

German exchange students *beeinflussen** Perry Meridian

By Olivia Lighty and Sydney Mathis

Junior exchange student **Hannah Zanolli** has a part time job at a cafe in Germany that helped her pay for her souvenirs during her two week trip to the U.S.

Over fall break, a group of twelve PM students went to Cologne (Köln), Germany. The students experienced the German culture in the city containing over one million residents. Now, those host families have joined us here to experience the American culture.

Junior exchange student **Jess Lam** is flabbergasted at how different Perry Meridian is from her school in Germany.

"The theater of your school is as big as our school, we have two separate buildings: one is for seniors and it's not really big."

The German exchange students estimate that between seven hundred and eight hundred students attend Carl von Ossietzky.

Sophomore **Karim Pekelli** agrees, adding,

"I would probably get lost if he (senior **Luke Greenwood**) wasn't here."

Junior **Franzi Otto** likes American high school, but also likes the perks of high school life in Germany.

"We have windows in our classrooms, way more free time, and school starts at 8:15."

However, according to Zanolli, their school is used primarily for learning only. No sports teams or clubs.

Junior exchange student **René**



German exchange students take a picture with their host families outside of PMHS (Photo provided by Lindsey Koiro).

Vogl, hosted by junior **Jackson Gill** says that time difference was the hardest thing for him to adjust to.

"The way school works is very different. Here the classes are each 45 minutes, and you have no breaks," says Vogl. "Our classes are an hour and a half, and we have 20 minute breaks in between. Sometimes we get out of school at 1:30 p.m. and sometimes we

get out at 5:30 p.m. It just depends."

The exchange students agree that there was a very big shift in the types of food offered in America.

"American food is a lot more unhealthy, I mean, there is fast food everywhere, says Vogl. "I tried Chick-fil-A for the first time. Their sandwiches are very good."

"I think I am in love with Taco Bell,"

says junior **Luc Dassler**. "We don't have any of those in Germany."

Junior **Jordan Robbins** agrees that they are not used to the diet change from Germany to the United States.

"The majority of people in Germany, that I saw, were fit by many means. They ate healthy and it glowed on their faces. They, therefore, weren't accustomed to the sugary American diet, but

believe me, they took to it quickly after trying a frosty."

All the students hosting agree that welcoming another person into your home from another culture is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"The main experience I wanted the Germans to experience while here in America was literally everything. The ethereal everything." Says Robbins.

"I wanted them to experience everything that Indy has to offer, from fast food, to the independence of teen driving, to trips to Walmart/Kroger/Target, to animal shelters, to bookstores, to museums, to canals, to Bankers Life, etc. I wanted them to consume it all." He continued.

Gill agrees with the experiences he learns and gives to the exchange students.

"I preferred staying with him [Vogl] so I could see a new country, but it has been a really fun and rewarding experience to introduce him to American culture," said Gill. "I love driving in the car with him because he sings all the same songs I do."

"You're getting so much more experience, you're learning about someone else, you're gaining more social skills because you're making new friends and meeting new friends. It's a really good experience to have as a young adult and realize that change is okay," says junior **Lindsey Koiro**.

**Beeinflussen* - means "influence" in German

'We the Pizza'

Government class eyes justice at work, freedom at lunch

By Adam Crozier

Two deputies escort a bald jailbird into court. Tattoos snake up his arms, fingers, neck, head and face. His devil horn markings looked like a two-year-old drew on his forehead with blue magic marker.

Social studies teacher **Patrick Chambers** said, "Did you see that guy? He wasn't just handcuffed—he was shackled." Chambers brought a legal pad and took notes. This is what he wrote down for devil horns guy:

Bragwell-34 years old
Aggravated battery, stabwounds
Level 3 Felony-3-16 years
\$200k Surety*
Red jumpsuit, feet & waist shackled.

Bragwell was put away in 2010 for grand theft auto. After serving six years in the big house, he found himself back in the legal system after he stabbed a man so much his spleen had to be removed by doctors. The presiding magistrate, Anne Flannelly, threw this crucial information around the courtroom.

"He was a bad dude," said senior **Tyler Sigmon** once the group headed toward the lobby. "He was very clearly not mentally there," said senior **Matthew Bradbury**, who further speculated on Bragwell's state of mind. "Myself I might feel emotional problems, but I'm not 100% hate. That's all he has: anger, depression. I can't judge that man and call him evil. I'm sure his upbringing was bad; his life was pretty bad."

This case, among others, was witnessed by about half of Perry's sole AP Government class at the Indianapolis City-County building. The other half observed Judge Kurt M. Eisgruber's courtroom as part of an annual two-day trip.

The tradition started in 2010 when Criminal Court Judge Sheila A. Carlisle, mother of Perry alumnus **Alex Carlisle**, invited his senior class to the courts. That was also Chambers' inaugural year of teaching AP Gov.

On April 5, most scheduled trials didn't occur because of last-minute guilty pleas.

The next day, the entire class sat in on the courtroom of Magistrate Stan Kroh. Once the morning's agenda was settled, he spoke to the class from his

elevated seat, while Chambers explained to him why we were there.

I forgot my jacket on the second morning, a fact I was reminded of as I braced myself for the outdoors. But instead of chilly Indiana weather on my walk to lunch, I was greeted with mid-morning palatable sun and breeze. As we worked up an appetite judging people, the least we could do was contribute to the local economy.

Lunch on the first day was salad and pizza at Bazbeaux. On the second day, we were given over an hour to eat. Downtown is intimate and interconnected. On both days, I ran into a family friend while buying something to eat. Chambers and a group went to Punchburger while a sizeable segment,

myself included, wandered just across the street into City Market. Ice cream, french fries, fruit smoothies, Mexican, and Greek entrees, as well as a massive meat lover's stuffed pizza four of us bought from Mauricio's that seven students failed to eat in its entirety.

"I thought it was pretty good," said senior **Kaleb Whitinger**. "There was so much of it you almost got bored of it."

* Surety is an agreement between the court and a bondsman, who will pay part of the bail up front, and ensures the court will receive the rest later. Bail is the fine required to leave jail.