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## Two Sides of one Medal

by Regina Bruschke and Christin Förster

**LONDON: CITY OF COUNTLESS TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, RELENTLESS TRAFFIC AND ROYAL MAGNIFICENCE. PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WANDER ITS STREETS. THEY TAKE A STROLL BY THE RIVER, GO TO FAMOUS GALLERIES AND SHOWS OF THE WEST END OR ATTEND TO THEIR BUSINESS AT LONDON'S STOCK EXCHANGE. BUT THERE IS MORE TO THIS CITY, SOMETHING THAT CAN ONLY BE DISCOVERED AT A SECOND GLANCE.**

THE CHARACTER of the metropolis unfolds itself already in the suburbs.

WIMBLEDON IS a nice, quiet, residential area in the south-west of London. The neighbourhood is reasonably safe and pretty with its many parks, perfect for families with a healthy bank account. There is this cute little

bookshop in the corner of the street. On entering, the familiar smell of old books surrounds you. Classics as well as trashy novels are everywhere. The owner sits among them, reading, with a steaming pot of coffee in his hand. He is one of those people who actually know what they sell and appreciate it if you take your time to browse through the shelves. This caring attitude is no exception. The postman knows the name of nearly everyone in town. At the local bakery you often get some extra bread rolls, once in a while even some chocolate. This just seems to be the natural way of treating good customers.

THEN THERE is loud and colourful East Ham in London's north-east. The streets of this Indian-Pakistani area are bustling all day long. You can easily be the only European around.

The atmosphere culminates on Saturday – market day. The whole neighbourhood seems to be there, and everyone is eager to make a good deal. Indian drapery is sold next to vegetables, home appliances next to fresh meat (with the pig being chopped up right in front of your eyes). People are shouting, children are screaming and everything is pleasantly chaotic. But at night, the endless rows of small and slightly run-down houses reveal their true drabness. Signs of indigence and decay are everywhere.

EAST HAM and Wimbledon seem like two different worlds. One is neat, tidy and comfortable, the other multicultural, exciting but poor. Looking behind London's shiny façade reveals contrasts and extremes, diversity and cultural turbulences. This is what makes the

city lively and fascinating. This is also what makes it dangerous. There is hardly one week without conflict or violence and someone getting killed in a stabbing. Homeless people and beggars are also a constant reminder of the downsides of such a dynamic society. Compared to the consumer behaviour of the more affluent, their poverty strikes even more. This is because for the upper class the latest fashion, physical fitness and digital gadgets are not only status symbols, but indispensable essentials.

DESPITE ALL its problems, London's vibrant and energetic atmosphere attracts and inspires many young artists. Thus, the cultural scene is constantly accelerated. If there is a new trend in fashion or design, music, theatre or art, one can be sure that London takes a leading role. Diversity, with all its positive and negative effects, is the key to the city's creative potential. Being a true kaleidoscope, London waits to be unravelled. ●

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Rolf Handke <http://www.pixelio.de>

# CULTURE

## „Are you Irish (any more)?“

by Julia Weidler and Kirsten Pfohl

**„I'VE BEEN A WILD ROVER FOR MANY A YEAR  
AND I SPENT ALL MY MONEY ON WHISKEY AND  
BEER, AND NOW I'M RETURNING WITH GOLD IN  
GREAT STORE AND I NEVER WILL PLAY THE WILD  
ROVER NO MORE...“**

(TRAD. IRISH SONG)

Bar are crowded with tourists from all over the world and the hi-tech French „Christmas tree“ set up in 2008 out on historic O'Connell Street rather makes you doubt whether it is still „Dublin's fair city“ you find yourself in. On the other hand, old castles and churches are under constant preservation and therefore still remind you of the old days.



SEAMÚS WAS sitting on his regular barstool, watching the foam on his beer slowly vanishing. Some people had gathered for singing and others were just crowding in for some pints – as usual. Everyone seemed satisfied and cosy. The old oak smelled of the good old days and the pictures on the walls were a constant reminder of how it used to be.

EVEN EAMON, the old barkeeper, with his wrinkled face and well-rounded waist could easily have been part of the pub furniture. He was cleaning the glasses and chatting occasionally with other regulars. When he turned to Seamús he noticed he was deadly quiet that night. „What's the story, lad?“, he asked, and Seamús, slowly returning to reality, began to tell...

LATELY SEAMÚS had been bothered. He had lost his job as a construction worker, which he had got when the Celtic Tiger began in the late 1980s. It made him a loyal supporter of this progressive movement, an attitude of which he was not so sure any more.

IT WAS financial aid from the European Union that made it possible for a period of economic success and growth to begin in Ireland, known as the Celtic Tiger. Significant developments began to change the face and the heart of the country. Among other things, it was road construction and house building which flourished the most. Unemployment decreased and international companies managed to gain a foothold in this exploding economy.

VISITING CITIES like Dublin now provides you with a contradictory cityscape: the old pubs in Temple



IT WAS not the Celtic Tiger, but it was its consequences which bothered Seamús the most. During a time when people crucially benefited from the developments, they also changed tremendously.

ANOTHER ADVANTAGE of the Celtic Tiger was that emigration to countries like the US stopped and many Irish-rooted people came back to their home country, bringing along a mixture of Irish and American culture. Seamús, of course, appreciated all the good that had happened, but now feared the post-Celtic-Tiger society. Why did people not tell him before what he would lose? People wanted to find their roots again, but on their way altered them in a manner which seemed strange to Seamús. Where had the old „Irishness“ gone and was it gone for good?

It astonished him, for instance, that this country of faith did not value tradition and religion as much as it used to. A process of development and industrialisation to which other countries had plenty of time to adjust themselves just rushed over Ireland in the blink of an eye. A hybrid and fluid sense of identity, or Irishness, turned out to be the result. People lost touch with what used to be their cultural heritage and just took some of the old traditions and exported them into their new world. Seamús found this in several areas of life such as the strange concept of how leprechauns and banshees were popularised in present-day Ireland.

IT SEEMED to Seamús that his people had finally been able to free themselves from the English ideological hegemony and that



finally, Irish pub culture had become an independent notion. However, it was not quite what it used to be. Ever since the smoking ban the number of pub-goers had dramatically decreased. While this might lead to the assumption that less alcohol would be consumed in general, in fact this did not prevent the Irish from developing an alarmingly high alcohol consumption. Increasingly young people in particular now found themselves in hospitals after binge drinking nights.

DESPITE THE tendency of the Irish to lose themselves in the uncontrollable features of a sudden consumerist culture, there is already a counter-movement to compensate for it. One of its outstanding examples is the anti-alcoholism campaign „I've had enough“ (cf. drinkaware.ie) launched in 2007. Irish Gaelic is also enjoying rapidly increasing popularity among people trying to regain their identity.

SEAMÚS WAS convinced the Irish people could be proud of their history, despite its long time under British rule and the pre-industrial status they had kept for so long. Now that they had become „a nation once again“ everyone expected them to be the strong Celts, the magical leprechauns, the red-haired folk, the Guinness drinkers and the Michael Flatley line dancers. There was more to them; there was an old nation which could trace some of its cultural heritage back to times even older than the Egyptian pyramids (cf. Newgrange) and which therefore had a history more thoroughly developed than many other countries. Of course, they had to find a

new way in an ever more strongly interconnected world, which, especially now, in a post-Celtic-Tiger state, should bring them back to their roots more than ever.

