

'Bot' enjoys exchange

Maggie Zhang
News Editor

Fremd families have hosted foreign exchange students since 1995. This year the program is back with the addition of a student from Thailand.

Kasempun "Bot" Trakulkajornsak, hailing from Bangkok, is attending Fremd for the entire school year. Staying with freshman Christopher Hollinger, 17-year-old Bot is eager to be in America and says Chicago is stunning.

"I love Chicago. It has very beautiful buildings and good architecture," Bot said.

Friends back at home know him as Bot rather than Kasempun. The unique nickname comes from the fact that his father worked at Bank of Thailand at the time of his birth, which he then abbreviated.

He is enthusiastic to begin practicing the language.

"The best thing that I'm here is I can make new friends and improve my English. It'll help me a lot when I come back to Thailand because people there don't speak it very well," Bot said.

Bot has few problems communicating with his host family and peers.

"In Thailand, I studied English for 13 years, but we don't speak too much," he said.

A seasoned participant in the exchange program, Bot already came to America on a trip to Virginia for two months with a friend from Thailand. Bot also stayed with a family in New Zealand four years ago.

Bot admits that he still was a bit apprehensive about coming to a foreign country.



Photo courtesy of Kasempun Trakulkajornsak

Coming to America. Exchange student Kasempun "Bot" Trakulkajornsak, seen vacationing in northern Thailand, is attending Fremd for the entire school year.

"[I felt] excited and nervous because I don't know anyone here, and I have to make all new friends," Bot said.

Bot normally attends a 6-year high school in Bangkok where he would have been finishing his senior year. Due to his time in America, however, he has to extend his Thai schooling and go back to study for one more year.

The daily routines in Thailand and in America differ greatly, Bot explained.

"The American day is very different from a Thai day, I think because of religion. Thailand is Buddhist," Bot said.

He also noted some differences in school days.

"We go to school before 8 a.m. because we have to stand in front of the national flag and sing a national song. School finishes at maybe 3 or 4 p.m.," Bot said.

At Bot's high school, there are 60 students in one class for the entire school day. They also do not have the flexibility of choosing the subjects they learn, a liberty

Bot took advantage of at Fremd where he says his favorite class is Art and Design.

In order to participate in the exchange program, Bot had to go through a series of assessments in English, leadership and speaking skills, as well as pass a grammar test.

During his time in the United States, Bot discovered many cultural differences. Where as Americans eat bread, Bot's staple grain is rice, although he has become accustomed to American food.

He found the most contrast in relationships between students and peers. "Here, when we walk and if you know somebody, you say 'Hi,' but in Thailand you just walk by. Only if you see a teacher do you say 'Hi' and bow," he explained.

Bot misses his family and friends from Thailand but is looking forward to the next year of American living. What does he hope to bring back to Thailand?

"English skills, good experiences and new friends," Bot said.

Bonneville's the name, discipline's the game



With another school year in progress, one more face is added to the long list of new faculty members: police consultant Angela Bonneville.

Students may recognize her as the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer or as Officer Friendly from the local elementary schools. She sat down with *Logue* reporter Lydia Kwon to share her insights about police life on the street and what it's like to be at Fremd.

Q: What did you do before coming to Fremd?

A: I was "on the street" 13 years prior to coming here. Street experience would be any time I was in a patrol car answering 911 calls.

We used to rotate where we would work days, afternoons, and then midnights. During midnight patrols, there's more stuff going on where there are 911 calls because people are breaking into cars or there are "domestics" where people are fighting. But during the day, there's more traffic calls and car accidents.

Q: What about the high school environment are you most attracted to?

A: I enjoy working with students in general. You can have your own opinions, and you can tell me why you have them. I enjoy the learning environment and watching you guys grow.

Q: What do you plan to do with your time at Fremd?

A: I enjoy going in to classrooms and talking to kids. I would like to get out to more classes because everyone has a question like, "What do you do when you get pulled over?"

Q: What do students come to you for?

A: We've had a lot of thefts in gym and football locker rooms. I would say maybe 30 to 35 of the items stolen have been turned in to me since the beginning of the year. There have been other things stolen but iPods and phones especially.

Q: Have students come to you for personal issues?

A: There have been a couple. I had a kid come in who is in a foster home, and he was having problems, so we helped him get to the right people for that. I've had girls come and say, "I'm having problems with this group of girls."

Q: Have you been administering parking tickets?

A: I write them for anybody who doesn't have a parking pass or a temporary parking pass.

Q: When you ticket students, are there any complaints?

A: No, I haven't had any problems with that. I think there are complaints that the lot isn't completely full this year or that people want the opportunity to buy the parking passes.



Logue photo by Christine Chen

TREEHUGGERS. Go Green! Campaign brings green to town.

Shades of green in Palatine

Jackie Wallentin
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Former Vice President Al Gore won a Nobel Peace Prize last week for his environmental efforts, and the Village of Palatine is working to follow in Gore's "green" footsteps to establish Palatine as an environmentally-conscious community.

The Palatine, Go Green! Campaign is working with Our Climate Matters, a global warming symposium sponsored by the League of Women Voters, to spread awareness to the citizens of Palatine. Last week, the league sponsored a public seminar on the progress of the village.

Andy Radetski, director of public works for Palatine, says Palatine has already started the process of becoming "green."

"Our awareness and understanding has progressed to making the world a better place," Radetski said.

Palatine is trying to integrate ethanol and bio-diesel fuels into the community, but only four percent of the total fuel is currently ethanol. By utilizing bio-diesel, 11,100 gallons of fuel have been conserved already. Radetski says Palatine is looking to increase the use of these fuels to reduce carbon emissions.

All of the traffic lights in Palatine also have been converted to LED heads, which use less energy and last longer.

Here is what you can do to help:

- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth
- Take showers instead of baths
- Recycle all aluminum, paper and plastics
- Ride bikes, carpool or walk as often as possible
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs

Taser usage debated after controversial incident involving teenager

Arjun Puranik
News Editor

When police in Orange County, Ca., saw a teenager walking through traffic, they used a Taser to subdue the boy, 15-year-old Taylor Karras.

Although Karras returned home unharmed, media coverage of the event has increased questioning of police Taser usage.

Tasers, electroshock weapons used by many police departments, transmit electric shock and cause temporary paralysis.

Police consultant Angela Bonneville says she cannot judge the Karras situation without all of the details, but does not carry a Taser herself because the Palatine Police Department currently has decided not to use them.

Bonneville said officers will be trained extensively to prevent abuses if the department ever decides to use these weapons.

"If we do end up carrying Tasers, we have to get Tasered and know what it feels like,"

said Bonneville, adding that the department would take three to five days to train officers to use the weapons, which are classified as less than lethal.

Bonneville explained that Tasers should be used in certain situations, especially when there are few officers and there is a significant danger that someone might harm themselves or others.

She added that the weapon would be useful for a small officer against a large person.

Sophomore Ray Li says Tasers are useful weapons.

"All police [officers] should carry Tasers instead of guns. That way they don't have to kill the person," Li said.

Bonneville pointed out that rubber bullets are actually more painful than Tasers.

Although sophomore Jeff Hoerman admitted that there are some benefits of Tasers, he still has reservations because they can still be misused.

"I think it's better to Taser someone than to shoot them, but I think Tasers can easily be used incorrectly," Hoerman said.