

BG 20 eAN:

An American girl and the weed delivery service

The first question I asked her was, if weed is legal in the US. Well, it is. Kind of. And they deliver it to you. In some states.

She was a young, intelligent lady with linguistic competence, who I asked. She came all the way from NY to Germany. Somehow, she managed to come to the darkest place in Germany, Staßfurt, to tell us about her life and her plans for future.

She went to Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, which is an Elite college. So, WOW. She wants to become a professor at a university. She told us a lot about her life. She has got 6 sisters, went to a catholic school, but isn't catholic or as much religious. A gun is not in her property, but her father owns 7. She also puts herself in the left wing, so she is a democrat. Her favorite food in NY is dirty water dogs and original New Yorker bagels. You may wonder what her name is. I will tell you at the end.

She was here on Friday, the 28th of January 2022. I was pleased to meet a person from North America and above all from New York. I always wondered how people from the west really are. I heard a lot of cliches. You know, about guns, arrogance and stuff like that. This girl surprised me. She is not like someone I would imagine to live in NY. She is just like us. That showed me, that we, human beings, are not different at all. We may live in different places, but are the same in our hearts. We should stop to believe in cliches. Instead, we all should change our perspective and form our own opinion. She is very nice and handsome and it was fun to talk to her. It was a feeling, like when you think you know a person for a long time, but in reality, you just met her.

She also answered all questions like she knows everything. I think she is God or something. Maybe she is more than that maybe she is the univer.. Oh, sorry I digress. Her name is Holly-Anne and I hope she will chase and fulfill her dreams. See you in the next blog. Out.

Alexander Sinner (BG 20W)

Blog about Holly

We had an interesting English lesson the last Friday, the 28th of January. We were one person more than usual. Holly, an American language assistant, was visiting us. We were asking questions about her and the life in the USA.

Holly is 22 years old and she lives in New York City, more precisely in Queens. She finished her college in Boston and wants to become a professor for creative writing in America. She is now in Germany, because she takes part in a programme to teach English in other countries. At first, the mood in the course was a bit unpleasant, because none of us wanted to be the first to ask a question. But this changed really quickly and the rest of the time felt nearly like a talk with friends. All in all the mood was lovely.

A question that interests nearly every German is, of course, how other people see our country and our traditions. Holly told us she really likes Germany, that is because she thinks Germans enjoy their life more, for example, the closed shops on Sunday. But on the other hand, when you do nothing, people judge you.

A thing that was very confusing for her was our train ticket system. She felt like a criminal when no one checked her ticket when she got into the train. From our point of view this is normal, but it was amusing to see how other people that are not from our country see our way of life.

On the other hand, we were interested in the states too, for example the typical prejudices. The south is full of rednecks with big pickups and old caps. I think she really enjoys her life; many people are stressed because they want their driving license as soon as possible. She doesn't really care about that, most of the time she is in New York where public transport is really good. In Germany you can also get to smaller cities per bus or train, in the US it is nearly impossible.

She also likes our food, bratwurst and sauerkraut for example, but for that she is not the best example for an American. She has German ancestors and already knew German food before. She also told us some things that we have to do when we are in the United States, we should necessarily try a real bagel, and we should visit Bryant park in New York, which is her favourite place there.

She attended a catholic school, but she is not catholic, but protestant. Nevertheless, she didn't have to pay for school, which is why she went there. The quality of a school really depends on how much money your neighbourhood owns. If you live in a poor neighbourhood your school will also be poorly equipped. She thinks there is also a major difference in German and American schools. In Germany it is more about understanding the material whereas American schools everything is more about just knowing the material, not understanding it. You can do everything in school, in most of your free time you are in school, all the activities are in school. Especially the schools in a bad neighbourhood are really poor and can't purchase new equipment. A typically prejudice are the very famous football teams in colleges, but it was different in Holly's school, they had no football-team. Instead, they had a basketball-team, which were the famous students.

Another big problem in America are the gun laws and the police. Holly told us that in some states you can even buy a gun at Walmart. Her dad owns 7 guns. He gifted a pink gun to her stepmother; this would be impossible in Germany. The police are meaner if you are not white, are disabled, gay or trans, which is a big problem in her opinion.

In her life she wants to write books and she wants to have many children; she really loves them and wants a big family.

