

Travel to Berlin

Currency: The German Mark is worth 0.8 of the Canadian dollar (1 DM = \$0.80 Canadian and \$1.00 Canadian = DM 1.24).

BERLIN

I can't begin to express the feelings I have for this city.

My father and I accidentally arrived in East Berlin rather than the preferred entrance via West Berlin. As our train pulled through the city, I was frightened by the bullet holes that smothered almost every building. Things took a dramatic twist from the beauty of Amsterdam and the playfulness of Copenhagen. After spending three hours at the train station, trying to get help from employees that work only with Eastern European travellers, we found ourselves on a commuter train to West Berlin. Talk about a change in scenery. It is not at all hard to see where the wall once divided these two halves. While there is still great evidence of past wars in Berlin, the city is full of gorgeous buildings, fascinating ruins and is very much full of life. There are great things to be learned from visiting Berlin.

How to get to Berlin:

Don't land in East Berlin (unless you know what you're doing). East Berlin deals almost only with travellers from Eastern Europe and if you don't know German or any Scandinavian language, you will find it almost impossible to get any help in English. You can get to Berlin by bus tour, car, train or airplane, take your pick.

***note:** If you go by train, make sure it comes in to the Bahnhof Zoo.

How to get around in Berlin: Cars are in wide use,

as are buses, which can take you all over the city. Bus routes and numbers are available at tourist information. The bus stops are all together, a short hike from the train station (Bahnhof Zoo). Walking remains the safest, albeit the longest, way to get around.

Where to stay:

Kluckstraße Jugendgästehaus is a lively hostel made up of dormitories with six beds or more per room. I quite liked it but be warned women: the showers are completely open. Check out all the hostels in Berlin at <http://www.jugendherberge.de/berlin.html> or e-mail youth_hostel_berlin@bln.de (for Kluckstraße).

Where to go:

Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche (the ruin): near the Bahnhof Zoo, the remains of this church are absolutely indescribable. The top of the tower is missing due to bombings and to look at it is an unbelievable experience. It has since been added on to.

Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate), Konzerthaus (concert hall)

and Schloß Charlottenburg (Charlottenburg Castle): These are incredible structures definitely worth seeing.

Siegessäule (Victory Column): Also worth a visit.

The Zoo: I didn't go in, but it looked impressive from the outside. It's right across from the Bahnhof.

And of course, there are many other places to check out. Looking for traces of the wall seems to be a favourite pastime of most travellers. Be careful, locals are understandably tired of being asked where the wall was. Can you blame them for wanting to move on?

Tips: Prepare yourself

for Berlin. This place will really get into your bones and maybe in a way that you don't like. Get plenty of rest and eat well -- little problems and stresses become to huge to bear if you don't have any energy.

Next week: Weimar! Don't forget to e-mail me at kepatterson@upei.ca

Book Review: Alan Warner's *These Demented Lands* *A Johnathan Cape Original - Copyright 1997*

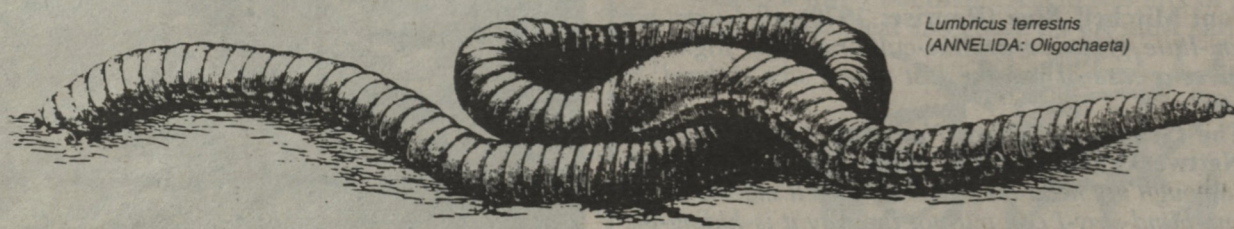
An undergraduate of adventure takes on a challenge to visit an island of weirdness and contemporary oddness. Within the confines of the anti-paradise, Movern Caller, a stunning sarcastic creature of habit, confronts few formalities and even fewer realities. It would appear in the beginning, however, as the story systematically consumes you, that the reality of the island and its centre of activity, The Drome Hotel, display in perfect contrast the ideal world coming into conflict with the truth. The cast of characters are rarely introduced with typically Christian names (ie. Luke, Carol etc.) instead they are replaced with nicknames like Most Baldy, the Aircraft Investigator and Brotherhood. In a word, this novel of realist fantasy, is **HIP!**

Alan Warner blends two "manuscripts" with two different authors, into one captivating tale. The courageous Movern Caller gives a detailed diary of her chance experiences which include the sinking of a ferry, a conversation with a strangely spiritual man who is feared throughout the island, and most of all her stay at The Drome Hotel. The Aircraft Investigator catches the fancy of Movern and he reports on his side of the story with supplies an usual perspective and a diversity that keeps the reader enthralled in the story.

The climax occurs in a Ravish setting with DJ Cormorant spinning a selection of Bob Dylan tunes coupled with heavy beats. Cormorant's family tree of former musical groups is supplied attached to the manuscript; it reveals every music known to human kind and catalogues the quick shift in trends with rock and roll.

This book should become a modern classic in the times to come. It is a book that you will refuse to put down, unless its to laugh out loud at the sky. The UK author has translated 90's experiences into a novel bordering on reality and fiction.

FOR SOME LIFE FORMS...SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS NOT AN ISSUE



Lumbricus terrestris
(ANNELIDA: Oligochaeta)



If you have any questions or concerns about sexual harassment at UPEI, there are people you can talk with, in confidence. Sexual Harassment Committee members for 1997-98 are: E.H.R. Yancy Ross (yross@upei.ca), Lisa Muzumdar (lmuzumdar@upei.ca), Barb Curley (566-0382; curley@upei.ca), Bob Pritchett (628-4368; rpritchett@upei.ca), Brigitte Sassen (566-0334; bsassen@upei.ca) and David Sims (566-0812; sims@upei.ca). If you have concerns or questions about sexual harassment, please contact a committee member.