

B/C International Roommates
D/E Exchange Programs
F/G Missionary Kids (MKs)
H/I Five Republics
J/K Nine Languages
L/M Australia
N/O World Youth Summit

Reaching Beyond the
WALL

Mini-Mag 1996

Mini-Mag A

two **ONE ROOM** *worlds,*

Adjusting to dorm life was difficult for most students, but some students had an even greater challenge — a roommate from another country who spoke little English and was not used to American culture. Many students had to learn to experience life with an international student, while the international had to learn how to experience life here. Funny misunderstandings, cultural differences, and communication difficulties were a factor, but with a little give and take from both parties, students, both international and American, learned to adjust.

Junior Jennifer Johnson and senior Eri Kunitomo had a unique relationship.

Johnson was a missionary kid from Japan. She said that they spoke both English and Japanese in their room, but they tried to speak English most of the time. "Jennifer speaks both Japanese and English very well, so if I do not understand the English, she can explain it to me in Japanese," said Kunitomo.

Yuka Fukuda was also from Japan. Her roommate was Johnna Walden from Benton, Arkansas. Fukuda said that in the beginning, she and Johnna had trouble communicating, but that as the year went on the communication progressed. Fukuda described a funny misunderstanding between them: "When I talked about Jello, she thought it was ketchup. I said it was red, so she misunderstood."

•Johnna Walden

Johnna taught Yuka a lot. Yuka said she always told her about American culture like economics, politics, customs, and holidays.

Sammy Karuci from Africa, and Thierry Vodounou from the Ivory Coast had no trouble communicating. Although they did not spend a lot of time together, everything was great. Sammy commented, "Thierry is a great guy. He is from a French speaking country, and I am from an English speaking country. Our opinions differ in many ways, but we still get along. We don't spend a lot of time together. We only meet in the room, but we like it that way."

Nelson Ortiz from Paraguay, and Shane Wooten from Hamburg, Arkansas, learned quite a few things from each other. Both Ortiz and Wooten said that they did not have trouble communicating in the beginning, but that their communication progressed since the first of the year. "We share our problems with each other now," said Ortiz. "At the start of the semester we just talked." Ortiz and Wooten taught each other a lot. Ortiz said that Wooten taught him how to play on a computer and how to balance a checkbook. "It's difficult to leave your home where you have everything and come here with a lot less," Wooten said.

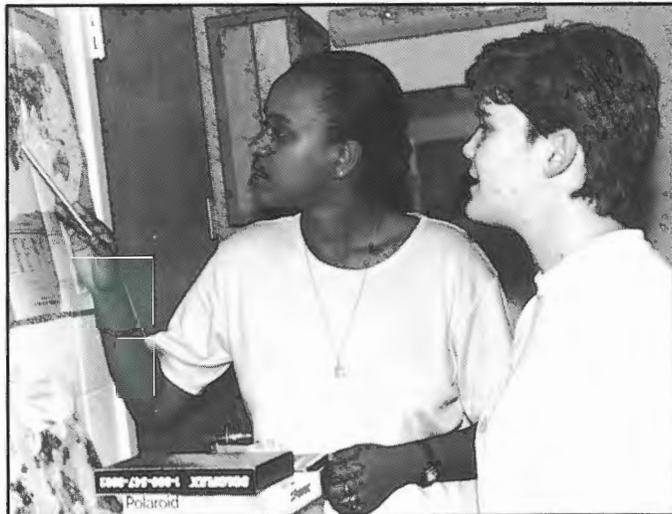
Adapting to the changes of living with someone from another country were hard, but together these roommates helped each other learn and understand a whole new way of living. •by Rachel DeBusk





DEEP IN THOUGHT—William Whitney reads an assignment while Alex Morozov researches for a class. Morozov, an exchange student from Russia, found that having an American roommate helped him learn the culture and the language better and faster. •*photo by Jim Yates*

LOOK RIGHT THERE—Denberwa "Dee" Berhan shows Toni Walker the location of her home in Ethiopia. Rooming with an international student was fun and educational. •*photo by Carol Price*



LIVING TOGETHER—Laoya Cnauncey fixes Frasih Wainaina's hair as they laugh and talk about their families. The more time roommates spent with one another the closer friends they become. •*photo by Carol Price*

ANYONE HUNGRY—Trevelyn Merritt eats Turkish olives and toast as Rehan Diker explains about the different kinds of foods found in Turkey. Although both students were from various cultures, they shared a well-known past-time, eating. •*photo by Carol Price*

people **OVER SEAS** switching around

Many people wonder what it would be like to race down the autobahn in Germany, travel by train through Europe, or walk through Red Square in Moscow. For about 80 students every year, this scenario was reality.

