

ENCOUNTERS



WITH THE WALL

Berlin American High School

Literary Magazine

1989 - 1990

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THE BERLIN WALL

We thought it would never fall
Standing there, as plain as day
Hoping that it would just go away.

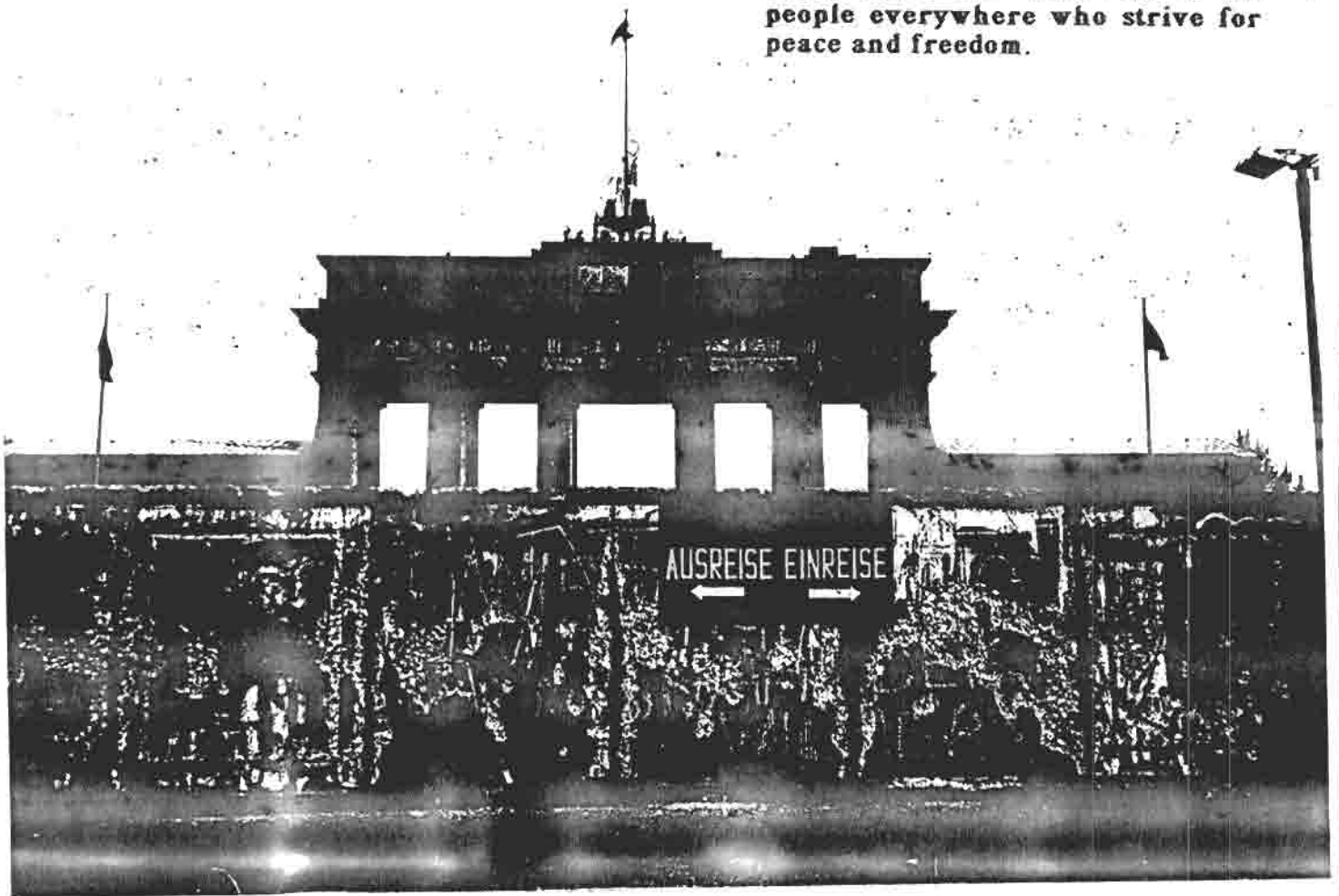
Then the day finally came
The night of November 9, 1989, nothing
Would ever be the same.

It brought happiness to even the coldest heart
And it seemed that everyone had
an important part.

Now the Wall just stands there
As a symbol of all wrong and of things
That are unfair.

...Wendy Nix

We in Berlin have been able to witness the beginning of a new era in history - one that started with the opening of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989. This edition of the Berlin American High School Literary Magazine, ENCOUNTERS, is dedicated to those who helped bring down the Wall and to all people everywhere who strive for peace and freedom.



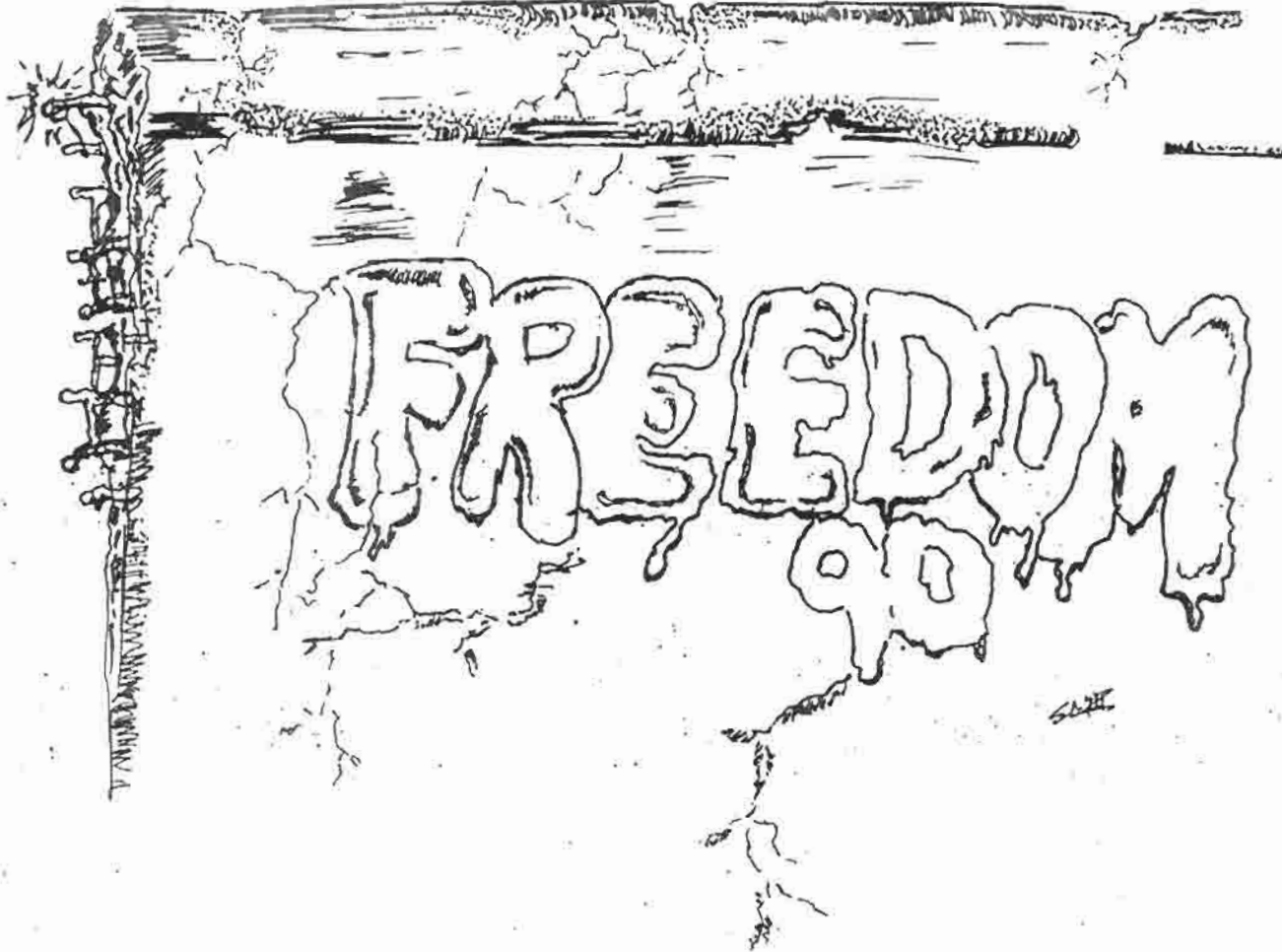
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ENCOUNTERS WITH THE WALL presents Berlin American High School students' views of the wonderful happenings that have occurred since November 9, 1989. ENCOUNTERS will help us remember what a great experience each of us was granted by being in Berlin during such a historical time. Under the guidance of Ms. Greer (yearbook and newspaper sponsor) the Journalism class, along with a few others, helped put this magazine full of poetry, essays, and pictures together for you to read and keep as another memoir of the night the Wall fell.

The 2nd semester Journalism class includes Kathleen Hildenbrand, Jamie Favati, Ghreg Jonson, Edward Melo, Jennifer Halpin, Jackie Bryant, Sondra Bryant, Dave Belasco, Andrea Cox, Nicole Hall, and Nikki John. Tracy Hartin, Archie Best, Monica Heuer, Michelle Stephensen, Stephanie Kunkle, Erin Brady, Cindy Snyder, and Bethany Knapp helped with the hours of typing.

"Wir sind alle Berliner!"



THE BERLIN WALL

On November 9, 1989 freedom and happiness rang through the streets like a church bell. This was the day that the Berlin Wall was opened and the sweet sound of peace sang out like a songbird. This was the day that for most people would not have come for a long time.

When the East Berliners became aware of their sudden freedom, they sprang to the West to observe and obtain as much as they could from the foreign region which was just of their reach.

They hopped into their trabbies and were welcomed with open arms from the West.

It was a time of great happiness. It was a time that was important and was shared by everyone. The opening of the Berlin Wall not only represents freedom and peace by the Germans, but it also represents the failure of the Communist society.

...David Johnson

November 9th

November 9th was a grand time. People were getting back together for the first time in years. But just remember all those people who risked their lives to go over the wall to freedom.

Micheal Tegethoff

November 9, 1989

"Grandma tell me about the Berlin Wall. You were there when it came down weren't you?" "Yes, James I was, but you see it wasn't that long ago. Here sit down and I'll tell you all about it. It was 1961 and the Communists needed to keep people inside their territory to govern them. So they decided to build the Wall. For 28 years it stood there separating east from west, families and homes. On November 9, 1989 it came down. Can you believe it was only 47 years ago? I was only 14 years old. I had lived in Berlin for 5 years before any of this started to happen. When it did though, it was a very pleasant surprise. Everyone was happy and celebrating, but the day after it was complete chaos. No one could get on the buses or the U-Bahns, no one could go shopping or take a break and go to a restaurant. People didn't have any place to sleep or to go, they didn't have any money either. It was a real mess, untill people finally calmed down. But when they did and when the Germany's united everyone was really glad. So James that's what happened! What do you think?" "I think it was pretty cool! Oh, and thanks for helping me with my report!!"

Brandee Sparr

"Can you imagine that months ago before the wall opened many died risking their lives going past the boundary lines? Since the night of August 13, 1961, Berlin was divided; many could not see their relatives and friends. On November 9, dreams came true to those who had lived in the East for twenty-eight years. Once again, East and West Berliners were able to meet. Expressions of happiness filled the air, for freedom had come.

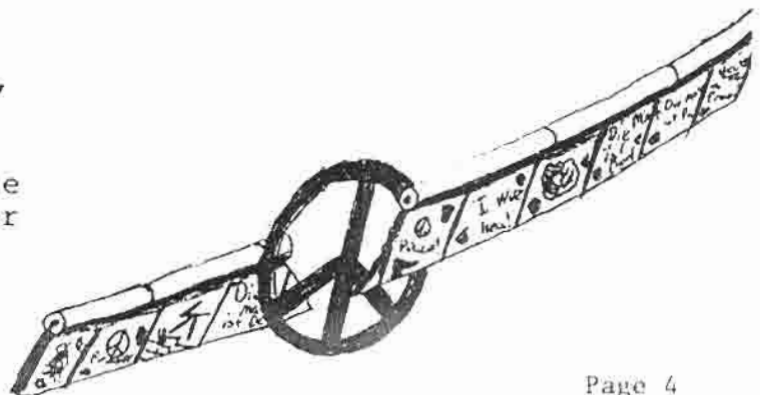
Haydee Fernandez

The wall is coming down
So more cars ride into town.
Now more Germans are free
So they have more beautiful sites to see.
The wall is down for good
So that makes a bigger neighborhood.

Steven Gibson

The Wall
The Wall,
Was very Tall.
The Wall,
Was almost as big as a mall.
The Wall,
Began to fall.
There was nothing left of the Wall,
At all.

Dominique
McAlister



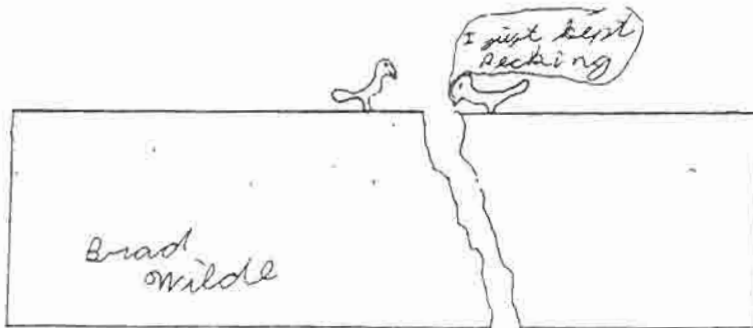
THE HAPPY SAD BERLIN WALL

THE WALL USED TO BE THE LINE BETWEEN HAPPINESS AND SADNESS. WHEN THE WALL WENT UP IT BROUGHT SADNESS TO THE WORLD. WHEN THE WALL WENT DOWN IT BROUGHT HAPPINESS TO THE WORLD. ON ONE SIDE OF THE WALL THE PEOPLE WERE SAD. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL THE PEOPLE WERE HAPPY. NOW BOTH SIDES ARE ONE AND EVERYONE IS HAPPY. THAT IS WHY I CALL IT THE HAPPY SAD BERLIN WALL.

PHILLIP DUGANS

My first time seeing the wall
My first time seeing freedom
How many people had no freedom
And now that the wall is
down they do
How many people had no t.v.
to watch, no cars to drive,
no shoes to walk in, no fresh
fruit to eat, but all that is over,
I hope.

Elijah Groover



The Berlin wall is a disgrace,
an abomination to the human race.
To crumble one day was always a dream,
for everyone or so it would seem.

Even as early as last year, the wall still
stood dark, brooding, and tall as a pine,
but even things seemingly eternal
will one day crash to the ground with a rumble.

Parts of the wall are jagged and broken
and the hatred it stood for now, but a token
gaps appeared and the people poured through
looking to grasp freedom, fresh fruit and volkswagens too.

Marlena Amorin

The Wall

There once was a wall
That stood real tall
Then one day it begin to fall

The people inside no longer
had to hide
The barrier that divided the county
into two came down and history was
through

Latesha

Thompson

Wall

There are people on both sides
who want it down. On August 13,
1961, the wall was erected.
On November 9, 1989, the wall
was torn down. In those twenty-
eight years people have tried
again and again to escape to the
West, and most of the times the
escape was a failure. I think
the wall should never have been
put up.

Adam Gray

At last, at last the East
Berliners are freed.
The communist government
has given in to their plea.

The city of Berlin has become
a wonderful sight.
Especially for those who
saw it divided after the fight.

So many people are overjoyed
with tears,
as they hear the gathered
crowds' triumphant cheers.

People begin to chip at
that awful Wall,
for belief that it won't
be long before it will fall.

Shortly after this special
November 9,
It's perceived that East
and West will again unite.

...Gwen White

The Berlin Wall

Its creation was communism,
Its salvation became capitalism.
The wall was a disaster for many,
And no one alive
Can tell how many lives
Were the price.
It became a prison to all
A tragedy for many
It fell down last fall.

Lars Hem

The Wall Was Made to Fall

The wall was made to fall,
So now they play volleyball on the wall.
Now the Brandenburg Gate lets people
In and out
Without a doubt.
Even on the coldest day
Hundreds of people were there they say.
So dawn is now today.
The wall can't ever stay.

Daniel Sprague
and
Anthony Frazier Jr.

On Thursday, November 9, 1989, I was babysitting at a friend's house. I was lying on the couch watching TV about 10:30 pm when a news brief said the Berlin Wall had been opened. I didn't really know what to think so I just sat there and continued to watch TV. When the people I was babysitting for came home I told them and they said stuff like "Yeah, right, that would be the day." So I just went home and went to bed. My mother is a very hyper person when it comes to history and museums and stuff so at like 6:30 am Friday morning my mom woke me up saying, "Come on, we are going to Checkpoint Charlie." I was like, "Look mom, I want to get some sleep. Leave me alone." But no, my mom insisted. So finally I got up. Man, I have never seen so many people! People were pounding on the East Germans' cars. It was really exciting. I couldn't believe it. But hey, I don't think anybody could.

...Chelley Stephensen

FEELINGS ON THE WALL

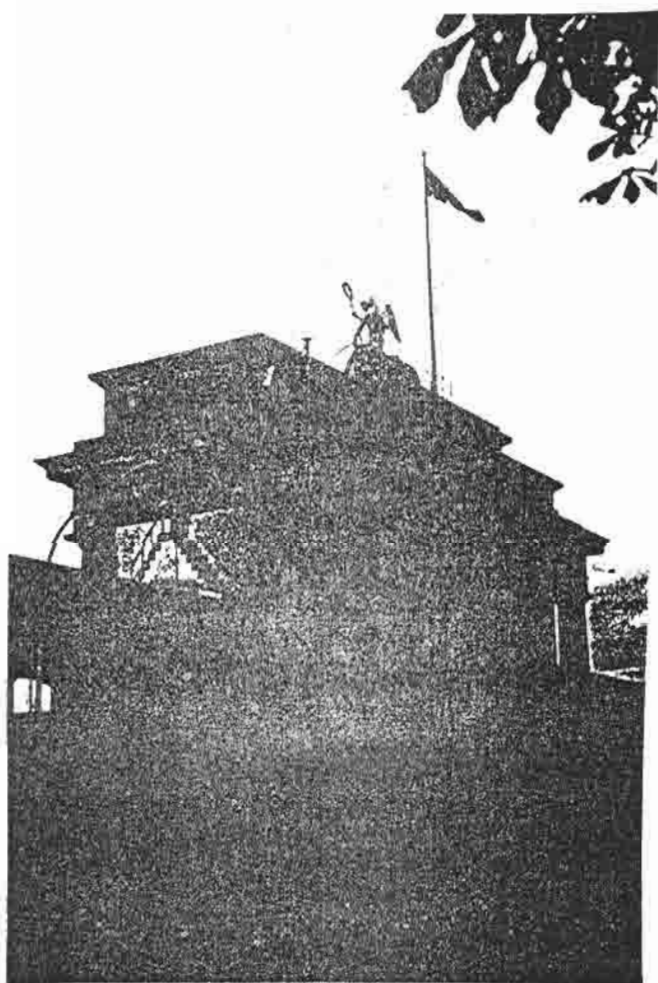
AS I LIVED IN THE STATES,
THE WALL REALLY DIDN'T MEAN MUCH TO ME.
NOW, I LIVE HERE IN BERLIN.
THE WALL IS PART OF MY EVERYDAY CONCERN.
I KNOW THE PEOPLE FROM THE EAST ARE HAPPY TO
BE FREE.
THE GREATEST FEELING FOR ME IS:
I WAS HERE NOV. 9TH,
WHEN THE WALL CAME TUMBLING DOWN!

KELLY GAMBINO

Freedom

It's being torn down
Not by machinery
But by a human wrecking crew
People escaping the drudgery
Starting a new life
Taking what they can
Seeing places never seen to them
Finally putting action to their plan
Now they're free
Escaping all
Having fun
Since the fall of the Wall.

By: Wendy Ottley



Well today's topic is about Peace
 A day when all the hatred will cease
 When will the world love one another?
 Open your eyes! Realize we're brothers
 Back in the days before life began
 God created man with grains of sand, and
 No one had a brain to be stained
 With thoughts for fame and all it pertained
 To being unequal which was insane
 Down came the rain which washed upon hate
 And led everyone into a lunatic state
 Up came the Wall to blind the mind
 And find a new way to crush and grind
 The shield of love made it weak and feeble
 Nothing was left to protect the people
 Out came the sun left the leaders spellbound
 Then came the voice of God... and it all fell down.