SEAMÚS, THANKS to his grand-children now living in Dublin City and France, understood very well why Ireland had to integrate into modernity. He neither wanted to go back to living in a pre-industrial environment, nor did he want his children and grand-children to live in such a world. By looking along the pictures on the walls he felt, like Captain Jack Sparrow used to say that the world was still what it used to be - there was just less in it.



EAMON, THE barkeeper, having listened to what Seamús had been thinking about, was thoroughly convinced, and

agreed with him that the Irish people, who now found themselves in a crisis once again, were able to truly integrate an authentic Irishness into their ways of life. He asked Seamús „Are YOU Irish any more?“



# A Day in Prague

By Caterina Marx

**AS A STUDENT IN DRESDEN, YOU ARE SURROUNDED BY HISTORY AND CULTURE. MUSEUMS IN AND AROUND THE CITY PROVIDE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXCURSIONS. FURTHERMORE, DRESDEN'S SITUATION CLOSE TO THE BORDER RENDERS A DAY TRIP TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC RATHER UNCOMPLICATED.**

AS PRAGUE is so ridiculously close and renowned as the Golden City, for several semesters, my flatmates and I had been planning to go there. However, putting this plan into practice turned out more difficult than it had appeared at first. As none of us owns a car, we had to find a different means of transport. Train tickets proved to be too expensive, unless we changed trains at the border, which, due to our lack of knowledge of Czech, could possibly lead to a bit more of an adventure than we were willing to embark on. Having almost given up our trip, we discovered that there is a daily bus from Dresden to Prague, called Bohemia Express, operated by the Regionalverkehr Dresden. The bus journey costs you € 28 for a return ticket, a price we considered well within a student's budget. However, if you want to catch that bus, you have to get up very early. It leaves at seven o'clock from the bus stop Bayerische Straße next to the main station.



Nicholas Thein <http://www.pixello.de>

AFTER A journey of two and a half hours, we arrived at the station Holešovice outside the city centre of Prague. We bought Metro tickets from the bus driver, who also told us how to continue. From the station Holešovice you take the Metro to the city centre, changing trains at Florenc station. Changing trains is a good opportunity to try the breathtaking escalators, which are rather demanding for people frightened of heights. Finally, the Metro took us directly to Wenceslas Square.

ON OUR way from Wenceslas Square to the Vltava, we came across a street market offering products the Czech Republic is famous for. At such markets, as well as in some souvenir shops, you can discover magnificent glass and crystal, as well as wooden toys and arts

and crafts. If you liked Czech cartoons, like the little mole, in your childhood, you will find plenty of souvenirs.

OUR NEXT stop was the famous astronomical clock, Orloj, at the Old Town Square. It strikes every hour on the hour, accompanied by a procession of the twelve apostles. It is possible to climb the tower and, from above, watch all the people admiring the clock below. Although the clock tower is the first sight that attracts your attention, the Old Town Square is actually dominated by the impressive baroque Teyn church. A bit

further in the same direction, there is the Art Nouveau concert hall. To see the interior, you have to go on a guided tour, but already the entrance hall is grand.

AFTER SO much walking (and as we had had breakfast early in the morning), we were hungry, tired and, as it was November, very cold indeed. So we looked out for a restaurant. The prices for lunch in Prague are, in most cases, very reasonable, even at the Old Town Square. Many restaurants and cafés have only a small entrance that does not always look very inviting. However, you should give them a second look, as inside most of them are rather large, but still cosy. Once there, you should of course try some Czech specialties, like goulash with dump-

lings. The desserts are also fantastic, but usually constitute a whole meal of their own. So rather consider coming back for some sweets in the afternoon.

AFTER A delicious lunch, we were fit for more sightseeing. First of all, we crossed the Charles Bridge (Karlův Most). That is the very spot to remember your music lessons and the melody of Bedřich Smetana's Vltava. Before entering the small streets on the other side of the river, humming this famous tune, do not forget to touch the relief beneath the statue of Jan Nepomuk, the patron saint of Bohemia.

ASCENDING THE streets through the old town up to the Hrad (the castle), we eventually found ourselves in front of the official residence of the president with its guards, who are apparently not allowed to smile, however much you try to make them. Therefore, you had better spend your time in the beautiful garden of the Hrad and enjoy the astonishing view of the city. We finally followed the stream of tourists into St. Vitus Cathedral, where you can see the sepulchre of Jan Nepomuk, whose statue is on the bridge.

AFTER THAT, on our way back from the castle, we were tired and hungry again. One could now have a rest in one of the cafés, but in winter mulled wine is also sold everywhere on the streets, which makes it feel a bit like Christmas. Even more so if you then try Trdelník, a traditional cake from Slovakia made from sweet pastry and cinnamon and baked in the shape of a spiral. This was the final culinary delight of our day in Prague.

FINALLY, IT was time to return to Holešovice, from where the bus leaves at six o'clock. There is much more to see and do in Prague than we had to keep for the next visit, like the Kafka Museum or the National Museum. However, as it was too cold to try out the latest trend, picnicking on the banks of the Vltava, we will have to come back in summer anyway. ●

one is scared of me, including some of the (English) teachers.

*Q.: WHAT did you know about the country before you came here and was there any aspect of German culture that struck you as particularly odd?*

*R.:* I obviously had prejudices about WW II and Hitler. I was told about there being a lot of NAZIs in Saxony. Fortunately, I have not had any bad experiences in that respect so far. What struck me as particularly odd? Well, I find it really odd that on a person's birthday that person gives other people things. For example at my school, the teachers are always bringing in food, especially cakes, for the others to eat. In the UK this is the other way round. The way Germans pay for things in bars is also rather peculiar for me. In the UK you get a bill and pay it. Here you are asked if you want to pay together or separately. Also, in Saxony people speak with a broad dialect. At the start, I could not understand many people.

*Q.: IN your view, are there also any annoying aspects of German culture?*

*R.:* WHAT really does annoy me is that on busses people will take up two seats and will not offer them to one of the people who stand in the middle of the bus blocking the way.

*Q.: APART from this aspect, could you imagine living in Germany forever?*

*R.:* I could, depending on my ability in the language. I would not feel comfortable living here for a long time if I could not speak German.

*Q.: THANK you very much, Robert.*

IN THE upcoming months, Robert will certainly broaden his horizons in terms of German culture. He will come to see Dresden's famous Striezelmarkt and he is also looking forward to the way Christmas is celebrated in Germany. Robert is returning to the UK in May 2010 when his pupils are hopefully well-prepared for their English exams. Have a good time, Robert! ●

# Germany through Welsh Eyes

By Juliane Mildner and Stefanie Zimmermann

**IN THE LONG TRADITION OF JABS, NUMEROUS REPORTS ABOUT STUDENTS' EXPERIENCE ABROAD HAVE BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE JOURNAL. THEREFORE, IT IS HIGH TIME FOR A CHANGE OF PERSPECTIVE. WE HAVE ASKED ROBERT DAVIES FROM WALES, WHO IS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSISTANT AT BERNHARD - VON - COTTA - GYMNASIUM IN BRAND-ERBISDORF, ABOUT HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE GERMAN WAY OF LIFE.**

AT ONLY twenty-four years of age, Robert can already be called an expert in foreign cultures as he spent nine months in Russia and another ten weeks in Malta. After his graduation from the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) last summer, Robert wanted to improve his knowledge about foreign cultures even further before entering the strenuous world of work.