According to Dr. Trey Berry, director of the Daniel R. Grant International Studies Program, the University had the best International Program in the state and one of the best in the nation. He said, "We not only have quantity but also quality," in reference to being linked with top universities in the world like Oxford University in England.

Junior Eric Torrence studied in Japan at Seinan Gakin University. He said it was great there because he was treated like a movie star. "I was famous over there." However, he witnessed the translation problems that can occur. He said he had a friend who was babysitting for and tutoring a Japanese family and one day the Japanese woman called and told his friend's roommate that she didn't have to come today because the baby was dead. This totally shocked her roommate so she said, "The baby's dead?" The Japanese woman replied, "Yes." Then she asked, "Was the baby sick?" The Japanese woman said, "Yes, the baby's sick." Eric laughed at his friend asking her "What are you teaching them? Dead and sick are totally different words."

"You can step out of your comfort zone, out of your little circle, and change the world.."

•Dr. Trey Berry

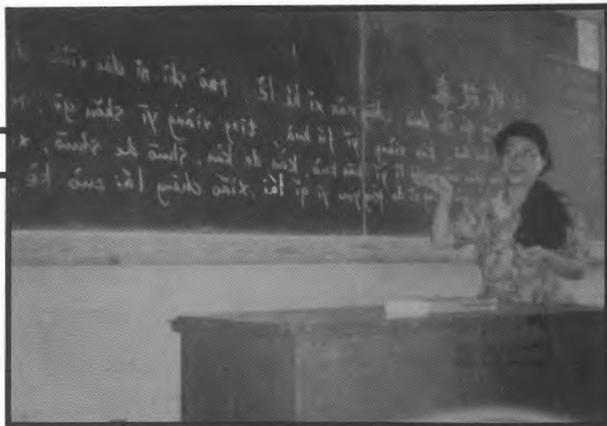
The International Programs had seven students and one faculty member who participated in the exchange program the fall semester. Kyle Hamman, a junior communications and theatre arts double major from North Little Rock, studied at the University of Reading in England.

Three students studied at Seinan Gakin University in Fukuoka, Japan. They included: Rebecca Holt, a junior elementary education major from Ward; Dijiana Aleksic, a junior accounting major from Smackover; and Chad Fielding, a senior speech pathology major from Boles.

Tarra Verkler, a sophomore psychology major from Black Rock, was one of 20 students who participated in the International Programs during the spring semester. She studied at Moscow State University in Russia. She said her biggest fear was that she would have misconceptions of Russia and that she would expect too much based on her experience in Germany. She said the standards in Germany were much like the United States, but she thought that Russia would be different considering the tremendous amount of change that took place within the last year.

Berry said the students who participated in the International Programs changed the world, but their world was changed. He encouraged students to participate in the International Program saying, "You can step out of your comfort zone, out of your little circle, and change the world." *•by Jodie Matthews*



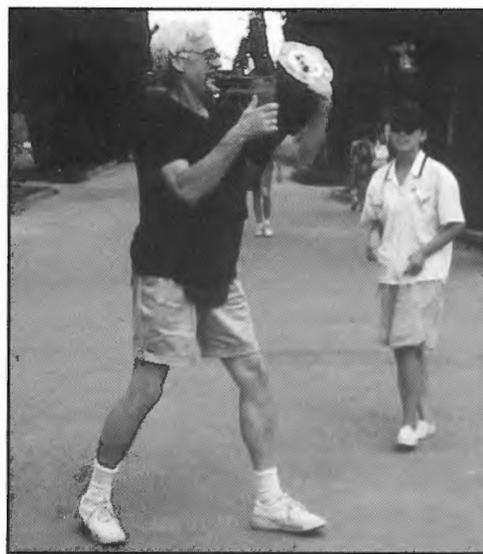


TRANSLATION—A Chinese professor teaches American students to speak and write the Chinese language. Many teachers participated in the exchange program by traveling to another country or simply teaching exchange students. Dr. Susan Wink, associate professor of English, taught English literature in China during the fall semester as part of the exchange program. *•photo by International Programs*



