

# English



Judy Klefas



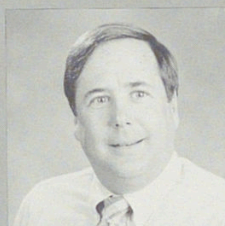
Leslie Knotts



Sue Koehler



Patricia Martin



Jay McDaniel



Jeanne Pelley



Wanna Simmons



Vicki Spicuzza



Denny Thomas



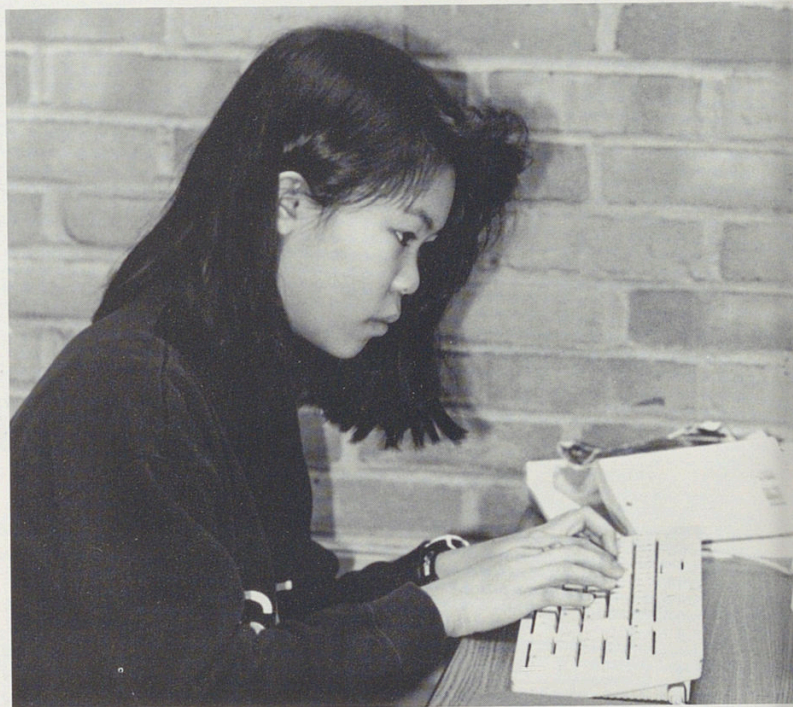
Bob Velten



Calvin Moore (aide)

Pausing to look at what she has written, Jenny Ferng composes an essay for English.

The English as a Second Language class--Sylvia Chie, Natsuki Maeda, Taeka Nakayawa, Itsuki Nakasone, and Shinya Kawachi.



## A Difficult Hurdle to Overcome

English as a second language (ESL) for those who either live in the United States permanently or have come for another reason can be quite a difficult hurdle to overcome. We, as Americans, tend to take for granted that English is a challenging language and need to be more sensitive to the determination of the students surrounded by this monolingual society. "It is difficult for the students because the school atmosphere heightens the problem of the language barrier. The students often feel isolated and secluded. They have so much to offer. We, as a school and a community, need to tap into such an unused resource that we have in our foreign students," said Shirley Bohmer, director of the ESL program.

The ESL program originated 13 years ago to aid international students who are not proficient in English learn the language and adjust to the American culture. They are taught the basics of the language in a very structured atmosphere. They eventually graduate to American novels by

Steinbeck and Hemmingway to master the language and learn about the culture in depth. The students are self-motivated and know that they must learn English in order to function with in the American society.

The students represented various countries through out the world such as Japan, Taiwan, Turkey, Germany, Spain, France, Nigeria, and Brazil. A few were exchange students, but the majority live in Ohio with their parents as a result of the recent influx of foreign ownership of American companies. They were a close knit

group and used the English class to socialize and as a place of security. They also attended regular classes which could be very frustrating. "I like an American attending a Japanese history class in Japanese class every day," commented Bohmer.

The international students gain a new look at life and the world from their experience in America and Sycamore. They grew in their abilities and their confidence. We could learn from their experience here and in their home country, broaden our own knowledge of the larger world around us.

by Alison O.

**"It (English) is difficult for the students because the school atmosphere heightens the problem of the language barrier..."**  
-Shirley Bohmer

