

Germany

Although reunification is risky, it is best answer for both countries

Day X is inevitably drawing near. "Tag X," as Germans have called it in the decades since World War II, referred to the unlikely day when the two Germans would once again reunite. But this reunification is now a fact, and it will probably take place before 1990 is over.

Although West Germany has prospered, becoming the world's leading nation in exports (their 1989 trade surplus was \$80 billion; the U.S. had a trade deficit of \$108 billion), they have been reluctant to take pride in their nation's accomplishments. The collective guilt for the atrocities for which Germany was responsible was that deep.

Then suddenly, the Berlin Wall came down, and East Germany threw off its dictatorship. "Reunification" and "Tag X" were on everyone's lips as soon as the first pieces of the wall were chipped away. Now the slogan "Wir sind wieder wer" is also on everyone's lips: We are somebody again.

Reunification will mean many things. With a population of almost 80 million, the new Germany will dwarf its neighbors. The military forces will combine to create a power of 1.8 million regulars and reservists, which will be the strongest in Europe. Although incorporating East Germany will cause new economic problems for West Germany, the combined country will eventually overpower the other European nations economically. Reunification will also mean an upset in balance for the West European countries, and the redefinition of institutions such as NATO and the European Community.

Many of Germany's neighbors, especially countries like Poland and France, as well as European Jews, are scared of a new German power. They can never forget the barbaric deeds of the Third Reich, and understandably so.

But Helmut Kohl is not Adolph Hitler. And West Germany has welcomed democratic values over the past decades. Germans understand history and have more than proven that they have learned from it.

For two weeks, secret negotiations took place between the U.S. and West Germany, with Bush agreeing that reunification was the best answer to the German question. He proposed a simple formula known as two-plus-four, an informal agreement between the four allies — U.S., the Soviet Union, Britain and France — and the two Germans that they would work out the reunification issue first, then join the four allies in negotiations on European security.

Reunification does pose some risks. But Germany deserves the chance to reach its ideal — a unified country at peace with itself and the world.

McNEELY Chicago Tribune

WEDDINGS, EN- East Germany to Wed Successful Industrialist

Marriage Moby Con. III



East Germany, daughter of the late Joseph Stalin of Moscow, has announced her engagement to West Germany of Bonn. The bride, 40, is a former Marxist ideologue who was active in Olympic shotputting and weight-lifting. A resident of Berlin and Leipzig, Ms. Germany made her debut in 1968, riding a tank into Prague.

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The bride's father, Mr. Stalin, was a founding partner of Hitler & Stalin, a major mergers and acquisitions firm in the early forties. The bridegroom, 40, distant cousin of the bride, is a...



East Germany

was a Marshall Plan Scholar and received an M.B.A. from NATO.

Mr. Germany's father was a prominent National Socialist who lost a bid for world domination in 1945.

Spring break a character-building experience

Some of the ladies around the newsroom were talking Thursday night about how just before spring break, normally fat, pale and just generally out-of-shape people descend on gyms, aerobics classes and tanning dens to try and spiff up the ol' bod to be exposed on the beaches of paradise.

And I started thinking, what happens to the life guards on the very first day of spring break season, when thousands of ivory bodies suddenly disrobe. The light reflecting off all that luminescent skin must be blinding. No wonder lifeguards always have such good tans. They get third-degree sunburn the first time those University of North Dakota kids strip off their T-shirts and Levi's.

Of course, the folks at the gyms and aerobics places drool and breathe heavy over the thought of zillions of over-rounded hips and spare tires and beer guts rolling in to become hardened-steel Venuses and Adonises.

Usually what happens is people just end up getting tired and sore and deciding that exercise is a pretty stupid idea anyway. Myself being a decidedly skinny fellow, I don't worry about anything except the spare tire part. Sometimes I think I might want to fill out the beer belly 'cause the big flabby guys always seem to be



SCOTT PRUDEN

the ones with the women.

Speaking of the women, my experiences at dens of decadence like Daytona have shown that women on vacation can be amazingly aloof. Never mind carrying a fresh condom or two unless you've got a baseball cap, no rhythm and say "Dude, man" a lot. Otherwise, you might as well forget it.

Of course, money is a big problem as well. Some folks can afford to traipse off to Key West and stay at a really nice hotel. Then there are those of us who end up calling a long-lost friend who just happens to live in St. Augustine, cruising south and then staying in an unheated wicker furniture warehouse while it turns cold and rainy.

But, as my dad has always said, things like that are character building experiences.

Right, Dad.

I just don't see why being shackled up in some palatial pleasure palace right on the beach couldn't be as much of a character building experience as bedding down with my roommates and several thousand dollars worth of wicker furniture.

True character building experiences are things like strolling into a nightclub looking about 16, then trying to pick up women who are dancing with guys who look like linebackers for NFL teams. Sorry kids, but unless you're sitting on a wallet that could cushion a fall from four stories, be content to hang out and just watch.

Of course, watching isn't all that bad. Some serious flesh gets flashed down at the beach by members of both sexes, so everyone's hormones should be kept quite busy.

The wet-whatever-piece-of-clothing-you'd-like contests have always puzzled me though. I'd like to think that there were women in the world who actually enjoyed having icy water poured on their breasts and then dancing around in front of a bunch of slobbering spring break dudes, but I'm positive it's just because they run out of money and don't want to be in debt to the big guy who says "Dude, man" all the time.

