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WEEKLY
RAT-
RACE

Volume 81

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN, OCTOBER 23, 1959

Number 6

Light Scholarship Program Announces Expansion

On Monday, October 14, several of the Light Scholars and Dr. Stavig took the podium in order to introduce the Freshman to the Light Scholarship program and to relate some of their experiences of this past summer. However, several of the group feared that perhaps this assembly did not adequately answer all the questions which might arise; and, thus this article was written to elaborate more fully upon the program.

This program's origin was the summer of 1957. Dr. Richard Light during this summer was vacationing in France during that time he found it such a rewarding experience that he felt others should share in this same experience. When he returned, he sat to work organizing the Light Scholarship Program and placed a large fund of money at the disposal of the school on a trial basis for five years.

The program, which supplies a group of students with two thirds the cost of studying in a foreign country for a summer was set-up with three major goals in mind.

The primary goal is acquiring fluency in, or at the least a workable knowledge of a foreign language. It was figured that being in a country which spoke the language studied would make it real and emphasize the importance of such a study.

Secondly, it would expose the student to a different culture. This exposure it was hoped would give him a new attitude toward this country, its problems and people as well as considering world problems in a new light.

The final goal was to broaden the student. This is difficult to state in terms of specific objectives or to evaluate, but remarkable changes have been seen in many of those given this wonderful opportunity. A desired effect is that through shared experiences and new knowledge that these students have, the whole campus will benefit.

The plan for the summer is quite simple and basically this: Each student goes to the country which speaks the language he is studying or has studied at "K". In this country, he attends a university where he studies the language and has other courses about the country. While there he usually stays with a private family. During this part of the summer he is taken on a number of planned tours to see points of interest. At the end of the summer is a two to three week period of time in which he is free to go and see what he desires. It should be mentioned here that every student can do what he likes. He may cut

classes, visit anyplace desired, or do anything within reason. There is no supervision. This freedom has been well used and not abused by both groups who have been under this program. None of the students have known for sure what to expect or what they would do at the end of the summer. However, they have had many and varied experiences.

No finer evaluation of the program's success can be given than to merely state that after two years, the school has been given the money and the program placed on a permanent basis. The students have learned a great deal of their language, proven their trustworthiness under the complete freedom given them, and have all had wonderful and unusual experiences, which they will remember and talk about the rest of their lives.

The program is going to be expanded this year. German students will study at Goethe Institute in Munich as well as Bonn; French students will be in Grenoble or Caen; and the Spanish group will begin in Madrid University as well as sending another group to Bogota, Colombia. The number of students to go will be expanded from thirty to forty-five.

Applications will be taken sometime in November though announcement of those selected will not be made until early in the second semester. The selections are made on the following basis. First, the academic achievement of the student is considered. This doesn't mean you have to have all "A"'s. Secondly, they are chosen on the basis of social aspect of the student, that is, whether or not he would go out and learn and be able to meet people. They are chosen on the basis of class. Freshmen are given preference because they will be here for three years afterward and the campus will have more benefit the longer time they're here. Finally, they are selected on the basis of achievement in their language. The result of these qualifications is that it is mostly Freshmen who go so they are urged to apply. The Scholarship pays \$500.00 which leaves about \$150.00 for the student to supply and also his expenses such as souvenirs and pictures. There is a small fund from which students can borrow if necessary to make up the difference though he is urged to try and secure this money thru his family or any other means that happen to show themselves. However, all students are urged to apply if it seems at all feasible.