Erik Stellmacher (BG 20W)

La visita de una americana en nuestro colegio

El 28 de enero 2022 tuvimos una visita en nuestra clase de español de una americana, que se llama Holly-Anne Grell.

Holly tiene 22 años. Es muy joven. Su pelo es rubio, rizado. Pues, llevó una chaqueta azul y pantalones negros.

Además, la chica bonita vive con su familia en Nueva York. Después, ella tiene 6 hermanas. Entonces es una familia grande. Holly tiene un carácter muy bonito. Es amable y al principio fue un poco calma. Para añadir es muy comprensiva, porque sabe que nuestro inglés no es tan bueno. Asimismo, es muy inteligente.

Holly estudió en Boston. Boston es una ciudad grande. Su universidad es también muy grande. De momento trabaja en Magdeburgo.

La americana tiene aficiones diferentes. Le gusta escribir novelas y labor de ganchillo. Quiere ser autora y profesora de escribir novelas buenas. Holly habla poco alemán, porque lo estudia desde hace 4 años. Le gusta la lengua alemana. Todo junto su presentación mostró que es segura de sí misma.

Además, habló mucho de su vida en Nueva York. Sus informaciones fueron muy interesantes. Nos contó, que en Nueva York hay muchos gentilicios. Por eso existe comida muy diferente. Holly dijo que significa mucha comida muy diferente. Además, ella nos recomendó dónde comer qué.

El colegio americano es estricto, hay guardias y detectores de metal en la entrada. Pues, además hay un régimen de ropa. Eso significa que no presenta demasiada piel desnuda. No llevan camisetas cortas, pantalones y faldas cortas, ropa con dibujos o texto de drogas y violencia y no lleva gorro.

Además, habló sobre armas en Nueva York. Es demasiado fácil comprarlas en el supermercado. Su padre tiene 7 fusiles y pistolas en su armario. Es muy impresionante. La madre de Holly tiene también una pistola rosa. Su pistola es un regalo para Navidad.

Nos contó un poco sobre drogas. Al fin nos contó sobre gente famosa. Encontró a gente famosa en la calle o en su colegio.

Fumar no es popular. Además, en el público no es muy aceptado. Fuman menos, por los daños para la salud.

Me encantó este tiempo con Holly. Yo estudié muchísimo sobre América. Fue muy interesante y su inglés es muy bonito. No comprendí todo, que no es terrible. Deseo que Holly sea muy feliz en su futuro.

Vivienne Pockrandt (BG 20W)

Nuevas perspectivas para los alumnos

El viernes pasado Holly-Anne de América visitó nuestro colegio.

Vive en Nueva York con su familia, pero de momento trabaja en Magdeburgo. Estudió en una universidad en Boston y tiene un sueño: Quiere ser una autora y profesora de escribir novelas. Escribe novelas y textos y le gusta labor a ganchillo también.

Holly-Anne es una persona muy inteligente y muy abierta. Todo el tiempo, habló mucho con nosotros y contestó nuestras preguntas. Nos informó sobre su persona: Tiene 22 años y pasó un curso de alemán porque quería hablar con sus abuelos en alemán. Pero nuestra profesora no la dejó revelarnos esta información. Por eso, pensamos que Holly-Anne no entiende alemán y tuvimos que hablar en inglés. Pensé fue muy difícil, pero entendí a Holly-Anne casi siempre. Su lengua fue muy bonita y me gustó hablar con Holly-Anne. La atmósfera fue muy bonita también: Tuvimos galletas y chocolate y bebimos té y café.

Holly-Anne contó muchas cosas interesantes sobre Los Estados Unidos de América. Por ejemplo, los colegios americanos son muy diferentes que los colegios en Alemania. Son muy estrictos y vigilados por guardias. Tienen un régimen de ropa también. Algunos colegios en Alemania tienen un régimen de ropa también pero no son muchos. Entonces, algunos colegios en América tienen detectores de metal en la entrada. Es probable que llegar a un aeropuerto sea más fácil que llegar a estos colegios. ¡Es muy raro! En algunos colegios encuentras a gente famosa.

Al fin, disfruté de esta clase y la visita de Holly-Anne me ha alegrado mucho. Conocí nuevas cosas y eso me gustó mucho.

Helena Gaberle (BG 20 G)

This is Holly – A Visit from America

Today I want to share my experience from my last English lesson on Friday, 28th January 2022.