"WAIT — JUST A FEW MORE BITES"



Greed plays role in Columbiana Centre issue

Columbia wants it, and so does Irmo.

The new Columbiana Centre mall off Harbison Boulevard on Columbia's northeast side will be the second major shopping center to open in Columbia in two years.

The upscale Richland Fashion Mall, which has been plagued with bankruptcy news, is improving in sales. But, the mall still remains more than half empty. It gives one an eerie feeling as you walk through almost deserted corridors.

But, now comes Columbiana Centre, scheduled to open this summer. And with a new mall comes tax revenue, which translates into big bucks for the city.

However, Columbiana was not in a city when its construction began.

Columbia has annexed the land and set up a



ROBERT THOMAS

temporary fire station on Harbison artery to serve its new citizens. To annex the land, Columbia also had to annex another narrow strip of land — namely parts of Broad River — to connect the city with their new prize.

Thursday's edition of *The State* headlines some terrible news for the city: the city may be missing a 75-foot by 90-foot block of land

along the river and I-20. The block is the site of a billboard.

What does that mean?

Columbia — in all honesty — messed up. That's what you get when you head up a river to get a mall. It's not like Columbia didn't already have three or four malls. Why couldn't the beloved Capital City let Irmo have a mall to call its own?

Greed is why Columbia wanted the mall and why Irmo is fighting to get it also. The two cities' bickering has landed them in court, and the state will intervene today in a Budget and Control Board meeting.

Hopefully when the mall opens this summer, the fighting, bickering and greed will pay off. Otherwise, Columbia may be stuck with a block of land, a billboard and yet another mall.

The Gamecock

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Letters Policy: *The Gamecock* will try to print all letters received. Letters should be, at maximum, 250 to 300 words long. The writer must include full name, professional title if a USC employee or South Carolina resident, or year and major if a student. An address and phone number are required with all letters sent. *The Gamecock* reserves the right to edit letters for style, possible libel or in case of space limitations. The newspaper will not withhold names under any circumstance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ferrell's views resemble Nazis'

To the editor:

Mr. Ferrell's letter, appearing in the Feb. 19 issue of *The Gamecock*, definitely deserves some attention, especially in light of the many recent attempts to suppress personal freedoms in the United States. Such opinions are not exclusively reserved for members of our state Legislature. It has become fashionable these days to impose one's own values and beliefs upon the personal choices and lifestyles of others. It may be unrealized to many inhibited individuals that a fantastic range of behavioral variation exists in the world today. Many of these behaviors, in one form or another, have existed in human cultures since pre-recorded times. Mr. Ferrell's criticisms coincide with those which sustain racist ideals and frown on individual creativity, choices and cultural variations. The police state of Nazi Germany thrived on such a cloning paradigm.

Mr. Ferrell's self-proclaimed knowledge of homosexual activities and anal sex seems to have clouded his own sexual prefer-

ences. His concerns for higher education and altruistic moral behavior may better be expressed within the realm of contact sports and American death squads.

James Errante
Archeology graduate student

Lack of tickets hurts graduates

To the editor:

Once again USC students get screwed — graduates will only be allowed three tickets for graduation. If all the graduates use all their allotted tickets, only one third of the coliseum will be filled. Correct me if I'm wrong here — I thought the ceremony was for the graduates. Administration states "security reasons" for the ticket limit, but do you think the coliseum will be one third full on commencement day? Hardly. Every seat will be filled, although not with graduates' families. While I'm glad Ms. Ramsdale is "excited about the caliber of speakers we will be having," at least two members of my family won't be coming. My family isn't traveling 800 miles to see Bush or anyone else speak, they're coming to see me

graduate. Perhaps President Ramsdale would like to be the one to break the news to them.

Marie Loughmiller
Journalism senior

Racism charge not valid

To the editor:

Unfortunately racism does exist in our society on both sides of the racial line. This will continue to occur as long as we stand back and point at that line to make an issue of it. To Allison Stockweather and her friends, I would like to apologize if they were made to feel uncomfortable in any way at our party. But Allison, it is obvious that you were nervous and scared and searching for any slight sign of racial discrimination.

First of all, when I asked you to leave (yes, I was the one who asked you to leave) it was only 7:30, and we were about to open the doors for the first time. Did it not occur to you and your friends that you had not paid at all to enter the show? And yes, I was dumbfounded! I was dumbfounded at the fact that you thought that you should not have to wait outside

with the other fifty people who were already in line. People who also wanted to enter the show early but were waiting patiently to be admitted. Yes, Allison, the section that you referred to was reserved. Not for Black Greeks but for members of Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta, the sponsors of the step show. If you had taken the time to inquire about this, someone would have informed you of this. No, instead you shouted "racism" like the little boy who cried wolf.

So Allison, my advice to you is to stop and think next time before you start hurling accusations of discrimination. And if all else fails, ask someone why, and I'm sure that the answer would be satisfactory to any intelligent person. If you can do that, I hope that your reasoning will override your obvious pettiness and racial insecurity. Perhaps then you won't publicly display your ignorance of social events and people by writing letters to the editor. As for racism, it does still exist and will continue to exist as long as people like Allison Stockweather search for it with a finely-tuned microscope.

Leonard F. Knight
Engineering sophomore