Dereck Woods

WALL

Impression, Oppresion
 Grieving, Suffering, Enduring
 Falling, Crashing, Going
 Cold, Hard, Crack, Chip
 Joy, Hope
 Freedom
 For
 All

Jarvis Roach



I hear the wall is down.
 I smell the asbestos.
 I touch the Wall.
 I see the people.
 I think of how it would be to live in East Berlin!
 ...Nina Pepoy

The joy of people's shouts, I hear.
 Honking of the cars, I hear.
 The sirens of Polizei and MP's passing by me.
 As the people pass before me I smell the aroma of wine, as they
 celebrate the end of the old time and the beginning of the new.
 I can feel all the pain and agony as I watched them pass through.
 Just to see the tears of joy coming down their face is like seeing a new
 baby just being born.
 That is how I think of it because a new nation is about to be born and
 our nation is to be united as it once was before.
 Why should we fight our own people? Is it because they live
 differently?
 No, it is because we were torn apart as a brother and sister sometimes
 are when they get sent away to an orphanage.
 But now the wall is breaking and can't hold the people in any longer
 and it has to release them.
 Like if you fill a cup so much it is bound to spill, so just release them.

...Cindy Makil

I hear a glorious and joyful
 sound.
 I smell 28 year old dust
 and smut float all around.
 I touch my friend as tears
 of joy roll from his face down
 to the ground.
 I see people clapping, singing
 cheering and screaming all
 through the town.
 I think, oh yes, I think
 the walls of Berlin are
 finally coming down.

...Kevin King



Twenty-eight years ago, the Communists built a wall.
 Its purpose was to hold the country they captured in.
 Brick, by brick they built the wall, closing in freedom.
 The wall still stands in place, but bit by bit it's coming down.
 The wall represents the people who died fighting for freedom, those
 who did not make it are buried at the wall.
 On November 9, 1989 the Communists opened the wall, and the East
 Berliners came and went.
 Still today the East Berliners are allowed to come and go as they wish.

...David Mitchell



The wall it was fearful
 It brought them fright
 It locked them up
 Without a right

It took their freedom
 It took their pride
 Its general purpose was to keep them inside

But they were persistent
 They chose to be strong
 They wanted their freedom
 They waited so long

For 28 years they were treated like slaves
 Some people tried to escape it brought them to their graves

When it opened that November night
 Their skin was chilled they didnt have to fight
 The guards let them through with no trouble at all
 The Iron Curtain has fallen "Freedom for All"

The Wall
 The coming down of the Berlin
 WALL,
 Has atonished us
 ALL,
 Unification of the
 East and West,
 Will make them think their very
 Best.
 Or they might make a big
 Mess,
 And people will
 Protest.
 There might be a big
 Fight,
 The government might even take away
 Human Rights.
 Then Unification will end up to be
 Separation!

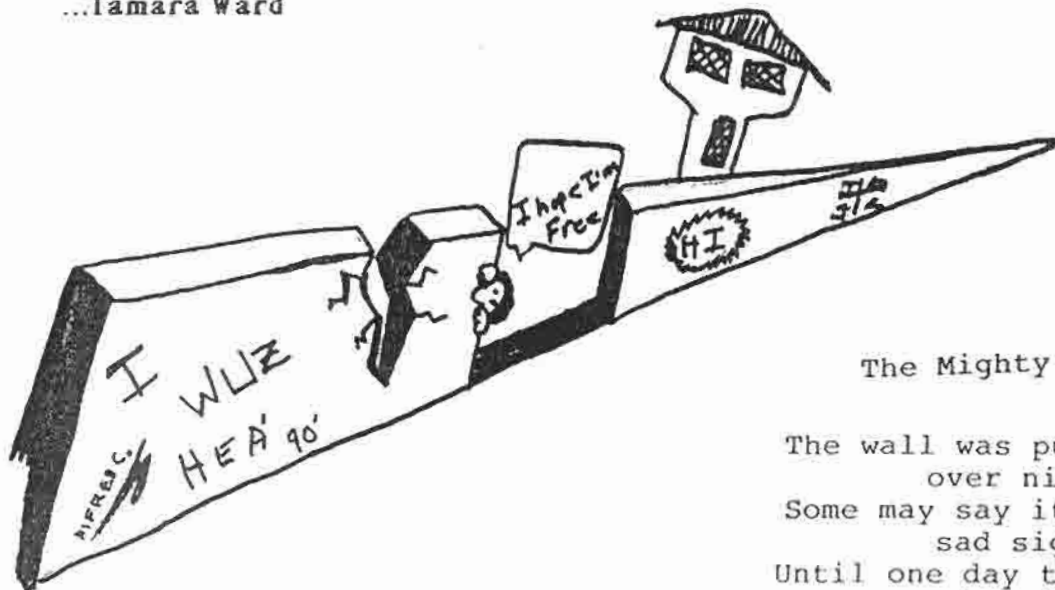
By: Julie Demorier

Tulio M. Wolford

I don't really know too much about the falling of the Wall because I don't take time to pay any attention to it. The thing that I do know is that it really means a lot to the East Germans, because they need their freedom. It all happened so quickly, though, because one minute you would never see and East Germans or East German cars and the Wall was standing tall in one piece. Then overnight it came crumbling down with no warning. I just think its very weird. Now they are talking about bringing the Germans together. What if something goes wrong or another war is started? What if this is just a sham and the East is trying to sneak up on the West and take it over?

Well if it isn't we will all see in time. But still all in all I am happy for the East Germans now that they are free to travel and see more things instead of being confined to one territory. Well at least I get something out of it too because I can tell my kids and grandkids I was there when the Wall came down and I saw the Wall with my own eyes. I feel really good knowing that I was right there to witness and see the joy of Germans as a part of history took place and not many people get to do that. This will go down in history books and I get to tell it from my point of view of seeing it.

...Tamara Ward



The Wall

The wall is gray
The graffiti is colorful
When the wall comes all the way down
Everything will be wonderful.

Nathaniel Marshall

The Mighty Wall

The wall was put up almost
over night,
Some may say it was a sad,
sad sight,
Until one day that was seen
by all,
The Mighty Wall began to
fall!

As happiness and joy filled
the air,
The West Berliners began
to share,
The liberty and freedom
known by all,
Even on the other side of
The Mighty Wall!

By: Jamie
Logan

ENCOUNTERING WITH THE WALL.



While sitting at home enjoying television,
during that week, someone made a
sudden decision.

It was posted on television and all around town
that the BERLIN WALL, which separated the
two Germanies, had finally come down.

My husband and I went down to the WALL,
to see what was happening, what was the
commotion and all?

It had finally happened, the East and West Germans
were brought together as one.

Everyone was there just having plenty of fun.

I can not believe it happened to me,

November 9, 1989, I was there, in
the making of HISTORY.

GRETTA WALKER

Once upon a time in the village of Berlin came an evil dragon. His name was Communism. This dragon liked to capture people and make them work in the fields all day to produce food for him to eat. The dragon conquered all the land around his lair and half the village of Berlin before he was stopped by the white knight called Democracy. The people under the dragon's rule had to work very hard all day long in the fields and only recieved enough food to just keep from starving. When they saw that the people watched over by the knight got to keep all their food they began sneaking over there to live. The dragon didn't like this though, because if all the people left, who would feed him. He certainly didn't want to work to feed himself. So, whenever someone tried to leave he would shoot his dragon flame and burn them to a crisp. Soon too many people were leaving and his flame wasn't strong enough to burn everyone. Then one day he came upon an idea: he would trick everyone into going and living in an underground cave by telling them it was to keep the evil people of West Berlin from coming to live with them and stealing all their food. He hoped after a while they would forget about the world above. But they could see the light through cracks in the walls no matter how much the dragon denied their existence. After many years the crops began to die from lack of sunlight and the dragon became weak. The people seized the opportunity to borrow Democracy's lance, slay the dragon, and escape from the cave. For many weeks there was much celebrating in the streets. Afterwards everyone went back to their homes and lived happily ever after, thanks to the white knight.

Years from now when people hear this story they will laugh and say there were no such things as dragons. I know they existed; I watched the last one die.

...Beth Combs

THE WALL

THERE IT STANDS, A SHEET OF PURE CEMENT & IRON.
AS THE FAMILY RUNS, FAR OFF SOUNDS THE SIREN.
THEY RAN, RAN FAST, CONTINUOUSLY DODGING RIGHT & LEFT,
FOR THE GUARD IN THE TOWER,
SHOWING HIS POWER,
WITH THE SPOTLIGHT PRESSED AGAINST HIS CHEST.
NOW, OFF RAN THE DOGS.
LET OUT BY THE GUARDS.
TO STOP THEIR HELPLESS PREY.
AND DOWN FELL THE DAUGHTER,
THEN THE HOUNDS LUNGED HER,
NEVER AGAIN, WILL SHE SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY
THE MOTHER LOOKED ONCE, TWICE, THRICE TO SEE WHERE HER DAUGHTER
BE,
THE HOUNDS RAISED,
WITH A GHASTLY GAZE,
AS SHE BEGAN TO SCREAM.
THE MOTHER TRIED TO SLIP THE FATHERS GRASP TO BE BY HER
DAUGHTERS SIDE,
THE FATHERS HEAD DROPPED,
HIS TEARS FELL AS THEY STOPPED,
THE MOTHER JUST FELL AND CRIED.
THE GUARDS RAN INTO THEIR GRIEVING HELL,
THEY DIDN'T EVEN FIGHT,
BECAUSE OF THE SIGHT,
AND THEN THEY WERE TAKEN TO JAIL.
SO HERE WE ARE NOW, THE WALL TAKEN DOWN, REUNIFICATION ON ITS
WAY,
BUT THEIR LOSS IS STILL THEIR,
FOREVER TO BEAR,
THEIR LOSS NEVER TO BE IN VAIN.

BY DON OWNBY



Tears of people
are free at last
unknown people, hugging,
crying, but happy because it's
all over.
Part of you is gone.
People say it's all over but,
until it
all comes
down, then they will be
PROUD.

...Manuel Colon

When Will Men Learn

You can not hold men against their wishes,
Using swords, guns, or walls is only a temporary solution
Their bodies may die but their souls live free
they can not be trapped.
When will men learn?

Ideals are shared that spurn men to freedom
Their quest begins and their goals are set
The tide begins to ebb
Smashing at supressions gates
When will men learn?

Like a caged bird
Men are kept in captivity
When released they fly
And enjoy their taste of freedom.
When will men learn?!

Mikhael Weitzel

The wall seperated many things:
countries,
a city,
and people,
but it was not strong enough to seperate love,
for it was love that brought it down.

John Cutting

I SEE THE PEOPLE CHEERING AND LAUGHING
I HEAR THE PEOPLE CRYING AND SIGHING
I SMELL THE COOKING AND DRINKING
I THINK THE WALL IS FINALLY DISAPPEARING

WHAT WERE THEY THINKING WHEN THEY BUILT THE WALL?
WHERE WERE THEIR HEARTS WHEN THEY BUILT IT SO TALL?
WHEN DID THEY THINK THE WALL WOULD FALL?
WHY DID THEY BUILD THE WALL AT ALL?

Deanne Broad



The wall is a sign of hatred keeping the innocent people from their
deserved freedom, it came upon them in the midst of war.

Now the shadow of communism has lifted over this divided people.

... Rob Scott

The Brawl for the Fall of the Wall

On November 9 1989, history was made in Berlin, West Germany. People gathered as the East Berliners got a taste of reality. It has been nearly 30 years since the wall went up, and to see the look on the joyous faces of the East Berliners was heart-touching. It was to be the biggest event of the eighties, and I was there to see it.

...Mike Fowler

If I get lost
I won't get far at all.
You see, I live in Berlin
I'm surrounded by a wall.

People often wonder
what it's like living here.
But I live in the West
I don't live in fear.

The East Berliners
I truly pity.
They're the ones
who can't leave their city.

Their lives seem meaningless
with no hope at all.
What hope is there
when locked out by a wall?

They can't get "out"
but we can get in.
When will it be time
for their lives to begin?

It's really sad
it has to be this way.
But if it weren't for the wall
no East Berliner would stay.

Christy Smith



Dear Diary,

Right now I'm experiencing a great thing in my life. Right now the wall has come down and Germany is reunifying. I never thought this day would come. So it has, and I expect the world to change a lot. Many people had died trying it, and those who did not feel for. That's all for now.

...Michael James

In 1961 the Berlin Wall was put up. The Communists wanted to take over and rule the east. They first started by putting a rope and saying don't cross this line. People took their chances and crossed over.

The next thing was the barbed wire. The guards were standing everywhere holding their loaded rifles. They were ordered to shoot anyone who tried to escape. Some people still took their chances and escaped.

Finally the Communists were fed up with these people escaping to the west, so they built up a wall. Families and friends were separated.

Then on November 9, 1989 the Wall was taken down, friends and family were reunited. On New Years Eve another part of the Wall was taken down, and a great celebration was held.

The East Germans for years took their own lives to get to freedom, where they now can travel, work, and speak as they please.

The East Germans took notice of who our side of the Wall was. It was not white and clean like their side was but full of graffiti full of thoughts and feelings the west people freely put there.

Now that the Wall is being taken down thousands of people are taking the Wall for souvenirs to keep and show their kids and grandkids that they were there when the Berlin Wall was taken down.

...Sandra Atkins

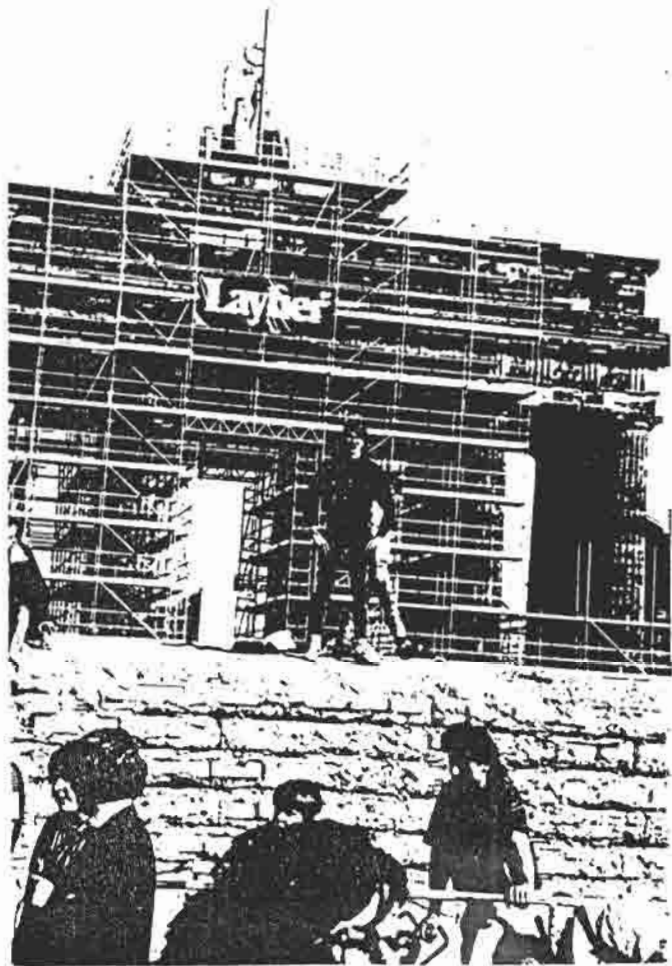
Dear Diary,

Today is November 9, 1989. Today is the first day of history. The Berlin Wall is finally coming down. Many Germans and Americans are rejoicing tonight because now East and West are finally one, after all these years. As I sit here and write in you, I think about all the men and women who gave up their lives just to be free from Communism. And to think I'm an American citizen living in Berlin, and I'm a part of history in the making. I now have something to tell the next generation about this special night, November 9, 1989. The Wall is finally coming down!

Dorian Mosley

Dear Diary,

The Berlin Wall came down on November 9, 1989, and it was the place to be. I felt so happy for the people who were allowed to leave East Berlin and go to West Berlin to see it for the first time or just to go see friends and family. I'm glad the Berlin Wall came down now, so Berlin can be a whole instead of East and West. Now people can come and leave whenever they want to.



Freedom is a precious gift. Sometimes one does not realize just how precious freedom is until he or she witnesses an outstanding example. The opening of the infamous Berlin Wall served as such an example. On November 9, 1989 the world was stunned when the prison like wall, which had separated relatives and friends for twenty-eight years, was opened to free access.

At the Allied Crossing Point Charlie the tears of joy flowed like endless rivers from the faces of the exuberant East and West Germans. At last, the jagged line that had so suddenly torn Berlin apart was now bringing them together by being ripped down like an old, eye-sore building. Celebrations continued all through the night like an early New Years celebration as the crossing points were stampeded by thousands of people searching for memories they may have left behind.

Immediately souvenir hunters scrambled to tear down the concrete canvas on which so many sayings, paintings, and memories were painted. The pieces which were as valuable as the sidewalk below it the day before, immediately doubled in value.

Upon first seeing the gaping holes which had been chiseled in the wall, one gets the feeling of seeing the impossible. Just last year if one would have made mention of these events, he would have been laughed at by all, now, these skeptics are all seers who foresaw these happenings but never shared in the wisdom. However, as the world turns, marvelous events such as this are bound to happen. I am just thankful that I am able to experience the joy and happiness with the German people.

...Russell Ottley



The Wall, The Wall
Is standing tall
The Wall, The Wall
Is going to fall
The Wall, The Wall
Comes tumbling down
Freedom for all
The Wall, The Wall

By Kevin Janey

THE WALL HAS FALLEN

The wall has fallen, and
East meets West.
The nation finally meets as one.
They are able to come together to share the fun.

The wall has fallen, and
Changes are being made.
Why, I've heard of reunification, or
Something of that sort.

The wall has fallen, and
The Easties are pulling out their maps,
Trying to find where freedom is after 28 years of communism.

The wall has fallen, and
Finally, East meets West.

By: Brandi Thorpe

IF ONLY I HAD WAITED

If only I had waited,

I also would be able to enjoy a new life

as those who have them now.

If only I had waited,

my hopes and dreams would have been fulfilled
with freedom, happiness, and joy.

If only I had waited,

my children, who are now enjoying a whole
new life with me.

If only I had waited,

my life would have been everything I
wanted it to be, but for me, not them.

If only I had waited,

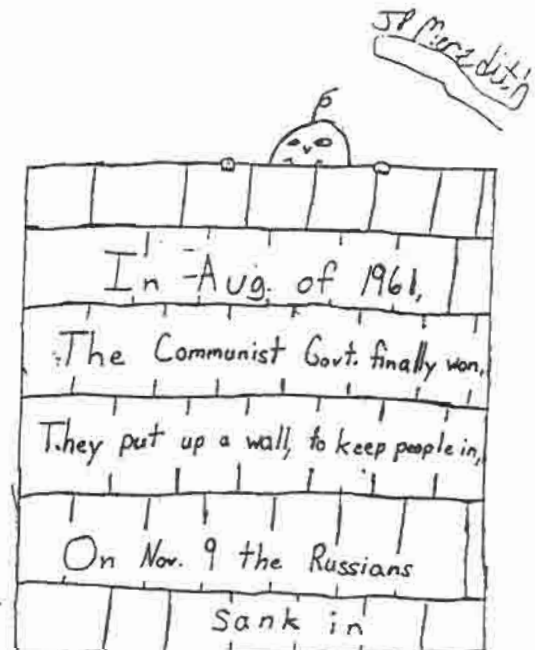
I could have finished out what I started.

My life was just beginning to take off.

I was a bright young man with a great

future. Now I am just a name on a Cross who died for freedom

that I never got.



An East Berliner
So Happy to have freedom
Life will start anew.

By: Michael
Underwood

NEWS FLASH!

This is James Snyder coming to you live from Berlin! THE WALL IS DOWN! I REPEAT THE WALL IS DOWN! It took 40 years but it is finally down! You can feel the excitement in the air! As the East Germans make their way through the wall the West Germans greet them with flowers, champagne, etc. I repeat the BERLIN WALL is down!!!

This was a news flash provided by B-ROCK 88-FM your station in Berlin!!

Dear Dairy

Something very historical has happened in Berlin, Germany. The wall has been torn down. The wall has been up for 28 years. It just happened over night. So many were separated from their family. I think that is great that the wall is down. So many people died trying to get to the other side to freedom. Can you imagine how many people were crying and laughing that night the wall came down. I could see the people go through Check Point Charlie. People were moving the cars that come through. All the family were together at last. People didn't have to worry about dying to get across.

