

Exchange

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"Editor: I am an exchange student from the Netherlands. I think every student in high school should get the chance to live and study in another country. Your learning is not only educational, but includes personal development, such as independence and coping with problems by yourself. I want to tell all American students that if you get the chance to go to a foreign country, DO IT! You absolutely will not regret it. Sincerely, Jolanda Bosma, Senior Lake-Lehman

Sounds very much as though Miss Bosma is coping. A few don't, but most do, to the tune of almost 10,000 students each year. Jolanda is now with the Doerfler family at Harveys Lake. Prior to that she stayed with the Demidovichs of Bulford Road in Shavertown. They are called "host families" and there are two each school period.

Sue Demidovich had been an exchange student in Germany, as had daughter, Julie. They enjoyed having Jolanda around. Sue said, "She was fun. A liberal thinker perhaps, outspoken, but not abrasively so."

Nor were there any problems for Jolanda at the Doerflers, since they have had several exchange students staying with them in the past. Jolanda however was their first girl; the others were all boys. Rotary's purpose in the exchange program, which has been going on steadily for over thirty years, is stated like this: "To foster world peace, better international understanding and good will by extending international communication at the personal level."

Rotary clubs explain the program to local high school students and perform the initial selection process. The club stays in close contact until they depart for overseas; after that the "host club" arranges for suitable families to care for, house and feed their students, to provide a counselor for each student, and pay all normal educational expenses, including a monthly stipend. In return, all they ask is that students attend club meetings and special functions to expose the student and public alike to the functions of Rotary in the community.

If you want to go

Persons interested in future exchanges, either as students or host families, may contact Rothstein by writing to him at Box 42, Main Road, Dallas, PA 18612.

Rotary guides also contain these interesting "Ten Commandments for a Successful Exchange":

1. Adapt or fail
2. Ask or be ignorant
3. Smile every chance you get
4. Be lively and active
5. Give 100% of yourself and expect nothing in return
6. Be punctual
7. Be considerate of your hosts
8. Maintain a neat appearance and keep your surroundings orderly
9. Plan ahead
10. Strive to earn the respect of others

There are department rules and standards also, and not merely for the student. Rotary guidebooks contain this bit of advice: "Just as there is no perfect exchange student, there is no perfect host family. Each young person who comes to us from abroad is an individual; each U.S. family is different. But, just as there are criteria which make it more likely that a student will be a good Exchange Student, there are criteria which make a family more likely to provide an enjoyable and beneficial experience for the student."

"For example, the family must be realistic about why they want a foreign student living in their home. Not because they think it is something they should do, not as a solution to a domestic problem, not out of desire for prestige or social acceptance, but rather out of desire for a learning experience."

Past Rotary president and now chairman of the exchange program for our area, Alvin "Buddy" Rothstein reports two other local exchange students are Mauricio Holguin of Ecuador, staying with the Carl Kaschenbach family, and Marikena Etchegoncelay of Argentina, staying with the Alex Sickerts.

In addition to coordinating the program for this district, Buddy has just finished helping Great Britain get started and is about to help Wales with their own program.



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE BARTZICK

Brake break

Bruce Balsama, of the new Jack Williams Tire & Auto Center in Dallas, demonstrated the fine points of brakes to Andrea Grey of Harveys Lake during the store's Car Care Clinic for Women Only April 6. The basics of car maintenance were presented at the evening session.

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Barilla

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the farmers," he said. "Mostly everything I know I learned from Sue Hand."

Hand said that Barilla is very talented in many aspects of art, including abstracts, natural science illustration and composition.

"John can do just about anything well in art," she said. "He's a very hard worker - he comes into the studio, gets out his materials and gets right to work."

Hand said that her job as an art teacher is to help students explore their strengths in the areas of drawing, lettering and painting.

"John has lots of courage - he'll try any type of project, no matter how difficult it is," she said. "He has a very good sense of design and composition, the most important parts of art work."

Hand also credits Joyce and

John Barilla, Sr., for encouraging their son's accomplishments. "They support him 100 percent but don't push him," she said.

"We often have to tell John to take a break," his father said. "He draws everything. We don't know where he gets this talent - we can only draw little stick people."

John's hobbies are collecting comic books and cards, fantasy, and playing baseball and soccer with the Back Mountain teams. His favorite subjects at school are art and math.

He plans to attend Bishop O'Reilly High School next year and is considering a career in cartooning or "anything to do with drawing."

"An artist's real creativity is a God-given gift and John has it," Hand said. "He has the feel of what looks right."



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