Last Friday Mrs. Dr Junghanns invited a young woman named Holly from the USA (New York) to tell us something about her life and America.

Holly is a language assistant, who is working in Magdeburg at the moment. She has been studying German as her second subject. Holly has a wonderful personality, she's open, kind and the most beautiful feature about her, is her positive charisma. She comes into the room and just impresses everyone with her positive charisma. Holly likes to travel, other than her parents, they don't like travelling that much. Especially her mom, because she hates to fly on airplanes. Holly also loves to read books especially fantasy books. She finally started to write her own books.

She attended a catholic school, but without being catholic. In American schools they have other clothing rules than in German schools. For example, you're not allowed to wear high heels, ripped jeans or transparent leggings, because it is not appropriate. Others will assign you to a lower social class. Every school has their own gym clothes, especially for the football teams or the cheerleaders. They're often the most popular ones. Holly told us that she met Tom Holland once, because they filmed a Spiderman movie in her school, how cool is that!?

We talked with her about the differences between the health systems in America and Germany. We asked her which health system she prefers or which one is more beneficial in her eyes. She agreed with the fact that the German one is more beneficial but she said that she can't handle it. She has no idea how it works.

After that we got into politics... Holly told her opinion on which politician contributes the slogan "make America great again" the most. She said that she can't realise how someone who is so racist, homophobic and sexist like Trump could be the president of the USA. She also told us something about Obama and Biden. In her eyes Obama did a few great things, but in the practice not all of it worked very well. There wasn't much she could say about Biden except that in his short reign, he hasn't done very much till now.

Jonas, a boy from my class, asked Holly about the rights and the acceptance of people from the LGBTQ community... She told us that it depends on the state you live in. In some states gay marriage is allowed and you can adopt kids, in others you could get killed for being homosexual.

At the end she spoke about Thanksgiving. For Thanksgiving they eat more than they could ever imagine, for example, a giant turkey filled with potatoes and other vegetables, lots of different sweets etc. Thanksgiving has a special meaning for the Americans.

I am very grateful that we were allowed to have Holly in our English lesson, for all what she shared with us and especially for the way she answered our questions. Maybe one day we will see her again, but if not, we will definitely hear about her novels.

Greetings

Isabell Melcher (BG 21 G)

An unusual English lesson

On Friday January 28th, we got to experience a very different English lesson from our normal lessons. Holly-Ann Grell, an American language assistant visited our course of English.

My first impression of her was, that she's very friendly and has a great sense of humor. We welcomed her and were very excited to spend our lesson with her. Our task was to ask her questions about herself and her life in the US.

Holly grew up in Georgia and lives in Queens, New York. She came to Germany at the beginning of September and will go back to the US in June. She goes to Boston college and wants to teach creative writing in the future. She also loves reading books and wants to publish something on her own someday.

At first everyone was kind of nervous, but after asking some questions and Holly making some jokes everyone became more confident. Some topics we asked Holly about were sports, school, Thanksgiving, the American health system and how living in the US is in general.

I would like to share some of the information she told us that day with you.

Unlike in Germany, everything is open on Sundays and you are supposed to always be busy on the weekend and spending a day at home doing nothing is considered as being lazy.

Holly told us that in the North of the US strangers never really talk to you and you have to find the right people to form a connection with. In the South though, you are expected to socialize. We also learned that in the US you're supposed to always be late when meeting friends. If you tell them to show up at 2pm, they'll arrive at 3pm and you expect them to do so. When you're having lunch with your boss you should be a few minutes late but still earlier than your boss.

When we asked about Thanksgiving Holly told us that the goal is to eat as much food as possible. I was really astounded to hear about how many kinds of dessert they eat on Thanksgiving. In NYC there is a great parade called 'Macy's Parade' that takes place on Thanksgiving Day every year.

A fact that shocked me a lot, since it's so common in Germany is, that smoking cigarettes is not so popular in the US. It was nearly as surprising as finding out, that calling an ambulance costs 3-4K Dollars and people would rather call an uber than an ambulance.

Holly was even so kind to answer questions about sensitive topics like racism, religion and LGBTQ.

All in all, I could learn a lot about the US that day, and was very thankful for Holly's visit at our school and for her being so patient with us when we sometimes struggled to find the right words in English. I liked listening to her perspective and opinions. It brought some variety to our English course and helped us improve our English. I'd love have more lessons like this one.

Joline Rudloff (BG 21 G)