

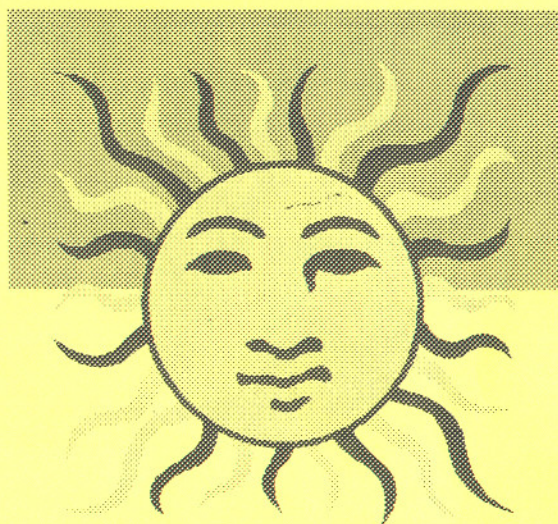


# Das Deutsche Echo

Jahrgang 19/8

Live long and prosper

August 1998



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## Events Calendar

Sep 12	Weinfest
Sep 13	Konversationsrunde
Oct 4	German Unity Day
Oct 22	Oktoberfest begins
Oct 31	Oktoberfest Party
Nov 14	Coronation Ball
Dec 5	Children's Christmas Party
Dec 12	Christmas Ball
Jan 23	Anniversary Ball
Feb 13	Fasching

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## The President's Report to the Membership

The Board held their July meeting on Wednesday the 8th. Please remember, that all Board meetings are open to the membership, however the agenda is set before the meeting. Should you wish to address the Board please submit your written request two weeks in advance.

Carol and I thank all of the members who attended the annual GAST picnic; we hope that everyone had as enjoyable of a time as we did, and that you and many more members will attend next year. Also we would like to give a hardy "at-a-boy" to Elam for his usual first class menu. I don't think anyone left with that "empty feeling".

Although a goodly number of members have volunteered, there are still openings for anyone wishing to serve on a committee. If you would like to be a member of a committee, please call the chairperson of the committee you would like to serve on, or call the Message Center (744-6998) and leave your name and telephone number and you will be contacted.

Oktoberfest / Mayfest	Anthony (Tony) Jury	272-2635
Hospitality / Membership	Irmgard Toschik	749-5282
Public Affairs / Echo / Web	Fred Rother	299-4814
Socials / Entertainment	Leisha Jury	272-2635
	Margueritte McCain	747-4708
Youth Activities	Message Center	744-6998
Choir Activities	Leon Boggs	258-5201
Dancers Activities	Evelyn Boucher	355-1450
Historian	Message Center	744-6998
By-laws	Charles Tegeler	747-0610
Elferrat Activities	Harold Wicks	743-0359

If you have a kind word, a suggestion, an idea, a constructive criticism or an inquiry directed for any committee please contact the chair of that committee direct. Your thoughts are always welcome.

Until next month,

—Don Wright



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## ..FROM THE ARTS PRESIDENT

As you are well aware, there are not too many social activities sponsored by the Arts Association in the summer. However, the work of the committees and committee members continues on, regardless.

For example, **Jutta Tankersley** represented us at the unveiling of the poster for Kids' World where GAST will have a major presence. Jutta and **Joe Hardt** are also hard at work on preparations for celebrating the Berlin Airlift.

The next time that you are In the GAST Center, please check out the display window. We have formed a committee to plan the activities for German Unity day coming up on the 4th of October 1998. The members of this committee—**Melanie Brinton, Barbara Conrad, John Millar, Doris Wicks** welcome your input as to exactly what these activities should be.

Don't forget that we will be needing raffle prizes for our social functions beginning this fall. Although Spring seems to be a long time from now, we will soon also be soliciting your treasures and white elephants for next year's **GARAGE SALE** which is major fund raiser for the Arts Association.

Here's wishing you a fun-filled summer vacation.

—**Barbara Conrad**

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Bea Shults — Thank you!



## RIVERS OF BEER!

### Germany remains "Beerland Number 1" in Europe!

A total of 1,269 breweries—698 in Bavaria alone—produced 114.8 million heкто-liters of beer in 1997, comprised of 5,00 different brands and types. (1 heкто-liter = 26 U.S. Gallons) = 4.4 million gallons(I think).