SIGHT-SEEING—Two exchange students tour the lush, green forests in England. While studying in another country, students also had the advantages of viewing all the culture and countryside, providing depth to their knowledge of the country. *•photo by International Programs*

RELAXING—Senior Rusty Ross enjoys a restful afternoon in his Chinese dorm room. American exchange students who traveled to China learned the advantages of the country's relaxed atmosphere as opposed to the hustle and bustle of American culture. *•photo by International Programs*



LEARNING NEW GAMES—Dr. Tom Greer, Clarence and Benny Sue Anthony professor of Bible and the humanities, tries to master a new Chinese game while relaxing in the park. Participants in the exchange programs enjoyed the new games and leisure activities that they learned in foreign countries. *•photo by International Programs*

adapting to changes in their **HOMELAND**

He gave hugs and kisses to his family as he sadly said goodbye. Going to college gave him scary feelings, yet also those of independence. As he stepped onto the airplane and looked back at his hometown, anticipation came over him. It had been so long since he had been to the States. How would he live there for four years without mom and dad?

This was probably what most missionary kids thought before coming to school. From Togo, to Brazil, to Japan, several missionary kids came to the campus, most of them knowing their whole lives that college would mean leaving their families, friends, and the country they had grown to love.

*"I miss it a lot- the simplicity of life and the way people sincerely care for one another."
•Summer Gilbert*

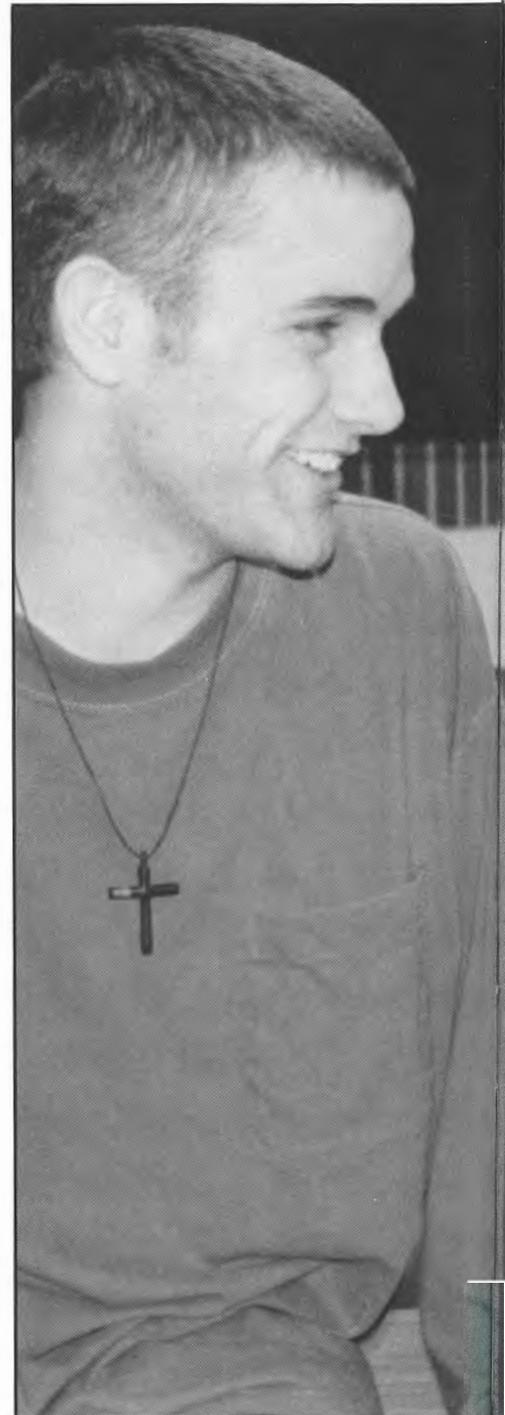
Coming to school here was quite a change for several MKs. A lot of them attended boarding, correspondence, or local schools in their country. Moving to another country also meant learning a different language. Jennifer Collier, a MK from Brazil said, "At ten years old, learning the language was hard in some ways and not so hard in others. The hard part was going to school and not having anyone to help you." For others, learning the language was very difficult. Joy Conrad, who's a MK from Korea, said that Korean was the second hardest language in the world and she's still not fluent in it. Needless to say, they all knew English, so coming back was not difficult in that area.

In other ways, coming back to the States was very difficult. The cultures there were a lot different, so when they arrived in the States, some things shocked them. Some said that in other countries respect was more important, others said that Americans were not as laid back.

