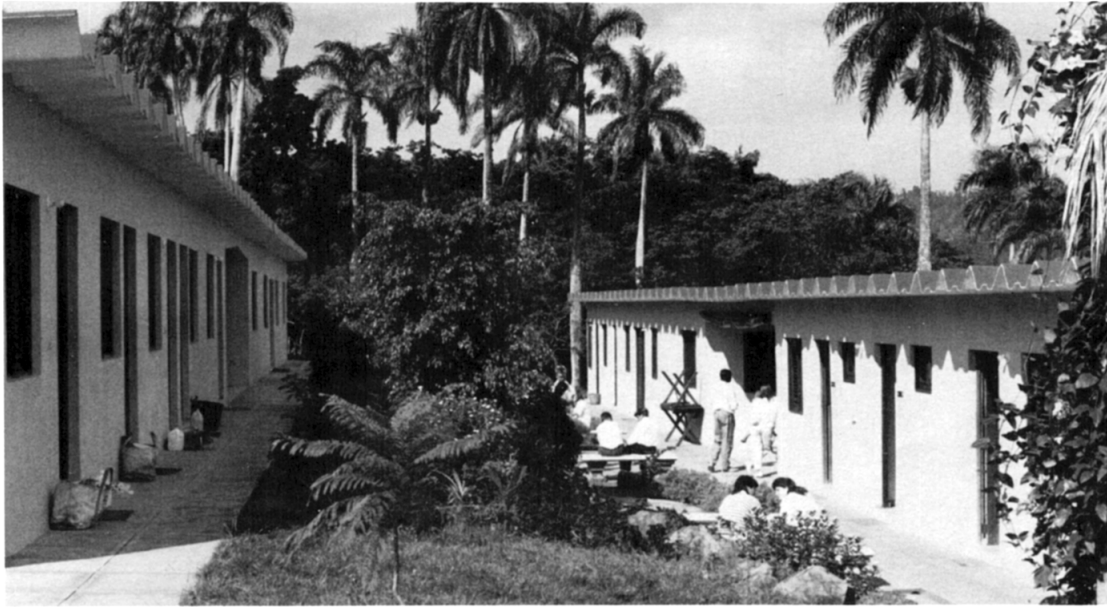
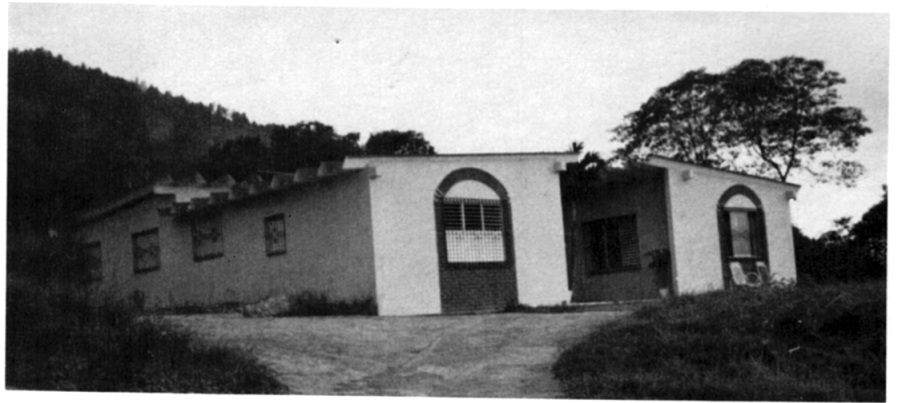


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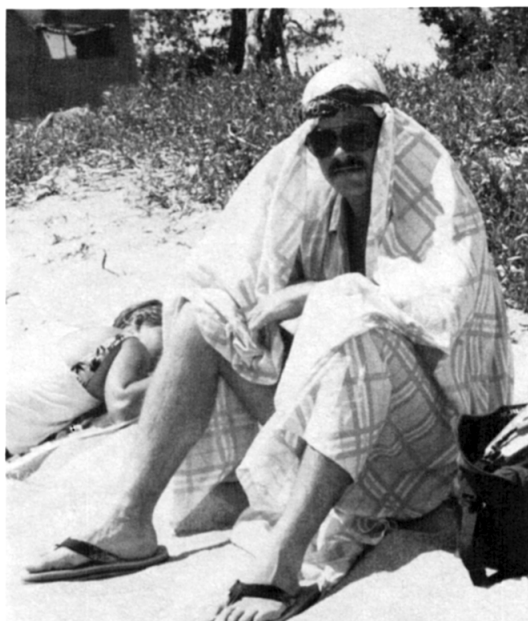
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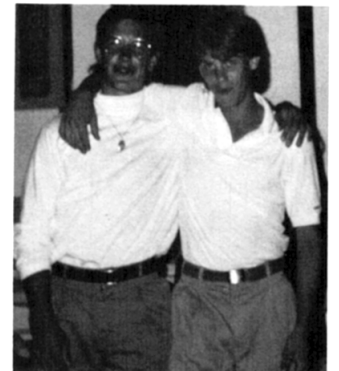
