

Coming to America

Leaving one's home to live in another country with different customs, people, and language can be a scary experience. Isabelita Castilho and Christina Caro found this to be true at first, but in a matter of days they had made many new friends and were adjusting to their new "home away from home."

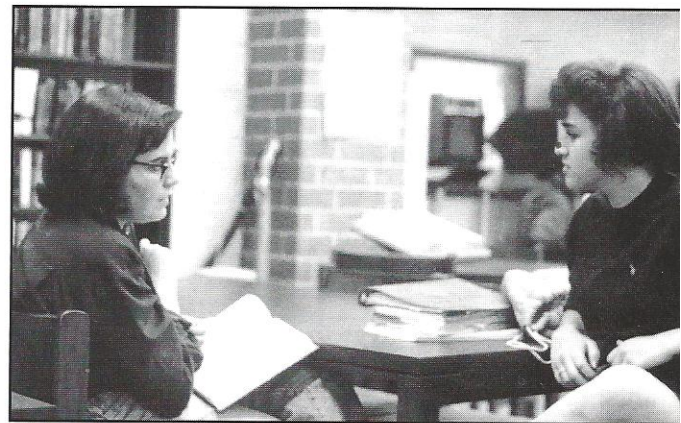
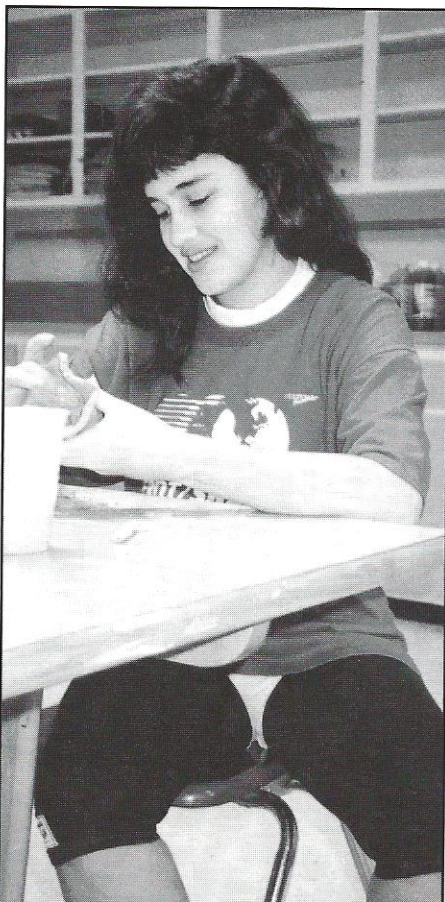
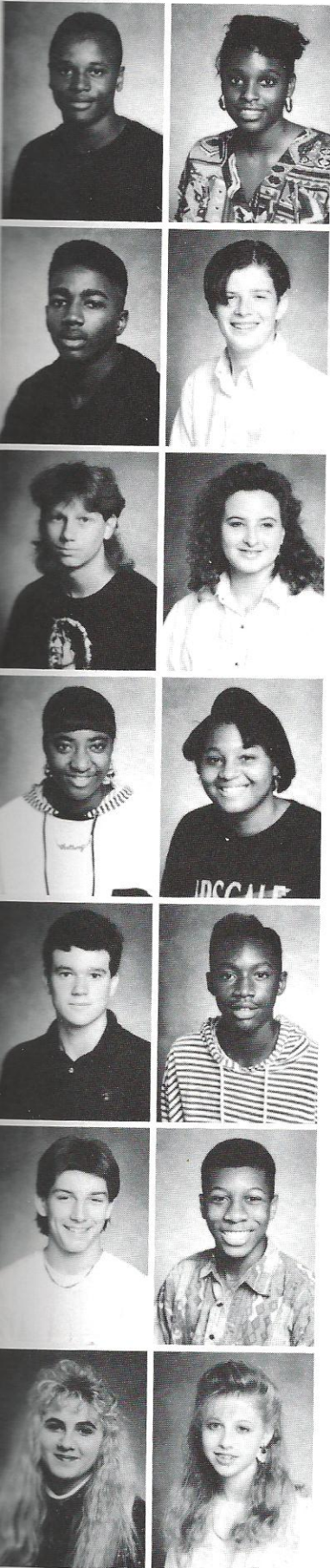
Isa, who is from Brazil, and Christina, who is from Spain, encountered many differences in the school, especially in the student-teacher relationship. "There isn't a friendship between them here," said Isa. "Students don't really have a chance to explain themselves; the teacher is always right."

The main similarity Isa noticed was the interest the teenagers showed in sports.

Being away from home had some drawbacks as well. Isa noted that she missed her friends, parties, and the "CARNIVAL" held in February in Brazil. Her favorite things about America were the opportunity to speak English, Disneyworld, and especially her friends. "I'd love all my friends to write me a lot, send me lots of pictures, and don't ever forget me," said Isa. "Besides some bad jokes and the horrible nickname 'Isaburrito,' I'll really miss my friends."

Both students hope to return to America one day, and they would love for their friends to visit them in their own countries.

— Becky Dandridge



Christina Caro and Isa Castilho discuss their homework. Christina was from Sevilla, Spain.

Isa Castilho works on her art project. Isa was from Brazil.