Shopping was a lot different in other countries as well. When shopping for foods such as cereal, some countries only had three or four boxes to choose from, and where the states had malls, they only had a couple of department stores.

Most all of the missionary kids confessed to missing their parents' country. Some missed the native people and memories, while others missed family and schedules. Summer Gilbert said, "I miss it a lot- the simplicity of life and the way people sincerely care for one another. I miss going to school in Spanish and the teachers at my school." •by Rachel DeBusk

WHAT DO YOU THINK—Derek Erwin and Bryan Trimboli take time out to talk. With both students being MK's, they shared common ground.
•photo by Jonathan Henderson





JUST A LITTLE CHAT— Julie Packwood, a missionary kid from Equador, spends time in the Tiger Grill. Many discussions were held by all kinds of students and the laughter can be heard throughtout the room. *•photo by Jonathan Henderson*

HARD AT WORK— Joel Gaddis frantically searches the library for information. Hours were sometimes spent looking for just the right items needed for a paper. *•photo by Jonathan Henderson*



MAKE IT QUICK— Karen Temple and Joanne Baillio socialize on a bench during a break between classes. These brief times were charished by friends all over campus. *•photo by Jonathan Henderson*

visitors from five **REPUBLICS**

When Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as the last head of the Soviet Union during Christmas of 1991 and the Commonwealth of Independent States was formed, the likelihood of these events having an impact on life at the University probably did not enter the minds of most students. The fact was, however, that the change in this part of Eastern Europe was to have an immense effect.

The impact the fall of the Soviet Union had involved the international program. Before 1991, few international students came from this part of Europe. In the spring, however, the University not only had more international students from the former

Soviet republics than any Baptist college its size, but it was ranked third among Baptist colleges of any size. There were 27 international students from five of the former Soviet republics including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and Russia.

Particularly interesting was the fact that Latafet "Lika" Alieva and Dmitry Podogorny were the first international students to attend the University from Azerbaijan. Alieva chose the University after hearing of it from a friend. She said she wanted to attend a small private college where "there is less smoking and drinking, and I can make better friends." Alieva also said she hoped that more students from Azerbaijan would attend in the future.

Tina Baranova, an international student from Ukraine, chose to attend the University after visiting the campus with her host mom. "Everyone was extra friendly and nice," Baranova said. "Even the strangers were friendly. I didn't hesitate in choosing Ouachita."

After spending time with any of the international students from the former Soviet Union, one would have to agree that the events of 1991 did indeed impact University life, and the impact was a positive one. •by Casey Brewer

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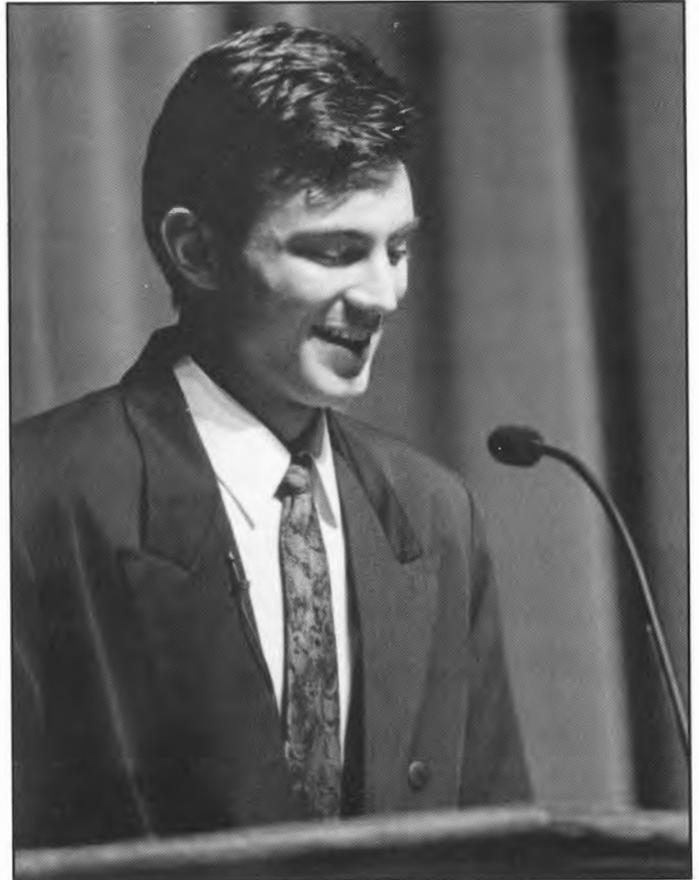
•Tina Baranova