Sandra Bender

It seperated friends
Brought families to an end
What I speak of is the Wall
That once stood tall
The night it came down
There were parties throughout the town
To see the people in such joy
It was like a child with a new toy
For the first time the people meet
Dancing and rejoicing in the street
People come far and wide
To see what is on the other side
Crossing at the borders
With no need for orders
A huge party : a jubilee
To say at last we're finally FREE!
... Meredith Knapp



I was at Checkpoint Charlie and it was very festive as the East German Trabants came through Charlie. The West Germans were cheering them in to their side of the city. All you could hear were cheers of happiness and the pat pat pat of the West greeting the East by patting on their cars. Also people were crying about people dying and reunited loved ones. It was the neatest place to be in the world at that time.

EVAN COTTEN

THE FREED WALL

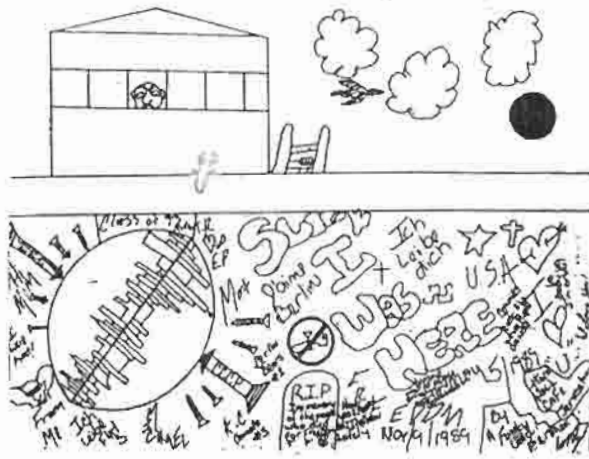
I see the wall is crumbling down.
I see the people come and go.

I smell alcohol.
I smell the dust of the crumbled wall.

I hear the people crying.
I hear the people joying.

But I don't see any of sorrow nor diabolic happening.
All I can see is nothing but the free...

...Sungwoo Chung



Dear Diary,

It finally happened, on Nov. 9, 1989 the East Germans were finally freed and reunited with West Germany because the wall was being taken down. I thought it was a tremendous thing for the Germans because I can still remember when they announced it on the news. My friend's mother, Mrs. Daniel, who was German, was crying out of joy that the wall was finally being taken down.

Donnotta Fisher

On the 9th of November 1989 in the city of Berlin, which is located in East Germany, the very famous Berlin wall came down. It did not literally come down, but the East German government started to let people come over to the West. On that night, some of my friends and I went down to it. When we got there, we could hear thousands of people yelling, singing, and dancing.

The smelling of food being cooked for the East Germans made me hungry. Now that the wall is down, I could touch it so I did, but it did not feel like any other wall that I had ever touched. This wall was special; it gave me a chilling feeling all through my body. To think that people crying but not from pain but from joy. I think is the start of something wonderful.

...Charney Memminger



Walls

Walls

People falling and
children crying.
Guards shooting. Car smoke,
diesel fuel, many
factories.

Big pieces of the
great big wall, people
taking pictures and people
being hurt, people
climbing, some make it,
some don't,
crosses of the people who didn't
make it, and happiness for
those who did, and sadness
for those who died.

The Wall should be
down by November 9, 1990,
and all the people of
Berlin will be happy.

...Tonia McCrea

What are they used for?

To hold pictures ?

To hold doors and windows ?

To lean things against ?

Barracades ?

Room separators ?

To hold people in ?

To keep them away.

To trap.

To kill.

to deprive.

To provide padding.

To drive people crazy.

FATAL RECIPE

Preheat at 1933

Let fear and dread rise for 6 years

Simmer in 6 more years of war

Beat well until well beaten

Bake in ovens until hardened

When still smoldering, crumble into black soot and debris

Let stand

When cooled, sprinkle very lightly with economic recovery

Add a dash of hope

Heat to 1953

Boil off economic recovery

Crush hope with Soviet tanks

Simmer for 8 years

Remove from heat

Cover mixture with layers of barbed wire

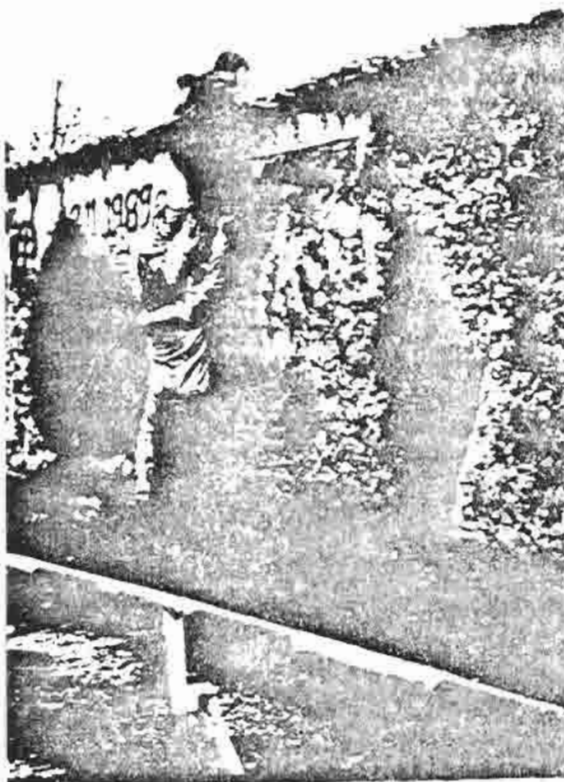
Spread land mines

Mix in miles of mortar

Let harden

Serves 70

...Mr. Osborne



April 26, 1990

Dear Diary,

This is my first time ever being in Germany. I never even knew anything about this place. Then, about after a week of being here, I took a trip to the Wall. I never understood why it was really up in the first place. Why they had separated one part of Berlin from the other part. I didn't think it made any sense. But then a miracle for the Germans happened on November 9, 1989. They announced that the Wall was going to come down. Germans all over Berlin were shouting, crying, and full of happiness, just to know that they were not locked up anymore. For about the next couple of months, Germans were chiseling at all parts of the Wall. I am very happy that I was able to be around for a part of history that will be very important in the near future. To this day I still do not understand why they had the Wall up in the first place. There is still a lot of confusion in my mind but I am very happy that the Germans are re-united

Letitia Ortiz

Here he came

Running toward freedom,

A run lasting a lifetime.

The guards yelling, "Halt!"

But he kept on running.

He approached the barbed wire

And got all tangled up.

The guards start firing and

Hit the helpless prisoner.

There he lay bleeding to death.

Now the wall's down.

It's a shame he didn't wait.

...Kevin Neuman

Great Walls

That stand so tall

Will hang around

But then...

Will Fall.

...Tandi Grue

Do you ever think of all the people who died, trying to escape from a life of being tied. Do you ever think of their shattered dreams, not knowing what freedom really means. Do you think of what they would say, if they saw the disappearance of the wall that lay.

Do you ever think of what kind of life they would have led, if they were only free to see all the opportunities they would of had. Do you ever walk by the wall and see, all those lives taken away by a wall not meant to be.

Do you ever think of all the people who died, from 18 years old boy to the others who tried.

...Emi Nakajima



Bedtime Prayer

Heavenly father full of joy
We ask you to bless every girl and boy
Who in their minds were very certain
They were going to escape the "Iron Curtain"
Bless them with the patients we pray
That the wall would come down some day
We already have some loved ones you see
Because they tried to cross the wall to be free
Why is the wall up anyway, oh lord
What did we do to be ignored
Why is it everyone, but us, are free
What is so different between me and thee
Touch the hearts of the leaders we pray
Let them open their eyes some day
And see what they are doing is unfair
And towards their people they have no care
All in All what we want to say
Is bring the wall down some day

But now

So now,

...Brandy Hill



**Oft I find myself out of touch
Reeling on the rim of indifference
Hounded by my own insignificance
Deadtired of accomplishmentless guilt**

My future seems a kaleidoscope
Of drab repetitious predictability
Every hear quickening dream of transcending
Dead ends
At a slab of senseless concrete
Six feet thick

I want to chip it away, clamber up
Stand with triumphant arms outstretched
Dance on this symbol of sad hopelessness...

**Please
Could
Someone
Help me
Up?**

...Mr. Osborne

The question remains: What will happen with the Germans' anti-plutification, but a real MIUOE PLUTIS ROAD TO BE WORKED OUT



DON'T TURN AWAY

I look up and up
Before I get to the top my eyes stray back
and forth to soak up the colors.
To drink in the phrases, the pleas, the dreams
They hit a patch of dul gray and insde my
mind I know that there is nothing but
dull gray to see on the other side
Sadness overwhelms me as my heart
overflows with the unfairness of it all
Finally I see the top with the cruel, hard
barbed wire and I turn away
But then I think of the hundreds before
me that turned away
Turned away from the ghosts that haunt
this concrete barriers
Turned away from the people behind this
iron curtain
Turned away from their hope
And I turn back to face this monster
Not just for me but for all of those that
never had the chance to turn back
I turn back to challenge the Berlin Wall.

Christina French

The Lord made people
He set them free like air
Free to roam all over Earth
To be free and experience life
but then someone put up a wall
and kept the people captive
The people who were once free
are now prisoners...
but not anymore
the prisoners tore it down
now they're free;
the way the Lord wanted them to be.

...Melissa Bessent

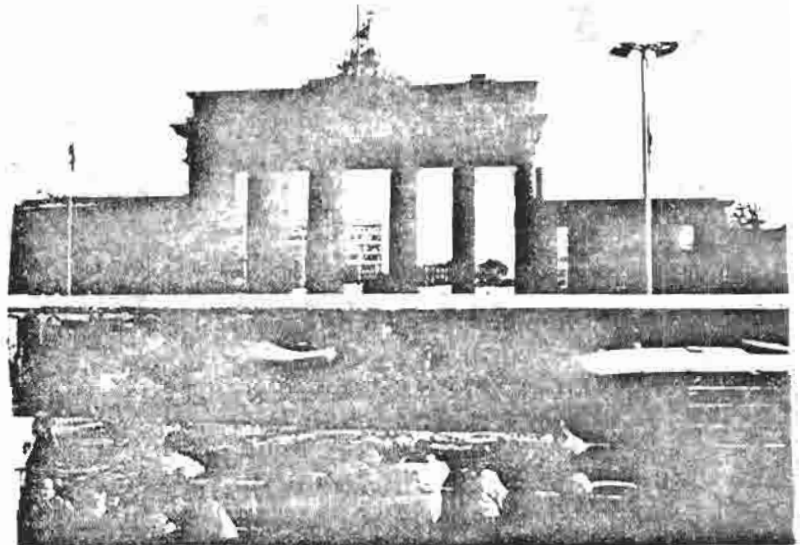
BIKERIDE

On a cool fresh bright clear morn
I biked out where dark deep woods
Hush the harsh rush hour heap

The whole glad day ahead
The wide smooth path ahead
Summer's beckoning

I rounded the bend and skidded and stood
Silent and hard and sad
Before the looming path-blocking Wall

...Mr. Osborne



It's there, towering above us all
Twelve feet of horror, standing in front of us
It's seperated families and friends from other friends
It's caused many deaths in its time
It's there
It's the Wall.

...Eddie Nunn

I've seen it, I've seen it fall.
 I guess I know about the Berlin Wall.
 This big piece of rock which divided East from West
 Now is gone, which turned out best
 People can go to and fro
 No East guards to say you can't go
 Keep a piece of the Wall at the house with you
 Why the heck not, I sure do
 After being trapped within the East
 Their government leader seems like a beast
 But now they know what it means to be free
 Just the same as you and me
 So next time you hear of human injustice and all
 Think of what happened to the horrible Berlin Wall
 Kris Stewart



THE WALL

Dear Jenn,

Wow! Can you believe the news? The Berlin wall has come down. The borders were opened and tons of East Berliners came rushing through with tear stained faces and smiles. It is truly a miracle. Too bad you can't be here now to be caught in the excitement and joy.

On november 9th my family and I hopped in the car to go greet the East Germans. We talked about freedom and their families and friends. In school we wrote letters to some East German students and so now I have a pen pal. A couple of weeks after November 9th my friends and I went to the Brandenburg Gate at night to see if we could get pieces of the wall. We met some border guards and sat and talked with them. They were young and hadn't known anything but East Germany. Their new found freedom was a big gift they said.

Well, I have to go, I'll send you some wall. Write back soon!

Your friend,
 Anita

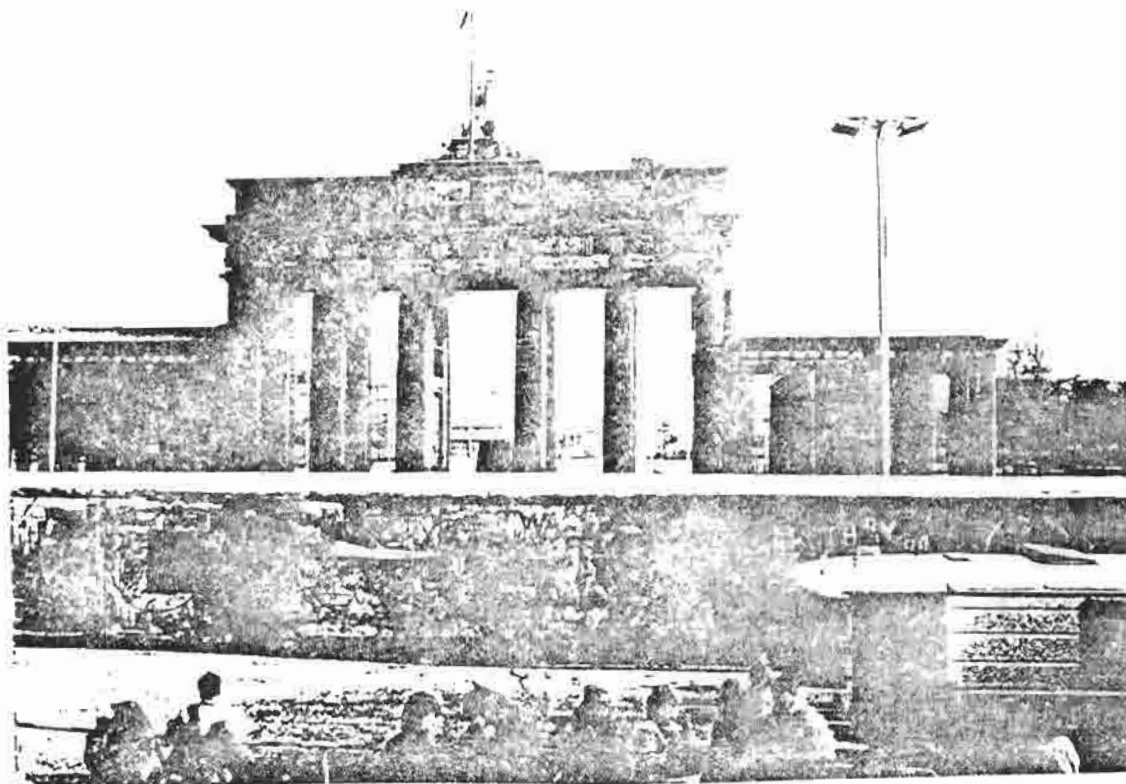
...Anita Manthei

From the air the wall
Is harmless
But on the ground it
Is a cold reminder of
Someones disagreement.
...Nicole Tuma

Down came the Wall
Graffiti and all
Nov 9 was the day
To cross over as you may
...Marc Salguero

Crumbling...
Falling down fast
While the East Germans shot their joy!
...Anita Anthony

The Wall,
Must come down soon.
If it doesn't come down.
People will remain divided.
Always.
...Faith Auld



I HAVE SEEN THEM UP THERE

I have seen them up there
With happy hands held high
Like triumphant conquerors
Of a cold gray city

I have seen them up there
Chipping away hate
Shipping away hate
Where thick solid serious sadness once stood

I have seen them up there on that wall

...Mr. Osborne

Footsteps
There he is a speck in the distance
walking toward us.
Every stride he takes a limp on his
left leg.
He comes much closer now as his
footsteps are heard.
A bright sunny November day
step-limp step-limp goes his
old gray body.
His old jagged face can be seen now.
All of us concentrate on
his last footsteps.
Across the white line he
walks as we cheer him on.
We cheer him on as he takes his
FOOTSTEPS TO FREEDOM.

...Tucker Cornwell

The Wall is Falling

The wall was strong
and bright
the stars shine at night
The wall was up
since 1996
and died in 1990
We are so happy
that the wall is GONE.

Virginia Mabe

Behind Closed Doors

Behind closed doors it's
very hard to see.
So many people have died
to try to be set free.
On this very special day of
November 9, 1989, was when the
East meets the West.
And those who have died
will be remembered from that day
on.

Virginia Peoples



WHY ARE THEY ALL MAD?

Why are they all mad at him?
What did he do wrong?
He stood right there for twenty-eight years.
It could not have been that long...

People defaced him and hurt him,
And brought him to his knees.
All the while, they laughed in style,
With no sure victory.

And since the night of November nine,
That filled so many with glee,
He has been dead since that time,
And his soul, but not body,
are free.

...Matthew Bentley

Many Pieces

The wall comes down
in many pieces
It is shaped
to your convenience
and it comes in
many pretty colors,
blue, red, yellow.
The wall itself
is a collectors item
to many people around.
These many pieces
are now absent
making the wall
looked crushed forever

---David Clifford

The Fall Of The Wall

The Berlin Wall is falling
The freedom and joy are calling
The East Germans now have freedom,
With nothing but curiosity to lead them;
With happiness, love, and excitement,
Precaution, curiosity, and wonderment;
With tears and laughter,
Morning and thereafter;
They now can reveal the mystery,
And now are a part of history!!

Stephanie Rickard

NOVEMBER.

"Hey, Eric, I heard you're movin' to Germany. Are you really, or was Ali just puttin' me on?"

"Yeah, I'm movin'. Who did Ali hear it from?"

"I dunno, but, like where in Germany?"

"Berlin."

"Well, like West Berlin, right? Oh, yeah, of course. Stupid me. Why are you goin' there any way?"

"My dad's job, he's a pilot for Pan Am, and he got based in Berlin, so we're moving."

"Oh." Cindy would pause. "Aren't you sad to go?"

"Yea, pretty much...but I can't do anything about it, so I might as well just go with the flow and try to make the best of it."

DECEMBER.

"Yo, Eric, I just heard about the Wall. Are you still moving?" Brian sounded confused.

"Yep, I'm still going. It's gonna be confusing enough, now I don't know what the heck I'm gonna do."

"No kidding, man, that sucks. We gotta do something before you leave, OK?"

"Gotcha, I gotta get my butt to French class, or else I'm gonna be in detention till I leave!"

FEBRUARY

"Hey Eric, how much longer do you have in the States?"

"Not enough. I'm getting nervous."

"I would too. Remember when we first met?" Dustin asked.

"Yea, it was in pre-school, we were best friends."

"And still are, right?"

"You got it. Oh yea, before I forget, give me your address, so I can write to you."

MARCH

"Wake up, you can see the sunset out your window."

I looked out of the plane window and saw a beautiful sunset, but it didn't cheer me up.

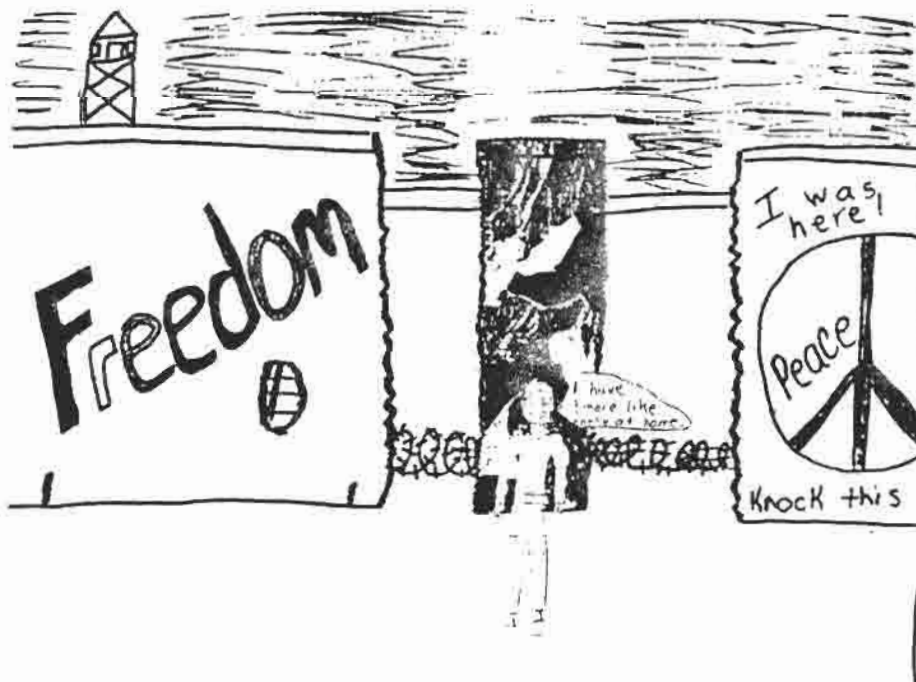
LATER IN MARCH

"Let's go look at the Wall."

