

# The DALLAS POST

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## Frida has become very 'Americanized'

By REBECCA BRIA  
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Foreign exchange student Frida Freiesleben learned a lot about America from watching the "Simpsons" on television.

Life in the United States isn't quite what Freiesleben saw on the cartoon series, but she does admit to enjoying American snacks.

The 16-year-old from Denmark is a foreign exchange student through ASSE International Student Exchange Programs. Freiesleben is staying with Rich and Barbara Zeglin of Dallas until the end of the school year. She is currently a sophomore at Dallas High School.

"The hardest part of it is getting to know each other, getting to know the routine and then it develops into a family relationship," Rich Zeglin said.

The Zeglins have had eight

foreign exchange students over the years. They began opening their home when their daughter, Renee, was in seventh-grade and hosted students until Renee, now 33, graduated from high school.

The Zeglins, who are now grandparents, signed up to host more students and Barbara became a representative for ASSE International.

"I wanted to do more than talk to a 3-year-old all day," Barbara said of watching her granddaughter. "I had this enlightening thought, 'Why don't I become an area representative?' And in the process of going through the paperwork and everything, Rich and I realized how much we miss having students."

Freiesleben is active at Dallas High School and is a member of the International Club, the Diversity Club and the Drama

Club. She is playing Juror No. 11 in the school's production of "Twelve Angry Jurors" on Nov. 20 and Nov. 21.

The juror Freiesleben is playing is supposed to be from Europe and have an accent, so she feels she fits the part well.

The Zeglins have taken Freiesleben to various places from Washington, D.C. to Maine, including Chocolate World in Hershey. That was an adjustment for Freiesleben, who never before rode a school bus to school and is surprised at how dependent Americans are on cars.

"In Denmark, I just used my bicycle or took the train," she said. "Here, someone has to

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Frida Freiesleben, an exchange student from Denmark living in Dallas, says she knew a lot about America before she arrived from watching the "Simpsons."



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Wake Schepman, of Sweet Valley, is an inline skater. He placed fourth in the 16 years old and up category in the 2009 American Inline League (AIL) World Championships held on Oct. 24 in Tehachapi, Calif. Because Schepman placed in the top 10 in his category, the 12-year-old is now considered an AIL Elite.

## Wake Schepman skates with the big boys

By REBECCA BRIA  
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Wake Schepman received his first pair of inline skates as a Christmas gift when he was just 5 years old.

Seven years later Schepman, of Sweet Valley, placed fourth in the 16 years old and up category in the 2009 American Inline League (AIL) World Championships held Oct. 24 in Tehachapi, Calif. Because he placed in the top 10 in his category, the 12-year-old is now considered an AIL Elite.

Despite being just 12, Schepman was allowed to compete in the 16 years old and up category

because the categories are based on skill and not age.

In 2007 and 2008, Schepman competed in the AIL World Championships in the ages 10 to 15 category.

He was surprised to do so well this year at his first attempt in an advanced category.

"This was the first year I went into the 16 and over advanced," he said. "I thought maybe, just maybe, I'd make it in the top 10."

Schepman was introduced to inline skating at age 5 when he first saw a television show called "Rocket Power," a Nickelodeon animated cartoon about friends who took part in various sports, including inline skating.

At the same age, Schepman went to see the X Games in Philadelphia with his father, Wes. The annual sports event features extreme action sports, sparking his interest in inline skating.

Schepman and his family were living in Clermont, Fla. at the time and he taught himself to

skate at a local skate park in the town.

Despite being just 12, Schepman was allowed to compete in the 16 years old and up category because the categories are based on skill and not age. In 2007 and 2008, Schepman competed in the AIL World Championships in the ages 10 to 15 category.

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"Over the years you see people skate," he said. "You try to do tricks the older guys do."

The Schepmans soon moved to Clarks Summit but, because there are no skate parks in the area, his parents drove him to indoor skate parks in Hackettstown and Flemington, both in New Jersey.

About six months ago, the Schepmans relocated again to Sweet Valley. Wes built a skate park in the backyard so Wake can practice daily at the house when the weather permits but Wes and his wife, April, still drive their son to skate parks in New Jersey about once a week.

Schepman has also been attending Camp Woodward, locat-

ed in Woodward, outside of State College, for six years. Camp Woodward is a residential action sports, gymnastics and cheerleading camp for children ages 7 to 18.

It is uncommon for a 12-year-old American inline skater to be sponsored, but Schepman was first sponsored at age 9 by Denial Clothing. He is currently sponsored by Denial Clothing, Neglected Truth Skate Shop, Razor Skates, Denim Jeans and H-Town Skate Park.

Some of Schepman's mentors include Cameron Card, Chris Haffey, Richie Velasquez and Montre Livingston - all recognized professional inline skaters.

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## Voices Project teaches students how others live

By REBECCA BRIA  
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Megan Carey and Mary Gulotta never knowingly came into contact with someone who has acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Then they met Bryan.

Carey, of Groton, N.Y., and Gulotta, of Trucksville, both 19, are among 28 students in the Introduction to Psychology class of Alicia Nordstrom, Ph.D., at Misericordia University who worked on The Voices Project this semester. The Voices Project is a storytelling program about diverse populations that are often the victims of prejudice, being stereotyped and discriminated against.

As a service-learning project, Nordstrom's students interviewed people in the community such as Muslims, Hispanics, African Americans, Indian Americans, people struggling with their weight or obesity, people with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and people in poverty.

The students met with voluntary participants for three hours and attended a cultural event related to the subject. The students also wrote mini memoirs of their participants' lives.

Misericordia faculty, staff and students read the stories of each participant during a public presentation on Nov. 5 in the Lemmond Theater on

"Somebody knows somebody who has it, whether they know it or not."

Bryan  
Aids victim

campus.

Carey and Gulotta interviewed a man named Bryan who has AIDS, a disease caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Bryan, 49, of Kingston, did not wish to use his last name in an attempt to protect his privacy. He was diagnosed with AIDS on Nov. 16, 2001 after not feeling well for about a year. He does not know exactly how he contracted HIV or from whom he contacted it; however, he does acknowledge having engaged in unprotected sex and abused drugs and alcohol.

"Somebody knows somebody who has it, whether they know it or not," Bryan said. Carey and Gulotta were referred to Bryan through their professor and asked him questions including how he contracted HIV, how he dealt with the diagnosis of AIDS, his family's reactions, his positive and negative experiences related to AIDS and the stereotypes he has endured.

The women also accompanied Bryan to Main Street Galleries in Kingston to view an exhibit based on the book "Fo-

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Megan Carey, left, and Mary Gulotta talk to Bryan, who is afflicted with AIDS, as part of the Voices Project at Misericordia University.



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