Long live ENGLISH

On 10th April at 9 o’clock representatives of our schools took part in a conference entitled “Native Speakers Day. Cultural – Busters. Busting Cultural Stereotypes”. The conference was held in The State Higher School of Computer Science and Business Administration in Łomża. It dealt with cultural stereotypes in selected (mostly) English-speaking countries. We were represented by:

IVb ASP – Tomek Przychodzeń, Marcin Gardocki
III ASP – Wojtek Chojnowski, Rafał Kamiński
II ASP – Marek Filipowicz, Dominik Chojnowski
II ALO – Magda Kozłowska, Sylwia Story, Hubert Grądzki, Ola Wyrwas, Emilia Gawryś
Ia ALO – Radek Jakacki, Dorota Jaworska, Martyna Gardocka
Ib ALO – Ula Filipowicz, Beata Wiktorzak, Kasia Małkowska

And of course Ic ALO, our language class. We went there with sor Szczeciński!! Altogether there were over thirty students from our schools, which is quite a lot of folk! :D

At the conference there were five native speakers telling us about stereotypes concerning their homelands. We had Barry Parker, a representative of England, Stephany Eschulk from Canada, Lynn Rabas from the USA, Gustavo Cuellar from Mexico and Troy Philips from the Republic of South Africa.

The first presentation was made by Barry Parker, who spoke to us about England. We could learn that the English drink tea at 5 o’clock, which may be true but mostly at weekends. In my opinion he was the best speaker as he has an impeccable British accent. We saw that he was really stressed out because his hand was shaking all the time while he was holding a microphone. To me he seems to be a very nice person.

Next presentation was given by Stephany Eschulk about Canada. We learnt that Canadians love maple syrup and add it to everything! (That’s crazy! :D ) She also told us about their national summer sport lacrosse, and their passion as well as national winter sport hockey! Stephany had a sore throat so she couldn’t talk too loud but she was still audible.

Mexico was proudly presented by Gustavo Cuellar. That’s my second favorite native speaker. Because of his jokes, he was really funny. Spanish is the official language in Mexico. The
stereotype of Mexican people is that they are lazy, which isn’t true. Gustavo said that he is happy to work in Poland only on weekdays and not Saturdays so he doesn’t think that his countrymen are lazy. Their national sport is the same as ours, FOOTBALL!! They love watching soccer sitting comfortably in their armchairs and sipping tequila.

After the presentations we had a 30 minutes’ break for lunch. I was walking around the University with my schoolmates and we all reckon it looks really nice and modern compared to other Universities :D

The USA was presented by Lynn Rabas, a native speaker teaching in our school. The audience loved her! She was cheered as she joked all the time. She explained to us why American police officers eat donuts. It’s because the cafes are opened 24h and they have to eat something :D She was ashamed of her fellow countrymen because they know nothing about other countries. People in the USA just want to earn money to buy new things that are (much) better than the ones that their neighbours have. That’s just silly and ridiculous to me. They think that buying new things will make them happy. No surprise here. IT DEFINITELLY WON’T :D

The last presentation was made by Troy Philips from South Africa. For me the best point of the presentation was when he said that South Africans use their lunch breaks to go surfing and they just love it. They also enjoy lying on the beach and sunbathing. They have marvelous beaches so why not stay on them all day long? :D

The conference finished before 1 p.m. It was awesome. I hope that I’ll attend another similar event soon.

Urszula Filipowicz Ib ALO (with a little bit of support by MSZ)