"All right, all right, I'm coming."

I went to see the remains of a barrier that people died to get across, and I saw people who waited all of their lives for this, and their cheerfulness was irresistible.

...Eric Johnson



ON
November
10, 1989
everyone
got a
chunk
of the
Berlin
Wall.

| | | | | |
|---------|-------|--------------|---------|------|
| | East | | | |
| Hate | | Harm | | |
| Leaving | Dying | Disappearing | | |
| Despair | Death | Health | Hope | Fear |
| Living | | Giving | Staying | |
| Love | | Help | | |
| | West | | | |

Jason Meade

At the end of a hard day they
would all say,
all in all the wall will fall

They never gave up they always
looked on they knew,
all in all the wall would fall

Two or more will die each day
but they kept good thoughts and
would always say,
all in all the wall will fall

When you here the singing,
laughter, and joy you could hear
them say we knew, and,
all in all the wall did fall!

Sarah Eisinman



The Fall Of The Wall

The wall fell down on the 9th of November at midnight.
The crowds gathered to cheer on the East Germans crossing
over to the Western section of the city. Everyone around was
happy, cheering and having a big party. Although lots of people
were happy about it, there was one thing that was in their
minds. What would happen to the wall next? Well since you are
here you can see for yourself?

Scott W. Koppenhaver

The Night of November, 9th 1989

On November 9th 1989, at about 8 P.M. East German officials chose
to open all border crossing points for free travel to the West.
Once the news hit the television and radio stations, both
East and West Germans flocked to crossing points
throughout Berlin to see if it was really
true. To their surprise the impossible
had happened. After twenty-eight
years of being locked in by
the wall, they were
finally free.

Jason Cleveland

THE UNFRIENDLY BLOCKADE

GRIPPING THE GROUND WITH IT'S STEEL STONE CLAWS.

TRAPPING PEOPLE WITHIN IT'S BARRIERS.

ONE DAY BROKEN OPEN BY PEACE AND LOVE.

AND FOR SALE AS A NEW SOVIENER.

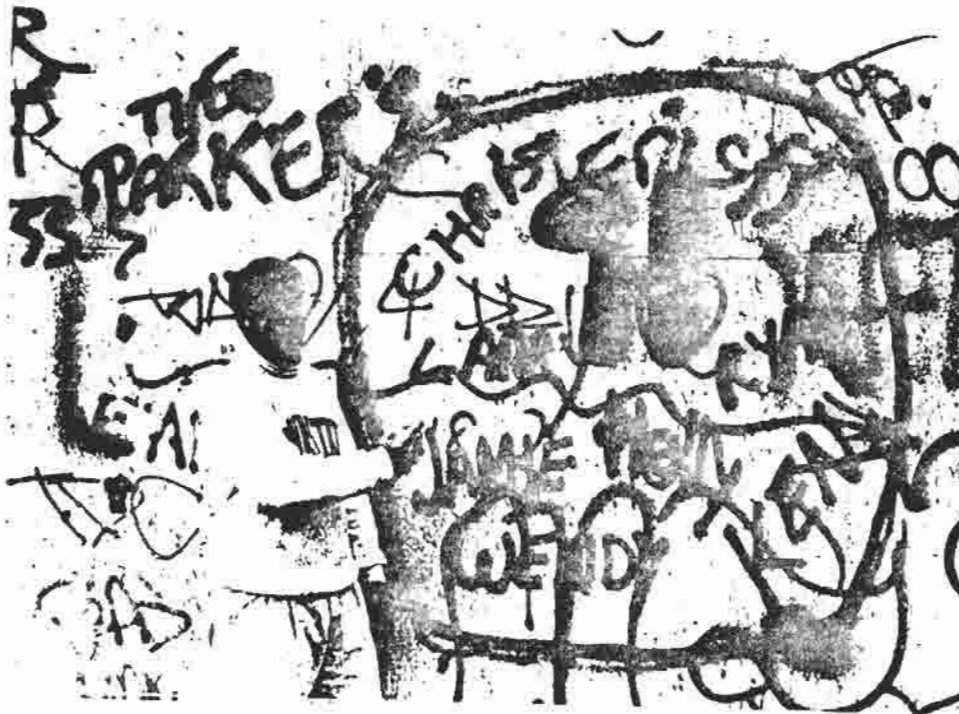
David Green

In this cursed city
Is a wicked thing.
It surrounds this city
No love it will bring.

It holds the lonely people in,
And lets them feel no joy
Guards protect this ugly thing
Their guns, they sure aren't toys.

But now this thing has fallen
The people one and all
Leave this cursed city
They killed the Berlin Wall.

...Jennifer Sagor



WEST

West, it is the longing of the mind.
The eternal sunset that taunts your being to find
an answer in the unknow; the sunset mixes colors in a visual invitation
to forget the inhibitions of this physical world in whole
and take an infinite journey of the soul.
Behind the mind's dark curtain
there waits the truth, of this I'm certain
will reveal the answers to all life's questions
for from this realm come life's suggestions.
West is the answer, it is the place to find
the truth, but not west in direction, but west in the mind

Mikhael Weitzel

As Gretchen drove towards her daughter's house her mind began to wander back to 1989 when the Berlin Wall fell. She had been living in Berlin during the years that the wall was up. Her family had been split in half; her mother and sister on the West and her father, brother, and herself on the East.

Gretchen was looking forward to seeing her daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren again. Driving down the familiar street, her excitement began to grow, and she recalled the overwhelming excitement that the East and West Germans felt when the wall crumbled and she and the rest of the East had regained their freedom. She could remember how extremely happy her family had been to be reunited after 28 years.

Gretchen snapped back to the year 2025 as she turned the car on Kohlstr. and pulled into the driveway of her daughter's home. She felt a twitch of pride as the door opened and out walked what remained of her family. Her only daughter, Gertrude Huntz-Robertsen, her American son-in-law Kevin Robertsen, and her grandchildren Stefan, Gurtie, and baby Emma.

"Guten Tag, Nanna," Gurtie cried and hurled her skinny 11 year old body at her grandmother. "I'm so happy you came to visit," she said happily.

"I am happy to visit my favorite grandchildren," Gretchen informed the children. Stefan rolled his eyes, "Nanna, we're your ONLY grandchildren."

"All the same," She laughed and rolled her eyes back at him. "What a cocky boy you are for 13." Stefan appeared mortified, "Nanna I'm 16, not 13." His grandmother only laughed harder. "16, 13 whatever."

"Mamma, it's good to see you. Come in, dinner is ready." And so

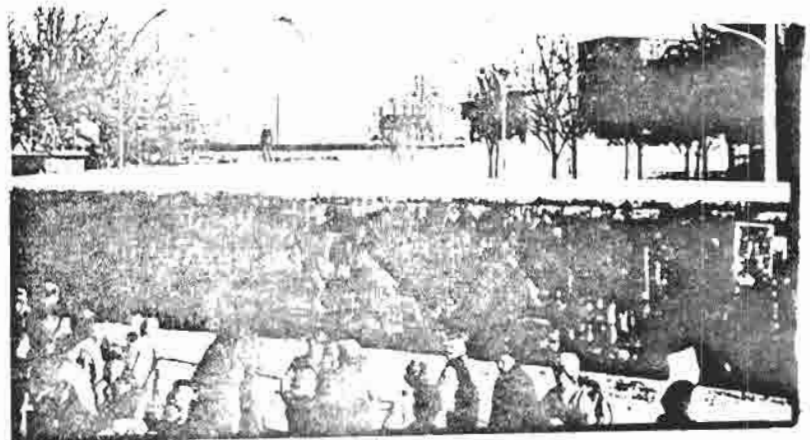
the family went inside, laughing, talking, and remembering. As they ate they discussed the past and present. So caught up in remembering that soon it was ready for the two older children to go to bed. "Nanny, tell us a story," Gurtie pleaded. "Yeah, tell us a story," Stefan joined in. "Alright, what story do you want to hear?" Gretchen asked, knowing full well what they would say. "The Wall!" they cried in unison, "Tell us about the Wall."

Gretchen laughed, "Are you not tired of my story?" Shaking their heads, they said, "Never will we tire of your story." "Alright, then, I shall tell it again," Gretchen said, smiling. "When I was but 11 years of age the Berlin Wall was built dividing the city in half..."

When she had finished she picked up Gurtie off the couch where she had fallen asleep. She then went to her room and walked over to the window. As she stared out into the night she thought it was amazing that she could recall events that happened 64 years ago as though they had happened only yesterday. All at once she wanted to share her story with everyone.

She finally decided to tell her story the way she'd shared it with her grandchildren. Gretchen sat at the desk for hours, lost in thought and when she started to write she began like this: "As I drove towards my daughter's house..."

...Khrysta Horton



The Berlin Wall

The Berlin Wall is coming down
A man very tall runs around
As the Wall crumbles to the ground.

They come in groups
over the Wall
They stare at our troops
because theirs are small.

They don't really smile
as they stare in a daze
As people run run their mile
they watch through the morning haze.

They like to eat the fruits
as they put trash everywhere
and take food from our troops.

They criticize American troops
when we feed them first
as they stand around in groups.

They are confused with what they see
because Americans are opening their homes,
and they don't know who to believe

We have let them into see
and they refuse to thank us
because to them it is a sin to thank Americans.

We know what we did was right, because there is no turning back now.

Michelle Dean

"Please Shake My Hand"

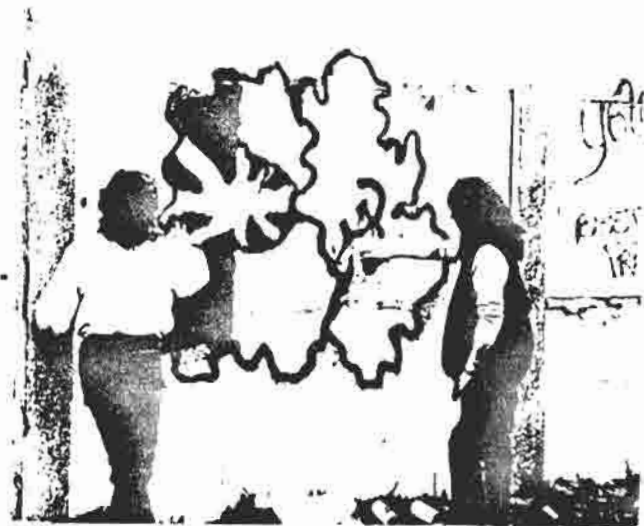
This is a news flash about the wall in Berlin, Germany. Just 5 minutes ago on this day November 9, 1989, the East Germans were allowed to travel back-n-forth across the boarders as freely as they want. "It's joyful to be free at last," said one person. How joyful it is to be free!

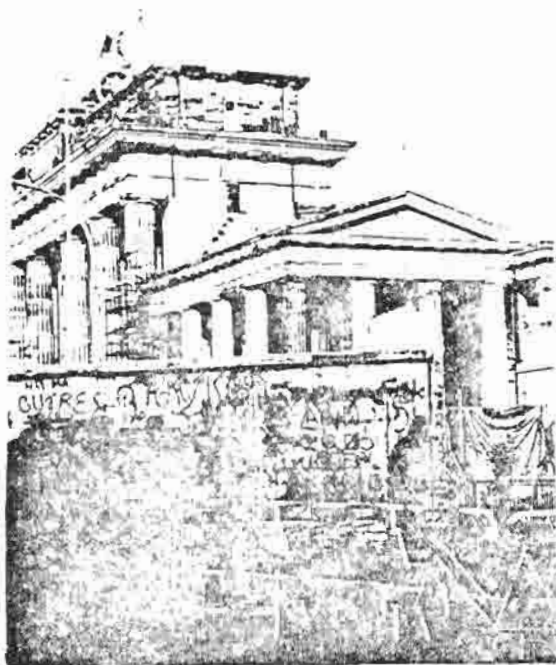
...Tiran Pettus

"Hundreds of them pass me by each day,"
he thinks,
though he has thought it
a million times more
"They ask me to stop and pose
while they chip
at the wall, smiling,
and a friend snaps away enough pictures for
everyone
they know."
"But why is it
that they aren't afraid to
talk,
take pictures,
and trade things, but they can't even
shake my hand?"
"Do they understand what is happening?"

Tina Dorny

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The first time I went to the Berlin Wall I was very excited. I had heard so many things about the Wall, but I was indeed not going to believe it until I saw the Wall face to face. I couldn't believe the fact that once there had been generations of families locked behind the Wall for so long, but I'm so glad the Wall is open. NOW those East Germans can live their lives their way because it is not their prerogative. One thing that constantly makes me angry is the fact that thousands of people died trying to escape. They died not knowing what freedom was!

...Zartilia Simms

There was a wall in Berlin that blocked the way of the East and West; It kept the freedom of many people and as they tried to escape to get their freedom, some were injured and some were killed even though some did escape. The wall blocked the East and West and separated some family and friends; But on the happy day of November 9, 1989, the wall came down and the East and West were freed and everyone got their freedom.

...Estelle Foster



My opinion on the wall is I feel happy for the people that lived in East Berlin, because they finally get to wander from place to place without being locked up! They get to come to West Berlin and buy all of the stuff they want! Many innocent people got killed trying to escape from East Berlin. The wall was set up from August 13, 1961, to NOVEMBER 9, 1989. Over 28 years they have been locked up with no where to go! Now they are free!

...Ryan Ervin

November 9, 1989-
The day the Wall
began to crumble
and fall.

An event that will
last throughout time,
the day the East Germans
got to pass through the
checkpoint lines.

...Monica Radziminski

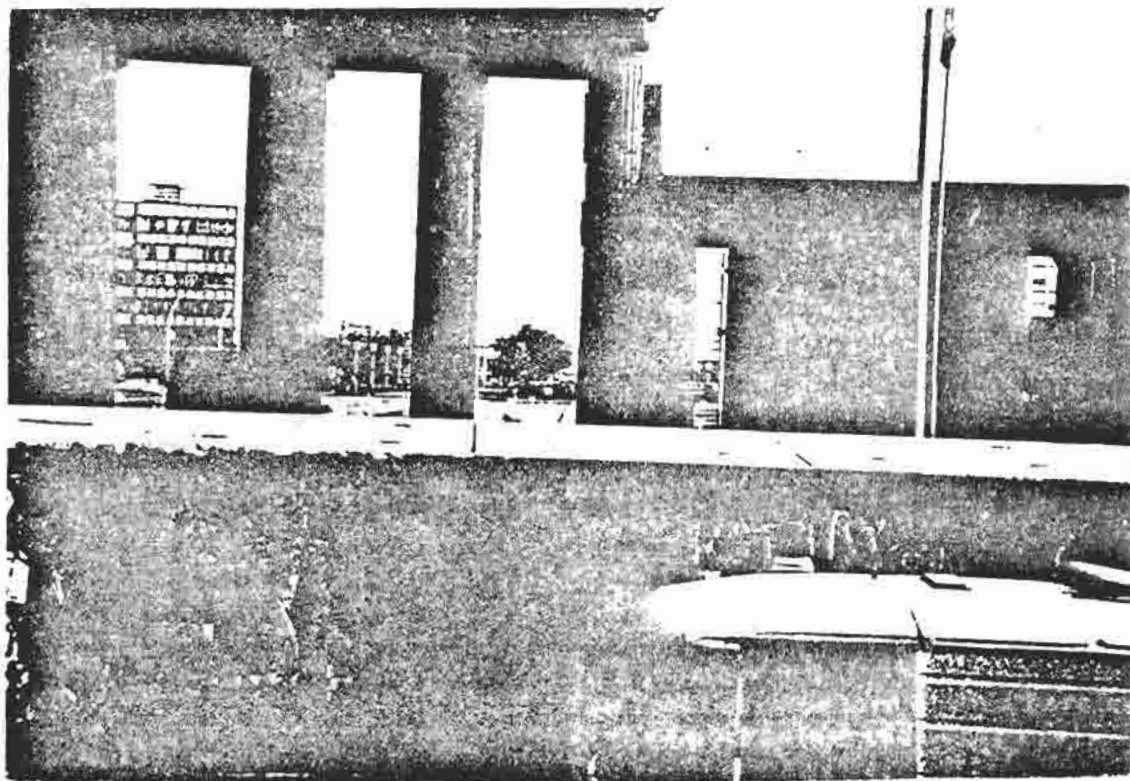
On November 9th, 1989

The East Germans tore down a barrier.
At the Checkpoints the Trabi's formed a line
The East Germans were feeling merrier.

With the Berlin Wall right now falling down
The very happy East Germans then flocked.
To the nearest grocery store downtown
Soon there wasn't any fruit on the block.

Now they want a unified Germany
Now they feel their freedom will never stop.
Just like when it was only one country
A lot before the time of the shock hop.

Now the Wall has become a souvenir
For all the military people here.
...David Scharfbillig



Dear Diary.

Today was the best day of the East Berliners and West Berliners lives.
It has been over 20 years since they were last united. So many people
had dreamed for this day to come and it finally came.

You should have seen the laughter and joy people had felt. The way
they climb the wall without anybody stopping them.

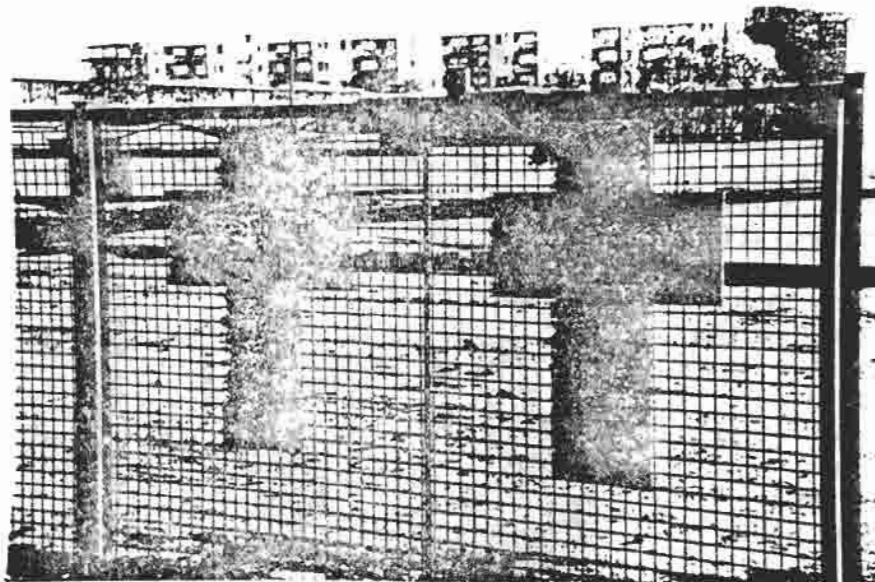
You could smell the pollution coming from the East cars.

You could even touch the pieces of rock that were chipped away as
they brought it down..

I stood there shocked by what I had seen. It had occured to me that I
was actually seeing history made right before my eyes.

Nov. 9, 1989 was the the best Christmas wish anyone could ask for. It
was a miracle. It was a day when everything went right and nothing
could go wrong. It was a day of happiness.

...Mica Slappy



A REMINDER

As he looked into the bloody face of the German soldier, he remembered seeing that same dying face the day before, and the day before that. The days have become so long and hard that they seem to blend into one bloody campaign.

He remembered all the soldiers that died on the cold steel of his bayonette. He could see the German's life slipping from the grasp he tried so desperately to maintain. The cool steel blade was in up to the barrel of his weapon.

"How many times have I seen that face before?" he wondered, "I know that ugly face all too well for it is the face of death." It is the same face he had seen on so many men: Germans, Russians, Englishmen, Americans. Yes, he had seen that face all too many times. It is the face that death makes just before the crimson salt fills the mouth cavity, and then the German was dead. He dropped the dead German's body and spun around to meet the next rush of men. It seemed that they knew they were to die but cared less.

They came with bayonettes lowered. Some had enough rounds left over from their days of fighting to squeeze off a few before they were too close to use them, but most were reduced to stealing rounds from their fallen comrades.