As if this is news, Bavaria led in the consumption of this liquid food with 47.6 gallons per person (including children and old folks). Whereas the rest of German citizenry had to make due with only 34 gallons per person. Now, the brewery industry is concerned because their income had fallen from DM 19.7 billion to DM 19.4 billion last year.

Imported beer has virtually no market share in Germany; only 832,000 gallons were imported in 1997—and presumably consumed. German beer, however, is well-liked abroad. Export records show that 2.4 million gallons of German beer crossed Germany's borders into other countries.

Still, the brewery industry is concerned! Some reduction of beer consumption is expected to occur due to the more stringent driving laws that require a reduced blood-alcohol level for not-driving-under-the-influence, as well as to the public's perceived health concerns. Moreover, surveys have discovered that the average household in Bavaria which has until recently been maintaining a supply of three cases of beer in the home, is now keeping only one case on hand. (horrors!)



A spokesman for the industry during a press conference said he hoped that at least the Bavarians would buck this trend to reduce their on-hand beer supply and to remember that beer is the "number one beverage of the people".

Source: Deutschland Nachrichten, 19. June, 1998

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Thank you!





## Memories are made of this...

We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, frisbees and the pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball-point pens, before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes and before man walked on the moon. We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be?

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of", bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer-jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with our cousins.

We were before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were before day-care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt, and guys wearing earrings. For us time-sharing meant togetherness - not computers or condominiums; a chip meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware; and software wasn't even a word.

We hit the scene when there were 5 & 10 cent stores, where you bought things for five and ten cents. Glenciff or Hawkes sold ice cream cones for a nickel or a dime. For one nickel you could ride a street car or bus, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600, but who could afford one. A pity too, because gas was only 11 cents a gallon!

In our day, cigarette-smoking was fashionable, GRASS was mowed, COKE was a cold drink and POT was something you cooked in. ROCK MUSIC was a Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office.

We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change; we made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby!

No wonder we are so confused and that there is such a generation gap today

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Paul and Hildegard Schaffrin — Thank you!



## The GAST Vice President's Report:

Greetings to the membership! I am reporting this month because **Don and Carol Wright** are vacationing in Germany.

This year we have a new leader for our food booths at Oktoberfest. If you would like to be involved in the early planning, please call **Tony Jury** at 622-2635.

Both, the choir and dance groups are vacationing for the summer months. However, if you want to be involved in these groups, please call **Carol Wright** at 299- 2839 for information of the dancers activities, and **Leon Boggs** at 258-5201 for information about choir's activity.

Many thanks to go to **Charles Tegeler** and his committee for their diligence on our by-laws.

As a final note: if you want to try something new, call me at 299-8800 about a Christkindmarkt being planned for December 1999.

Regards,

—Dana Rosler  
1st VP GAST

## Attention Web Surfers!

Next time you're on the Web, try this site for some interesting German stuff. You'll also find an article called "GERMANY, off the beaten path", that I've written about our recent trip in Germany. I had originally planned to publish it in the *Echo*, unfortunately it is too long and would require about 10-12 additional pages.

<http://www.angelfire.com/il/wd9gng/>

—Fred Rother

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### We welcome the following members into the GAST family

Elam & Kathy Blank  
(welcome back)  
519 S. Zurich  
Tulsa, Ok. 74112  
836-9648

Nancy & George Hillman  
926 N. Juniper  
Jenks, Ok 74037  
298-0408

Douglas Hale  
P.O. Box 1051  
Stillwater, Ok. 74076  
405-372-3043

### You're invited...

Harold & Ruth extend an invitation to members of the GERMAN AMERICAN SOCIETY to join in celebration of our recent marriage. We originally intended to hold a reception in the GAST CENTER but due to the change in the type of celebration, and because a significant number of our friends regularly attend dances, we felt a wedding dance would be more appropriate, therefore requiring a larger dance floor. It will take place Saturday, Aug. 15th from pm to 11PM with live music by the MIKE BENNET band starting at 8PM -- at the ELKS LODGE at 5335 South Harvard.

Dr. Ruth Tomes & Harold Wardrip



## THE GAST SÄNGER



### August Notes

Summer's quickly fleeting,  
soon we'll resume our singing  
All Soprano, Alto, Bass and Tenors  
join us at the GAST Center.  
Thursday, August 20th at 7pm is the time and date,  
your presence we'd most appreciate.

For information, please call me at 663-9573

—Teresa Gallagher

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Kenneth and Lillian Renberg — Thank you



### Congress Passes "Americans With No Abilities Act"



WASHINGTON, DC--On Tuesday, Congress approved the Americans With No Abilities Act, sweeping new legislation that provides benefits and protection for more than 135 million talentless Americans.