SINCE HE arrived in Brand-Erbisdorf in September, his main tasks at school have been to assist the English teachers in their lessons and to help pupils improve their communication skills. He is also doing an English Club for pupils who are particularly interested in the

English language and culture. Robert was so kind as to give us an insight into how he sees Germany through his Welsh eyes.

*Q.: WHAT were your reasons for becoming a foreign language assistant in Germany?*

*R.:* I chose the foreign language assistant programme because it allowed me to come here to live and work. I have to admit that it was

***“The relations between German or English pupils with their foreign language assistants are worlds apart.”***

the easy option, but it will help me decide whether I would want to pursue teaching as a future career. When I studied German at A-level, I heard so much about the country

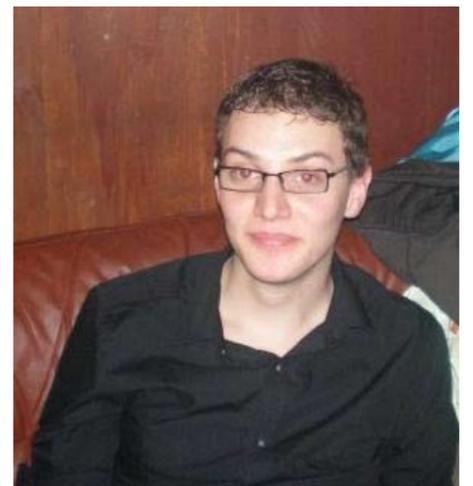
and wanted to see all the nice places like Berlin. And then I arrived in Brand-Erbisdorf and I thought 'What a small place!'

*Q.: YOUR first impression does not sound very positive. Has your opinion changed?*

*R.:* WELL, Brand-Erbisdorf is still a small place, but fortunately, I do not have to spend much time there. I have a flat in Freiberg, which is a nice place to live in as opportunities to spend my free time are manifold. At the weekends, I travel the country.

*Q.: GERMAN pupils are not used to having foreign language assistants in the lessons. To what extent is this reflected in your work with the pupils?*

*R.:* THE relations between German or English pupils with their foreign language assistants are worlds apart. When I was at school, we wanted to go and speak with the assistant, but here I do not find this. It seems every-



# The Kiwis

by Anne Baldauf and Amelie Jung



Somewhere...



The city of Auckland



A farm in Southland

"Hey, how are ya, bro?"  
 "Sweet as, bro!"  
 "Seen the footi?"  
 "Yep, sweet as the All Blacks!"

**IF YOU UNDERSTOOD THE GIST OF THIS CONVERSATION, YOU ARE PROBABLY FAMILIAR WITH NEW ZEALAND SLANG. THIS ARTICLE IS A CONFESION OF LOVE TO A VERY SPECIAL COUNTRY.**

IN THE middle of nowhere, surrounded by water, two islands are situated. According to Maori Mythology, 700 years ago, people arriving in canoes settled there and called it Aotearoa, the land of the long white cloud. TODAY, NEW Zealand is famous for its picturesque landscape with volcanoes, rainforest and fjords. However, this article is about the 'kiwis', the lucky inhabitants who gave themselves their name according to a flightless bird and the hairy fruit grown in New Zealand and often to be found in supermarkets all around the world.

NEW ZEALAND has about 4.2 million inhabitants, of whom 3.06 million live on its North Island. Even though the capital is Wellington, Auckland is the largest city with a population of 1.4 million inhabitants.

AUCKLAND IS not only the city with the biggest population; it is also very big in size as the North and the South of the city are 55km apart. Nearly every family owns a house and there are hardly any apartment buildings except for the city centre. Due to its size, the city has many autonomous suburban areas with little centres. Most New Zealanders have their own car, as public transport is rather unreliable and quite expensive due to the great distances it has to overcome. Auckland is easily the only place in New Zealand where a traffic jam is possible, which an average kiwi takes with an easy "No worries!", because being late is accepted and not frowned upon.

THE SEA is always closeby; therefore, Aucklanders enjoy all kinds of water sport activities, like surfing or sailing. Auckland is also called the "city of sails" and sailing is not seen as an upper class sport, but as a sport for everyone. Furthermore, spending time in art galleries, theatres, pubs, and clubs are typical leisure time activities in Auckland.

NO MATTER where you live in Auckland, you can always reach the city centre within 30 minutes by car. On weekends, it is very popular to go to the family's 'batch', a hut on a picturesque piece of land, or drive into the countryside, as there are a lot of wonderful beaches and national parks just half an hour out of Auckland.

KIWIS ARE crazy about rugby, which is seen as the national sport and an integral part of the country's culture. New Zealand's national rugby team wears black jerseys emblazoned with the silver fern and is therefore called the All Blacks. The All Blacks are very famous for the Haka, an impressive Maori war dance that is performed before each rugby game to impress and scare the opponent.

SHEEP FARMING is one of the main sources of income apart from tourism in the South Island. Sparsely inhabited (16 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>- compared to 230 in Germany), in mild climate conditions and with 30 million sheep, life seems to be that much more easy-going in the South Island.

ONE MIGHT walk for miles without seeing a human soul. However, when you do meet someone, you will most certainly be greeted warmly and if it happens to seem appropriate,

which is in just about any situation, be asked in for a "cuppa", as a cup of tea, accompanied by a home-baked biscuit, scone or fudge are called. Due to long working hours on the farms and its affiliated industry, people have few free time hours. When such occur (mostly in the evenings), they are enjoyed in clubs, such as for angling or clay-target shooting, charity work, as for Daffodil Day, or card games.

WEEKENDS AWAY from home are rather uncommon, simply for the reason that you can hardly leave the farm for too long. However, most families take the Sunday morning off and go to church. Praying and singing are one side of this coin, but meeting neighbours, picnicking, chatting, playing and exchanging news and niceties are the other one. Community plays a constant role in life.

ROLE ALLOCATION is rather traditional: men do the physical work on the farm, whereas women tend to the household and the children. This clear cut has its advantages as well. Rows over responsibilities are seldom. The rule is simple to understand: the husband's duty lies outside the gardening fence, the wife's inside.

IN RESPECT to transport, the South is absolutely dependend on individual means. Young people tend to receive a restricted driver's licence at the age of 16, but learn to drive four wheelers, motorbikes, tractors and cars on the paddocks well before that. Buses are, apart from the school bus, rare. The next bus or train station might easily be 20 kilometres away and even the house on the farm might be a couple of kilometres away from the public road. This leads to a special notion of "next-door-neighbourhood".

SPACE IS available in abundance and leaves kiwis free to enjoy huge gardens accompanying one-storey houses.

A SPECIALITY of Southland, in the far corner of N.Z. is its delicate humour. To visitors it might well seem rude. However, the rough language needs to be understood as a part of every-day-type of communication. The best-known and certainly very penetrative portrayal of it can be seen in the comics of the Footroot Flats.