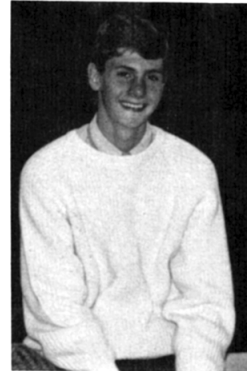
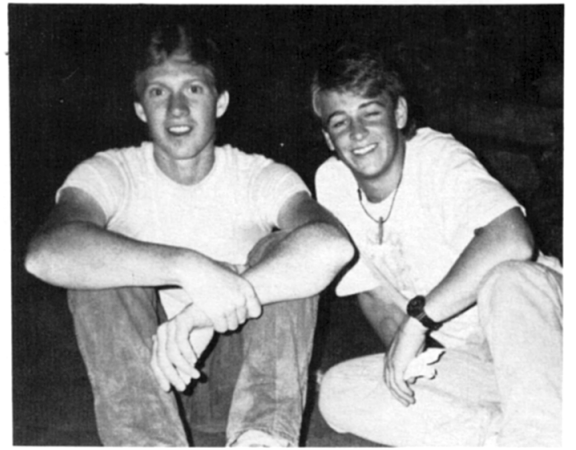


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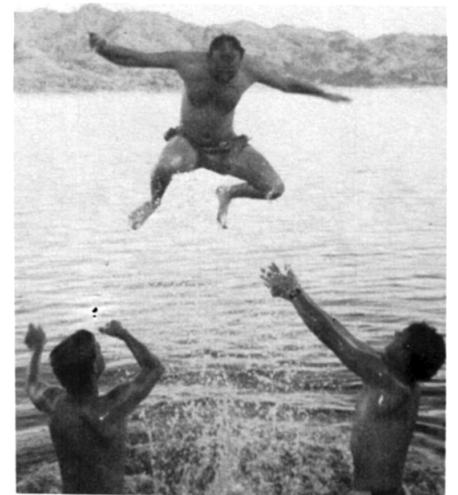


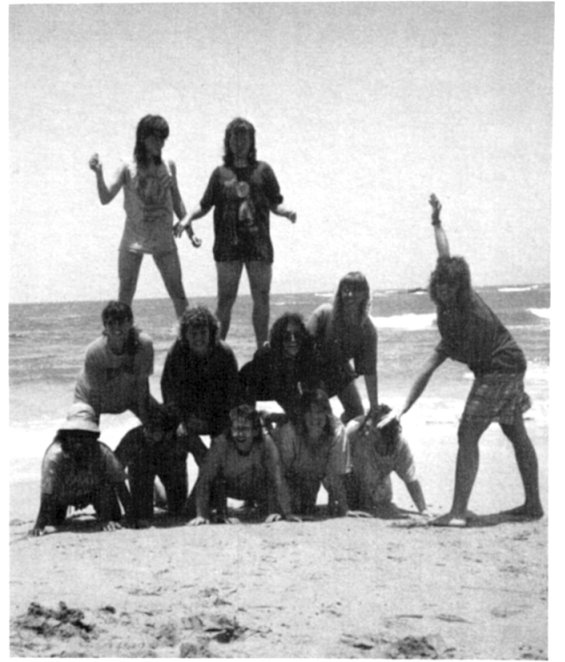
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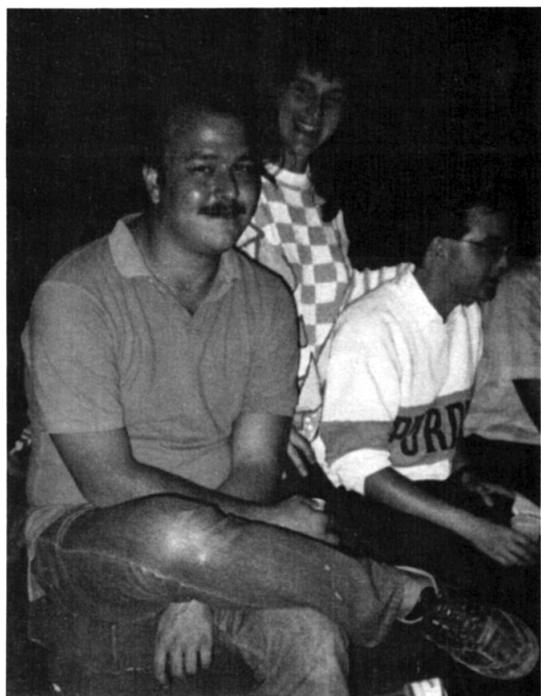