Corpses littered the battle field. Most of the fallen were even now starting to reek with the stench of death. The whole battle field had gained the deep red color of blood needlessly spilled. Even the flags with all their mystique were coated with layers of blood. Only the dead seemed to have the semblance of peace. Maybe that is what surges the Germans on to what they must know as a certain death. There must be a reason for all this madness," he thinks, as he shoves his bayonette into another soldier.

This story is a reminder of all the people who died for the Wall on both sides.

...Jesse Love

Dear family and friends,

WOW!!!!.....That is the only way I can think of beginning this letter. Wow and double wow! We are among the privileged witnesses of the major historic event of the decade: THE BERLIN WALL IS DOWN! This occurrence truly is a miracle that took everyone by surprise. Just two weeks earlier Eric and I had been to make our mark on the wall, and take the photo that is enclosed. We had no idea the significance of the picture would take such a dramatic turn. Hopefully there will not be a physical wall standing by next year.



On Friday morning November 10th, Eric and I joined the throng of hundreds of thousands of people at the Brandenburg Tor to see what is even now forbidden-hundreds of people of all nationalities standing, dancing, cheering on top of the wall. And of course Eric had to join them. All he had to do was walk to the base of the wall, stand with upstretched arms, and there would quickly be hands from above reaching to pull him up. The joy and excitement in the area was contagious- I still get goosebumps just thinking about it! And that was just the beginning. West Berlin threw open her arms in the warmest welcome a people could receive. Banks and shops were open for the whole weekend, which is very unusual here. That Saturday, the 11th I had to trek across the city to the high school for a football game. I usually ride the U-Bahn to school each morning, but that morning I watched three trains come and go, people were packed like sardines and worse. I gave up on the train and squeezed on the bus. My route took me through Rathaus Steglitz, a shopping area, and I could hardly believe my eyes-from curb to store front, for miles, was solid people.

The masses were so thick, that if you were moving by at 30mph it seemed the mass of people wasn't moving. Banks had lines three blocks long, but every face had a smile that radiated uncontainable joy. In a two mile stretch I counted about 100 East German cars, which are very distinctive looking-tiny, tiny little matchbox cars. Sunday was a repeat of Saturday.

Now that ten days have passed, life is returning to normalcy but yet there still lingers a happy feeling in the air, of all the political chages that are bound to happen in east Germany, none will hold the drama of this single event. I can still hardly believe we are here to see it first hand.

We hope that you and your family will have a joyous Christmas season and a blessed New Year. We would love to hear from you.

May God's blessings all be yours!

Much love,
Ellen (Wood)

I strain my eyes to see over the object that
Obstructs my vision. The stone obstruction
That was erected by the side that ruled with an
Iron clasp.

It seems to raise above the dawn, even above the
Human chain made of thin arms and fragile hearts.
On their lips were the promises long forgotten,
For the hand that fed them mocked their sorrow.

Woe to the one who dared conquer the obstruction.
To pass through to the other side. For many a long
Night had a family wept over the one who never
Came back.

But there was something, a burning desire to reach the
Land beyond the obstruction. The land where one could
Walk effortlessly for miles....and not have to stop
Short along the way.

I had known many who tried. That passion to find the
Heaven in the other place, had ruled over their
Common sense. I have no doubt that every mind was
Filled with the exhilarating thoughts of escape.

As I stood there, a bird swooped over my head,
Flying high above the concrete curse, I knew then
That someday I would see that land on the other side.
And that what was right, would come true.

For people were born to be free.

...Tracy Prock

THE COMMUNIST

People had died
People had cried
People had escaped

People rose up
and
shouted freedom

The Wall has been removed
People are coming
People are having peace

and
Communism has fallen.

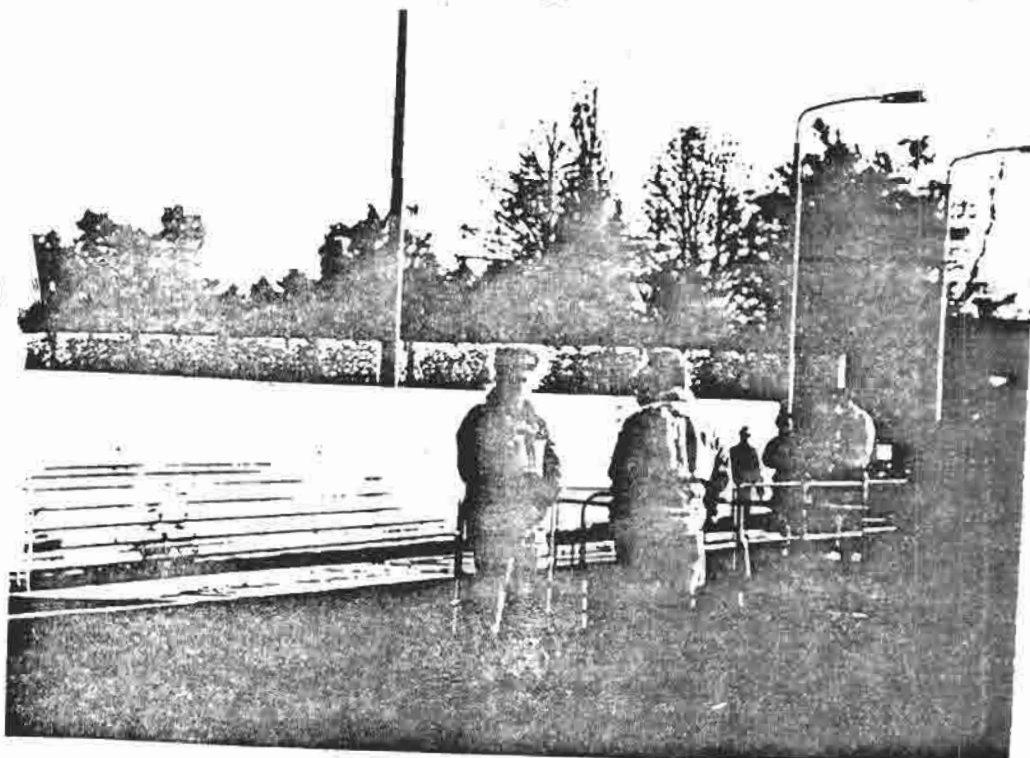
...Dae-woo Kwoun



Dear Diary.

Today is Nov. 9, 1989, and I
have experienced a wonderful
happening. The Berlin Wall has
finally come down. The Wall was
put up in 1961 for a reason, so they
say, because a lot of people were
leaving East Germany by the
dozens. They said it would protect
them from the West and it would
get people in East Germany. Today
after 28 years of harsh deaths of
people trying to escape, the Wall
has finally crumbled down. I am
happy that later in the future I
will have the privilege to say I was
there!

...Espy Diaz



The night the Wall came down I had been listening to the radio. News had been talking about the Wall coming down but I didn't think it was true. But on Nov. 9, 1990, the Wall did indeed come down.

I had been to the East and saw the people. How sad they were. How unhappy their faces looked, and in a way I could feel their pain. But on that beautiful night back in November, the East Germans were sad no more.

People, Americans included, went to the Wall and helped to try to tear it down any way they could.

This fixture made of stone and wire, which was there for the sole purpose of keeping the people apart is now bringing us together!

...Yolanda Watkins



THE BERLIN WALL

WHEN THEY PUT UP THE WALL
IT SEEMED TO MAKE BERLIN SMALL
IT LEFT SOME PEOPLE FEELING HURT
BUT ALL THE GOVERNMENT DID WAS TREAT THEM LIKE DIRT!
I'M GLAD I WAS HERE WHILE THEY MADE HISTORY.
BUT FOR ME IT'S STILL A MYSTERY.
WHY DID THEY REALLY TEAR IT DOWN??
BUT I AM GLAD THAT MOST PEOPLE NO LONGER HAVE FROWN.
IT'S A JOY FOR ME TO SEE,
SO MANY FACES FILLED WITH GLEE.

...AISHA JONES

The Wall was built in 1961 and it came down on November 9, 1989. Now people in Berlin are getting pieces of the Wall to keep as souvenirs. Back in those days people were like prisoners. My friend Asad lives in the East. He told us all about the Wall.

...Tyrone Tucker

November 9, 1989. It did not seem true.
But twenty-eight years have gone by
Will life be the same?

Those who tried to escape but died
All they wanted was freedom, but they got death.

This day is what they hoped for.
Now no one has to die anymore.

Because their efforts were not in vain,
For now they all can proclaim,
"We are free!"
...Sonja Spellberg



It was Friday, November 9, 1989 when the Berlin Wall came down. It was the day that East Germans were allowed to travel through the West.

It had been so long since after World War II. The two countries had been separated for twenty eight years by the Berlin Wall. The leader of East Germany built the Wall, because he didn't want his people to travel to the West. Since the Wall is down no one can stop the East Germans from traveling to the West.

The Germans were very happy to see their relatives from the East coming to the West. They were glad to see each other, and be together as one happy family again.

...Ramphuay Kaewondaeng

This dangerous piece of cement is now weak.
He stopped weightlifting and ended up free.

...Carlos M. Rivera Cortes

We all know the wall is down. This wall has stopped people from coming and going. Now the Wall has come down, and there has been a big chain reaction. People are trying to find jobs and new homes. They are looking for new lives. Yes, the Wall was up, and yes, they were free. But in their hearts and minds, they were not truly free. Now it's down and their hearts and minds are at ease. The people of East Berlin are shouting, "We are now free!"

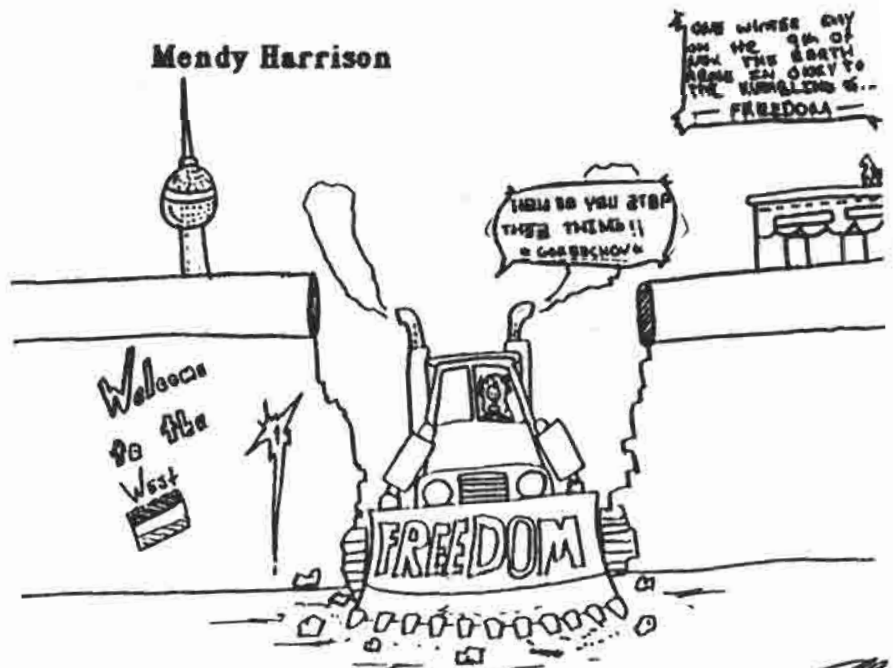
...Nicole Crockett

Dear Diary,

Today is a great day. The Berlin Wall is coming down. They just announced it on the news. Now maybe we can leave. I think it was great that the East Germans have their freedom. It will be cool when I go back to the States cause people ask: "Like how is the Wall?" And you can tell them how it is because you were here experiencing history 1st hand. Well, got to go.

Mendy Harrison

There was the Berlin Wall.
It came down as I saw.
The wall was long and thick.
I saw a good East German chick.
Then I left the Berlin Wall.
...Jim Marsh



The Berlin Wall was put up from 1961 to 1989. The Wall has been up for twenty-eight years. The Wall was put up by East Germany to keep the East Germans on their side and to keep them from flooding the West. When the Wall was up, people would risk their lives to get over. Many made it over the Wall, many did not. Now the Wall is coming down and many families have been reunited with loved ones.

...Rex Parrish

A monument of peace built to separate the unfortunate from the free is coming down. November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall fell. It was a time of joy for all the Germans. It was so exciting watching the people so happy. I participated fully in history.

...Eric Virgin

The Wall is a very sad memory. It was put up in 1961. All the East Germans probably felt like being in prison. The first wall was made of barbed wire. Then it was too easy for people to escape. The first man who escaped was an army soldier. Then a lot of people tried to escape through secret passages in the Wall. Things have changed now. More than half of the Wall has been torn down by now. I'm glad that everyone is free now.

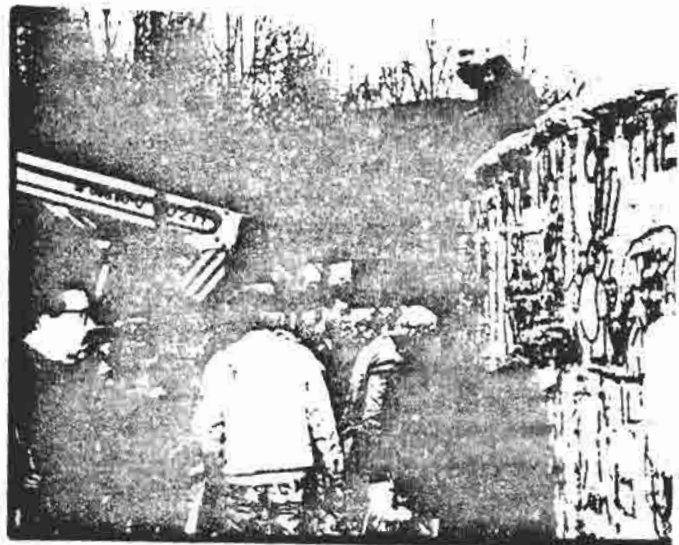
...Chris Finlen

People tell others about the Berlin Wall. A good reason why the Berlin Wall is coming down is for freedom. Families can come together, hold hands, hug, and just be together instead of being separated. Governments may want to be separated, but people don't.

...Celeste Sledge

The Berlin Wall was a nightmare for most Germans when it first went up in 1961. Families were separated. Many people tried to escape and of those only about 70% escaped alive. Now in 1990 the Berlin Wall is slowly coming down and reunification is thought to be a certainty. The Berlin Wall will be a sad reminder of the Cold War for generations and generations to come.

...Justin Cobb

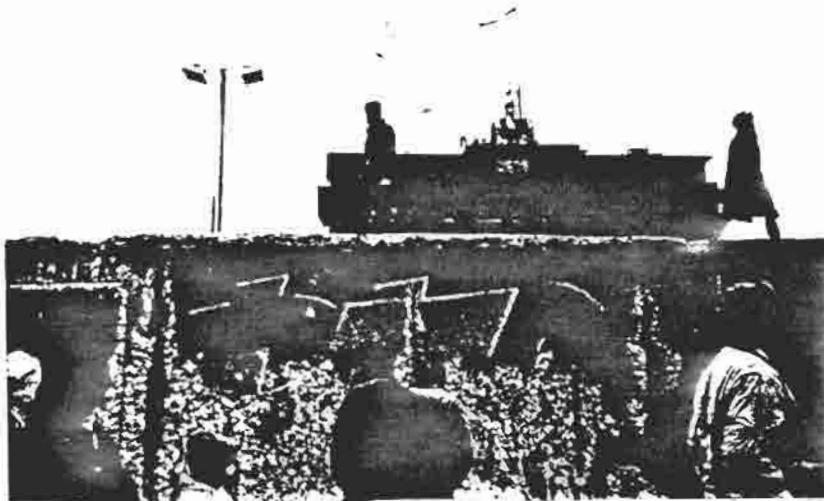


The Wall is a long piece of cement. The Wall has been up since 1961. People tried to escape in the 60's and 70's. Some made it over, but others were killed. Some of the East Germans tried to escape by hiding under busses, hiding in car trunks and even swimming the Spree. Now stores are more crowded and the air is more polluted by East German cars.

...Kenneth Herise

On the night when the Berlin Wall came down, I was at home watching television. When I heard in the news that night that the wall went down, I was very shocked. I saw a lot of East Germans coming to the West. On November 9, 1989, their dreams came true. Now the East Germans have opened many more checkpoints from the East to the West. A lot of tourists buy a piece of the Berlin Wall, it was a very nice experience to live in Berlin while the Wall came down.

...Jukka Toivola



I've seen the wall up .
I've seen the wall down.
Now that they are free,
This wall is round.

...Christy McKinny

The wall, the wall,
Shall it finally fall?
This tragedy has finally come to an end;
Or will a new one soon begin?
So don't just sit there;
Come and see;
If these people are finally free;
All you people may sit back and stall;
But I am going to see the wall fall!
...Nicole Chaney

The Berlin Wall was built in 1961 and came down on November 9, 1989. The wall was forty-seven miles long. In the past, West German people could go to East Berlin, but East Germans could not go to West Berlin. Many East German people escaped to West Berlin, but some did not make it. They were caught or died in the attempt. Now the Wall is down.

...Asad Shah

The Berlin Wall was put up in 1961. The Wall is still pretty, but it was even prettier when it was up. Lots of people have died trying to get freedom, but now there is plenty of freedom for East Germans. The Berlin Wall has been up for twenty-eight years. When the Wall was put up, lots of people's families were separated because of the Wall, but now families are back together.

...Danielle Hayes

The Wall is up
The Wall is there
The Wall is down
The Wall is not there
The East Germans are happy
and so are Americans because
The Wall is not there, finally
The Wall is gone.

...Amanda Ramos

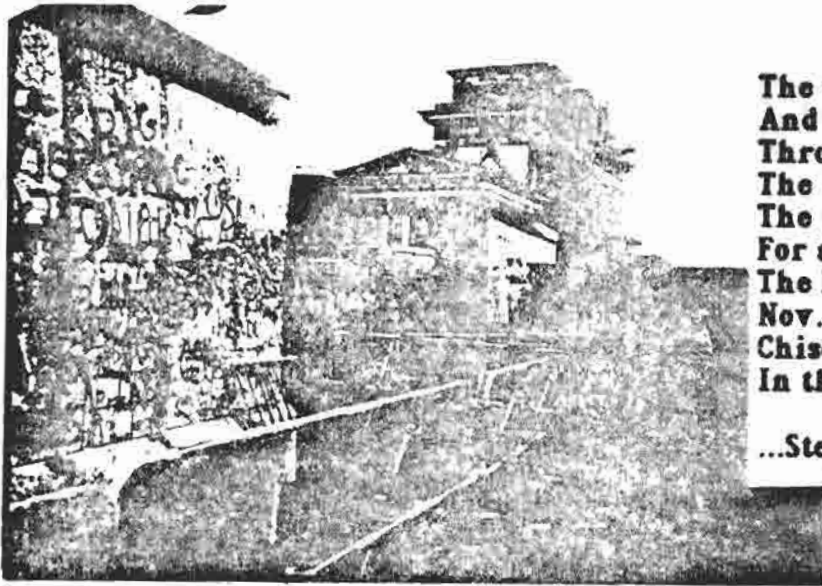
The Night of November 9, 1989

The Wall went up in August of 1961 and then it fell in the year 1989 on November 9. There was a lot of celebration that night. People were standing at the openings, and greeting people as they entered West Berlin for the first time. There was tears of happiness being shared as families were being united. The list could go on and about what happened the night of November 9, 1989 when the WALL FELL!

...Mitsy Houser

I hear a rumble a tumble. What can it be? Is it the seas or is it just me. It can't be, it must be the Wall is coming down. Gather round gather round the Wall is being knock down.

...Wauen Tetley



The wall has come down.
And the people have come over
Through and around the wall.
The long years of suffering are over.
The joy and freedom are now here.
For all the German people living in
The East this is the moment of their lives.
Nov. 9 1990, people are all over the wall
Chiseling away at a big wall that was put up
In the year 1961.

...Stephen Arroyo

I remember that night of November 9, 1989 when the wall came tumbling down. I remember the crowds of people, most of whom were drunk.

The night of New Years Eve my family stayed up. We were looking from my balcony and watching the fireworks. The Germans really get into celebrating. Some were even shooting guns. This is how happy these people were because of the wall coming down!

...Chris Till

The wall, the wall, I wonder when you're going to fall because how when you do there will be freedom and peace throughout the east and hopefully there will be no more fighting or war. Every body will be able to travel without worry. It's 1990! The wall has fallen, everyone is free; now they can travel freely. No more having to be back by dark. This is my story of the fallen wall.

...Allyson Martin

The sputtering sound of little two-stroked cars
 The fumes of their oily exhaust.
 It touches my heart.
 I see tears of joy in every face.
 Finally freedom at last!!!
 ...Debbie Ben Maor



The Berlin Wall was the only barrier that really stood between the East Germans and their freedom. The wall was put up to keep the Germans under communists power.