RELAXING—Sievil Eminova, a freshman from Uzbekistan, takes advantage of beautiful weather as she reads her literature assignment. Her classes and work load were quite different from anything she had ever experienced. •photo by Jim Yates



WORKING HARD—Freshman Irina Komarova works the busy lunch shift in the Tiger Grill. She was one of six students from Russia. •photo by Sandra Scucchi



GIVING TESTIMONY—Freshman Valerie Pushkerev, an international student from Uzbekistan, speaks to students during the student testimonies chapel service. Pushkerev enlightened students about life in the former Soviet Republic and what it meant to be in the United States. •photo by Guy Lyons



TOUCH OF HOME—Freshmen Dmiury Podgomy from Azerbaijan and Askar Khamidov from Uzbekistan discuss campus life in their native language. Being able to communicate in their native tongue while in the United States helped them feel close to home. •photo by Jim Yates

conquering the barriers of **LANGUAGES**

Hello! Bonjour! Buenos dias! These were just a few of the many greetings heard as students walked across campus. Why? Because the University taught so many different languages. The University offered, then, eight different foreign languages, six modern and two ancient. Since English was taught as a second language, it could be said that nine different languages not counting any computer languages, were taught on this campus, according to Mr. Jack Estes, chairman of the Modern Language Department.

Okay, so the University had all these languages, but how were they beneficial on such a small campus? "Learning a foreign language makes a better rounded person and scholar. Not only does it make us more well rounded, but being exposed to so many different languages also makes us more aware of the different culture," said Ms. Fu Guo-Ying, visiting instructor in Chinese language. "When I lived in China I saw only one style of life, but when I came here and observed Americans, I learned something more. If people learn other cultures and languages first hand, it will broaden their desire to see the world." Learning about different languages and their cultures may have helped to prepare students for a lifestyle outside of America.

"I suppose one can say that we reach beyond the campus and community when we make it possible for our students to communicate with people in other countries who do not speak English," Estes said.

In a recent study done by the U.S. Department of Education, it was found that U.S. companies were placing more and more value on proficiency in second languages and were particularly interested in graduates who had studied the less commonly taught languages such as Chinese, Japanese, and Russian. All these languages were taught here. Companies wanted employees who knew how to act in a variety of cultural settings. However, such training was viewed as secondary in importance to the technical skills required for employees to perform their jobs. •by Rachel DeBusk

"If people learn other cultures and languages first hand, it will broaden their desire to see the world."

•Ms. Fu Guo-Ying

STEP BY STEP-

Yoshie Ganaha explains to Julie Wilson the extent one goes to learn another language. An interest in learning a foreign language took dedication.

•photo by Jonathan Henderson





CRACKING JOKES— Edilberto "Eddie" Moreno jokes with Mrs. Nona Anderson about their shared language. Holding a conversation with a person in the same language brought smiles to their faces. *photo by Jonathan Henderson*

TEACHING AND LEARNING— Mrs. Guo-Ying teaches the Chinese language to students. As an exchange teacher she spent a semester sharing her language and further developing her English. *photo by Jonathan Henderson*



NEED A BREAK— Irina Komamova finishes her homework and studies for her classes. Homework in another language came naturally to many exchange students. *photo by Jonathan Henderson*

*students
speaking up*

DOWN UNDER

What can Arkansas college students possibly have in common with Australian society? Without a doubt there were definite differences and a seemingly large wall between the cultures. Glancing beyond these barriers, students imagined 34 southerners down under.

While most were having fun in the sun or working to pay tuition, a group from the BSU traveled to Australia for a two-and-a-half week summer mission trip. Ian Cosh, BSU director, and Kristi Langemeir, former BSU assistant director, led the group as they embarked upon their mission. With Sydney as their first destination, the team departed on May 29.

The mission group was broken up into two different teams: one which remained in Sydney and the other which traveled to Melbourne. Each team was divided up into smaller groups and assigned specific churches and responsibilities. Every day the individual groups would travel to junior high and high schools to pass out fliers and lead Bible lessons for the youth. "Our main objective was to simply visit and get acquainted with the people," said sophomore Theresa Gillespie.

