

Dr. Oldenburg Discusses German Reunification

by Jennifer Friedman
The Salemite

On October 3, 1990, East and West Germany united to form one country. To commemorate this occasion, the International Club sponsored a lecture and discussion by Dr. Erik Oldenburg about the implications of the unification.

The thirty people who attended learned that the combined Germany will have the third largest area of European countries (it will be about the size of Montana), will have the largest European population at 77.6 million, and will have the largest GNP at \$1.6 trillion.

Dr. Oldenburg pointed out that this emerging economic power does not have to weaken American economic strength if we take advantage of joint venture opportunities. Dr. Oldenburg also stated that the re-unification should not be cause for paranoia; Germany has promised not to revive border disputes, although countries such as Poland worry that they eventually might.

The unification treaty has opted to let science, research, athletics, and newscasting remain the same for the time being so that there is not so much of a shock as the two cultures merge. Although these cultures have not had much time to grow apart, they have diverged nevertheless due to the different spheres of influence presiding over different sections of Germany after the Second World War. The East, for instance, went directly from Hitler to Stalin and Communism, so that capitalism and Western ideas introduced to West Germany immediately after the War are abstract concepts in the minds of the East Germans.

Dr. Oldenburg stressed the Germans' happiness at finally having "One Land, One People, and One Flag." What does this mean for Salemites? Start studying German now!!

Community Day

Old Salem Inc. and MESDA, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Art, are both celebrating birthdays and the entire Salem College community is invited.

An 8:45 a.m. sound check from the square will be the first thing most will hear from Community Day.

The Moravian band will begin the celebration at 9:15 a.m. in the square with concert music.

The Archways will perform at 12 p.m. as well as the Academy Glee Club.

Old Salem Inc. will be celebrating its 40th birthday and MESDA its 25th.

There are many advantages to this occasion. All tours of Old Salem will be free and MESDA will be opened to the public free of charge as well. It is the perfect chance to take a tour of the community surrounding Salem College. Planters will be giving free icees and peanuts to the visitors and other vendors will be in the area. There will be two hot air balloons in the historic district, one from Magic 99.5 and the Planters-Livesaver balloon.

The celebration is expected to bring in between 5,000 and 20,000 visitors to Old Salem and the College.

Dorm Lobbies will be open to the public, with the exception of Gramley and Strong; and Epicure will be serving Chili and corn bread on Clewell Patio. Campus tours will be given every half hour from the admissions office.

This event will go on rain or shine.

There will be NO parking on front campus from 10 p.m. on Friday until Saturday around 7 p.m. Students and their guests can park in the Pit or in the FAC. The back gate will be open all night Friday.

To enter the FAC on Saturday students must have their college I.D.s. No one will be allowed in without identification.

Dr. Reiner opens Lunch and Lecture Series Focusing On Children

by Tara Newton
The Salemite

"Warning: the environment is hazardous to a child's physical and psychological health." According to Dr. Reiner, this caution needs to be stamped on every infant at birth.

At his luncheon lecture, Dr. Reiner called on everyone to seriously consider the threats to a child's well being in America's present culture. Children are losing out in our school systems and in our families.

Children are no longer receiving the education they deserve or need to prosper in life. In one study, only 7% of a sample of high school seniors had the intellectual training to succeed in college science courses. "Reading could become a lost art," according to one newspaper reviewing our nation's SAT scores. These and other statements are pointing towards a dismal future for our country.

Dr. Reiner believes our educational system is exhibiting increasing mediocrity and that our children's reading level "could be a tragedy for our nation."

Today's children are completely absorbed in videos and caught up in television, learning from such intellectual idols as Bart Simpson. Our whole society is being sorely affected. While Japanese students are excelling in the sciences, America's children are carrying walkmans everywhere and are being ridiculed left and right by cartoonists.

In a sense, we are "blaming the victim." Children are not responsible for

their own education or nurture; the adults are accountable for the condition of our society. Tracey Kidder, in her book *Among School Children*, emphasized that kids do not have the option of choosing their own genes, parents, or the environments in which they live. They have no real control over their lives. Dr. Reiner pointed out that our society has decided the fine line of becoming responsible lies, on the eighteenth birthday.

Just as society defines responsibility, it defines family. Traditional views of the family are changing. The quality of family life is decaying in many instances.

According to one survey of Americans, 56% described our families as being just fair or alright. Little kids are closer to being miniature adults in our culture. We dress them as adults, expect them to act like adults, and often leave them to fend for themselves.

Children are the poorest group in America. One out of every five lives in poverty. North Carolina has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the country, not even including those children damaged after birth due to drugs and child abuse.

There is a national crisis in child care as well as child abuse. Mostly due to economic factors, 75% of moms with elementary-aged kids are at work at least part-time. Only one in four has the luxury of staying home with the kids if they choose; the other three would be in poverty if they did not



The Evolution Class field trip to Washington D.C. last weekend did not go as planned. Above, Dr. James Edwards expresses his opinion.
photo by Karen Elsey

work.

Despite the extraordinary number of working parents, the Act for Better Child Care and the Parental Leave for Women Bill never passed in Congress. American women only asked for ten weeks with no pay. Most European nations allow their mothers 3-4 months with pay. In these policies America is in the same league as South Africa!! Americans think in terms of immediate pay-off, not in the long term investments for the future.

"Children are our most important resource," Dr. Reiner said, but in his opinion we have failed.

Education is not valued in our society. Rather, we pay lip service. If we did highly value it, teachers would be the highest paid employees in the nation.

If Americans were willing to invest \$1.00 in preschool, we would save \$5.00 later with drugs, criminals, and unemployment costs. A major investment—not even the stock market gives a 500% return! \$1.00 towards prenatal care would save \$3.00 right after birth.

Despite these figures, Americans are more willing to take drastic measures to save another endangered species, the Spotted Northern Owls, and put many out of work to do so, before they will give a few extra dollars and lots more support to our children—OUR FUTURE!!