THE KIWIS have great characters – they are very open-minded, friendly and easy to talk to. They are very relaxed and there is no need to rush. This makes living in New Zealand less stressful.

FURTHERMORE, PEOPLE enjoy life and are happy and content with it. Kiwis manage to pass this optimism on to other people, often by showing simple interest in you and asking "How are you?". New Zealand is great, but it would not be as great without the kiwis – so "thanks guys for being so awesome". ●

# Fulfil your American Dream

by Julia Kühn

**YOU ARE LOOKING FOR AN ADVENTURE TO ESCAPE FROM YOUR DAILY ROUTINE? YOU WANT TO EXPERIENCE NEW TRADITIONS AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE? IF SO, YOU SHOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY AND GO ABROAD FOR AT LEAST THREE MONTHS-THREE MONTHS, WHICH PROBABLY WILL CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE AND YOUR SELF-CONFIDENCE. BEING AN AU PAIR IN THE STATES IS ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE AND CHEAPEST CHOICES YOU HAVE TO ENLARGE YOUR CULTURAL EXPERIENCE.**

AT ANY one time, there are approximately 12,000 au pairs in the United States. They are usually students who participate in the program in the United States for the educational and cultural experiences it provides them.

YOU HAVE to be between 18 and 26 to take part in such a program. Au pairs stay with host families chosen by sponsoring organizations, and are provided a private bedroom, meals, a full weekend off each month, two weeks paid vacation, up to \$500 toward attending an institution of higher education, and a cash stipend tied to the U.S. minimum wage. They are not allowed to work more than 10 hours a day and not more than 45 hours per week. They are not expected to perform general housekeeping tasks, but are expected to perform childcare functions as their predominant chore. Au pairs are required to enrol for not less than six semester hours of classes at a post-secondary educational institution, but may audit the classes for no credit if they wish. Usually, you stay at a host family's house for one year but since 2008 there has been an au pair summer program for the United States which offers you a three months stay. The difference is that with this programme the au pair is only supposed to enrol for three semester hours and has less weekly paid pocket money.

IN 1994, the U.S. Department of Labor determined that the au pair stipend constitutes „wages“ because an employer-employee relationship exists between the au pair and their host families. On September 1, 1997 the au pair wage was set at \$139.05 per week, however recent legislative changes have increased the U.S. minimum wage. The au pair wage has risen from \$157.95 (July 2004) to \$195.75 (July 2009).

BEFORE THE au pair arrives at the host family there usually is one week of orientation in New York City where they meet other au pairs from different countries and where they e.g. learn about first aid, child care, opening a bank account or how to apply for a social security card. This city is already a wonderful start for a stay abroad and during your work as an au pair, there will be a lot



House of my host-family

more opportunities for an au pair to travel around. Being in the States for at least three months as an au pair could therefore be a great chance to make your way from „rags to riches“.

## My personal experience

I HAVE been in Ann Arbor Michigan for three months in summer 2009. I took part in the new summer program which only lasts from June to September. Nevertheless, you have the opportunity to stay in the States for one more month to travel around. That is what I did. During my stay at the host family's house I had time to travel to Toronto, Chicago, Ohio and San Francisco. Of course, your chores have priority but usually the schedule is not so strict so that you have enough time to experience the country.

MY CHORES were mainly to drive the kid to her summer camps and to entertain her after that. I usually got up at eight o'clock, drove her to the camp and had free time till four o'clock in the afternoon. During this time I either did some housework, read books, went to town, stayed at the city's library or I did some shopping. My family fortunately was aware about the fact that I am not there cleaner but of course you should help out as much as you can, respectively you should do the same chores you are supposed to do at home. At the weekends I often had off but the family nevertheless asked me sometimes if I want to hang around with them together as „being a part of their family“.

TWICE A week I also had the opportunity to visit a college course. Because I did not need any credit I just audit the class for interest. After my time at the family's house in Michigan was over I took my

chance to travel around for four more weeks because my VISA was still valid. First I visited another host family which I know from a former school exchange in Kansas and after this week I did a west coast tour together with friends from Germany starting in Las Vegas. ●



San Francisco

## True 'Till Death

By Lisa Oertel and Jan Vatter

I don't drink,  
I don't smoke,  
I don't fuck.  
At least I can fucking think.  
(Minor Threat, "Out Of Step", 1981)

I'm a person just like you  
But I've got better things to do  
Than sit around and fuck my head  
Hang out with the living dead  
I've got straight edge  
Snort white shit up my nose  
Pass out at shows  
I don't even think about speed  
That's something I just don't need  
I've got the straight edge  
(Minor Threat, "Straight Edge", 1981)

## Straight Edge - A Lifestyle. A Personal Choice. A Philosophy.

ALL AROUND the world, teenagers of all ethnicities and social backgrounds are organizing themselves into groups, all with a single creed – making a lifetime commitment to refrain from drinking alcohol, using tobacco products, doing drugs and having promiscuous sex. This positive, clean-living lifestyle and youth movement is called Straight Edge and started within the hardcore punk subculture.

THE TERM was coined in the early 1980s in Washington, D.C. by Ian MacKaye, lead singer and song writer for the punk band *Minor Threat*. *Straight Edge* was meant to portray that by abstaining from all drugs and alcohol, i.e. living "straight", the band had the "edge" up on other musicians who let those influences get the better of them. In short, adopting the *Straight Edge* lifestyle puts individuals in control of their own lives; it holds them accountable for personal responsibility.



## "X-ing Up"

THE LETTER 'X' is the best known symbol of *Straight Edge*, commonly worn as a marking on the back of both hands. The beginning can be traced to the *Teen Idles'* brief U.S. West Coast tour in 1980, when the management of a club discovered that the entire band was under the legal drinking age and therefore should be denied entry to the club. As a compromise, the management marked each of the *Teen Idles'* hands with a large black „X“ as a warning to the club's staff not to serve alcohol to the band. Upon returning to Washington, D.C., the band suggested this same system to local clubs as a means to allow teenagers in to see musical performances without being served alcohol. The mark soon became associated with

the *Straight Edge* lifestyle. In recent years, more music venues (and even dance clubs) adopted this system.

## Reasons Not Rules Make Us Strong

*STRAIGHT EDGE* is not a set of rules. It is more about personal reasons and experiences that lead people to decide to live that lifestyle. It is also a word that means to stand up for what you believe in; you don't just do what you believe in!

FOR ME, Jan, *Straight Edge* is a very respectful lifestyle, which I could never live though. I just love to have a beer once in a while and I'm one of those cigarette addicts, but I have a lot of *Straight Edge* friends who I love to party with, because they are a lot of fun and



always have a clear mind.

FOR ME, Lisa, *Straight Edge* is a way of life, an individual choice, and those who live by this philosophy have chosen the path for themselves. It is not a five minute decision. It is something you want to think about because it is a serious commitment.

I HAVEN'T drunk alcohol for over 2 years, but I've never called myself "Straight Edge", because I was never sure if I was able to never drink again. But after reading "Straight Edge Youth" by Robert T. Wood and "Straight Edge" by Ross Haenfler and gaining a lot of theoretical knowledge, I made that lifetime commitment.

