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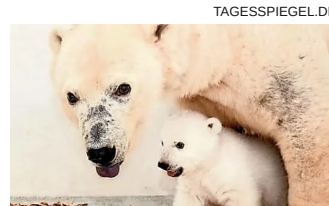
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Son and grandson about Herbert Marcuse

07.02.2019, 18:26 clock

"His advice has always been: carry on!"

The philosopher Herbert Marcuse is considered the "father of the 1968 movement". Son Peter and grandson Harold about meeting with the Horkheimers and a grave on the compost. VON [HANNES SOLTAU](#), [MORITZ HONERT](#) UND



Peter and Harold Marcuse are the son and grandson of Herbert Marcuse. PHOTO: JESSICA CASHMAN

About 15 years ago you buried the remains of your father and grandfather, the philosopher and *representative of the Frankfurt School Herbert Marcuse*, in Berlin. His ashes were previously considered lost. How do you lose an urn?

PETER : Herbert suffered a stroke in 1979 during a visit to Jürgen Habermas in Starnberg and died shortly thereafter. His wife Ricky Sherover did not want him to be cremated in Germany.

Because he was Jewish?

HAROLD: Exactly. With the result that he then - perversely I have to say - was cremated in Austria, which is basically the same. After that, the urn was flown to the States, but could not be delivered to a private address for legal reasons, but had to become a funeral home. A secretary from the law firm where my dad used to work had organized it. And when the wife of Herbert died ten years later, the urn would probably still be there without any of us remembering it.

Tagesspiegel Checkpoint



PETER: At the beginning of the early nineties there were inquiries where Herbert's grave was. That's when we told each other: we should know that. I then had to rumtelefonieren something until we found the urn in New Haven.

The final resting place was then Germany. Did not that lead to big family discussions in the US?

HAROLD: Yes. There were very different opinions. My daddy Peter thought there was not much work to do and the ashes could land on the compost pile in his garden in Connecticut. My sister recalled that Herbert collected hippopotamus and liked to look at the hippos in the San Diego Zoo because they were so "absurd". She was in favor of scattering the ashes in the enclosure. I thought he was a public figure and wanted his remains to come to Berlin.

How did you decide?

HAROLD : I built a website about Herbert and used it to interview the public. Many people wrote that they would like to visit his grave. Then we decided that if Germany wanted its ashes, we would have it buried in Berlin. The Germany of 2003 was a different Germany than the 1970s. At the time I did not really want that either. **The broadcast of the "Holocaust" television series** , the history competitions of the Federal President with Nazi themes, the film "The terrible girl", these things have changed the discourse in Germany. The Berlin Senate agreed to set up a grave of honor. First limited to ten years, then they wanted to continue watching. But we have not heard anything.

PETER: Maybe that will change now when it's in the paper.

Did you bring the urn in your hand luggage?

PETER: In the backpack. However, I had to hand them over to the aircraft stairs, before I entered German soil, a funeral home. Regulation! She was transported away in the hearse, which had already brought **Benno Ohnesorg** and Marlene Dietrich to the cemetery.

Are you happy with the decision today?

HAROLD: I'm satisfied. Now and then I get an e-mail with photos of people who were at the grave with him and have built stones according to Jewish custom. I think that fits.

more on the subject



Frankfurt School **From Critical Theory to Populism**

Von Hannes Schwenger

PETER: These rituals and symbols are not that important to me. I would rather have people read it instead of visiting his grave.

SUBJECTS

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