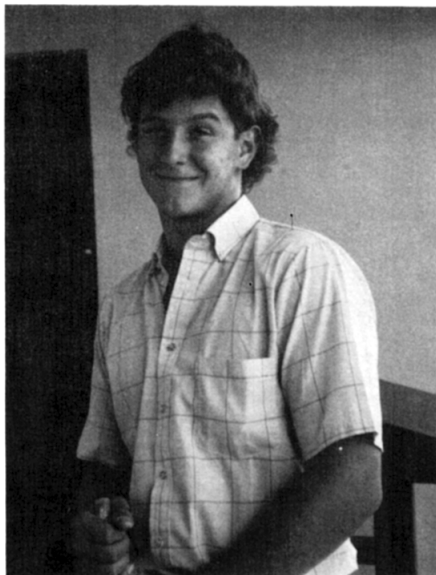
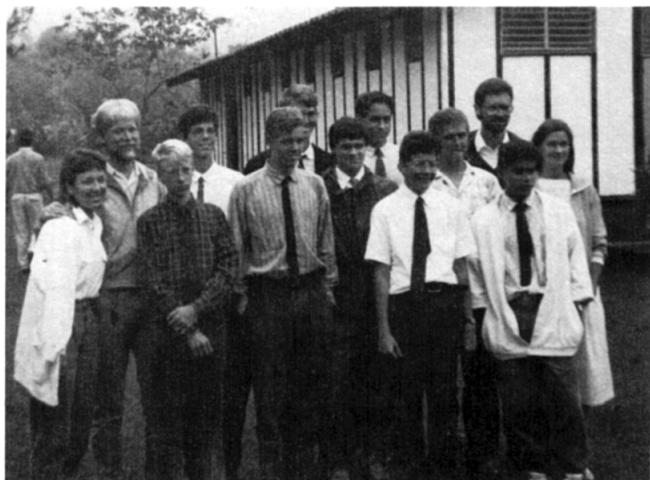


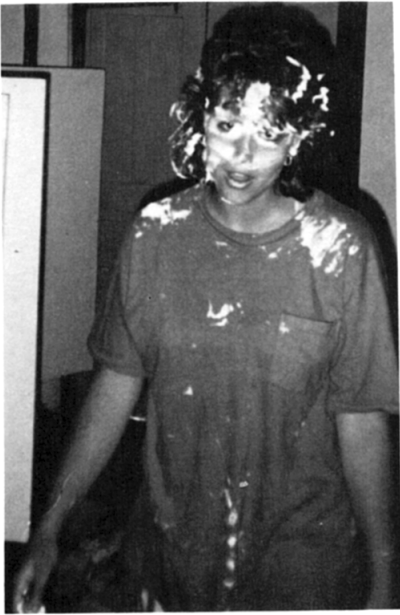


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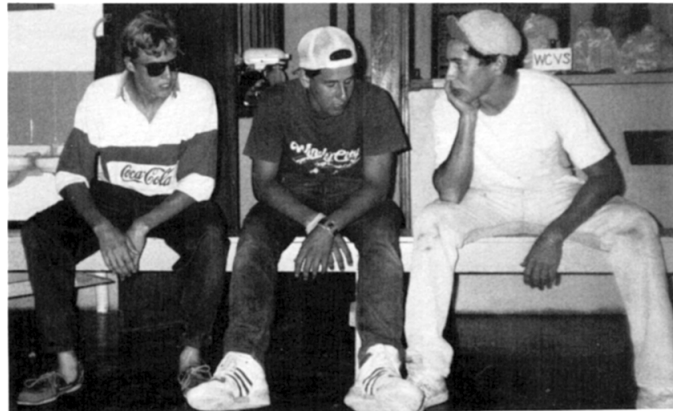
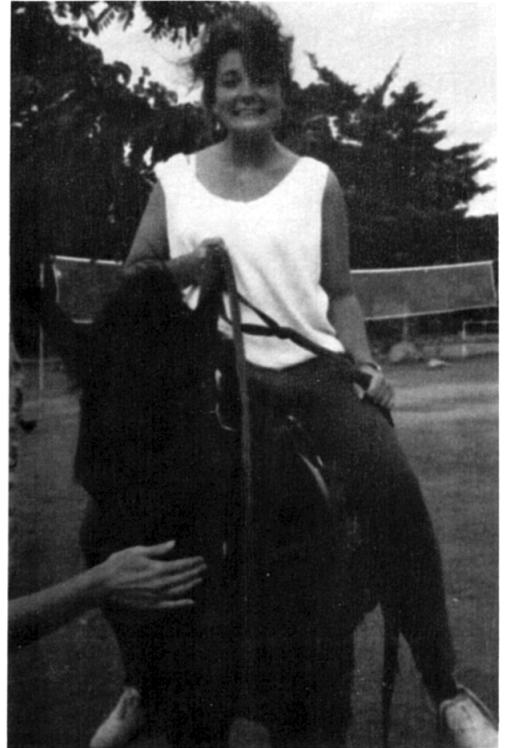


