

# ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

## Kearney exchange students reflect on life in America

By Sheila Kennedy

Bishop Kearney High School

This year, Bishop Kearney has two very special seniors, Marion Baer and Jean Marie Gousse. They are both foreign exchange students. Marion and Jean Marie left their countries, schools and families behind so they could fulfill what they said is most Europeans' dream — to visit the United States.

Marion and Jean Marie, students from Switzerland and France, respectively, agreed that studying in this country was an experience they did not want to pass up.

Marion, who was looking for a change from the constant pressure to do well at her former school, said that her main reason for coming to the United States was to learn more about the world through travel.

Jean Marie had the opportunity to go to England for a month over the summer, or come here to study for a year. He said it would be a greater opportunity to study in the United States, insofar as learning the English language was concerned.

Both students share their yearning to know the English language. Here, they will not only come to know English, but will also be able to speak it fluently when they leave.

Marion and Jean Marie both agree that school in America is very different from the way it is conducted in their respective countries.

In Switzerland, the school day begins at 7:15 a.m., and ends between 4:30 p.m. and

5:30 p.m. Marion has five periods of 45 minutes each in the morning, lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and then five more periods in the afternoon. Before the end of this year, she would have taken Latin, French, German, Spanish, English, geometry, algebra, chemistry, physics, biology, religion, physical education and art. There is no school on Wednesday afternoons, but students do have school on Saturday morning. Their schedules also change every day except Monday.

Jean Marie's day in France starts out much like that of students at Bishop Kearney. French students begin the school day at 8:30 a.m., but don't end until 5 p.m. Class periods are one hour long, and there is no definite number of how many there are in a day. Periods rotate daily, depending on what students had the day before. In France, students have 15 minute breaks in the morning and afternoon. They have Wednesday off, but they also must attend school on Saturday morning. In France, Jean Marie had no choice in the courses he took. He had to take French (which is the equivalent to our taking English), math, English, two languages, art history, science, religion and physical education.

Both Marion and Jean Marie indicated that being in the United States is much easier for them academically, but socially more difficult. Thus far Marion and Jean Marie have had no problems with their basic

academic courses. They find that American history and English are the most difficult courses, but only because the textbooks are written in English.

With respect to social life, the two exchange students are impressed with the friendliness and cordiality of the Kearney students and faculty. Although they have made many new friends and acquaintances who have helped them to adjust to our way of life, both Marion and Jean Marie do admit reluctantly that they miss the special friendship of a close acquaintance from home.

Both students are quite active in athletics. Jean Marie is on the Kearney varsity soccer team and plans to join the ski club in the winter.

Marion said she will try out for the volleyball team and join the ski club.

Back in France, Jean Marie was an active swimmer, bowler and movie goer.

In Switzerland, Marion participated in volleyball, tennis and other youth clubs of interest to her. In her spare time, she likes to babysit, tutor and play the piano.

According to both Marion and Jean Marie, activities for teenagers in their countries include: going to discos, parties, pubs, and stores. Because there are no age restrictions on drinking in their countries, both foreign exchange students were very surprised to find a minimum drinking age here.

Both admitted that most of the things they do at home are influenced greatly by U.S. culture. A majority of the movies, music and



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Foreign exchange students Marion Baer, left, of Switzerland, and Jean-Marie Gousse of France pose for a picture outside Bishop Kearney High School. Both students are members of Kearney's senior class.

clothes they enjoy abroad originate from the United States.

Jean Marie and Marion have experienced a dream come true. The United States is everything they hoped it would be and more. Both agreed, "It's tough being a foreigner; plenty of teasing! But we love it here."

## Speaking Out

By J. Peter Huggins

McQuaid Jesuit High School

As I view the world from my high school community, I see many important events taking place. Many of these events relate to some sort of unification, or to the establishment of more friendly relationships, such as we hope will occur at the upcoming summit between President Reagan and Soviet Premier Gorbachev.

I see millions of people, big and little, working against world hunger and unjust imprisonment. I see people in my own community helping others who are less fortunate than themselves. All around me, both in my own area and throughout the world, millions of people are working together, not for themselves but for other people who may not be able to help themselves. People all around me are looking past their own needs for the good of many.

And yet, over the weekend at McQuaid, something happened that made me question the spirit of caring and friendship that appears to be going around. Sometime between Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, someone felt it necessary to spray paint his opinions about McQuaid on the school walls.

Although many people at McQuaid were very impressed by the offender's originality, good spelling and writing style, I gazed upon the now blotched walls (which are in the process of being cleaned up) and felt McQuaid's community pride slowly ebbing away. It takes so much energy to build that pride, and so little to destroy it.

Many people asked themselves, "Why did this have to happen?" I suppose the "artist" believes that spray painting obscene phrases on a wall proves how right, strong and mature he is. But does the graffiti make a point concerning how weak and silly the writer thinks someone or someplace is? Maybe it does, if the writer gets his kicks out of making himself look like a fool. Or, more to the point, perhaps it shows how much of a weak and inept person he is, because it doesn't take a lot of courage to spray paint a wall at night.

What I am to think about what's going to happen to our community when events such as this one come along? Is my community to grow and expand while such undermining and ugly events continue? I think not.

But we as a community can, and frequently do, stop such unpleasant expressions of artistic ability. By simply being aware of the problem, we are already way ahead of ourselves, because it is only through us and how we work to stop graffiti that something can be done. By showing our concern we have struck the first blow. And while we may not know who they are, they will know what we think of them.

To those who are guilty of the crime previously mentioned, I honor you with the dubious award of Ignorance and Disrespect. Only someone who is gifted with both of these talents would find it necessary as well as enjoyable to spray paint graffiti on a wall at a high school.

As for myself, I can only hope for our community and also for the society of which these people will become a part. I can only hope that the truly caring people are there to make up for the uncaring ones.

## Equal Time

Notre Dame High School  
How do you feel a part-time job affects student life?

STEPHANIE ARNOLD, Senior

A part-time job has both positive and negative effects. Working on the weekends cuts down the social life, but it provides me with a reasonable income to have a good time when I get a chance.



DAVE BACCILE, Senior

I work at Mustico's Restaurant every Friday night and every other Saturday. In other words, I have no social life. When I'm not working, the golf team takes the rest of my time.



MARY LIDDY, Senior

My part-time job with the colonel at Kentucky Fried Chicken has affected my life by keeping me busy. It cuts in on my social life, but I enjoy the money it brings with it.



LEE WISIEWSKI, Senior

It (the job) affects student life by limiting the student's free time. Also being involved in sports, I find no time to go out and have fun. It does, however, give me a financial boost in my extracurricular activities.



## HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 15 correct entries identifying "Red" as the color of the door the Rolling Stones wanted to be painted black.



The winner was Ricky Fetzner of Sacred Heart School Rochester, N.Y.

## MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

Who recorded American Pie, the number #1 song? in 1972?

A:

Name

Address

City

Zip Code

School

### Rules:

Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal  
Music Trivia  
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Rochester, N.Y. 14624

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