Bayreuth. Edited by the Press Office of the University of Bayreuth: Jürgen Abel, M. A and Eileen Vick.

Address: P. O. Box 10 12 51, Universitätsstr. 30, D-8580 Bayreuth, Germany, Telephone (09 21) 55-22 06/07, Telefax 55-22 08.

Spektrum appears twice per semester. This special issue is published in an edition of 3,000.

Printed by Lorenz Ellwanger  
Maximilianstr. 58/60  
D-8580 Bayreuth  
Germany

Telephone: (09 21) 5 00-0

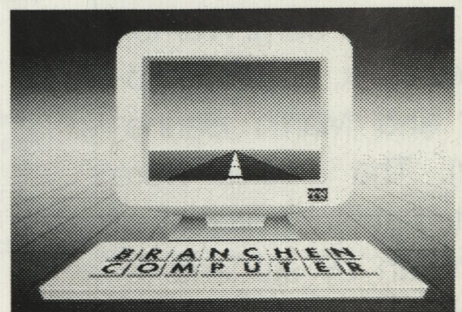
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