

Paying to watch two grumpy old men?

Welcome back to my blog guys. I hope you've had a great time! My name is Elisabeth and this is my third blog. Today was a very special day because we went to the city of Indianapolis, which is the capital city of Indiana.

First we took the school bus to the state house, but I underestimated the roads here. I am telling you. We "flew" over the potholes and it was like a roller coaster. After about an hour, we actually got off the ride and walked into the State House. To say that the building was "To say the building was pretty would be underestimating it. It was stunning! They had marble throughout the building and had floral details all over the wall which was gorgeous. Additionally, the lady who gave the tour was amazing and she explained that each floor had their own group of people there, for example the first floor was for the executives and the second floor was for the legislatives. We went to several different rooms and even sat in their chairs as she explained to us how the laws were made and the process that went into making them.

The time was flying by and I was starting to get hungry, but luckily our next stop was the Beef and Boards and it was one of the best experiences I have ever had. We started off with a nice lady explaining to us what Ms. Rhode had already told us and we were allowed to go inside. At first I was excited about the food, because at Beef and Boards you can eat from a buffet and watch a play. In this case it was called "Grumpy Old Men". When I first heard the title, I was a little confused as to why we chose it, but we really had no choice because it was the only play we could see at that time. Like I said, I wasn't expecting much at all, but when I walked in, I was shocked to see how fancy it looked. There were nice decorated tables everywhere and it was quite chic. However, our Gapp group was a bit out of the ordinary, and I bet you guys have no idea what I am talking about. There were old people in every seat in that hall and I would guess that they were all over 50 years old and if I am being honest, I would go there too if I was that age because the food was actually really good. Moreover they had a great variety including salad, meat, potatoes and a lot of other things. You could go as often as you wanted along with unlimited iced tea, coffee and lemonade was included with a piece of cake, which I really liked. After about an hour and a half, they took the food away and the play started.

The name of the play was "Grumpy Old Men", so I was a little bit curious about how they were going to plan a musical like that. In the end I was quite surprised, because the play was not bad, it was quite good, but sometimes it was not really my sense of humor. It was about two grumpy old men who fought a lot and fell in love with their new neighbor. In the end, to give you a short version, one of them

got married to the woman and the two men became friends again.

All in all it was an amazing experience and we went to school by bus afterwards. This was our first day in Indianapolis after all and it was very interesting to learn about the state house and to visit the beef and boards. Well that was my blog for this day and I hope you guys enjoyed it! see you next time and have a great day!

- Elisabeth Wolf



The state house



Buffet at "Beef and Boards"

Blog entry

9/12/2023

Hey guy's,

How are you? My first week in America is over and so far I experienced many things that I have only seen in high school movies. Today, I wanna talk about a typical American event, that almost every teenager loves! It's called the homecoming dance.

The dance took place in the homecoming week on the 9th of September. During this week, a lot of things took place, like the parade on Monday or the football game on Friday. Everyday of the week, there was also another dress up day, where all the students and teachers could dress on a specific topic. Some of the topics were: music through the years, country music or hiphop.

Before we went to the dance, my host sister, Elisabeth and me got our hair done at an hair salon. My host mother told me, that Americans get very often their nails, hair or make up done at salons. In Germany not many people do that, because it's not as cheap as in America! For my hairstyle, I only payed 10 \$! (9,32 €).

After, we went to a friend of my host sister to get ready for the dance. We put on our dresses and took MANY photos. At 8 pm the dance has begun and we took photos (again) with the whole GAPP team.

The homecoming dance has taken place in the gymnasium of the high school. It was beautifully illuminated and the DJ played good music. Once even a German song was played. Sometimes they played rap music, but also slow music whereby you could dance with your date (I danced with Johanna, a GAPP student).

Most of the Americans had a date they danced with, but we GAPP students often danced together in a group (some German students also danced with American students). Almost every American girl wore a very short dress and I was very surprised that the parents allow it.