The East Germans were put through a lot of misery. There was so much misery for some, that they tried to go over the wall, which was covered with barbwire. About 70 people died over the last 28 years trying to escape.

In my opion the wall represented greediness, hate, and war. Now that the wall is down the East and West Germans are reunited once and for all, and peolpe may realize that peace is on its way.

...Erika Gonzalez

On the day of November 9, 1989, many citizens and other countries watched as the two cities of Berlin became united. This news to the world amazed and shocked many nations.

After the wall went up on August 13, 1961, all thought it was and always would be impossible to escape or become free. During those years there was very little communication. It was difficult to get through to families and friends. But now 28 years later everything has come togetreher. Many young people from the DDR now have the chance to build their goals and follow them in a land where they don't have to be limited. The announcement was made on the morning of that Thursday, November 9, 1989, that people would be allowed to pass through either way.

I have spoken to different people and have asked what they thought about the situation. First-my East German pen pal, Anne Konig, say she doesn't think that they should become one because of money. Then I asked a West German and he replied, "Ich glaube es nicht," which means I don't believe it. Of course there are going to be differences in points of view. My opinion is people should live freely and not have to worry about places to live or governments to trust.

...Kelly Dillon

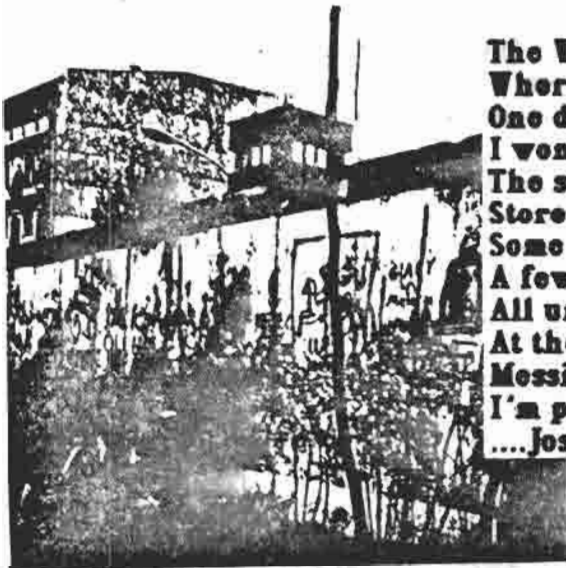


To watch history in the making is exceedingly rare,
 if opportunity knocks you'd better be there.
 The wall coming down is interesting and fun,
 And if an East Berliner comes West he's not the only one.
 Gorby is famous; East Berliners love him now,
 They made him some vodka and called it Gorbachow
 Remember good Gorby when you drink Grobachow,
 And the freedom East Berliners will have a long time from now.

...Kenneth Duane Wallace

Once there was a Wall that separated us from peace. The Wall was put up in 1961 and came down in 1989. When I heard the Wall was coming down, I told my mom, "Let's go to the States." But now I know there is nothing wrong with they're coming here. Do they have to work over here? Because if they have to work over here, we want to know where to work. When I heard they wanted us to go and the radio station to stay, I got real mad. I'm kind of glad they want us to go now. I wanted to go to the stores anyway. I'm not mad anymore because I am getting out of here.

...Anthony Smith



The Wall, the Wall
 Where is the Wall?
 One day it's here, the next it's gone
 I wonder what is going on?
 The streets are more crowded than ever before
 Stores are empty and what's more
 Some people tried to escape
 A few lived, a lot died.
 All until 1989
 At the checkpoint champagne flew through the air
 Messing up peoples' hair.
 I'm proud to say, "I was there!"
Josh Ainley

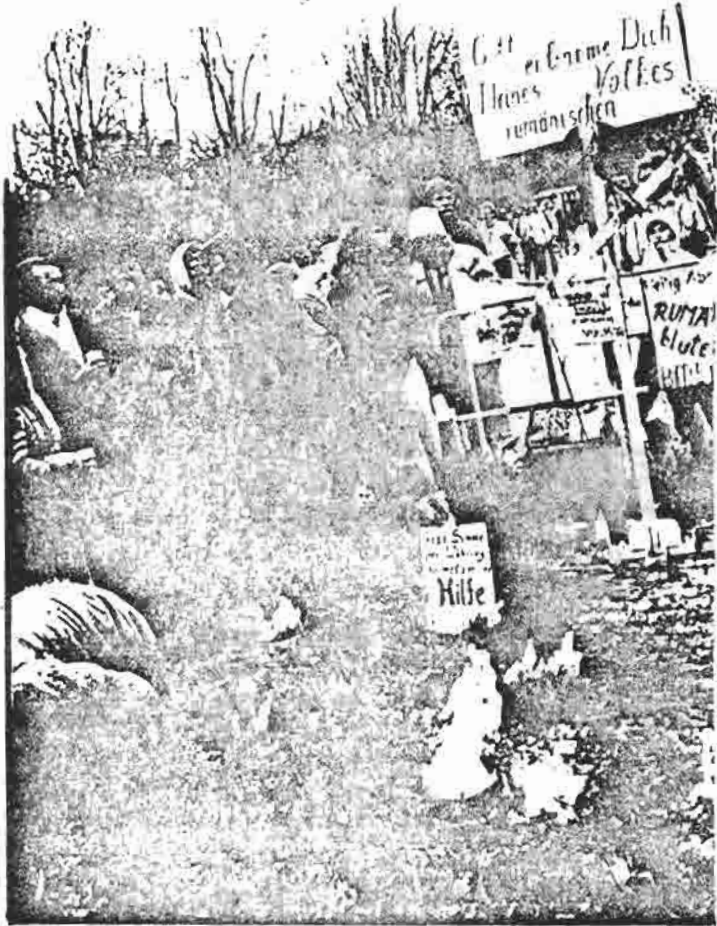
The wall caused problems for loved ones that were missed
 And when the Wall came down the people were rejoiced
 As they were able to once again be hugged and kissed.

The world was created equal
 towards all
 That's why so many people worried,
 "Why do some live behind walls?"

This question was answered on November 9
 As the people fled into the streets, screamed, and sipped wine.

These great memories will be remembered by all
 Because now these people are free as ever
 For there is not wall, they may rejoice forever!

...Donna Hildreth



cold hard rough concrete
the flowers from the memorial of the people
who died trying
the guards speaking to one another in German
graffiti from 28 years making the Wall either
beautiful or ugly.

...Shawn Jones

Trapped in a world that cannot exist
and in all it's unending days
we know hunger, we know the freedomless ways
we are not nice, we are not caring
we are always bold
but now it's time to let them know
the real us we will show
we are hesitant
we loved our country
we stood tall
but they took our love they took our stuff
they took it all
but now we are free
this feeling of being myself
now it's time to be me
this feeling is so great I cannot explain
gone is the hunger
gone is the pain
gone is the wall
....Audra Vance

The Wall, the Wall, I wonder when you're going to fall because now
when you do there will be freedom and peace throughout the East and
hopefully there will be no more fighting or war. Everybody will be
able to travel without worry. It's 1990! The Wall has fallen. Everyone
is free; now they can travel freely. No more having to be back by dark.
This is my story of the fallen Wall.

...Allyson Martin

The Berlin Wall, as we all know, came down on November 9, 1989. I
was in Savannah, Georgia at the time waiting to come to Berlin. My
father called from Berlin, to tell us to turn on the television. When I
turned it on, we saw Peter Jennings standing at the Berlin Wall in front
of the Brandenburg Gate saying, "The Berlin Wall has fallen!" We were
amazed, I could not believe it was happening. My father had just been
home two weeks before talking about Berlin and the Wall and making
plans for us to move there. When I first saw the Wall all I could do was
ask myself, "Why and how could people do this?" Since coming to Berlin
I try to go to the Wall every week to see what is happening. I have seen
huge sections of the Wall come down between Brandenburg Gate and
Check Point Charlie. I just hope it will all be gone soon and we will
never have anymore walls.
....Beth McCarthy



IMAGES OF 1989

Sunlight glimmered through the holes which had been made by people who wanted to rid their countries land of this concrete plague that had separated them from their brothers for so many years. The sunlight was like a thousand eyes peering through a blindfold that for so long had obstructed their view only allowing them to see one point of view and that was the communist one and now we can say it was the wrong one. Here they all stood, like woodpeckers to a tree, they chipped away with hammer and chisel to relieve themselves of what had been brought on by the hammer and chisel. The wall of taunt had finally fallen like rain falls to cleanse the earth, the wall has fallen to cleanse a country of its political filth. There is a new world that strikes many East Germans and other east european countries, something to wake up in the morning and smile about, that word is "FREEDOM."

Myself having lived in Berlin for four years had heard the stories of the useless killings,

nothing different than the killing of defenseless animals, that the East German guards had committed in order to preserve their pride of their communist fathers beliefs in communism. 45,36,24,19,16, of all ages they had tried to flee to try and find a better life but a wall of separation was true to hold them back. A country in jail, everyone caught, and trapped in their own little world and not even allowed to try and make it better, but now the wall is gone like a bad dream goes away with the dawn of a new day. Friends divided are now together united. Humanity has finally made a turn for the better.

The Sun now cast a shadow of a now vacant guard tower upon the sand where East Germans had run only to be slaughtered for dreaming of a better life. A barrier wasteland once only used as a way of more easily tracking down the offenders of the state, but now in the sand that now knows no boundaries I saw a boy of maybe only three, and I smiled thinking to myself, "What a lucky child now to be living in a land now free."

...Larry Bentz

I'm glad the Wall is down now, but I am also sad.

I'm sad because now the Wall will be knocked down, Berlin will have no memory of what has happened to them. I think that it is important for them to know what really happened so that they cannot let it happen again.

I am also glad because they finally get to see their relations that they have not seen in years. Also they see what is really over here and not what they heard was over here. They finally get some food that does not look rotten like the apples with holes that I saw when I was visiting in the East.

...Beth Moffett

The wall seperated many things,
countries,
a city,
a people,
but it was not strong enough to seperate love,
for it was love that brought it down.

...John Cutting



An iron curtain; pull by hate. Crying and roaring of people, wanting and hoping for freedom. Sadness and happiness, of finally being free, because what used to be there 28 years ago is finally gone.

...Yesenia Perdomo

The Wall is big, white, tall, and cracked. That's just on the East side. Over on our side it's dirty, painted and bold.

On November 9, 1989, the Wall was climbed on and over by lots of happy people. The refugees were coming over to the West. It was the largest party I've ever seen. People were breaking off pieces of the Wall for souvenirs.

Now the people from the East are allowed to travel freely. They want to unite, but their two governments said it would cause a problem.

Now they are thinking of tearing down the wall, but I don't think so. They will probably use it for tourists.

...David A. Adams

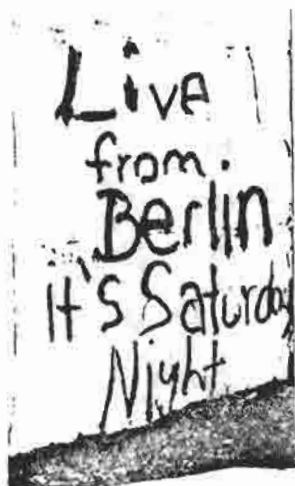
FREEDOM.

What everyone longs to have.
What makes it so special?
Who knows, but it is.
When the Berlin Wall fell,
It was like Spring after a long hard winter.
Or a great bear waking after hibernation.
Maybe it was like a moth emerging from a cocoon.
Who knows exactly what it was like,
but whatever it was, was good.
Who knows what it will be like later,
but now it is great.
Berlin is finally waking,
to a morning of...
Freedom!

...Tim Walker



WHEN THE WALL CAME DOWN



I'm so happy the wall came down for so many reasons. One reason is that separated families can reunite together like they did once before. Another reason is they don't have to stay in one part of Germany. They can go and explore the "new world". Some family members fled their homes trying to get to the West, but were unsuccessful. We mourn for those who didn't make it, and we cheer those who did. There are some happy moments and some scary moments, but in the end, it's truly a miracle.

...Mandy John

I never thought that the wall would come down so fast. It took me by surprise, I was not ready. The day of November 9th our family took a trip around Berlin. We talked with many East Germans and congratulated them and welcomed them to Berlin.

My feelings about freedom are that I think each person should have the right to express their opinions and should be able to travel. I don't know why I was born in a land where freedom exists but am thankful that I was. I greatly admire those persons who put up with a government who tells them each move that they should make. I cannot even begin to imagine their joy at being able to enjoy life and be happy. I know that this was a historical happening and am glad that I was able to be in Berlin at the time. I've gathered my pieces of the Wall and have my souvenirs of that great day!

...Anita Manthei

The Berlin Wall is torn down. East and West Berliners celebrate all night with wine and beer. The clinking sound and the chiseling down of the Wall.

...Earl Mike



Oh, first sight you wonder how a person's world could be separated.
 Everything cut in half by a wall.
 Not by choice all of this happened.
 Now by choice the wall has fallen.
 Soldiers who killed know they took the lives of innocents.
 The wall tumbles to the ground.
 Pieces are taken and money is made off the sorrow of so many people.
 Now people laugh and after all the grief and their want of freedom. The
 wall is only history.

...Robyn Calvin

The fall of the Berlin Wall was a very important event to the Germans and to the Americans. It's very important to me because I can go to the States and tell my friends that I was there and I saw everything. It made me very happy to know that German families were brought together and they got their freedom which they worked very hard to get. I enjoy seeing families together again and hope it stays that way. And lots of luck to the E. Germans and their new families.

...Shanti Jurawan



I don't think that I could ever fully explain the night of November 9, 1989. The feeling is indescribable. The freeing of a people who had waited 28 years to have a taste of the democratic lifestyle. The knocking down of the Berlin Wall's significance. People tore at the concrete that eventful night just as the Wall had torn apart the families that were separated so many years ago. I saw many crying, many laughing, and all people celebrating. Magic seemed to fill the air. There was a joyous, electrifying atmosphere as people from East Berlin finally met their neighbors in the West. Flowers, the symbol of love and peace, were thrown everywhere as total strangers embraced and welcomed one another. You can only describe the scene as unbelievable. What can I say to make you understand the emotions? It was love,

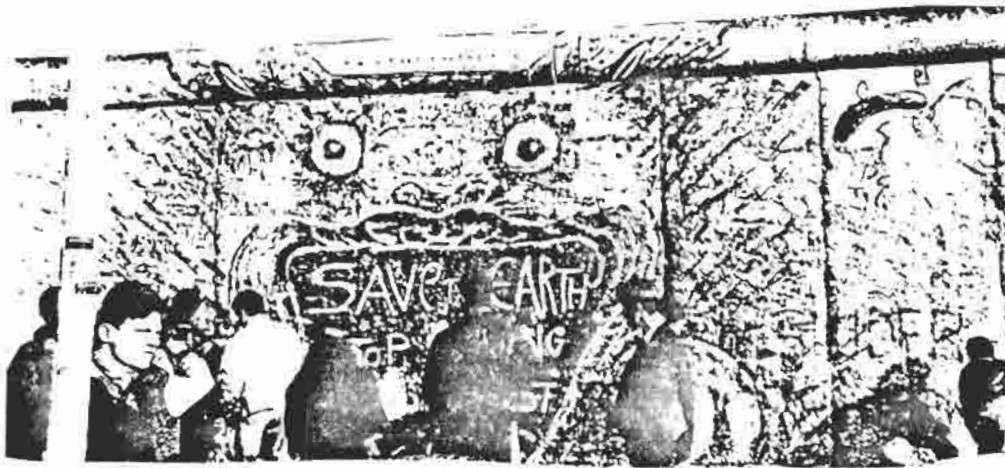
understanding, a sense of history, joy, freedom and so much more all rolled into one. It cannot be depicted in words...just in the souls of those who were there. Through it all, one face stands out in the crowd. It was one event that caught my eye. A woman who had been alive when the Berlin Wall had so mercilessly trapped a people who wanted their freedom. She now walked--the tears streaming down her old face--arm in arm with one of the East German guards who had kept her behind the Iron Curtain for so long a time. Enemies became allies. So when you ask me how it was...I wish I could explain. Instead, my mind wanders to an elated crowd with the Brandenburg Gate amidst the celebration. I think of the people crying with joy and the way my heart caught in my throat at the sight. And I wish I could tell you.Stacy Neumann



The Wall

The wall was, and now its gone,
It left its name and memories to carry on,
Those who been there know how it looks,
Those who didn't will in ten years when its in History Books,
I talked to a boy whose name was Chuck he said, he's glad the,
Wall is down because it really did suck!
I've talked to East Berliners who say since the wall went up they've,
Lost many of their friends,
So there you have it , all about the Berlin Wall;
It's finally down and there is freedom for all!!!

Dennis J. Charpentier.



THE GIGERS NEWS FLASH SYSTEM

....This news flash is brought to you by the Giger News Flash System
....The streets are crowded and the screams of the West Berliners are
flowing through the air as the Cold War ends after 40 years of captivity.
....As of November 9, 1989 at approximately 7:10 AM, the Berlin Wall was
officially declared down.
....Over 10,000 people are present for this event.
....This is a news flash brought to you by the Giger News Flash System....
Live from the Berlin Wall, Sgt. Michael Giger reporting.
...Michael Giger

When the Wall fell down the people came out in joy for their new
found friends, dancing on the Wall and partying through the night. But
it is time to go back for the silent night has fallen.

...Tyler Conway

On The 9th of November

Late at night of November the 9th at around 10:00 the East German government decided to open the Berlin Wall. On the 10th my mother and I went to go see the event. Since we knew it would be crowded we took the city bus. All the way down to Check Point Charlie it was crowded. We noted the many East German cars, called Trabies, parked along the street. On the side walks and in the stores the West Germans were giving away free food and drinks. Many stores reduced their prices for the new comers. We got off the bus two stops early and walked to Check Point Charlie because it was too crowded.

There was much excitement. Many people were clapping and cheering. Excitement was in the air. Everyone was thrilled. I felt happy for the East Germans, that after so many years their iron curtain was finally opened up to the West. Cars and cars kept driving to the West.

My sister didn't come with us, instead she chose to stay at home and work for a bake sale. Many students like her failed to realize the importance of this event. Many chose to do other things than to go witness a part of history. I think this is a shame.

Later, an article was written in *Stars and Stripes* about students knowing first hand knowledge of the opening of the Berlin Wall. These students were from Karlsruhe, Zweibrücken, and other various places. This angered some students from Berlin, and a young man named Kevin Inman wrote the editor to tell him about it. This letter was also published.

Things have changed since the Wall was opened. The West German government has stopped giving money to the East Germans coming over into the West. The West German government is also encouraging them to stay in their country and to help develop it. They still have to face many changes and difficulties.

The East German government and the West German government have decided to unify. They want to tear down the Wall as soon as possible.

....Michele Heuer



THE FALL OF THE WALL

On the night of November 9, 1989, it was announced over East German radio and television that East Berliners were free to pass through the infamous Berlin Wall and into the West. One of the major, and most well known, crossing points was that of Checkpoint Charlie. At this sight, thousands of East Berliners strolled to freedom, most of them tearful with joy. Everyone's spirits were high, including the thousands of West Berliners who welcomed them to the beautiful city on the other side of the dreaded Berlin Wall.

Some of the East Berliners also drove through the checkpoint in their stinky, little cars called "Trabants", or simply Trabbies. As they drove through, the West Berliners would crowd around them and pound on the roof of the car as everyone cheered or sang. Some of the people even climbed onto the hood of the car and waved West German flags and uncorked champagne bottles. For on this night, the Berliners could do what they wanted. The night was theirs and they quickly became the spotlight of the world.

West Berliners were not the only ones who welcomed the East Berliners to freedom. A large number of the members in the Berlin American community were down at the Wall and at newly developed crossing points in below freezing weather to share in the festivities.

I personally was at the movies on the night of November 9. I remember it pretty well. My neighbor and I were at the Outpost watching "Do the Right Thing". I got home at about 9:30 or 10 pm. As I walked through the door my brothers yelled that the Wall is open. At first I couldn't believe it and thought that they were just



joking. Then my mom said the same thing, so I knew it was true. I was so happy. We all stayed up late watching the news so we could see everything that went on.

