



PUBLICIS *Berlin*

Soccer Insanity - Neun Amerikaner in Berlin

Ansichten, Gedanken und Impressionen von US-
Journalismusstudenten in Fussball-Deutschland

Statements vor und nach dem Deutschlandbesuch im Juni 2006

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Corrie Carlson

PRE	POST
Europeans in general are much more liberal than we here in the United States are.	I don't really notice them as being any more liberal per say than anyone in the United States. Actually, I often find myself thinking that apart from the language barrier, we are all very much alike.
Planning this trip to Germany I've been warned several times about how shocked I'll be by simply watching European TV and being exposed to European advertisements.	My initial feeling throughout this trip is that at first I may not be welcome but after warming up to myself and the rest of my group all of the people we run into usually end up really loving us.
As far as prejudice and racism, I have heard that having the World Cup in Germany is going to arise a racist nature in many fans, who whether it be their own players or another team's do not care that they are citizens and athletes in their country, they see them as outsiders that do not belong.	Not only have I picked up on a different attitude toward outsiders (I think that the entire world is pretty much taking over Germany right now), but it is almost a curiosity.
However I do feel that they have fairly the same trends as we do. Technology is popular there, but is the iPod?	
I have heard that no other country wears Jeans (denim) like we do here in the US.	

Dave Ellerbee

PRE	POST
I'm told that German soccer fans are crazier than the craziest fans of any American sport. People often get into fights over the smallest thing in soccer.	Men, women, the young and the old all seem to be only concerned with the World Cup, especially here in Berlin.
Germans are not necessarily outgoing, but once you get to know someone, conversations about personal lives come easily.	Personal style also seems to be important. In America, it sometimes seems like there are several ideal looks and everyone strives to look a particular way. Here, many people young and old dress and style themselves however they feel like.
Germans love their food and beer, meals and hardy beer.	Germans enjoy the time that they have to relax. Their meal times aren't strictly structured and this allows people to eat when they feel like, for almost as much time as they feel like.
Germans are often stereotyped as being very strict and straight-faced, with little sense of humor.	
Germany was originally many different tribes that spoke the same language: Deutsch.	

Dustin Tomes

PRE	POST
I have often considered Europe to be very similar to the United States.	Germany cannot be generalized into the realm of "Europe". I don't know of an area within the United States where you can take a two-hour train ride to another city and notice a difference in cultures.
As a result of limited access to the world of soccer, I have limited interest.	People of the United States are often ridiculed for being ignorant of world issues and their lack of patriotism for their country in the World Cup. On the other hand, I have noticed that Germans can be rather rude and disrespectful of others around them.
Who knows? I may be a descent soccer player and an enthusiastic soccer fan – but I just haven't seen much for drive and opportunity within myself.	Countries respect other countries and get along with their fans. I am beginning to see why some countries are disappointed in the United States' participation in World Cup celebrations, as it really is the world's greatest event.
	The split between east and west Berlin is still so evident.

Jenny Heiser

PRE	POST
One of the biggest stereotypes is the “blond hair, blue eyes” combo. Blame the media, but most movies that contain a German character definitely characterize him or her as having these features.	The people are extremely friendly once they get to know you and a few of us have even made some German friends.
Soccer in Germany is more a philosophy or religion than a sport or way to pass time and get exercise.	Speaking of the World Cup, I have also learned that this event is one that makes the German people very proud.
With Germany as the host country this year, it will be interesting to see how the Germans will show the world how they feel about their home land.	the Germans are soaring with country pride, wearing the German flag as capes and painting their faces and bodies red, black and gold.
All there is to eat in Germany is sausage, sauerkraut, and beer.	

Julie Bohuslavsky

PRE	POST
In Europe most drinks are served without ice, and have a wide variety of beverages. One popular food item anticipate in Germany is sauerkraut and potato dumplings.	Dining out is an experience and it is not to be rushed but very relaxing. A native told me that the food takes longer because restaurants use fresh ingredients resulting in quality food.
I expect fans to be just as crazy as people are here for Nebraska football games, if not more. The world cup sounds like one big party.	The level of intensity is far beyond what I expected. Fans are supporting their country's colors and flags with their attire and actions during and after the games.
I expect most of Germany's citizens are educated because of their free education policy.	
I expect the surroundings to be somewhat like New York. I expect a lot of people in a small place from many different ethnicities, with German and Turkish being the largest.	
	They have been kind and willing to help me with my questions. They adapt well to different ethnicities and cultures. Many restaurants have multiple language menus and staff that have been able to communicate with me even though there is a language barrier.