At 11 pm the dance was over and my host mother picked me up. I was very tired but also happy, that I could experience the homecoming week with everything that goes with it.

What exciting things did you do on your weekend?

I hope you enjoyed reading my little blog entry,

Your Hannah

Hannah Heinisch

Teenage nights

By Maya Hewelt

"Lady, Running Down to the Riptide" from the song Riptide by Vance Joy was playing on my phone at maximum volume. My host parents were in church and I wondered what color lipstick would go with my dress. I decided on a classic red, my favorite. As my excitement level rose, I danced to pop music and embraced the fact that I was still a teenager. I can allow myself to be excited about a high school dance with my friends. Currently, I am in such a privileged position where I don't have to worry about a salary, finding an affordable way to live, and the rising prices of food. I am 17 years old and currently living a great high school experience.

That night was the homecoming dance. Something I only knew from movies or Netflix shows. The whole week was celebrated with a parade, dress-up days, and the crowning of the homecoming king and queen.

That night was Saturday, and I tried not to mess up my eyeliner while singing "Counting Stars" by Coldplay at the top of my lungs. What I didn't know at the time was that I wasn't going to like the music they played at the dance very much. When I arrived at the school, I met my friends and as I walked in, I knew I had made the right decision to wear sneakers to the dance. Most of the girls took off their shoes as soon as they got inside. Then they just danced barefoot. Unfortunately, the DJ played mostly rap music, which me and my friends didn't know. But we had a lot of fun anyway.

One of my friends had a date for the dance and we didn't see her once that night. Some others found people to dance with on the floor. Anyway, the music got better as time went on and I decided to suggest a German song. The DJ said he couldn't promise it, but he would try to fit it in. About 10 minutes later we were all dancing hard to "Von Party Zu Party" by SXTN. I had a great time that night and a delicious Tiger Paw cookie.

Nights like this made me feel very grateful to be able to have all these amazing experiences in my teenage years. I am basically living the life my 12-year-old self dreamed of. Traveling the world and meeting people that I would never want to miss.

The flying bus to Indy.

Hey guys, it's Rosa. I hope you are all doing good. A few days passed since my last blog entry, so I wanted to update you on what's going on in my life right now.

Therefore, I want to tell you about the first trip in Indiana with the GAPP group.

September 13th was not a normal school day for us GAPP students. We would be doing something way more special than school. Even though American high school already is special to us ;). We were going to Indy. Indy is the nickname for Indianapolis, the capital of Indiana. The state where we live for the three weeks of our exchange.

We all met at 7:30 a.m. to leave. Our excitement grew even bigger when we saw the bus. There was a yellow school bus in front of us that would take us to Indianapolis. It was so cool. We got on the bus and at that point we didn't know what was expecting us. The bus ride felt like a roller coaster because the roads were very bumpy. Every bump we went over, the bus took off and we all thought we were flying. It was the funniest bus ride I have ever been on!

When the flying bus finally landed, the first thing we could see was the beautiful Indiana State House. This was our first destination of the day. We got inside and guess what... We even had to go through security. Luckily, you could leave your shoes on this time. Not like at the airport in NYC where we had to take them off. After going through security, a nice lady named Janet was waiting for us. She was the one who would guide us through the entire State Building. The room where we met her had a large chapel with many small colorful pieces of glass. It looked adorable. Janet told us everything about the history of how the State House became the State House it is now. This statehouse was actually only built because the one before it partially collapsed and people were afraid to go in there again. All in all, there were three State Houses before this one. Isn't that crazy?

When we finished our little history lesson, we went into an office. But it wasn't just any office. It was the governor's office. And you could notice that. There was a special table made out of wood that showed the state of Indiana, its seal, and its flag. The whole office looked awesome.

