

That's it — He's leaving the country

by **RACHEL KIELTY**
Associate Editor

This summer Kyle Fricke, a junior at Jackson County Central, will be packing his bags and leaving. No, not for good, and not because he's just plain had it. Instead, he'll be departing for a three-week stay in Germany,

in competition for one of the six grand prizes an all-expenses paid trip to study in Germany.

The study course is held at the Goethe-Institute in Bonn, Germany. The institute was founded in 1951 to promote a wider knowledge of the German language and to foster cultural cooperation be-

video, students were asked to take a quiz that asked questions about the information they had just viewed. One question asked, "Which President said, 'Ich bin ein Berliner'?" Another question was, "What was the name of the famous checkpoint?"

In order to qualify for the drawing held to award prizes, students had to answer all of the questions correctly, which many of them did. At the local level, several students won things such as T-shirts, posters, German candy, stickers and pencils. Then on March 12, Hample was notified that JCC had for the third time been selected as a grand prize winner. In the past, Jackson High School was fortunate enough to be selected as a winner two other times, in 1991 and again in 1997.

A selection committee reviewed specific criteria established by the Goethe-Institute to use in determining the grand-prize winning student. The Institute requires that the grand prizewinner be a 16- or 17- year old student who has a record of outstanding performance in his or her German class, an interest in the language and culture of Germany, and interest in furthering their study of German after high school.

Upon reviewing these criteria, Hample was given the go ahead to inform Fricke that he had been selected as a first prizewinner, and that he would be going to Ger-

many this June.

Fricke said of his first reaction when Frau Hample told him the good news, "I was shocked." He said after the initial shock wore off, "I was pretty much ecstatic." Fricke said that his mother wasn't any less surprised than he was to find out that he'd won the trip. He said that at first when he tried to tell her that he'd won, she wasn't believing him. Then when it started to sink in, "The look on her face was classic," said Fricke.

Fricke plans to major in music in college with a possible minor in German. Consequently, he was even more thrilled about this once-in-a-lifetime-opportunity when he discovered that Bonn is Beethoven's birthplace. "It made the whole idea of going there enhanced," he said.

Fricke will leave for Bonn on June 10 and return on June 30. He said that in his free time abroad he will do as much exploring as he can. He plans to pay special attention to enjoying plenty of the local cuisine as well as soaking up the culture at museums and other historical sites.

This trip appears to be just the beginning of a life filled with travel for Fricke. He feels very strongly about people getting out and learning about the world they live in. He said, "I'd like to study abroad in college. I think it's the best thing you can do when you're in the arts."



Kyle Fricke is all smiles as he points to his future home away from home.

and it's not costing him a dime.

How is that possible? You might be asking yourself right about now. Well, Fricke actually won the trip in a school-wide contest held last November.

German teacher Roxann Hample organized the Award of Excellence contest, and it was administered to middle school and high school students. The contest is held on a national level with students from JCC joining more than 200,000 students from 2,500 schools across the United States and Canada

tween Germany and other countries. It has 127 branches in 76 countries, including six in the United States and two in Canada.

To win this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, students first had to watch a video called, "A Decade of Unification." The video portrayed the dramatic events that led to the fall of the Wall and described the process of unification that took place afterward. The video also focused on the changes affecting Germany's culture, its infrastructure and organization. Following the