WHEN SOMEONE makes the personal choice to commit to the *Straight Edge* lifestyle, they are expressing they don't need drugs, alcohol or other outside influences to run their lives. Some have had bad experiences in their families due to addiction while others express a desire to always maintain control of their mental and physical faculties. On the one hand, there are people who have been *Straight Edge* all along, on the other hand, there are some people who have been addicted and need to live that way now.

IN MY case, I have several reasons to be "Straight Edge". First of all, in today's society drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana and having casual sex has become part of teenagers' everyday life. People think that they need to do all of this to be "cool" and to be accepted. And also, most teenagers need alcohol to have fun. But I have been proven the opposite. I've never really drunk a lot of



NY Times Square



Chicago

alcohol and I can go out and party without the urge to have a drink. When people ask me why I don't drink I explain my lifestyle. Even though most of them can't really believe it, because they don't consider themselves able to live that way, they still accept and respect it and understand the reasons for living that way.

SECONDLY, I always say that I learn from other people's faults, e.g. a lot of my friends often tell me that they don't remember what they did the night before or that they did something they regret because of consuming too much alcohol. One friend of mine had a bad car accident because he was driving drunk and I observed the sorts of problems that alcohol have caused in my brother's and father's lives. Also, some of my relatives are addicts.

ANOTHER REASON for being *Straight Edge* and not doing drugs is that I had to watch some of my friends throwing their lives away, ending up in the detoxification ward. I also have always hated smoking, even though my whole family used to smoke – Maybe that is the reason why. And after watching my grandpa die from smoking-related lung cancer, I knew that I would never even start. Are those reasons enough to stay away from cigarettes, alcohol and drugs?

### Living For A Better World

YOUNG MEN and women have adopted the *Straight Edge* doctrine as a blueprint for their lives. They seek to use the philosophy first to better themselves, and then to better the world in which they live. Although the original definition of the *Straight Edge* philosophy included only the rejection of mind-altering substances and promiscuous sex, the lifestyle has recently evolved in some camps to also include a vegetarian or vegan diet, as well as awareness of and involvement in environmental, social, and political issues.

### Not Just Another Trend

THE *STRAIGHT Edge* lifestyle, centered around personal development and well being, gives teenagers a core mission to pursue together, which encourages togetherness in a fun and healthy atmosphere. *Straight Edge* isn't just for anti-drug punk music fans; the philosophy goes much deeper, hoping to attract teenagers away from lives that are centered around any kind of dependency.

ADHERENTS DO not dictate a lifestyle or preach an ideology, and there are no hard rules to follow – those are for teenagers themselves to decide. If teenagers can take charge of their own lives, free themselves from dependency,



embrace a healthy lifestyle, and join together with other teenagers who share the same values, then the future of the world may not be so bleak after all. ●

## George Orson Welles

Date of Birth: May 6, 1915  
Kenosha, Wisconsin

Date of Death: October 10, 1985  
Los Angeles, California

- » his parents died early in his childhood
- » made his first stage debut in Ireland 1931 and toured also Morocco and Spain
- » back in the U.S. he directed and played in many stage plays (Chicago/ New York)
- » renown in radio: broadcast of H. G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds*
- » in 1940 contracted to RKO studios
- » after *Citizen Kane* Welles directed numerous movies/plays in the U.S. and Europe



# Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane* (1941)

by Christine Klaves, Steffi Muschalik and Ronny Rammelt

THE SOPHISTICATED, original and classic masterpiece, *Citizen Kane* (1941), is probably the world's most significant and inventive film, with its numerous exceptional scenes and performances, narrative and cinematic techniques and other inventions of cinematic art. Its producer, director, star role was the entire same individual - Orson Welles. In 2007, the American Film Institute rated *Citizen Kane* the best movie of all times. It was not for the first time the movie had been ranked number one on the list that is published every ten years, and it will probably not be the last time either. Nowadays, *Citizen Kane* is considered a classic movie that every person should watch once in a life time which also was our motivation to examine why this old black-and-white movie is still so famous. However, this reputation contrasts with the general opinion of 1941, the year the film was shown in movie theaters for the first time.

AFTER ORSON Welles' great success of *The War of the Worlds*, people had great expectations from his first movie work. The young and promising director started off his career in Hollywood with a privilege others could only dream of. He was ensured the final cut – the right over the last decision making of editing the film. And partly, it is indeed the edit of the film that makes it so remarkable. Welles also used many audio techniques he had learned at his time at the radio and theater like over-lapping, talk-over dialogue and layered sounds. His usage of camera angles, the lighting, the non-linear story-telling with flashbacks and flash-forwards were all new techniques, and therefore, outstanding – just to mention a few of his inventions. In short, Welles simply ignored most movie making conventions of his time and created new ones. The 'boy genius', as he was called due to his young age of 23, had created a cornerstone in film history.

### Battle over *Citizen Kane*

THE HISTORY of *Citizen Kane*'s publication is marked by negative publicity though. Welles and his co-writer Herman J. Mankiewicz had created a story that was oriented too much on a true person's biography. At least that is what William Randolph Hearst, one of the press barons of that time, felt like. Consequently he desperately tried to avoid the

publication/release of the movie. Hearst started a campaign against the film, and also did not shrink from attacking Welles personally. The battle over *Citizen Kane* was even worth a movie itself named *RKO 218* (released in 1999, among others starring: Liev Schreiber, John Malkovich, Roy Schneider). Nevertheless, Hearst's offensive was partially effective: the release date was shifted back again and again from January 1941 until *Citizen Kane* was finally in theaters in May. Part of Hearst's success was also that the film was not shown in big theaters, but in small, independent ones only. Hence, the movie could not reach a great number of people.

AFTER *CITIZEN Kane* had been released, the press agreed it was a "masterpiece" and "a revolution, a major one, in Hollywood's approach to cinema." What a review, what a success and what relief for Orson Welles! However, negative voices were there too: some critics respected the technical innovations, but criticized a lack of emotions in the movie. They also doubted the public would understand *Citizen Kane* due to its difference to other movies of that time. It is in the eye of the beholder though whether this judgment is true or not.

WELLES' STRUCTURE of telling the story, whose signs are especially responsible for the film's ongoing suspense, totally focuses on the development of his main character. Charles Foster Kane, played by Orson Welles himself, is portrayed throughout his whole life as an ambitious, (overly) confident and totally self-dependent man who eagerly pursued his career and the realization of his aims. Thereby, he constantly increased his power and influence but at the same time drove away all his loved ones by his increasing ruthlessness, finally dying deserted and alone.

### Thrilling Character becomes Legend

THE CHARACTER of Kane not really embodies the ideas of the American Dream, the self-made man from rags to riches, although he had to establish his media business against all odds starting with only one single fairly unknown newspaper. Despite being born

into a relatively poor family background, Kane never had to worry about money due to an enormous trust fund his mother had established for him after turning into a fortune a mine which at first sight was apparently worthless and which she once received as compensation by an insolvent customer. Thus, being rich since his early childhood and having been sent away from his home for better education and raised by a legal guardian, Kane never even cares about money. He even started his later nation-wide media cooperation with the severely money losing *New York Inquirer* just because he thought „it might be fun to run a newspaper.“ Being on the urge of seeking popularity and overall recognition, Kane turned to yellow press journalism and developed political ambitions, even running for Governor of New York.

