

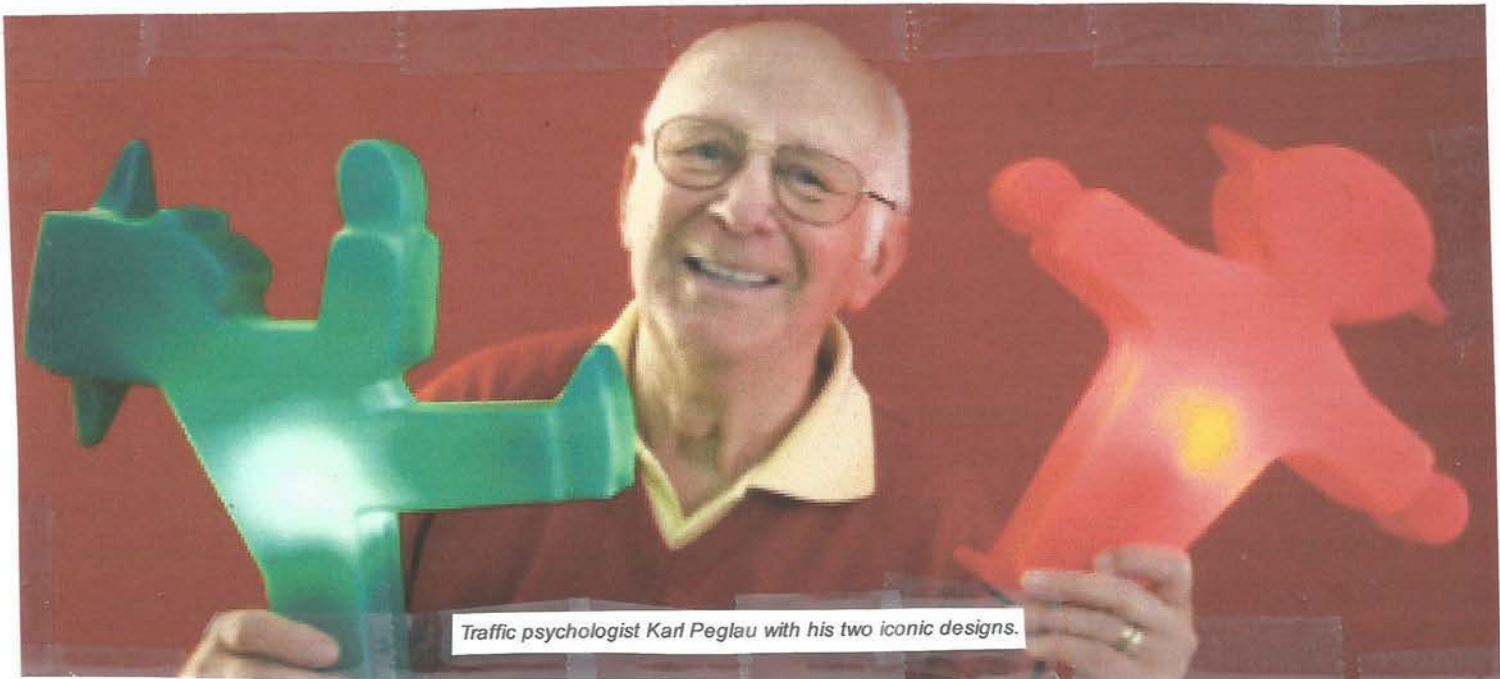
“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

OCTOBER 3—DAY OF GERMAN UNITY

10 THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT GERMAN REUNIFICATION



4. Reunification almost killed the East German ‘Ampelmännchen’



Starting in 1990, there were attempts by the authorities to replace the East German pedestrian crossing lights with standardised ones.

The distinctive man - known as the Amplemännchen and modelled on a photograph of former GDR leader Erich Honecker in a straw hat - became a cult symbol. After a series of protests, the decision was made to keep the 'Ampelmännchen'. It is now also a very successful tourist merchandise range.