Kate Campbell

PRE	POST
The first thing I think of when I hear "Germany" is the Holocaust and different things associated with it, such as concentration camps, Hitler, gas chambers, death, and war.	I have come to realize that Germany's history goes further back than I realized. Germany has been and still is in a continuous state of rebuilding itself and trying to "catch-up" with the rest of the world.
I expect the people to be very "cold" or unfriendly.	For the most part everyone I have encountered has been very pleasant.
I have a feeling I will get weird looks from people on the street because it is second nature for me to say hello or smile to everybody that crosses my path.	However, passing people on the street, train, bus, etc., it seems as though the people here are less friendly. Everyone seems to keep to him or herself unless approached by someone.
As far as clothes, I think the people will dress either really conservative or really wild, or punk style.	I have noticed physical differences such as the way people dress and style their hair. It seems as though the people in Germany and I think Europe in general care less what others think of them and are not afraid to do their own thing.
I would compare the soccer fans in Europe to University of Nebraska football fans and then multiply them by ten.	Soccer is a way of life here and I am enjoying it.
I expect to see drunk, fighting, yelling hooligans all over the place wearing all sorts of soccer paraphernalia and everybody having a great time.	Many people I have spoken with are proud to live in the country hosting the World Cup 2006. The support Germany has for its team is incredible. Crazy is an understatement. I have seen the streets and subways close, people hanging out of cars screaming and waving flags all as a sign of support for their team.

Nels Sorensen

PRE	POST
As a culture, for the longest time citizens did not consider themselves "German." Rather they identified either with their kingdom or city.	No longer did I think that all German walked around in lederhosen and drank beer all the time
As the most popular sport in the world, I would guess that football will be a major aspect of live for many Germans. As with any activity, not everyone will be a fanatic, but it will probably be along the lines of Super Bowl weekend here in the states, many times over.	It is amazing to be able to witness first hand the excitement of the game and the pride of each country.
Before coming to Germany, I knew that football was an important part of most of the world.	Football brings together many, many people.
	It is great to physically see the separate, color-coded cans for glas, restmüll, etc. and the signs in the hotel regarding using the towels more than once to save water.
	As with any other developed nation, German citizens seem to live their lives to the fullest extent. Get a good job, raise a family and try to be happy overall are all important.

Rebekah Giordano

PRE	POST
<p>In terms of the German citizens they are always on time and it is an insult to be late. They regularly use public transportation and ride bicycles as a mode to get around.</p>	<p>The way of life for many Germans seems to be one that is life enriching but simplistic at the same time. There are hardly any fast food restaurants in Germany, another key to eating healthy.</p>
<p>Automobiles are smaller in size and use diesel fuel. The German breakfast is composed of bread, eggs and sliced meats.</p>	<p>The people appear to live a healthy life-style, minus the cigarette smoking.</p>
	<p>The history that is embedded within Germany is so massive that it just adds to the aura of the country.</p>
<p>People live and die by football in Europe and Germany. In a round-about way soccer is a form of unification for the Germans, bringing them together to support their country's team, representing the red, gold and black.</p>	<p>The entire country appears to be 100% behind their team. After each win the Germans have expressed their love for their country by shouting, driving around honking their horns, waving flags. The Germans are a proud country and backing their national team is something that isn't even second guessed.</p>

Sara Brockhoff

PRE	POST
<p>One thought that I had about German culture was that it is made up entirely by a people who loathe inefficiency. I had created in my mind a people whose lives always run like clockwork and are ruled by orderliness and punctuality.</p>	<p>One observation that I have made is that meals in Germany are a time to relax!</p>
<p>Many Americans believe that Germans take life too seriously and in doing so abandon a sense of humor. It is a common notion that German life is regulated by a strict code of rules and regulations – and in accordance to these ideas, it may be believed that Germans are missing out on all of the fun that life has to offer.</p>	<p>In the U.S., we have seemed to developed a mentality that faster is better. This idea goes for about every aspect of the American lifestyle, including meals. It seems that Americans are constantly on the go and at times lose sight of what is most important in life – the ability to actually enjoy it.</p>
<p>I had expected the level of excitement and intensity to be quite high but really had no idea what to expect.</p>	<p>As soon as I arrived in Berlin, it was quite clear to me that the city had been taken over by soccer. And by taken over, I mean complete and utter takeover. Everything at this point in time revolves around soccer.</p>
<p>At first I couldn't help but think that this extreme passion for soccer was complete insanity. Isn't the chaos that is being created by the World Cup a hassle?"</p>	<p>But I was told that the Germans were both thrilled and proud that the World Cup was in their home country. When I asked them if they thought it was a hassle, they looked at me as though I was completely crazy. They think of the experience as a privilege.</p>
	<p>The night that Germany won helped me to have a better understanding of what I had deemed "soccer insanity". I realized that soccer created a community that is more than just a game, it is a way of life.</p>

DUSTIN TOMES

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