

# American Express

"When you are going to arrive, you are scared because you don't know what is going to happen," commented Belen Hormaechea Bolado of Spain. "You are in another country. You have to speak in another language and you don't know anybody," she continued. "You are happy to be here, but at the same time you are scared about what is going to happen." Belen is one of fourteen exchange students who found the experience both exciting and frightening. The exchange students represented five countries. Along with Belen, representatives of Spain were Marta Lopez, Christina Fernandez, and Rafael Amat. Students from Denmark were Nanna Smed, Soren Jensen, Palle Johannesen, and Mads Seiersen. From Germany came Katrin Nurnberger, Beatrice Gurita, and Mark Schneider. Japanese students were Kayo Morita, Maho Shimizu, and Toshio Asano. Rudy van den Berg, a Netherlands native, was also a participant.

Blending into the American scene seemed to be no problem for the exchange students. Soren made an interesting addition to the football team. The volleyball team was quite receptive to Beatrice. Toshio, who played tennis in Japan, joined the action on the local court. Katrin and Kayo became Band of Blue flag girls. Beatrice

## A Year Long Journey



and Kayo shared their artistic talents with the journalism staff. The cheerleaders welcomed Maho to the squad. "I love to cheer, but in Japan, football is not popular. I was surprised it was so exciting," commented Maho.

The students found many of the classes difficult. The common complaint was too much homework and too many tests. In spite of this, their guidance counselors found a class to suit each foreigner's talents. Katrina, Kayo, Beatrice, and Maho all took art classes. Maho brought many skills with her to the ceramic class and enjoyed sharing with others. Art instructor Marilyn Zielke praised the efforts of the students. "These students certainly bring talent and effort to the class. Maho is the best potter I have ever taught." Beatrice and Katrin submitted sketches to the annual Sidewalk Art Show held in October. Both girls received honorable mention ribbons.

The students returned to their homelands in June, taking with them a little piece of America and leaving American students with an appreciation for other cultures.

By Wendy Garrett and Kayo Morita

**Palle Johannesen, Katrin Nurnberger, and Maho Shimizu talk with other foreign exchange students at a party at Janice Alexander's house.**



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