IN THE course of events, the Kane character more and more develops an extremely ego-centric perspective. His inability to maintain personal relationships and to love people is pitted against his desperate urge of being loved – expressed by his numerous efforts to increase his power, influence and recognition. Ironically, this antagonism leads to Kane's failure and personal decline. Interestingly, the movie thereby may be interpreted as a parole praising love and personal values above sole material matters and achievements – maybe another reason which accounts for the movie's ongoing reputation as an all times classic.

WATCHING *CITIZEN Kane* today, at first seems like watching any other old movie. But when looking at it more closely, the following becomes clear: this movie was and is different - different in its way of story-telling, and innovative in the way it uses techniques, some of which are even employed in today's modern cinema. *Citizen Kane* was therefore forward-looking. Hence, it is not surprising *Citizen Kane* still is labeled the best movie of all times. ●

### Key Facts *Citizen Kane*

<b>Director / Producer -</b>	Orson Welles
<b>Written by -</b>	Herman J. Mankiewicz, Orson Welles
<b>Language -</b>	English
<b>Release date -</b>	U.S.: May 1, 1941 West Germany: June 29, 1962
<b>Studio -</b>	Mercury Theater
<b>Distributed by -</b>	RKO Pictures
<b>Running time -</b>	119 minutes
<b>Awards -</b>	Academy Award 1941 for Best Writing (Original Screenplay)

<b>Protagonist</b>	<b>Starring</b>
Charles Foster Kane	Orson Welles
Jedediah Leland	Joseph Cotten
Susan Alexander	Dorothy Comingore
Mr. Bernstein	Everett Sloane



### Plot:

Charles Foster Kane, a multimillionaire newspaper magnate, dies alone in his extravagant mansion, Xanadu, speaking a single word: „Rosebud“. To figure out the meaning of this word, a reporter seeks out the people who worked and lived with Kane. They tell their stories in a set of flashbacks that unveil much about Kane but not enough to clear up the mystery of his last word - Rosebud.

# LANGUAGE

## How to Expose Doppelgängers

by Anne Rienecker

**YOU THINK ENGLISH IS THE ONLY WORLD LANGUAGE? FAR FROM IT! GERMAN HAS SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD AS WELL, AND MANY LANGUAGES BORROWED PARTS OF ITS VOCABULARY. ENGLISH IS NO EXCEPTION, THEREFORE, THE ZEITGEIST IS RIGHT NOW TO REVEAL WHAT THE ANGLOPHONE WORLD TOOK FROM THE GERMAN SPEAKING ONE. ONE THING IS FOR CERTAIN: IT IS MORE THAN RUCKSACK AND KINDERGARTEN.**

THEY ARE lurking around the streets, hiding behind every corner, waiting for the best opportunity to lure us into a trap, just to attack us when we feel perfectly safe: "Service points" in the main station, "beef bacon barbecue burgers" in snack bars and "coffee to go" at every second turn. It seems that native speakers of German virtually cannot

is called Blitz due to its surprising effect on the opponent.

WHAT IS more, the English do not even refrain from doing what the Germans did with the word "download" (it is so absurd I do not want to go into further detail here) – they attach English endings to the German base. Thus, the huge Christmas tree in the middle of New York, cluttered with masses of blinking, glitzy lights and colourful glitter balls, is absolutely kitschy, not to say shining in Überkitsch. The latter example, on the other hand, shows how popular the German word über is – there is no limit to the Americans' creativity.

ONE REASON for the English to adapt German words is the same as why Germans do that with English ones: Constantly, new issues, inventions or developments are arising. Either they have not been known to the English-speaking world before or they need a shorter and more precise designation, such as abstract ideas and products of intellectual thought. In spite of its complexity, the German language often offers a solution, that is words worth borrowing, such as for



survive in everyday life without using English words. But did you know that it is not unusual to find a deli in New York, vendor's trays with Pretzels in American baseball stadiums and a cosy gasthaus in London's hinterland? Apparently, it is not only the Germans who are keen on foreign vocabulary; the English-speaking world borrows words as well, with a preference for German ones. In doing so, they even go beyond kindergarten and rucksack.

### Zeitgeisty developments

HOW IS it that the English language is full of German vocabulary? Some examples have quite an obvious origin that can easily be deduced if you have some historical knowledge: Reich, Nazi and Blitzkrieg have become known worldwide after World War II – which, admittedly, leaves an unpleasant taste. These words have been integrated into several languages; however, the English did not only borrow them. Blitz, for instance, developed a completely new aspect of meaning when it found its way into English word formation: Chess players who have only little time to make their moves on the chessboard play Blitz chess; and there is also a special defensive strategy in American football that

example Zeitgeist, Weltanschauung, Schadenfreude and Fingerspitzengefühl. Undoubtedly, you would need more than one word to express the English equivalents. Once such vocabulary is used in public speaking or in a big newspaper's headline, no one can stop its spreading anymore.

### Cosmopolitan and sophisticated? – Wunderbar!

ESPECIALLY FOR Americans, using foreign vocabulary is an expression of lifestyle. Doesn't it sound much more cosmopolitan if you say "Gesundheit, Mr Obama!" instead of "Bless you!"? Well, that decision is up to you; however, many businessmen and politicians seem to be convinced that applying German words improves their reputation for being open-minded and educated.

IN THIS context, a justified question may be raised: Why is there the widespread opinion that German words give their English-speaking users some kind of sophisticated aura? The answer resides in German culture: Fortunately, it is not predominantly World War II that people associate Germany with; it is rather its traditions, including famous classical music, literary works and academic achievements. Therefore, the Anglo-American world just borrowed our Leitmotiv (adjusting the spelling a bit), which also enables more foreign scholars to take part in discussions about a bildungsroman or other literary



genres. Yet, other cultural products should not be omitted at this point: What would a visit to a German restaurant in America be without a digestive schnapps after a delicious meal of bratwurst, sauerkraut and strudel? But be careful with drinking too much Jägermeister, otherwise you will be quickly known as Jägerdude among your friends!

IN ANY case, in the Anglophone world we are, of course, not only surrounded by eloquent politicians, businessmen and academics. People like you and me know words of German origin in the English language as well; however, they are often not aware of that fact. I experienced this once when I was in London in summer 2007, queuing in front of a bookshop for the final Harry Potter book. As this proved to be quite a time-consuming event I got talking to some American tourists. Eventually, I raised the issue of language in J. K. Rowling's books and asked them whether they knew where the word poltergeist came from. It turned out that they did not have any idea, so I enlightened them. Their reaction was rather charming: They did not exclaim "Wunderbar!" but simply - "Amazing!" Unfortunately, I never found out whether they could expose the doppelgänger in "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"... ●

## So you do know about Indian English, batch-mates, isn't it?

by Julia Klengel and Daniela Glöckner

### A world full of varieties

DID YOU know that just a few centuries ago, English was spoken exclusively by approximately 7 million people living on a relatively small island? Nowadays, English can already be seen as a world language, articulated by more non-native speakers- at least 750 million people all around the world in over 60 countries.

