

Foreign Students Think We're Great... But A Bit Boastful

Teenagers Are Alike The World Around Foreign Students Tell Dallas Friends

Last week the student body of Dallas Senior High School entertained Rotary Foreign Exchange students who are spending a year attending classes at nearby high schools.

As a part of the day's program the Foreign Exchange students also entertained the student body at a Panel Discussion during the afternoon Assembly.

There was a ready, unstudied exchange of questions and answers. The questions and the answers in that exchange were taken down and transcribed by two senior Business students; Elizabeth Cleasby and Mary Zarychta.

What they heard—or thought they heard—is here presented for the enlightenment and education of Dallas Post readers.

—The Editor

DISCUSSION PANEL

- Bjarne Thorning-Lund-Denmark, Sally Moyer-Dallas,
- Nuala Downey-New Zealand, Dorothy Eck-Dallas,
- Chris Leydolt-Austria, Sandra Ambrose-Dallas,
- Arvin Shah-India, Diane Payne-Dallas,
- Elsbeth Gerrits-Holland, Elfriede Hefft-Dallas,

Jon Butler - Moderator

Dale Mosier opened the assembly with Bible reading, the Lord's Prayer, and the pledge to the Flag.

Mr. Donald Evans—We have a treat for you today—panel discussion or report. We will have Rotary Exchange Students participating. I know this discussion will be informative.

Dr. Robert A. Mellman—Mr. Evans, guests, ladies and gentlemen, it's a pleasure for me to welcome these students to Dallas. This is just about the best thing for us all because we are learning to understand their ways of life, the ways they do things, their schools, their customs, and I know they will learn a great deal about us.

We are fortunate to send out students, young men and women from Dallas, and hope to continue. I think they are outstanding people and they will tell other people of the world of our customs and society and it's important for other people to visit us.

The fact that we know so little about the cultures of the world, is something of which we should be ashamed.

With Rotary's lead, I think you will find in the next five years the system of education will change to the degree that many of our young folks will be taking their last year of formal education in a foreign country, in exchange for another student coming to this country.

Dr. Les Jordan, past president of Rotary and Chairman of the Rotary Exchange Committee, is acquainted with many students in all areas of the world and he loses me when he talks about countries and friends he has. They have been here and they have told him about their countries and he knows them well. He is looking ahead and is planning to make arrangements so that we can continue this program.

Dr. Jordan—Thank you Dr. Mellman, I'm not sure who I represent but I do want to express on behalf of our five exchange students our thanks for inviting us here today. We were in Plymouth on Wednesday.

As Dr. Mellman has commented this movement, in a brief period of time, has become a world circulating program. Four of your former classmates are in other countries. We have some very discriminating types with us today not only from background, but from likes and dislikes. The thing of most importance is that kids are the same the world over. All you have to do is get to know them.

We all came into this world the same. Some things change our customs and traditions. Basically, we are all the same.

We had all these kids together with Bob Baird's orchestra on December 22 and they were just like Dallas kids.

I hope this is the first of many

international exchange programs in Dallas High School and I invite you in the future to take the opportunity to go to visit another country. Try to make the opportunity possible you yourself if you can. Thank you.

Mr. Trimble—Guests and visitors. As principal of Dallas Senior High School, I want to express thanks from the student body and the faculty for the time spent to come to us today. I would like Elsbeth Gerrits to take charge.

ELSBETH—I won't waste much time in talking so I'll start introducing; Chris Leydolt of Austria; Arvin Shah from India; Nuala Downey from New Zealand; Bjarne Thorning-Lund from Denmark. Now to the rest of the panel from Dallas. Elfriede Hefft, Sally Moyer, Sandy Ambrose, Diane Payne, and Dorothy Eck. Jon Butler is moderator.

Moderator—

We will begin with the first question from Dorothy Eck.

Dorothy Eck to Chris Leydolt

What has impressed you most about our country?

I would say it is that there are so many exchange students in this country. When you come to a foreign country you see only the things that are situated—the high buildings in New York, but I would say most impressing are the people—they are very warm hearted.

Moderator—Other impressions?

CHRIS LEYDOLT

The informality in your school. I was very surprised in our country we get off the chair when the teacher comes into class. You can talk to the teachers and can ask them any question. Another thing, everyone here is engaged in outside activities, in jobs, and for blind children and crippled children.

ARVIN SHAH

In our country we do not have so much social life between the sexes. Much more understanding between the students makes them understand life much more.

BJARNE THORNING-LUND

One of the things is the freedom of talk between student and teacher in Plymouth High School. When the student is leaving, he says, "Good-bye, Pop, see you tomorrow." We would never do this in Europe.

QUESTION NO. 2

Moderator—What food do you like best?

BJARNE THORNING-LUND

Swines in the blanket.

Diane Payne to Arvin Shah

Speaking frankly there's a lot of difference. In India we eat very hot food, highly spiced. American food is tasteless. I would say it's

very much different.