Afterwards, we went to a meeting room where all the representatives usually meet. We were allowed to sit in the big rolling chairs that belong to them. In that moment, I felt like I was one of the representatives. The chairs were very comfortable. Maybe I should become a politician in my future. Janet showed us some other really nice and important rooms and then it was time for us to leave.

The flying bus arrived and drove us to our final destination, "Beef and Boards". Sorry, I mean it flew us to our final destination. "Beef and Boards" is a theater. Actually, it is a very special one. It is a theater where you sit on tables and eat before the play starts. I think there should be a rule that every theater has to do that. When we got into the theater, we were definitely the youngest people there. We even saw a woman who celebrated her 90th birthday on the same day. She had a little crown. It was so cute.

However, when we got closer to the stage, we saw two big buffets with food for everyone's taste. If someone had told me that they couldn't find any food, I would have never believed them. And WOW, that food was amazing. I got two big plates that were so full that you wouldn't have been able to fit more food. After we finished eating, the play "The Grumpy Old Men" started. I was really excited about the play, but as soon as the lights turned out, I got really tired. I mean REALLY tired. I fell asleep, but I didn't want to, so I tried to stay awake. But it was so hard. My eyes just kept closing.

Finally, after the break, I was awake and could pay attention to the actors. The actors did a very good job. I loved watching them. If I ever come back to Indy, I will definitely go to "Beef and Boards" again.

After we got out of the theater, the flying bus took us back to Alexandria. The ride/flight home was great. Some of the other GAPP students were playing "Who am I?" and it was a lot of fun to watch them.

Our first trip to Indianapolis was awesome. I'm looking forward to next week when we will visit Indy again.

If you also want to experience the city of Indianapolis and do the same activities we did, you should definitely join the next GAPP exchange to Alexandria.

See you next time on my blog. Your Rosa.

Some pictures of our trip to Indy:



The buffet at "Beef and Boards"

The State House



The meeting room



The chapel in the State House



How I nearly saw someone dying

When we drove to Indianapolis with a yellow school bus today I was so excited. We had a very bumpy ride to the city 🤖. The bus had shaken so much. I didn't like the ride. But what I liked was the State House of Indiana. And it's soooooo impressive. The house was built in 1880 🏢. Because of that it also looks very old.

Before we could go inside this beautiful building we had to go through a security control like at the airport. I was one of the first who could go into it. So I had to wait for the others but everybody was fine. But luckily we were done very fast because we left everything on the bus. I just took my phone with me to take some pictures. When everybody finished the security control my first impression of the inside from the inside of the house was: „Wow”. 🤯

It looked so old. It looked so amazing. After a short stop at the restroom we met in a huge room. The ceiling was 105 feet high and on the top was a big dome. The dome had so many colors!!! The glass, that the dome was made from, looked so wonderful. The building had three floors and you saw every floor there. On the second floor were eight statues 🗿. Everything was nine feet high. The normal high of a male human is five feet high. I mean are you nine feet tall? I don't think so. 😂

Every statue symbolizes something different. For example: art, liberty or suffrage. The woman thought us first something about the building and then about some historical people. After that we went into the governor's office. And also that looked like the rest of the building awesome. ✨ There was a big table made from wood out of trees from Indiana on the one side of the room. Opposite the table there was the his desk -Eric J. Holcomb, the governor of Indiana. And next to it was a fireplace 🔥 with some armchairs. It all looked so impressive. On the walls were pictures of some former governors. Later we went to two rooms, one was the House of Representatives and the other one was the Senate. Then we went to the court room. There were also so many pictures.

After all that we finished our tour and went back outside.

The sun was shining and the weather was nice. Our bus went by. Next stop: the Beef and Boards Theatre.

We wanted to watch “Grumpy old men”. First we ate there because there's an included buffet where you could eat everything you wanted to. Also included was that you could drink as much lemonade, water, ice-tea and coffee as you liked 🍋. That's in every restaurant in the U.S.A like that.