The next day, my parents were at work and my neighbor and I felt we had to do something to be a part of this extraordinary event. So, we went and bought six cases of Coke which we were going to hand out to the thirsty East Germans waiting in line at a German bank so they could receive their Greeting Money of one hundred DM from the West German government. As we arrived at the bank and started handing out the first couple of Cokes the East Germans were not quite sure what to think. They soon caught on though, and crowded around us so they could have an American Coke. Before we knew it, all of the Cokes were gone in only a matter of minutes, so we got back in the van and got ready to leave. As we did this, the East Germans began to clap and cheer until we were out of sight showing their appreciation. But, the looks on the little kids' faces was enough thanks for me. It was one of the greatest feelings in my life.

...Brian Huddleston

It is the quaintness of human nature that we realize the full extent of revolutionary changes only when small ones strike us. True the "Great European Revolution of 1989" has staggered us all. However, the small changes are felt more acutely by most of us.

At the heels of the political volte face in East Germany have come changes in the educational system. The history and political science classes of the pre '89 era have disintegrated as surely as communism has. The fate that befell and continues to befall hardcore communists in national life has befallen the textbooks. History no longer has an economic interpretation; it is no longer a matter of class struggles. The student mind of the East lies now with the West so much that western magazines such as the "Time" and the "Newsweek" have replaced the textbooks. The actual experience of political change is given more weightage than indoor lectures. Said on East German history teacher, "Students learn more about their history on a fieldtrip to the Wall than in a whole year of abstract lessons."

So complete is the disruption of the political science class that no examinations were held in the year '89. Teachers talk about the recent developments rather than lecture with a specific lesson plan. It is, in the words of Berlin American High School history teacher Charles Bluem, chaos city.

Being a student myself, I rather sympathize with my fellow students' having to learn again from a different perspective. It is a valuable experience except they have to take exams on them. The most I can do is wish them good luck. Good Luck, then!

...Renu Sharma



I never knew anything about Berlin. Frankly, I didn't study it for 8 years. The closest I had ever been to the wall was studying about the economic problems that the wall brought and agricultural aspects it had. Two years later, word got to us that we were moving to Berlin. I said to my dad, "Wait a minute, I thought Berlin was a communist place." He said that there were two sides, the west which is the good side, and the east which is surrounded by a thick double sided wall. I spread words around that I was moving to Berlin. One of my friends that was stationed there started telling me about it. She said that I was going to be surrounded by a communist country and that West Berlin was divided into 4 parts: French, British, American, and German (soviet). She also mentioned that there is also a history and that I would be able to touch the wall. I said, "But don't they shoot you?" She said, only in the East." We reached Berlin on the 8th of November, one day before the wall came down. I turned the TV on and in the news I saw people crying and yelling. "Finally we are free." Families that have been broken in half because of the wall counting the hours to rejoin with the rest of their family. From my point of view, I am happy that the wall came down and that East Germany is not communist anymore. Couple of weeks later I stuck my head through the wall. I was scared to death when I saw the guards, but they didn't do anything. I may not know much about the history behind the wall, but I could say I was there when history was made. And I could prove it!!

...ARCHIE BEST

Dear Jenn,

Wow! Can you believe the news? The Berlin wall has come down. The borders were opened and tons of East Berliners came rushing through with tear stained faces and smiles. It is truly a miracle. Too bad you can't be here now to be caught in the excitement and joy.

On November 9th my family and I hopped in the car to go greet the East Germans. We talked about freedom and their families and friends. In school we wrote letters to some East German students and so now I have a pen pal. A couple of weeks after November 9th my friends and I went to the Brandenburg Gate at night to see if we could get pieces of the wall. We met some border guards and sat and talked with them. They were young and hadn't known anything but East Germany. Their new found freedom was a big gift they said.

Well, I have to go, I'll send you some wall. Write back soon!

Your friend,

Anita

Anita Manthei



As I stood in a giant crowd, listening to the cheers, great crowds of men, women and children swarmed through the border. This joyous night brought many cheers and tears as the West greeted the East. Then suddenly, on top of the Wall, sledge hammers swung and that began the actual falling of the Wall.

Many days passed and tourists flocked from all over just to see the Wall. People chipped and chiseled souvenirs from the wall. Then the Wall became less and less important until the tragic New Year's Eve Party held there. Many Berliners gathered for this joyous occasion. Violence ruined the historical Brandenburg Gate! But soon it was all over.

A few months passes and then the Wall was finally removed by both governments! This brought tears of freedom to Berliners at last and for sure! The reuniting of East and West is a historical marker we will not forget!

Angela Pisoni

BOOM! Down falls the wall. YEH! the enemy is finally gone from the aching hearts of the East and West Germans. An Unnecessary layer of cement is finally down. For 28 years there have been nothing but pain and pressuer on the East Gernmans who had to live under rules and regulation of what not to do. Living in a communist world for years and years can make a person crazy.

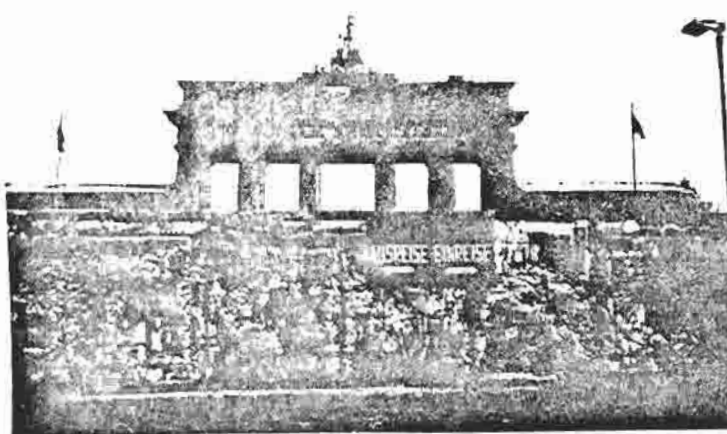
Finally their lives have changed, they finally can do what they want too. I feel that everyone should have the freedom to go and do what every they want just as long it is not illegal. No one deserves to be held prisoner in their own country.

Filled with happiness and joy the Germans have gotten their dreams to come ture. The only sad thing about it is that now the wall is down the Americans might have to go back to the United States for good. I really do notn want to leave this beautiful country. It is the kind of place where there is on crime or violence.

Sondra Bryant

The Berlin Wall was built in 1961 to keep East Germany separate from West Germany. The West side of Berlin is controlled by British, French and Americans. The East side of Berlin is controlled by Russia. Before the Wall was built, people from the two different sides were being fought by the Russians. Adolf Hitler was a leader of a group called the Nazis. They killed a lot of people, such as the Jews. On August 13, 1961, the Berlin Wall was put up by a lot of Russian soldiers to prevent people from the East side of Berlin from escaping. When the Wall was put up many people tried to escape because people felt that they had no freedom and they knew what was going to happen. People tried to escape through underground passages and to swim across the Wannsee, which is the biggest lake in Berlin. People also tried to escape over the big concrete Wall. For 28 years the large cruel concrete wall stood strong and was never budged. A lot of people tried to escape and some of them were successful, but it is very hard because about every 2 miles there was a watch tower with armed Russians or GDR citizens. On November 9, 1989 the Wall was taken down because the GDR made this decision so people would feel free to go anywhere they would like to. Now people can cross the borders with their passports and other documents.

...David Newkirk



"The Wall is falling down...."
We sang, knowing it was hopeless. It's not the London Bridge, it's the Berlin Wall. It would never come down. It was the symbol of division. It had been standing there for twenty-eight years. But suddenly, it did come down. That was November 9, 1989. The East German government allowed the East Germans to cross the Iron Curtain, which had taken many lives from those who missed "freedom." Of course, many people crossed the Wall looking for the

freedom which they couldn't have for twenty-eight years. That was the celebration of the world. It was the first step to the reunification of Germany. No German could stop tears from falling, falling like the Wall.

"The Wall is coming Down...." Yes, now it has come true. It is being the symbol of peace that will not last in this world. Listen to the Germans, listen to the World's voice! People are willing to get freedom-and they will. And the Berlin Wall will be forgotten in our memory....

....Sookyung Chung

The Wall was a separation of the East and the West. The East was surrounded by wall and had a couple of openings which were guarded by police. Many people were killed trying to get across the Berlin Wall. Some people drowned in the water as they tried to escape.

The Wall opened, came down on November 9, 1989. There was a lot of pushing and shoving when the Wall came down. There was also a lot of celebrating on this night. The East Germans received 100 DM and visa cards as they went to the West.

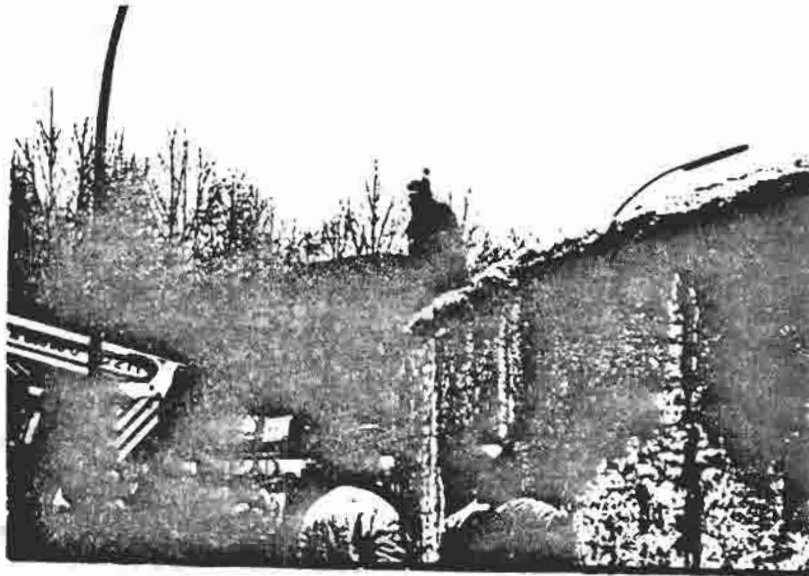
Many police still stand around the Wall to watch people and make sure they are no killings or accidents.

The Wall was put up in August of 1961 to keep war from going on between East and West.

On the Wall there is a lot of graffiti. Some of the graffiti is good while others are bad.

Many people climb upon the Wall and walk on it. It all stopped when some people stood upon the Wall and it came down on them all.

....Michelle Jones



The Fall of the Wall

Thursday November 9, 1989 will be a day I will never forget. I was at a dance that night. When the dance was over my dad picked my friends and I up to take us home. On the way home my dad had told us that they had opened up the Wall! Well, of course I did not believe him. But after I had got home and a special news report had come on T.V. and said that they had opened the Wall! I got so excited!

The next morning we got up early and went to Brandenburg Gate and Check Point Charlie. There were so many people. And they were all so happy! It was like just one big party! Then I sat on the Wall and that was an experience of a lifetime! And I think that I was a part of history, and I will never be able to experience that feeling again.

....Jennifer Christian

I gazed intently out the window through the semi-transparent fog, which hovered ominously outside. Off in the distance, I could see several cars parked diagonally in numerous rows of two's. High in the air stood a lone pine tree, which seemed to be infested with disease. Its long branches swaying outwards, waving erratically in the wind as its long, narrow trunk burrowed endlessly into the earth. Directly behind this natural wonder stood the massive concrete structure, infamously known as the Berlin Wall. No more did it represent the lonely cries of isolation, or the desperate means for freedom. It now stood for the long awaited freedom carried in the hearts of many.

Chris Elmore

My visit to the Dr. Kurt Fischer High School in East Berlin was a great experience never to forget. The outside of the building was very drab and dirty. The inside was sterile, almost like a hospital. After meeting up with the students, everyone split into pairs and went to Chemistry or Physics.

After that we met in the gymnasium for sport class. In the middle of sport class, we went to the cafeteria for lunch. We were served out of a small hole in the wall. We got boiled potatoes, gravy, and a drink. After eating, we took pictures in front of the school and then headed back to the West.

...Ginger Smith

The Wall was up for almost twenty years. Can you imagine how the East Germans felt, not being able to go where they wanted, or being able to have their own freedom? Then, finally the day came for the Wall to come down.

On this very day, I experienced what they once experienced. I had not set foot in East Germany not one time, but somehow it seemed like I had lived there all my life. I felt the joy they felt when the Wall came down. I knew at that moment that this will be an event I'll always remember.

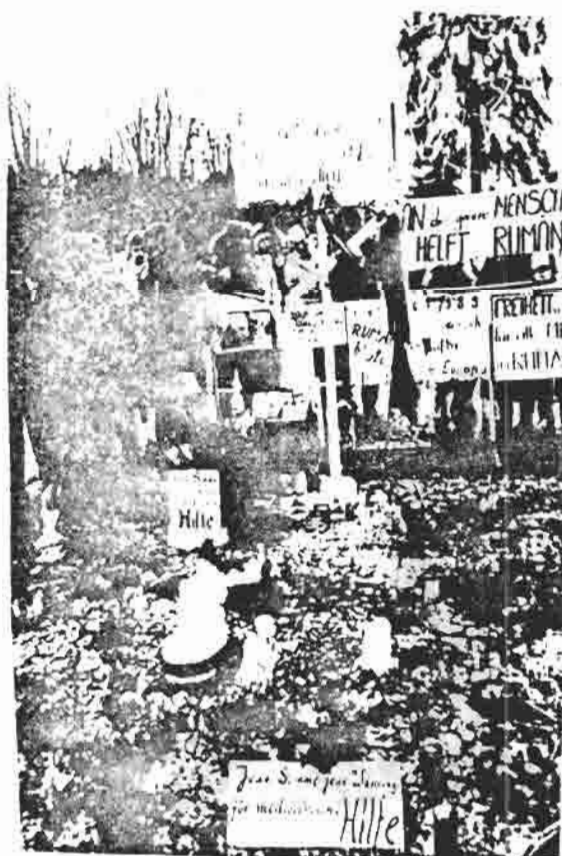
...Carla Small.



The Wall

On November 9, 1989 newspaper companies were running to their presses and printing "The Wall Has Come Down". Millions of West Germans and East Germans didn't believe their ears all over the radio and television stations. The East Germans thought that it was one big joke so they went to the Wall to see what was really going on, and as soon as the Wall came in sight all you could see was people running towards the gates. East German people flocked into the crowd of welcoming West German arms. On November 10, 1989 people were still coming through the Wall but, most of the action was in the KuDamm area. People couldn't even get through with their cars because the people were walking in the streets. They were also at banks getting 100 DM per head. The transportation was also full, and then everything calmed down. Now it's back like it used to be.

.....Michael Cornier



November the ninth was an unforgettable night; not only for the Germans, but the whole world as well. On this rather chilly November night, borders from East to West Germany were opened freely for the first time in forty years. The Communist government had finally given in. There was no way of stopping the peoples cry for freedom!

When I first heard the news from my parents I thought they were joking. About five minutes later I heard people talking about it live on the radio. I remember thinking, how can this be? This is wonderful!

That evening I was not able to go down to the Wall, but on November the eleventh some friends and I met at our local U-bahn station and were on our way to the Brandenburg Gate. There was one problem though, no one knew how to get to the gate by U-bahn and we had just missed the bus that could help us get there. So, we waited another twenty minutes and finally the bus came. All of us were so excited and full of conversation, that we missed our stop. A friend and I jumped off at the next stop while the others decided to go on to the end of the line.

An U-bahn was nearby. We looked at the map and decided on how we needed to go (so we thought). The U-bahn we boarded brought us under the wall, not to it. We ended up in the East. All of a sudden there was an atmosphere change. Everything was gray and drab looking. Noticing where we were we got on another U-bahn going in the opposite direction and went to the West holding our breath and crossing our fingers all the way. Around thirty minutes later we made it to our destination—the Wall!

That was the most exciting night of my life. I will never forget it!

.....Lara Aubin

THE FALL OF THE WALL

After 40 years of no freedom for millions of East Germans a very special event took place. I will explain all the things that led to the fall of "The Wall." It all started in September of 1989 when Hungary opened its borders. East Germans fled by the thousands. The country of East Germany was angered. The East Germans who escaped were no longer welcomed back. A month later protests started taking place. Erich Edward Honeker (pres. East) was soon to leave his position. The protests spread all over East Germany. After two months of protests Egon Krenz became leader. On November 9th the East German News Agency announced that the "wall" was going to be opened. Much to my surprise I ran out the building. My father came along also. I walked to Checkpoint Charlie, but the East Germans had beaten me. I felt an emotional shock going through my body I was happy for the East Germans. I went over to the other side to see what was happening. I almost fell out when I saw how the Checkpoint looked. There had to be over a thousand people there. I went to back to the East to see the first car leave. The East Germans had to turn back to get their travel visas. It was almost 3 o'clock when the first Trabant went through. The look of freedom could have made the toughest person choke. I saw the people crying as the first car came through, it was just total joy and happiness. The "Iron Curtain" cracked. It makes me mad when people say "SO WHAT." They don't know that everything that has happened will soon effect them. They don't know if they want the U.S. military to stay. That means a lot of problems could arise. I wish that people would understand that "NOVEMBER 9TH" was a day be proud of. I can't wait to tell my kids about my experiences. It is more than just a loving story it changed the world. Just last month the East Germans had open and free elections. Maybe I am emotional, but thanks for setting them free and for all the happiness that has been bestowed upon them. All I can say is "ICH WAR DABEI."

...KELVIN DEJOURNETTE

On November 9, 1989, Thursday evening, "The Berlin Wall has finally crumbled down," was heard on the AFN (Allied Forces Network) radio station. At first it did not seem to be true, because the thought of the Wall coming down was unimaginable. But, later on that night, you could hear the joy and jubilation that was taking place at the Wall, on the AFN news. There were thousands of East and West Berliners everywhere, at least half were dancing on the Wall. Others were either "chipping" at it or drinking beer. Still, there were some who mourned over those who, in the past, died in an attempt to escape.

The great "Wall Party" lasted the entire weekend. On Saturday, November 11, 1989, there were still thousands of people at the Wall.

The opening of the Wall attracted so much attention that Dan Rather, a famous news reporter, was there. He set up huge lights so that the happenings could be broadcasted to millions of viewers all over the world. This was the second great happening in 1989. Although the earthquake in California was very tragic a month before, the opening of the Berlin Wall was a time for joy.

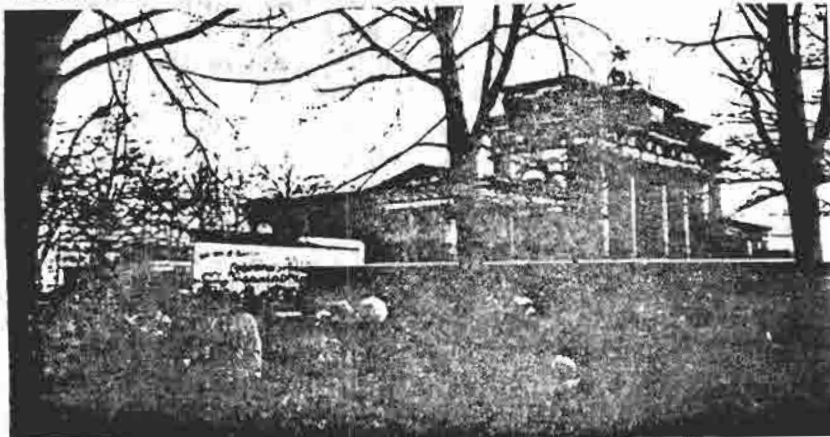
...Bruce E. Sora, Jr



November 9, 1989 was the Official Independence Day for the people of East Germany. Let freedom ring; through all the streets of this one Berlin, through all the towns and cities, from east to west. We all must join together in a worldwide celebration, for this glorious event. The footsteps of history from the east to the west. The day the fall of the Berlin Wall. A tidal wave that hit at night. One hundred thousand people crying and rejoicing. East German citizens free to go as they feel, as they walked and marched saying, "the wall must go". Listening to the bells of freedom ringing, throughout City Hall. The Berlin Wall began to crumble, we reached the point where the wall has no meaning.

Freedom has many difficulties and democracy is not perfect. But we never had to put up a wall to prevent them from leaving. All three allies are citizens of Berlin. This is why I take pride in saying, "Ich bin Berliner," as President John F. Kennedy did.

....Tredena Freeman



The wall is a very fascinating historical landmark. It can make ones eyes play ravishing tricks on their minds. For instance, when a chunk of the wall was taken away to make another walkway to freedom it was a picture of a hammer and a sickle, but when it was removed it showed a Swastika. It can make you think of the horrors of the Holocaust, and if something like that will ever happen again. It brings questions to mind that ask you why that particular part had to be taken instead of any other part of the whole, big, long wall.

Overall I was happy that the wall was coming down, so that the people in the East could finally get a taste of freedom. You could see it in their eyes that they were long awaiting that moment when they were first allowed to pass through.

