

# Exchange students enjoy their time here

By SUE NIEZGODA  
Student Correspondent

This year, Lake Lehman High School is honored to host three foreign exchange students, Andrea Mendoca, Raquel Sanz Gonzalez, and Guillermo Loutaif. When they arrived in this country all had their own opinions about American culture. All brought with them a different outlook on American customs and they hope to pass some of their own customs on to the people they meet. The goal of the three students is to learn all there is to know about the American way.

Andrea Mendoca arrived in America, from Araçatuba, Brazil, in December of last year. She has experienced American life for the past nine months and has no regrets. When asked if she likes it in America she replies, "Yes, I enjoy it here. There are opportunities to do more things and meet new people." Among her favorite customs are Halloween and Thanksgiving because she does not experience the two holidays in Brazil.

Andrea also enjoys the winter because of the snow we receive and the opportunity to hit the slopes. She attempted to ski last year and is now hoping to try it again before her departure in late December. When she arrives back in Brazil, she will tell her peers, "I had a lot of fun, and met a lot of people who offered much help. There are a lot of interesting places to go, which are all very different."

Lake Lehman's second exchange student, Raquel Sanz Gonzalez, is visiting from Bilbao, Spain. She

will be in the area for one year and plans to experience all America has to offer. Her stay here so far has been an enjoyable one and she has only one grievance: dependence on people for a ride, and the necessity of cars because of our location. When asked how she likes America, she replies, "Yes I like it here very much. It is less strict, and Rotary is making it more fun. I love all the people they are very nice to me."

Coming from Spain, Raquel speaks Spanish but has an excellent grasp of English despite a few confusions. The one main difference between our country and Spain, she says, is the school system. She states, "School in my country, is more studying, less sports, more grade conscious. Here people worry more about sports than grades."

When she returns home, after an exciting year, she will challenge the basic stereotype that Americans are all wealthy and high-strung. She hopes to one day return and study for her masters degree, but until then she will cherish the friendships and memories she gains.

The third exchange student is Guillermo Loutaif who is from Cordoba, Argentina. Guille, the name he now goes by, participated in football this year which helped his adjustment tremendously. Along with the practice and hard work came many new friends who he will always remember. Guille says of his stay here in America "I like it very much. There are few times no."

When asked if he is treated any



**STUDENT VISITORS** - Lake-Lehman High School is host to three exchange students this year. Above, seated, are, on left, Andrea Mendoca, from Brazil; on right, Raquel Sanz Gonzalez, from Spain. Guillermo Loutaif, from Argentina is standing.

differently because he is foreign. Guille replies, "No at all, only very few people, but no my friends." Just as Raquel, Guille speaks mainly Spanish and is learning more and more English each day. His favorite aspect of America is Lake Lehman and all the interesting people he meets and the activities he participates in. The one eating habit that he finds different is putting peanut butter and jelly on a sandwich.

Other customs that are differ-

ent, but to his liking, are heavy metal music and wearing many earrings. When Guille departs for home he will always remember the people and places he saw during his one year stay in America.

The students are in for one exciting year and Lake Lehman wishes them luck with all the things they do. Hopefully, when they arrive back in their own countries they will have cherished their year at Lake Lehman High School.

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