We had one and a half hour time to eat. I was shocked when the stage started moving for the first time because our table was next to the stage. But it happened very often during the play, and I was just shocked the first time.

Then finally the play started. Do you know the movie? If you don't you have to watch it.

In the play was a guy (Spoiler) that nearly died 🤯. I wasn't sure in that moment if he would. But

then his girlfriend said something that I don't remember 😂, and he woke up again 🤯

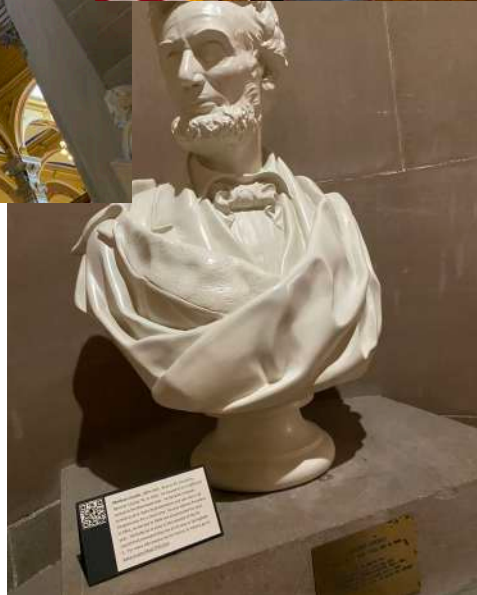
I didn't understand everything especially when they were singing. But that what I understood was very funny and well acted.

After the play we went outside to the bus.

We had a very bumpy drive back 🤖

But all in all I'm still alive 🤪 and that's the thing that counts. I had a great day with lots of new experiences, and I would like to watch the hilarious play and have the interesting tour again. Maybe I'm going to watch the movie to understand everything.

Bye Leni 🐱



Best sleep of my life!

Hey guys! What's up? My name is Lotti and this is my third blog entry. I hope you enjoyed the last ones! In this blog I want to talk about our first trip to Indianapolis and what we did there. I hope you like it!

To get to Indianapolis, we took a classic yellow school bus. That was something that I wanted to do while I was here! But it was not as cool as I originally had in mind. The road was very damaged, so you could feel every single bump and it felt like a roller coaster. Surprisingly, the lady was very old and I didn't think that she could drive so differently than I am just used to. Still, it was a very nice experience.



After a very scary ride, she took us to the state center of Indiana.

At first, I was in shock at how beautiful the building was. The front door of the building was very big. After we walked in, we had to go through a little security



check to get in. The interior of the building was so big. We had a little tour of the State Center. The lady told us so many interesting facts about the building. The highlight was that we sat in the same seats as the senators. I took a lot of pictures of it. There were three floors. The first floor for the executive and the second floor for the legislative. It was a huge building and I loved the interior. The history behind everything was so interesting to me. Did you know that Germany is also part of the building? No? Germany made the glass. It looks very noble and beautiful.

After this interesting tour I was very hungry. Luckily, we went to the beef and bord dinner theater. I was very excited because it was the first time I visited such a theater. Also, a lady explained what drinks were on the menu and how many people could sit at one table. Our time to eat was about an hour and a half before the show started. The food was surprisingly good and they had a lot of choices, including salad and meat. After the musical started, the



room was so dark, which made me very tired. I actually fell asleep and woke up halfway through the musical. In the break we went to the small souvenir shop, but we didn't buy anything. when we were back at our seats, we ordered ice cream twice. It did not taste so good. Like the lemonade and the iced tea. I didn't fall asleep in the second half. Overall, the musical was not my taste. There were only old people who laughed so much! I really did not get it and wondered why it was so funny because it was not my sense of humor. After the play ended, the bus picked us up and we went back to our high school while playing "Who am I" all the time. In the end, it was still a nice trip and I really enjoyed it.

The day was really nice and I hope you guys enjoyed the blog, have a nice day and see you next time!

Lotti

