Report– Dirk Meyer-Adams

Last Friday, March 13th, 2020, we got the chance to meet an ex-reporter that answered all our questions and told us many details about his previous work as a journalist.

He made an evangelic theology study but stopped after a few semesters and subsequently began a traineeship in the field of politics.

However, he saw himself more in the field of journalism and started it with the topic sports and stayed with the main sport: football, because this was the domaine.

Then, finally, in the year 1982, Mr. Meyer-Adams became a managing editor and earned a very good salary which was more satisfactory than the salary earned by journalists nowadays. You only got this sum when you were older but it offered a reasonable maintenance. And nowadays you need the A-levels to try journalism.

We asked about his experiences and he shared countless moments of his worktime with us, I will list up some of them now.

This ex-reporter saw seven football World Cups, many cups and European championships which claimed a range of travelling he really enjoyed and exactly that was the reason why this profession was his dream job.

After asking about his first article and how he felt after publishing it, he told us that it was a really exciting, good and proud feeling.

Feedback was important for him and he asked his family, friends and the editors about his work which had always been done by himself and alone.

Even with these positive aspects, he clarified that it was also a real pressure, for example, to write 3 articles daily that needed to be current and interesting to read. You also have to gather a routine, discipline and experiences to implement a nice work.

It was also exhausting without the modern digital tools we have now.

There were no laptops and a little mistake was enough to ruin your whole work.
At least the clothes or the question what to wear never constituted a big problem, he wore his normal and casual clothes except for big events where a suit was his first choice.

Although he had sometimes trouble with several people that he interviewed and he had the chance to expose them in the newspaper, he never did.

It was easy and important in his opinion to stay objective except for comments or reviews.

But besides all this negativity, what is his favourite memory of all this time?

His eyes sparkled as we asked this question and he said that it happened definitively during the Olympic Games.

Mr. Meyer-Adams interviewed in approximately the year 1976 a man in Recklinghausen who was black, 22 years old and with the dream of becoming an Olympic champion.

The reporter smiled but didn’t take this wish seriously because all participants shared that dream but this man actually did it and while plenty of reporters wanted to talk to him after his win he decided to go to the reporter he had talked one time before: The man we could meet a week ago.

Written by Aylin Cerik