

# Nazis' march worries young German visitors

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"HERR BURGOMASTER" Richard Flickinger, mayor of Morton Grove, served as host Wednesday, March 15, when 15 German exchange students from Dusseldorf, Germany, were guests of the village at a luncheon at the Black Forest restaurant, 8840 Waukegan.

The students, 9 boys and 6 girls aged 14-20, came from three Dusseldorf gymnasiums (high schools) for a three-week visit in the homes of students at Niles West high school. In August, a group of Niles West students will visit Dusseldorf.

"The program has been very enthusiastically received on both sides," said Jack Lorenz, Niles West director of social studies and fine arts, which is the sponsoring department. "It is a very beneficial cultural exchange," he said, adding it is "amazing how much you learn."

Lorenz said that exchanges between the German and Niles West students range from discussion of McDonald's restaurants in Dusseldorf, which serve beer and charge about \$2 for a quarter-pounder, to serious talk about the planned Nazi march in Skokie.

THE BIGGEST concern of the German students, according to Lorenz, is worry that they might be "equated with the Nazis." They "handle questions well-look at the Nazi movement in a historical sense," he said. Lorenz explained that the students come from schools which accept only the top 15%, so they are all "intelligent and articulate."

Since they arrived on March 7, the students have visited classes at Niles West, and have been kept busy with trips to the Art Institute, museums, an ethnic bus tour of Chicago, and a walking tour of the Loop area with a trip to the top of Sears Tower. Group gatherings have been planned by host families, as well as a pancake breakfast at the Central Methodist church, and a trip to Woodfield shopping center.

While there are not a lot of sporting events to attend at Niles West now, the students attended sectional basketball games at Northwestern university's McGaw hall. During spring vacation, some students are staying in the area, others are traveling with host families, and still another group is going to New Orleans with the Niles West band.

LORENZ SAID the guest students are fascinated by the Niles West auto driving range and like to ride along with student drivers. "They can't drive until they are 18," he said.

Robert Weiss, who accompanied the students to Niles West, is Wisconsin-born, and now teaches English in a Dusseldorf gymnasium. He said he hopes that the exchange program will help foster an appreciation of other languages and cultures.