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...Corzo
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goes to nursery school. Although they had trouble with the language at first, report cards now show evidence of their adaptations. Little Gloria's card showed all top grades.

It has been more difficult for Carvajal's wife, Gloria, who speaks no English. She works part-time in the evenings cleaning at a local bank, because it was one of the few jobs where speaking English was not required.

"Wives never work in Colombia," Carvajal explained. "They just take care of the house and children. Even in the kitchen, women work together, so it was also hard for Gloria to become accustomed to working alone in the kitchen."

Fresh foods

But she does work alone now, buys the groceries and cooks the meals. After a few initial mistakes, Carvajal said, his wife prepares American food with her own Spanish techniques and flavors.

When first buying groceries, she accidentally bought a can of cat food Tuna, Carvajal translated his wife's tale, and couldn't figure out why American food was so cheap.

"It was also hard for our family to do without all the fresh foods in Colombia," he continued, "because everything in America comes from cans."

"But I don't want to paint a completely negative picture of America," Carvajal stressed, "because we've met alot of good people here." He pointed to all the furniture in his home and said his friends had helped him find all the furnishings.

Living is also more expensive in Colombia, Carvajal said, because inflation has jumped to 32 per cent. Since unemployment has climbed with inflation at 14-18 per cent, he said, theft is commonplace.

Friends missed

"You can't leave your keys in your car," he said, "or leave your house open even momentarily."

In Nebraska, Carvajal, his wife and children all feel safe from any immediate threat of robbery.

Nonetheless, as Gloria said, "I still miss my friends."

The Carvajal family will not have to survive the cans and cramped apartment for long, because they are supposed to return to Colombia in August of this year.

Carvajal said in exchange for his education, he has promised to return and help the people of Colombia with food production, use of fertilizer and other agricultural economics.

"Besides returning to friends and family, Carvajal said, "they need my skills 500 per cent more in Colombia than anyone would ever need me in America."



Ishtiaq Nasim



Peggy Kan

All Swedes are blond, blue-eyed and sexy, all Frenchmen gourmet chefs or fashion designers, and all British pompous and austere. Right?

Well, those are the stereotypes. Tell a foreign student that and you'll get a loud "no, nein or nyet!" Last week UNL foreign students were given a chance to answer back, to describe us, the "Americano." Their pictures were strikingly similar, though not without disagreement.

Agreed: Americans are open and friendly. This was the first comment.

"That's what I like," said Tim Davis, British graduate speech and drama student. "They'll go out of their way to welcome you personally and put you at ease. . . They try very hard to come across (in conversation)."

Ishtiaq Nasim noticed it in a different way. At home in Pakistan, religious taboo prevents unmarried men and women from becoming acquainted, he said, so he wasn't used to talking to mixed company. Now, over two years later, he said this is no longer a problem.

Disagreed: American students think too much about drinking and sex.

Two Hong Kong women students, Peggy Kan (junior, pre-med) and Mimi Wang (sophomore, journalism), say we do.

Judith Sadler, from Jamaica, agreed. "American guys have one thing on their minds, and that's taking you to bed," she said.

As for drinking alcohol, Nasim said that's one religious taboo he agrees with and sticks to.

Students also agreed American students, at least at UNL, are much less aware of world affairs, then they are elsewhere.

Kan said she can't find enough to talk about with American guys. "All Americans know about is America," she said.

Compared with Japanese, Nebraska students are basically apathectic, said Ko Nakagawa, junior in journalism.

Japan has to get along with every nation, because we have no national resources. We have to know about world affairs, so we read lots of newspapers," he said.

Ganesh Middal, graduate student from India, said the criticism about apathy isn't quite fair.

"Most foreign students here are very well-traveled, and many are graduate students," he said. "They try to compare themselves to freshmen just out of high schools in Nebraska. That isn't fair."

Nasim said he thinks American students study too seriously and never question what's asked of them.

Pakistani students, by contrast, are active in politics, he said, and "What they want done, they get, by hook or by crook." This includes frequent demonstrations over unpopular college policies there, he said.

Also agreed: Americans eat too much, especially "junk food." "Your common white bread tastes like paper to me," said Angelika Byorth, Germany.

Students say too that Americans have much freedom. This, they say, applies to the status of women, but with one qualification: "If you sort of keep in line," said Manuel Delgado of Peru.



Judith Sadler