From the very start, the mission group was told not to expect an overwhelming number of commitments or professions of faith. Mrs. McDonald, a local youth minister, had explained the lack of trust Australians exhibit to foreigners. Exceeding all expectations, eight accepted Christ and about 10 recommitments were made in the first weekend alone. "God totally broke down these barriers," said sophomore Mary Claire Proctor, who worked with a team at Waverly Baptist Church in Melbourne. "Because these kids

were so responsive, many decisions were made." The simple fact was that God had allowed all barriers to be broken and trust to be built.

By the end of their stay many lasting relationships had been built, there had been many decisions for Christ, and most of all an invisible wall of difference had fallen. "The Lord taught me that numbers are nice, but relationships are more important," said Proctor. "Once you build relationships with people, the numbers will come." This one statement proved to be the backbone of the entire trip. Numerous relationships and decisions were made all due to the fact that each person looked beyond the "wall" and allowed God to do mighty work. "The opportunity to go to Australia was an open door we received in God's providence," said Cosh. "The bonding that took place between the Australians and the Ouachita students was genuine and resulted in a ministry more effective than I could ever have wished for beforehand." •by Christina Lance

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•BSU Director Ian Cosh





THE MESSAGE—Shaunna Brown reads a story from the Bible. The children listened as she explained the walk of Christ and the importance of having Him in their hearts. •photo by Ian Cosh

MR. CLEAN—Brandon Barnard and Ian Cosh clean the grill in preparation for cooking dinner. Their evenings were spent in reflection of the day's events. •photo by Theresa Gillespie



SHARING A TUNE—Steve Carr plays the guitar and sings choruses as young ears listen. The sounds of music brought the children closer to the visiting Americans and to one another. •photo by Ian Cosh

HUNGRY FELLA'—Kristi Langemeier feeds a kangaroo during a visit to an Australian zoo. The outing proved to be beneficial for both the animal and Kristi. •photo by Ian Cosh



solving the world's **PROBLEMS**

Looking at the students gathered in the room might be just like looking in a classroom anywhere, but this was no classroom and these were not simply students. The individuals gathered in the banquet room of the student center were delegates that represented over 23 different countries and were ready to teach.

"This was a great opportunity for the youth of the world to get together and present their ideas and convictions to the current leadership of the world and to get some action," said Monte Sowell, director of the 1996 World Youth Summit. The summit was sponsored by the American International Student Exchange and was designed to

let students have a forum from which they could send their views about the shape of the world to their leaders.

Over 80 student delegates gathered to discuss their ideas, present their thoughts, and create a proclamation that, they hoped, would change their world. "It was a great thing we did this weekend," said Jean-Claude Jneichen from Switzerland. "I think for the future we need to learn a lot from each other and be better to everyone."

This sentiment was shared by the vast majority of the delegates at the conference. T.K. Zellers, a college mentor for one of the delegations, said, "They all recognize the same problems and all want to work together to try and solve them. That shows that there is hope."

After hours of discussion and debate on issues they felt were important, the delegates finally drew up a proclamation of 10 issues that they thought were prevalent in society. The students addressed the issues and talked about what they believed was the best way to handle the problem.

The leaders of each nation represented received a copy of the proclamation and were urged to review it. What happened after that was out of the hands of the delegates, they acknowledged; they only hoped that some of their ideas would be considered and implemented. And for some of the delegates, like Cagacan Deger from Turkey, any change would be good. "If one positive thing happens it will be worth it, no." •by Aaron Black

"They all recognize the same problems and all want to work together to try and solve them. That shows that there is hope."

•T. K. Zellers



HOPEFUL FUTURE—Ashley Arrington, David Sanders, and Brett Brundige discuss the unbelievable success of the summit meetings. During the course of the weekend, the visiting students worked to make decisions that could affect their future. •photo by Sandra Scucchi



PAUSE TO RELAX—Mark Alexander helps decorate a banner that will be used in the summit meetings to represent various countries. Much of the seminar was designed for work, but creating a banner was a well deserved break. *•photo by Sandra Scucchi*

FINAL PRODUCT—Mr. Monte Sowell expresses to Dr. Ben Elrod the importance of the World Youth Summit Proclamation. The World Youth Summit was an influential activity for future leaders. *•photo by Sandra Scucchi*



JOIN IN AND HELP—Dr. Trey Berry tells the visiting students how vital their ideas are to the world. Their solutions took form as they participated in debates. *•photo by Sandra Scucchi*