I still wonder about all of these changes. I think it might be a set up. Just to let everyone else in the West and close the Iron Curtain and make everyone stay and go back to the bad way. Or let everyone get interested in the refugees and make a sneak attack in all of Germany.

The wall causes much havoc and problems. Some people wish that it would have stayed up and no problems would have erupted.

....Khalik Memminger

I pulled myself out of bed exceptionally early on this morning of March 14, 1990. I wanted to wear something extra special on this day to impress the East German students at the Dr. Kurt Fischer School in East Berlin. As a result of the wall coming down on November 9, 1989, my German III class, along with a few of our teachers, were finally getting a chance to see what an East German school was actually like.

Our adventure began at 9 o'clock in the morning when we boarded a bus headed for Check Point Charlie; by 10 o'clock we pulled through a huge iron gate into a courtyard. We spotted a small group of students and behind them stood a looming gray cement building, which we guessed would have to be the school, although it did not look like any school we had ever seen before.

The students happily greeted us and then escorted us into the building which we could swear looked just like a prison. I shuddered as we walked into the first hallway; it was cold, dull cement, too. The first thing I thought of was being in a dungeon from the Middle Ages. I asked myself how people could actually go to school in such a place, but then I realized the students probably did not have much choice.

We were taken into a room where we all sat down around a large table and introduced ourselves to everybody. Then our penpals took us either to chemistry or physics class. After going to chemistry, where we did an experiment which to this day I still do not understand, we all headed to the gym. As we entered the gym, I paused for a moment as my eyes took in everything before me. The paint on the walls was peeling off, the floor was a dark, dirty brown that looked at least seventy-five years old. The gymnastic equipment for the girls was worn

and so was the mat that the boys were to do judo on. I just could not believe the differences between their gym and ours. The last adventure for the day, before returning to BAHS, was lunch. We were given a boiled potato and egg covered with a mustard sauce; it really was not appetizing yet we all ate it, realizing it was all they had to offer and for that we were grateful.

During the return ride I thought about everything I had seen and heard that day. I wish that every American teenage could have the experience I had been able to have because I knew they would leave feeling a lot more grateful for the everyday things that make life better: things such as the condition of the school and the equipment; school lunches, which we are always complaining about, would be restaurant food for East Germans. I wondered to myself how some people would survive each day without a computer or photo copy machine. Not one could be found in most East German schools. I know I have been very lucky to have had this experience, and when I left the Dr. Kurt Fischer School, there is one thing I will definitely never forget and that is true gratitude for all that I have.

...Damara Stephensen



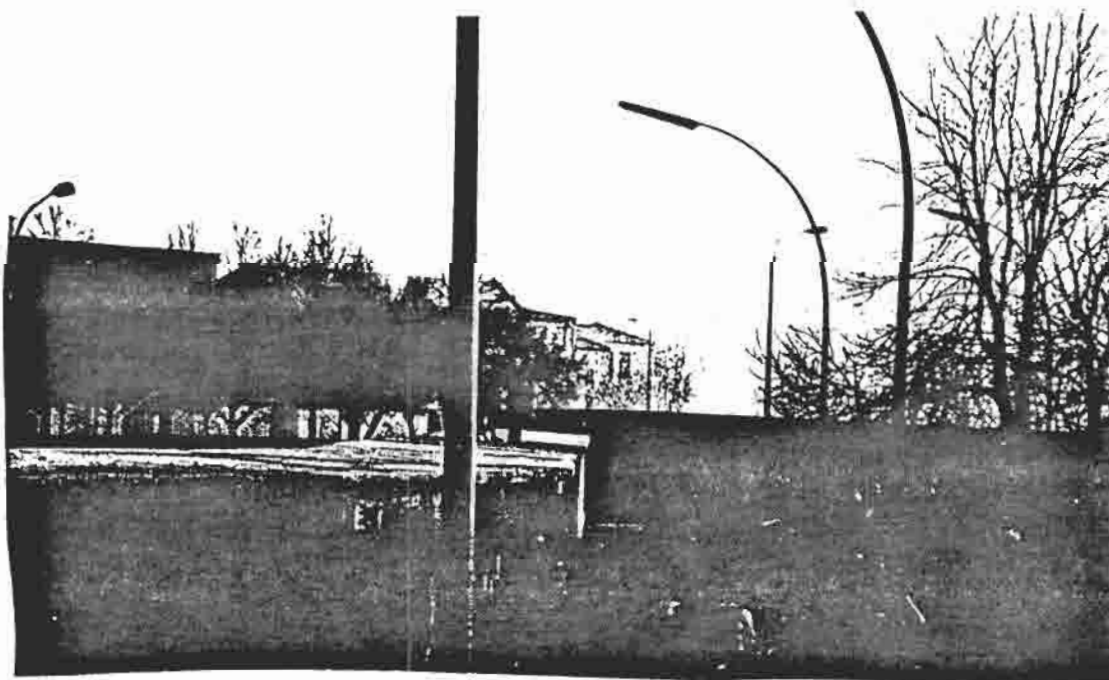
It came up on August 13th of 1961. Dividing Berlin and at the same time making West Berlin an island surrounded by the enemy. It was monstrous. It extended all the way across Berlin, dividing it into an East side and a West side. The thought of it was like putting thousands of people behind bars in a single week. Soon it broke many hearts and the hope of freedom. Amazing how such a gigantic piece of stone could affect so many people in such a cruel way.

Some were brave. These people were the ones who would give their lives for freedom, but there was only a few. Further only a few of that small amount of freedom seekers survived their efforts to fight the Wall. It was this phenomenal barrier, so ugly and isolating, that dragged more than 70 people into a trap. Freedom being the bait.

Time passed by. Years of struggle. Soon the Wall became a historical monument. To me- probably the ugliest and most annoying monument ever. The Wall's fall through those harsh years was only a dream to the East. A fantasy to people, only something that they could wish for. Throughout those years something good was happening though. Freedom, the bait was more than wanted. Thousands of people had the hunger to reach out and take their freedom back. This was of course on both sides. Then history took its toll. Freedom seekers released all they had took their freedom. Nothing could get in their way. Those broken hearts turned to hearts set to do that one great thing. **KNOCK DOWN THE WALL.**

On November 9th 1989, 28 years later the Wall came tumbling down. This monster was no match for all those people set to win back the freedom that had been taken on August 13th 1961!!!

...Edward Melo



THE DAY THE BERLIN WALL MADE HISTORY

On November 9th, 1989 The Berlin Wall came to an end in the East. East Germans were very surprised. The wall had opened up during midnight. For 28 years the East Germans weren't free. Now today the Berlin Wall was crumbling down. After these great changes the East Germans are going and coming from the West. If I were stuck or trapped in a place like the East Germans, I would never be happy in my life. Americans, Germans, and other people are now selling pieces of the historical wall. Now half of our soldiers are going back to the states and some are forced to retire. By the year 2000 there will no longer be any American soldiers living in Europe. There will be only a few army bases. I think we should continue this Overseas thing for two reasons: 1. Because the Russians might take over Germany like Hitler did in World War II. 2. We like to help these people, and it would keep the peace between us. The Germans want us to go back to the United States. This place is beginning to lose soldiers every day. At least the East Germans are free, and the wall is beginning to fall. I just want to see this country as one and be as one, not for who the person is or what he does. We have just got to look out for one another. East Germans are now living here in Berlin, and they even live in the basements of the American Housing areas. Anyway, I'm glad to see the East Germans free after 28 years. I will always remember this day and the years they've been behind this great big wall.

...Kenneth Newkirk

THE WALL

About a month before November 9 no one was thinking about East Berlin, East Germany, or the wall for that matter. And then all of a sudden there was talk of succeeding in the East but no one believed that would happen on Nov. 9. At first everything was slow just a lot of revolts and protests, people chanting in the streets of West Berlin. And then all the sudden Moscow talked they said they would open the borders for people to go through. The borders were opened and the people were rushing through soon they had to make more crowded borders because it was too crowded. Schools were closed and over in the West Berlin the East Germans were buying everything in sight. The lines at the banks were long. People were buying bananas and oranges by boxes. You name it they were buying it. U-bahns and S-bahns were packed. They wanted to see Berlin the city that they had been so close to but so far away. Slowly the people went home. They loved the homes but wanted to fix their government. Right now they're still trying and slowly its coming true. The wall is coming down piece by piece and the people are free to go as they wish when they wish. And maybe someday the wall will come all the way down and the two Germanys will be one.

... Mary Hammerle



My view on this day will be different from anyone else, because I was still in the states at the time it happened. I already knew that I was coming to Berlin, but I never expected something like this to happen. It just made my move here more meaningful. The thought that I was going to live here at a very historical time in my life. This whole thing to me meant that communism is dying. I don't exactly know what happened, just what I heard on the evening news. When I heard the news, I was pretty surprised something like this was happening after almost 30 years. Everybody at my school in the States thought it was interesting too, but the only problem was that most of them didn't know where Berlin was. So I explained to them where it was and how the Wall came about. my social studies teacher thought it was interesting since he teaches history. After everyone heard the news and knew I was coming here they all kept asking for pieces of the Wall for themselves and family. After awhile I got tired of people bugging me for a piece of the Wall. I really don't know much about what happened, except what they said on the news every night. After the 9th it became a nightly thing to turn on the T.V. and hear and see something on the Wall. I didn't expect to come over here at such an exciting time in German history. Then again everyone's entitled to see a little history in the making. Being in the States at the time will make my views a little different.

I believe what happened was that someone found a weak spot in the system and took advantage of it. The Wall coming down represents the fall of communism after those years in E. Germany and other communist countries. Don't have anything else to say except I'm glad it happened in my lifetime and not someone else's.

...Eric McCarthy

A FIGHT FOR FREEDOM



It was a dark, cold night when Papa and I decided the time had come, that we would risk our lives for freedom. For the twenty-nine years for Papa, and the sixteen years for me, we had no control over our lives. Where we lived, where we worked, and what we bought was all controlled by the government.

We lived in an old, worn out house that came with my fathers job. Just Papa and I alone. My mother died when I was four. She was killed by a KGB agent after refusing to pass spy information. On several occasions Papa and I tried to defect to France to live with my uncle, but we were turned away on the account of the incident with my mother. After each try Papa went back to work at the steel mill, and I back to school. Since our last try we came to the conclusion that the only way out was over the Berlin Wall.

While my father was taking

small parts of scrap metal, I was dying clothes pitch black in my Home and Foods course at school. My father came home and welded hooks and pulleys along with rope I took from the stables where I was taking lessons.

We took several night walks as close as we could get to the Wall to look for a vulnerable place with little guard action and dim lights. We found a good attempt spot about 100 km. from a closed down S-bahn station. So that night we left at 10:00 on what looked like our routine nightly stroll, except we were carrying medium sized, navy blue sports bags. We were both very nervous, and very excited. We both almost gave up when we were stopped by two Soviet guards. Papa told me not to say a thing as they approached. They asked us where we were going at such a late hour. Papa explained that our friends are visiting friends in



Berlin: History in the Making The Berlin Wall is Crumbling

An almost three-decade fight for freedom came to a triumphant end when the Berlin Wall, which was erected in 1961 and considered the biggest symbol of the Cold War, opened wide at midnight on November 9, 1989. It symbolized the incredible collapse of Communism as people took to the streets demanding their basic freedoms.

Communist East Germany permanently lifted travel restrictions on its citizens and workers began punching holes in the Berlin Wall that for 28 years separated families and divided East and West Berlin.

More than 100,000 jubilant East Germans climbed over the Berlin Wall and rushed through borders for the first time and chatted with the guards who once had orders to shoot those trying to escape. Since 1961, 191 people are known to have died while fleeing to the West from East Germany. More than 200,000 East Germans have fled to the West so far this last year and thousands more this year. Those people have taken to the streets to demand democratic reforms and the end of 40 years of one-party rule. Before this was possible, East Germany's border with West Germany was heavily fortified. Communist authorities built the Berlin Wall to stop the exodus to West Germany. It became a symbol of the differences between East and West, differences that Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev had sought to erase by urging reforms in the Soviet bloc. Every U.S. president since John F. Kennedy had urged the East Germans to tear down the Wall.

The Berlin Wall is considered to be the most specific symbol of the failure of Communism that used to exist, for it demonstrated for the

world to see, in the most barbaric way, that the only way the East German government could keep its people within their country was by preventing them from leaving. Fifteen prominent East German Communist officials wrote a letter to the Central Committee suggesting that the Wall be torn down.

The madness of newly found freedom grew amazingly on November 9, 1989. East Germans finally had the opportunity to see and experience the once forbidden West. West-Berliners gave them a warm welcome while champagne bottles were uncorked. A wave of hospitality swept across Berlin. Berlin was one giant party. The Berlin Wall was the scene of a massive New Year's celebrations, with thousands of people dancing on and around the Wall, and some crossed it freely. It was a day like no other in the 40 years since the two German nations were formed out of the rubble of World War II. Germans from both sides of the now crumbling Iron Curtain embraced each other, laughed, sang, and cried. Many East Germans rushed to West German stores to buy fruit, electronic products, and other items they had so long desired.

Another way the Berliners celebrated was by hammering and chiseling at the Berlin Wall. East German police stood by quietly and watched, as thousands of Berlin's young people climbed atop a section of the Wall near Check Point Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate, and other places. It is estimated that on November 9, 1989 alone, almost 50,000 people crossed the border from the East Berlin into the West.

Since East Berliners have received their freedom, West Berlin has been miraculously crowded. Subways, streets, and stores are as crowded as concert

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halls by several hundred thousand East Germans who are exercising their new right to visit West Berlin. The city's central shopping district on the Kurfuerstendamm has been so crowded that it has often been closed to private vehicles.

Woolworth's, a store popular among East Germans, has been restricting the number of shoppers. When two leave, two may enter. On Saturdays most stores on the Kurfuerstendamm and in the Europa Center shopping mall stay open until at least 6 p.m. instead of closing early, as usual.

If three or more people are not waiting in line for a pay phone then it's broken.

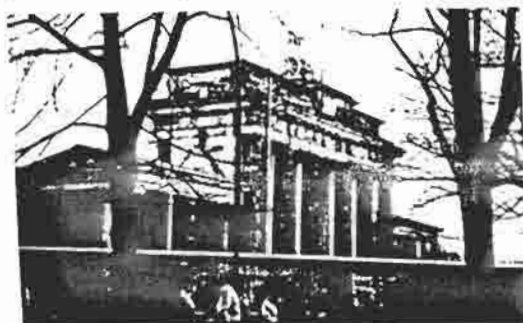
Subways throughout most of the city are so crowded that most people wait until several trains have gone by before finding one to squeeze on to. At the main station at the Zoological Garden, it was nearly impossible to get on the subway platform.

East Germans were welcome to Berlin with money offered by the West German government. West Germany spent about 24 million dollars in "welcome money". The East Germans waited in hour long lines to collect their money from various banks throughout Berlin. East Germans observed buying jeans, chocolate, coffee, books, fruit, and children's vitamins. They stormed low-price clothing stores, book stores, shoe stores, and other outlets. When the East Germans collected their "welcome money" last year, each of the cash recipients got a stamp in his/her identity papers recording the gift. This was done to prevent an East German from deceiving a bank by claiming money more than once.

Berlin's fight for freedom has been evident with a wonderful, triumphant result of the Berlin Wall finally coming down after three long barbaric decades.

Berlin and East Germany are grateful and joyous toward those who made this historical happening come true. Such changes would not have happened if it wasn't for the presence and cooperation of the four allied forces in Berlin, the Americans, French, British, and Soviets, and the governments of West and East Germany. Berlin is one again and FREE! History in the making!

...Marini Singh



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Poland and we were going to house-sit. They looked us over and walked on. We both breathed a sigh of relief. We slowly walked by the escape site several times to make sure there was no change. We walked into the near-by public toilets. As I changed into the black dyed pants and shirt, I started to think about what would happen if we got caught. Papa would be sentenced to prison and I to reform school. Once out by the wall, Papa threw the first pulley over the wall. I jumped up and waited for him to throw the second. Once we were both up we gave each other a final hug. We jumped, my pulley sailed me smoothly across the wall, Papa got stuck. He jumped down and ran for it. He crossed the border just as the guards arrived. At last we finally felt free.

Two nights later while I was listening to the radio, the news came on, the borders were being opened for East Germans to cross freely. The fight was over.

...Jenii Stiver

FREE AT LAST

I was sitting at a night time disco as the great news came around. A bald man with a short, scrubby beard, that had probably been uncut for days, appeared. The beard was grey and had black patches where the grey had not yet set in. He wore a pair of Nike shoes that looked like he had them for years. They were weather beaten shoes and had a hole in the toe of the right shoe. He had a pair of old blue jeans that that were washed-out and looked as if they had been stone washed. They had a small hole in each knee and were fringed around the bottom as if they had drag on the ground when he walked. The t-shirt that he wore was black with various blemishes on it. The t-shirt hung below his waist and had a tear on the right side of it just below his armpit. As he entered the hallway in which I worked, you could see his face that something spectacular had happened.

He walked through th hall where you pay your entrance fee. He walked up and said, "The Wall is opened! the people of East Germany are free once again!" Of course, hearing this from this scrubby looking man was hard to believe. Especially something this great. The look in his eyes and the expression on his face told me that he was telling the truth. Besides, no one would joke about something like that.

After hearing this news, I decided to take the rest of the night off from work. As I was driving to the Ku-damm, I noticed an unusual amount of Trabbis driving about. The closer to the Ku-damm I got, the more Trabbis there were. It was bumper to bumper traffic like rush hour on Hollywood Freeway. Since tge traffic was so bad I decided to park

the car and walk the rest of the way. Not only was the street full of cars, but the sidewalks were crowded with people as well.

The peple both in cars and on the sidewalks were in a jubilant state. They were shouting, honking and embracing each other. Finally after fourty-five years of inprisonment, the people of East Germany were free.

...Michael Anderson



NOVEMBER 9, 1989

I was there on November 9, 1989 when free travel was announed for the formerly captive people of East Germany. Thousands upon thousands came through the ill-fated border. Hundreds of thousands came to the West to find a new life, others just came to see what the West is like and then return to work on Monday. It was a festive event for people of all nationalities paricularly for the Germans. The joyful Germans had many reasons to be happy. Some had not seen relatives for 30 years. Some just wanted to have the freedom to crossover and watch the celebration. Some neonazis were pushing reunification already. They had signs that read, "Ein vereinigte Deutsches Vaterland!" This was rather alarming to me and

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I felt a little uneasy but it was about what I had expected. Not that I'm saying all Germans that want reunification are nazis. On the 10th of November the festivities continued. Many people were climbing, standing, sitting, and drinking champagne on the Wall. In early December the festivities were in full swing again with the opening of the Brandenburg Gate when two sections of the wall were shaved away. This was then followed by 100,000 people running under the mammoth gate to either side of the border.

Later there was a "fun run" into East Berlin which many U.S. Forces running the run had the border police stamp their number plate as they passed through.

Since the dropping of the Wall there has been much speculation about the future of Berlin and with the shadow of reunification looming closer hostility to foreigners has increased. However, I believe the West German people are not united in their feelings about the East Germans because they believe the East Germans want everything free. Many banks here in West Berlin are tired of it too. Die Berliner Sparkasse Bank in Zellendorf Mitte had a sign up that read, "Kein Begrussungsgeld hier!" So the East Germans would have to get their free annuall 100 marks somewhere else. many West Germans were also upset about the fact that one could not find certain fruits in the grocery store. The correct attitude, I believe is to be calm and have some understanding. The world and the German people should approach German reunification carefully.

ERIC MARKS

Dear Grandmother.

How is everything over there in the West? Well everything over here is just great, because now we are free. So now we are our own people. That means we can do what ever we want to do. The first thing I want to do is come visit you and everyone else. But now we are getting the rest of our things packed so we can move to the West. Because mother said we are going to but a big house right by yours. That way we will never be separted, and I can come see you and Grandfather when ever I want to. But I'm so happy they set us free from this place. Because I was starting to really hate it because of the dumb things they were starting to do.

But now the government lets us go so I don't have to put up with any more fo their stuff. Because I will be living under the well developed government of West Berlin.

The good thing is that the wall is down, and we can go back and forth as we please. That means I can come back and see my old friends that don't move to the West permanatley. But grandmother you don't know how bad I want to see your face, because it's been 25 years if I'm not mistaking. I do miss you very much, I know I tell you this in every letter but I mean it!! In a couple of days I won't have to do any mare missing. Mother and Father can't wait to get there too. But we will all be together soon enough. Well let me go, see you soon

Love Always,
Antione Ferette

