

# Foreign students exchange ideas in programme

**KUANTAN:** When economics undergraduate Erik Loken first stepped foot in Malaysia last month, he was totally in the dark about its people and culture.

But the 20-year-old from Seattle, Washington, will return to the United States in a few days time with memories to cherish for a lifetime.

In little over a month, Loken has toured the country, meeting people of various backgrounds and adapting to the culture here.

And, he feels his experiences were worth the stay.

"The historical spots, the local delicacies, the people, the unity among various races, the interesting political scenario and lots more had really kept me fascinated.

"Time flies very fast here and I felt as though I had just landed at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport yesterday," he said.

The Washington State University undergraduate said



Erik Loken says he has a lot of fond memories here

there were a lot of fond memories here that would make him smile whenever he recollects them.

"During my visit to a longhouse in Sarawak, I was taken aback when told by a friend that all the little kids who were running around were his cousins.

"There were nearly 100 kids

in that longhouse and I still wonder how they were all related to each other," he said, bursting into laughter.

Loken was one of 10 US students participating in a programme organised by the US embassy, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and ERA Consumer Malaysia.

The programme, known as "Student's Life in Malaysia and The United States" was initiated to create personal interaction between students of both countries.

The foreign students, along with 100 UMP undergraduates, exchanged ideas and shared their knowledge on various topics ranging from culture, campus life and co-curricular activities.

Aspiring journalist Alyssa Tarrelly, 19, from Haverford College said her tour of the New Straits Times Press office in Kuala Lumpur and the opportunity to attend the Parliament sitting was something unforgettable.