The act, signed into law by the President shortly after its passage, is being hailed as a major victory for the millions upon millions of U.S. citizens who lack any real skills or uses.

"Roughly 50 percent of Americans--through no fault of their own--do not possess the talent necessary to carve out a meaningful role for themselves in society," said the President, a longtime ANA supporter. "Their lives are futile hamster-wheel existences of unrewarding, dead-end busy-work: Xeroxing documents written by others, fulfilling mail-in rebates for Black & Decker toaster ovens, and processing bureaucratic forms that nobody will ever see. Sadly, for these millions of non-abled Americans, the American dream of working hard and moving up through the ranks is simply not a reality."

Under the Americans With No Abilities Act, more than 25 million important-sounding "middle man" positions will be created in the white-collar sector for non-abled persons, providing them with an illusory sense of purpose and ability. Mandatory, non-performance-based raises and promotions will also be offered to create a sense of upward mobility for even the most unremarkable, utterly replaceable employees.

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Thank you





(Continued from page 11)

The legislation also provides corporations with incentives to hire non-abled workers, including tax breaks for those who hire one non-germane worker for every two talented hirees.

Finally, the Americans With No Abilities Act also contains tough new measures to prevent discrimination against the non-abled by banning prospective employers from asking such job-interview questions as, "What can you bring to this organization?" and "Do you have any special skills that would make you an asset to this company?"

"As a non-abled person, I frequently find myself unable to keep up with co-workers who have something going for them," said Mary Lou Gertz, who lost her position as an unessential filing clerk at a Minneapolis tile wholesaler last month because of her lack of notable skills. "This new law should really help people like me."

With the passage of the Americans With No Abilities Act, Gertz and millions of other untalented, inessential citizens can finally see a light at the end of the tunnel.



Said the President: "It is our duty, both as lawmakers and as human beings, to provide each and every American citizen, regardless of his or her lack of value to society, some sort of space to take up in this great nation."

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## "The Ant and the Grasshopper"

### The original version

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter. The grasshopper thinks he's a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away. Come winter, the ant is warm and well fed. The grasshopper has no food or shelter so he dies out in the cold.



### The New Liberal Version:



It starts out the same, but when winter comes, the shivering grasshopper calls a press conference and demands to know why the ant should be allowed to be warm and well fed while others are cold and starving. CBS, NBC and ABC show up and provide pictures of the shivering grasshopper next to film of the ant in his comfortable home with a table filled with food.

America is stunned by the sharp contrast. How can it be that, in a country of such wealth, this poor grasshopper is allowed to suffer so? Then a representative of the NAAGB (The National Association for the Advancement of Green Bugs) shows up on NightLine and charges the ant with "Green Bias" and makes the case that the grasshopper is the victim of 30 million years of greenism. Kermit the frog appears on Oprah with the grasshopper, and everybody cries when he sings "It's Not Easy Being Green."

The President makes a special guest appearance on the CBS Evening News and tell a concerned Dan Rather that they will do everything they can for the grasshopper who has been denied the prosperity he deserves by those who benefited unfairly during the Reagan summers, or as the President refers to it, the "Temperatures of the 80's". Richard Gephardt exclaims in an interview with Peter Jennings that the Ant has gotten rich off the "back of the grasshopper", and calls for an immediate tax hike on the Ant to make him pay his "fair share".

(Continued on page 16)

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*(Continued from page 14)*

Finally the EEOC drafts the "Economic Equity and Anti-Greenism Act", RETROACTIVE to the beginning of the summer. The ant is fined for failing to hire a proportionate number of green bugs and, having nothing left to pay his retroactive taxes, his home is confiscated by the government. The First Lady gets her old law firm to represent the grasshopper in a defamation suit against the ant, and the case is tried before a panel of federal judges that the President appointed from a list of single-parent welfare moms who can only hear cases on Thursday afternoon between 1:30 and 3:00 PM when there are no talk shows scheduled.

The ant loses the case.

The story ends as we see the grasshopper finishing up the last bits of the ant's food while the government house he's in - which just happens to be the ant's old house - crumbles around him since he doesn't know how to maintain it. The ant has disappeared in the snow. And on the TV, which the grasshopper bought by selling most of the ant's food, they are showing the President standing before a wildly applauding group of Democrats announcing that a new era of "Fairness" has dawned in America.

German-American Society Arts Assoc.

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