AS THE English language has influenced innumerable peoples' and nations' cultures, societies, and histories worldwide, the so-called 'New Englishes' have emerged in previously colonised regions such as Fiji, the Philippines,

Malaysia, India or even some states in Africa. Now some of you may think: What are 'New Englishes'? In 1992, Tom McArthur called them "recently emerging and increasingly autonomous variet[ies] of English especially in a non-Western setting such as India (...)"

### Indian English, please!

INDIA SHALL be our key word here. Indian English evolved during the colonial rule of the British Empire and can be seen as one of the New Englishes' prototypes. English is one of the official languages in India, but not necessarily the mother tongue of all inhabitants. Next to the 'classic languages' such as Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic, English has acquired the most dominant role in the social network and administration. Hence, it is used in the legal system, it is the language of national affairs, it is highly frequent in important professions, in law, political issues, and in the media- just to mention a few sectors, English has an influence on.

EVEN IF Indian English as a variety has raised questions concerning the power of English, questions of national identity and pragmatics of the language, India is a bilingual nation. The English language plays a significant role there and a high degree of creativity when using this 'New English' can be spotted.

TAKING A closer look at the variety, it becomes clear that it contains a number of funny peculiarities. Is it not interesting to know that Indian people use countless loan translations such as 'batch-mate' for classmate or 'pulses' for lentils or that the words 'bungalow' and 'basmati' originate from India and are established internationally now? Moreover, non-native speakers of English in India use 'but' or 'only' as intensifiers such as in 'I was just joking but'. Due to the interference of English with the local languages, Indian people make use of undifferentiated question tags. An expression like 'You are reading the article attentively, isn't it?' or 'You like reading this article, no?' is quite common in India. By the way, if you want to experience how Indian

### Glossary

INDIAN ENGLISH TERM	TRANSLATION
batch-mate	classmate
pulses	lentils
hotel	restaurant
pass out of university	to graduate
co-brother	brother-in-law
marriage	wedding
too good	very good
timepass	waste of time
specs	glasses
Shree/Shri	Mister

English sounds, just listen to a Welsh radio station or our audio file added below.

## Experiencing Indian English

AS YOU may have recognized so far, Indian English can be quite an amusing variety to the Western ear. A conversation may actually sound like this:

MY PARENTS are on a plane to India. They become engaged in a conversation with their seat mate, a smart Indian gentleman, and they exchange many details about themselves. The three of them converse about the things like their achievements in life and what has taken them to Bangalore. Smiling proudly, the man does not forget to mention that he 'passed out of university last year' which irritates the couple. They did not know back then that he had not actually lost consciousness but that he graduated with a degree. Furthermore, he explains that the event that would bring him to the flight's destination was his 'co -brother's marriage' - the wedding of his brother-in-law. Later, after the couple had expressed their excitement about trying Indian food for the first time, the man suggests a really nice hotel in Bangalore. Again, the couple seems confused since they asked for a place to eat and they had already booked a room in a hotel. They also did not know that the word 'hotel' is often used to refer to a 'restaurant'.

EVER SINCE that conversation my parents know that Indian people do not use the English language quite conventionally but that their vivid way of speaking is actually very charming.

## It's your turn

DO YOU reckon that Indian English is a variety that arouses your interest as well and you want to experience it yourself? A voyage to India can be realised through several methods.

THE FIRST choice would always be the tourist party. Travelling with a group may result in highly interesting discussions and even friendships. However, you should always be aware of being bound to the group nearly all the time and rarely having the opportunity to discover India on your own.

THE LOGICAL alternative would be to go on your own initiative. Not only will you be able to discover your 'own India' because you do not have to follow a fixed schedule, but you are also compelled to communicate with the local inhabitants in order to navigate and get to know their Indian English at all. If you are lucky enough to have friends who have already been to India several times and know it like the back of their hand, then there is nothing that prevents you from going on a life-changing journey. Furthermore, since they are your friends it will be an unwinding voyage as well.

IF YOU want to learn more about this kind of variety, you should visit websites such as [http://www.vsubhash.com/Dictionary\\_Of\\_Indian\\_English.asp](http://www.vsubhash.com/Dictionary_Of_Indian_English.asp).

PEOPLE WHO want to experience the Indian culture and languages in practice, could consult one of the innumerable agency websites, for example: <http://www.thomas-ritter-reisen.de/>.

ADDITIONALLY, STUDENTS are always welcome to ask Mrs. Schaefer and other members of staff in the 'Medieval Studies and Linguistics Department' about the annual exchange programmes to Hyderabad. ●

# SPORTS

## be SN●●KERed

### ...be thwarted or left in a difficult position

by Laura Lepsy

**HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE GAME CALLED 'POOL'? ... OF COURSE! BUT HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF ANYTHING CALLED 'SNOOKER'? ... DEFINITELY MAYBE.**

AS MENTIONED above, 'to snooker someone' is an expression that is still used today in British English to describe a situation in which somebody is prevented from finishing an intended plan of action. You are asking yourself where this phrase comes from and whether it has anything to do with the game pool? OK. In order to, we will now have a short look at the history of the snooker game: There is a story telling the origin of the game of snooker.

IN THE second half of the 19th century, snooker developed of a billiard variation called black ball, in which the players had to pot red and black balls alternately. Colonel Sir Neville Francis Fitzgerald Chamberlain who was stationed in India, in the 1870s is said to be the inventor of the snooker game as he came up with the idea of adding coloured balls to the red and black ones. One day, he was playing this new game when his opponent failed to pot a ball and Chamberlain called him 'a snooker'. At that time, snooker had been a military slang term for first-year cadets.

NOWADAYS, THIS concept of the word 'snooker' is not commonly used anymore. In fact, 'a snooker' refers to a situation in the game where the previous player leaves the white ball in a position where the ball that has to be hit cannot be hit directly.

TODAY, THE snooker game is the most popular billiard game in the UK. Additionally, it is also becoming well-known in Germany. The best evidence of an increasing interest in snooker is the fact that you will hardly find a snooker table in any German billiard hall that is not already reserved or occupied.



AS FAR as I am concerned, I love the game for reasons of aesthetics. Snooker is no brutal and primitive game but a gentlemen's sport as the first priority is fair play. In addition to this, snooker matches are the most exciting sports matches I have ever seen, which is

### RULES OF THE GAME

- » goal: score a bigger number of points than your opponent
- » different points of balls: white=cue ball, 15\*red (1), yellow (2), green (3), brown (4), blue (5), pink (6), black (7)
- » players receive points for each red and coloured ball that is potted correctly by them and for their opponent's fouls
- » first scoring ball must be a red one
- » after having potted a red ball, the player goes for a coloured one and then has to keep on potting red and coloured balls alternately
- » coloured balls are replaced on the table after being scored until all the reds are potted
- » winner: when table is empty and one of the players has more points than his opponent

only made possible due to the great number of brilliant snooker players such as snooker genius Ronnie O'Sullivan.

