

EDUCATIONAL VACATION

During the 1992 spring break, several students from the Spanish and French classes journeyed across the Atlantic Ocean for an exciting week of touring and learning about both countries. They were accompanied by Mr. Hayden and Mrs. Silverman as they visited various places, such as the Eiffel Tower, the Arch de Triumphe, the Louvre, and the Notre Dame Cathedral in France, and Toledo, the Escorial Palace, and the Valley of the Fallen in Spain.

Hayden commented that he felt it was important for foreign language students to visit the country they are studying, "to make the language real for the student. Languages are used to communicate, and it's nice for the student to hear and use the foreign language in a natural setting and situation."

Silverman agreed, "In a classroom setting, often the study of a foreign language can seem stilted and unreal. Being there, one can not help but feel how real the language is!"

Everyone on the trip had their particular favorite sights. Hayden said, "The Valley of the Fallen impressed me most--a 500 foot cross dominates the countryside and a huge, very impressive church is carved in the mountain, beneath the cross."

Sophomore Ryan Wil-

liams particularly enjoyed the Arch de Triumphe, while sophomore David Clark commented, "I really enjoyed all the sights in both countries!"

Although each year one of the language classes takes a trip during spring break, this year the trips were handled a little differently. Members of both the Spanish and French classes visited both Spain and France. There were several positive aspects to having the trips combined. Silverman stated that it was "extremely beneficial--for language purposes--in only nine days, obviously there are short comings; however, as a cultural and social experience I feel certain most students benefitted. Educationally, I believe being able to assimilate two cultures and contrast and compare is very exciting."

Hayden also thought it was a good idea, saying, "As a language experience, such a short trip has obvious limitations, but culturally one can learn a lot. To sample two countries of very different cultural backgrounds for the price of one was a very exciting opportunity."

Williams summed it up, "I think the combination of trips was a good idea, but I wish we had more time in each country."

Overall, the trip was a very educational and beneficial way for these students to spend their break.

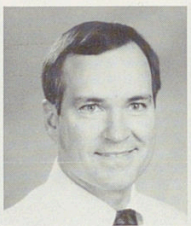
by Courtney Shackelford

"I enjoy
FOREIGN
LANGUAGE
because you learn more
about other cultures."

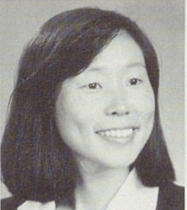
-Angie Bryant,
Spanish

"FOREIGN
LANGUAGE
is important because you
become more worldly."

-Michelle Better,
French



Maurice deLange
Don Hayden
Carol Ihlendorf
Manuel Lanker



Shirley Mills
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Christiane Rudolph
Heike Schade
Judy Silverman, dept. head