BJARNE THORNING-LUND

The American doesn't seem to know how the food is prepared. In Denmark they take pride in knowing how it is prepared. It is highly spiced. The food is very good.

QUESTION NO. 3

Sandra Ambrose to Nuala Downey

What has been the greatest problem you have had to overcome during your stay in our country?

Nuala Downey—I don't think I have any great problem, they're lots of things I miss and lots of things I had to adjust to. Perhaps I am living in the wrong area but I have no problems.

ARVIN SHAH

My greatest problem is getting used to climates here. I have never been in a climate below 75 degrees. I realize that I felt pretty warm here at 65 degrees. The snow is very beautiful, especially having snowball fights. I'm used to it now.

BJARNE THORNING-LUND

My greatest adjustment was language. I had to adjust to slang, but it's okay.

CHRIS LEYDOLT

My difficulty was in the manners of the people. Another is being introduced to a married woman. You give her a hand kiss and get a very funny reaction. Some blush all over.

Moderator—Elsbeth, What was your greatest problem?

I don't think there really was a problem. Pretty soon I felt at home. Sandy Ambrose took me all over and made me meet very many people and Mr. Ambrose kept me away from all official meetings so that I wouldn't be overwhelmed.

QUESTION NO. 4

Sally Moyer to Elsbeth Gerrits

Would you recommend a greater

interchange of students between

ELSBETH GERRITS

Yes, I think so. International understanding is good. For instance, when I was in Europe there were stories going around about the Americans in Europe. All Americans are supposed to be rich and gangs all over the place. One family has many cars and the reason that the people made up their minds about that people that came to Europe 15 years ago.

The dollar is worth much more in Europe than in America, and the people throw away their money for diamonds and jewelry. They spend ridiculously. People made up their minds very definitely. When I find out what the Americans are really like, I'll tell them none of these things are true. The reputation of the American in Europe is not very good.

CHRIS LEYDOLT

We have a lot of contact with American tourists. We have been occupied by American troops. You get to know them quickly. When hitch-hiking you sometimes get picked-up by them. This was you get to meet them. It would be good for more Americans to go abroad. Maybe this would help them in politics abroad.

ARVIN SHAH

I believe very strongly in exchange on the high school level, it increases much international understanding. The man in India does not know much about the American. The movies give the wrong impression, that life is just happy-go-lucky. I want to thank the Rotary for letting me know how the students read etc. There would be much more better understanding if there was more exchange of students.

QUESTION NO. 5

Elfriede Hefft to Bjarne Thorning-Lund

Are rock 'n roll and the twist being done in your country?

BJARNE THORNING-LUND—This was one of the things that amazed me in United States because in Europe the rock 'n roll went out of style two years ago. We were surprised to see Americans still doing it. It has been replaced by jazz music. When I left England the twist wasn't ever performed there. They better not do it when I get home. It's some sort of disease. When I had a date with Elsbeth, my whole left side was paralyzed from the twist. The music that they do have in music boxes comes from the United States. They try to imitate them.

QUESTION NO. 6

Dorothy Eck to Arvin Shah

What do you think is the most important problem facing the world?

ARVIN SHAH

I would say it is International Concern. They do not understand that the African is a human being just as the Russians are human beings. They think of them as just as atom bombs and it's going to keep building until eventually they cannot go any higher. It can happen and I think it's up to the future generations, the present high school student to stop this tension and to create understanding. We have 100 Rotary students coming over to the United States and I am sure the students will understand many of you and you them. Our world is only close by communication and transcontinental planes, but we need to be closer in spirit. These things will make us come to know each other better and create better international understanding.

QUESTION 7

Diane Payne to Nuala Downey

Do you feel that your schools

are more, or less formal than ours?

NUALA DOWNEY

I think your grade schools are very much like our schools as far as discipline. In high school you will find the atmosphere much more formal. It's a very much more rigid relationship between staff and

pupil. You don't have the wide choice of studies that we have. In New Zealand, we have followed the British tradition and wear uniforms. All girls in high school wear long black stockings and boys wear knee trousers. New Zealand schools have corporal punishment. The girls and boys are strapped until they reach high school. In my senior year in high school, I couldn't use corporal punishment. Some of the male teachers would come and strapped the pupils.

ARVIN SHAH

We have the same formality. We

have uniforms and up to my last year in school had to wear white trousers, white shirts, tie, and blazers. The standard system follows the British. In India, at present, one who can afford to get an education, gets it. You have to pay a fee using to two dollars a month for grade school. Many cannot afford a college education. There are now three times as many students as there were in 1947. In fifty-years, everyone in India will have an opportunity for free education. Since 1919, one of the greatest heroes, Mahatma Gandhi, has liberated us. He started working with the thought that are not any better than the castes. Now, any business is open to any cast of people and there is no difficulty for these people to get in schools and colleges. I hope in the next 20 to 30 years, castes will be completely eliminated.

(Continued on Page 2 B)

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