THEREFORE, I really recommend doing something about snooker, i.e. watch it, play it – you won't regret it! ●

## Bend it like Beckenbauer

by Sandro Müller, Louisa Pagel and Fabian Richter

HERE IS a fun fact: It was in 1974 that the German championship in soccer was played for the very first time... at least in women's soccer. And although today nobody has a clue which team won 35 years ago (it was TSV Siegen), women's soccer is as popular as never before in Germany, even broadcast on TV. However, it is still smiled upon and many times ridiculed as "horse-racing with donkeys". How's that? Why do, let's face it, mostly men just don't seem to be able to acknowledge the six European and two World Championship titles of the women's national team, a statistic the men's team is far from reaching, even though they have been playing those championships since 1930? True, women's soccer is not as fast as men's, yet they play by the same rules and since 1993 also in the same time frame.

MAYBE THIS sport, dominated by men on every level, needs just some more time for emancipation. We know from experience that this process can take a while. Until 1977 women needed their husbands' permission to accept a working position, so how can we expect women's soccer to be treated equally to men's at this young age of the sport? The situation has improved a lot the past years though, and we were able to see Inka Grings become



top-scorer of the UEFA Women's Euro in Finland on TV just this year. The games were broadcast at two o'clock in the afternoon and not at prime time like, for example, the men's friendly match between Germany and the Ivory Coast, but oh well. In a 2009 statistic 18% of the members of the DFB were female and especially on

the local level women's soccer is growing more and more popular.

FOR EXAMPLE, women's soccer in the 1. FFC Fortuna Dresden Rähnitz has a long tradition, as the club itself has offered the opportunity to compete with other women soccer teams since the early 1990's. Since 2002 the club had the status of a registered association. It is well - structured and organized, similar to other male soccer clubs in Germany. Girls can start at the age of 7 at the G-juniors. They are not part of any league, yet, so the fun factor is in the foreground. But from the E/F juniors up to the first team every age group participates in a league with different teams around Dresden that is to say Eastern Germany.

OVER THE years, these different age groups of 1.FFC Fortuna have celebrated several triumphs like state championships, district championships or state cups. The first team ladies, for example, moved up to the Regionalliga Nordost by winning the Bezirksliga in the past season. If someone thinks women are treated softly and politely, they might be on the wrong track. Frank Schreier, for instance, coach of the first team, canceled a free training day after a whitewash against 1.FC Neubrandenburg. This team is at the bottom of the league and was obviously underestimated by Fortuna. Accordingly, the ladies had to say goodbye to a Penance Day at home and hello to their friendly coach.

THIS COMMITMENT has reached the national level, as well. The DFB brought the Women's Soccer World Championship 2011 to Germany. It will take place from June 26, 2011 to July 17, 2011. This will indeed be a great chance for women's soccer to present itself to an even wider public and to gain much more popularity and interest. And the best thing is, matches will be played right on our doorstep, here in Dresden, at the new Rudolf-Harbig Stadion. Isn't that an opportunity for all of those who pretend women's soccer to be slow, boring and not at all interesting, to convince themselves of the contrary? By taking a look at the ticket sales, which started only at the beginning of November, it becomes clear that public interest is very large. Some ticket categories for Dresden are already overbooked, so go on-line and buy tickets on as fast as you can!

CHANCES FOR the German team to become World Champion the third time in succession are not the worst. It is quite likely that soccer fans can celebrate again, but this time they may celebrate the title, and not only the third place, as they did in 2006. So maybe it is time to do away with some of the existing prejudices and just watch some of the matches of this tournament live at the stadium, enjoy the atmosphere and good games. Perhaps we should agree with what Joseph S. Blatter, the president of the FIFA, already in 1995 knew: "The future of soccer is female." ●

# POLITICS

## About American Values: Why many are in such Opposition to the President's health reform plans

by Kathrin Adam and Sebastian Kreye

BARACK OBAMA'S major domestic policy issue, the reform of health care, prompted fierce opposition as soon as it appeared on the Democratic agenda during his election campaign. The aim of his program is to provide sufficient health care for the 25 million who do not have adequate insurance and to extend Medicaid, the state-federal insurance program, to the 47 million people who cannot afford any provision at all. The cornerstones of the reform plan are to make services available at affordable prices and to repeal co-payments for preventive care. In general, health care will remain a matter between doctors and their patients; According to the proposal however, citizens who refused to obtain coverage would face a penalty of as much as \$3,800. Against what at first glance seems to be an

idea in the interest of the people there is a strong movement accompanied by demonstrations aggressive in tone. Europeans, and Germans in particular, find the protest hardly comprehensible, as it is a lot more typical of Americans than we would imagine: it does bear the imprint of the interplay of forces in contemporary U.S. society: Indeed, Republicans are fueling the protests and part of the outcry can be traced back to the office of certain Republican politicians or pressure groups. The conservative counterfeit grass-roots organizations 'Freedom works' and 'Conservatives for Patients Rights' are working hard to create 'the threat of the health' reform and - typically American - they introduce the values of the American Creed to the arena.

### "Born free, taxed to death"

THE AMERICAN Creed is one basic element of U.S. national identity; The idea of a general health care system cannot be encompassed in its dogmas and existed more or less at the fringe of American consciousness, as well after Clinton had failed to reform the U.S. health care. This pretty much plays into the hands of the opponents to Obama's strategy. Using the strife for small government, a value of the Creed, conservatives feed the fears of tax increases through the reform. In fact, health care costs are soaring at \$2.2 trillion p.a. and uncertainty of the public about the financing of a government-run health care supplies opportunity to heat up the protest. One protester of the March to Capitol Hill put the threat in a nutshell "Born free, taxed to death". For conservatives, the call for small government and taxation - being direct ema-

nations of the American Creed - is a perfect match to torpedo the struggle for change.

### "We want to keep individual responsibility at the center of our society"

ANOTHER VALUE of the Creed which is used to oppose general health care is the threat of minimizing individualism. Many protesters fear a cut back on their individual rights and associate it with a move to socialism or communism: Very often they mention capitalism and their individual rights in the same breath. The 'threat of communism' is deeply rooted in the American society and not easily overcome in the interest of equality.



Protesters are criticizing the president's intentions to institutionalize health care: They fear it would lead to a facsimile of Britain's National Institute for Clinical Excellence, An agency they associate with Hitler's Tiergarten 4 euthanasia program for its limiting of treatment to certain classes of patients. Ironically, the present insurance system is resembling that of the Third Reich much more closely than many protesters are aware of.

ENEMIES TO the reform show their instinctive

feel when it comes to moving their people out on the street by using some American primal fears.

### What works for the supporters?

ANOTHER HEAVY weight in the ring of values is the very same as on the side of the supporters of the reform: equality. The disparity of the current system cannot be denied, even many Republicans do not; Insurance companies frequently bar coverage based on pre-existing medical conditions, thus the ideal of equality is put at a disadvantage with respect to the values of small government and individualism. But the mores of the American Creed are proving not to be hierarchical in their importance to American politics; They all coexist.

### The paranoid style of American protest

PROTESTERS SEE the reform as an attack on their national identity and everything they consider 'American'. Focusing on elect ethics to underline the legitimacy of their point and protest, they are able to mobilize rank and file and make citizens extremely passionate about their concern. They are forging the paranoid obsession which is typical of the resistance against profound social change in America into an instrument of their politics: rooting in the idea of the fight of good against evil, the protesters set of believes even contains elements of a conspiracy theory: Here, the government is accused of planning to set up a euthanasia program for the elderly and disabled so to release money for the support of illegal immigrants... ●