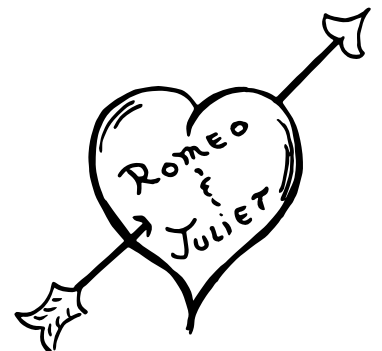
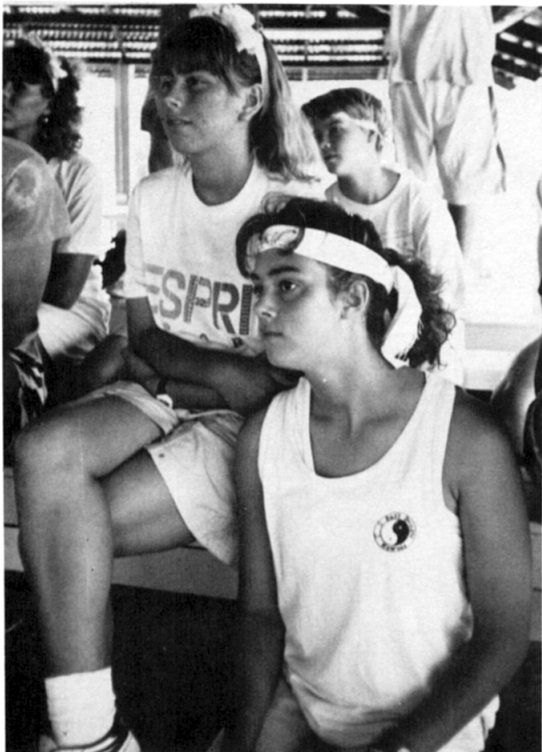
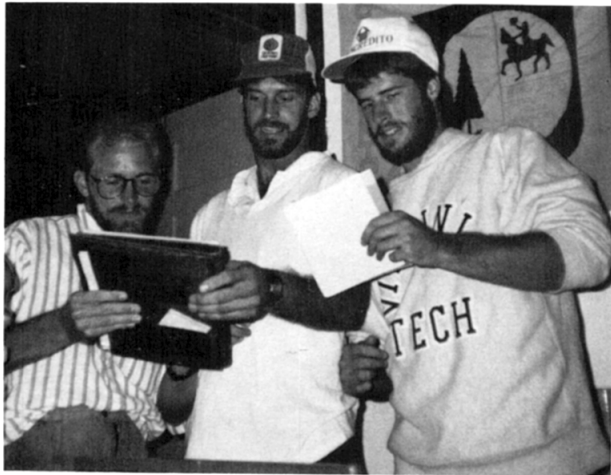
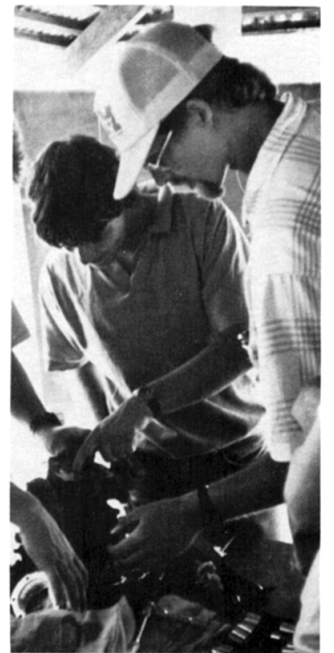
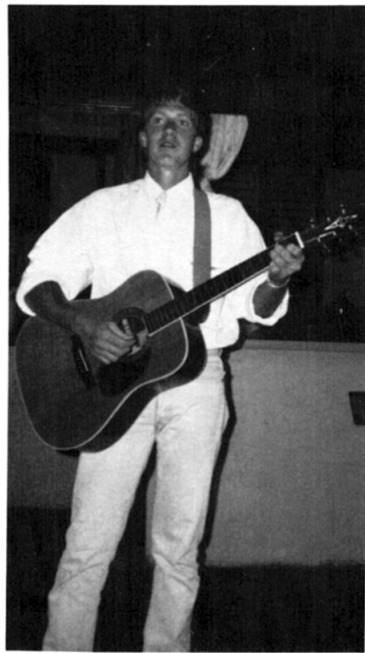
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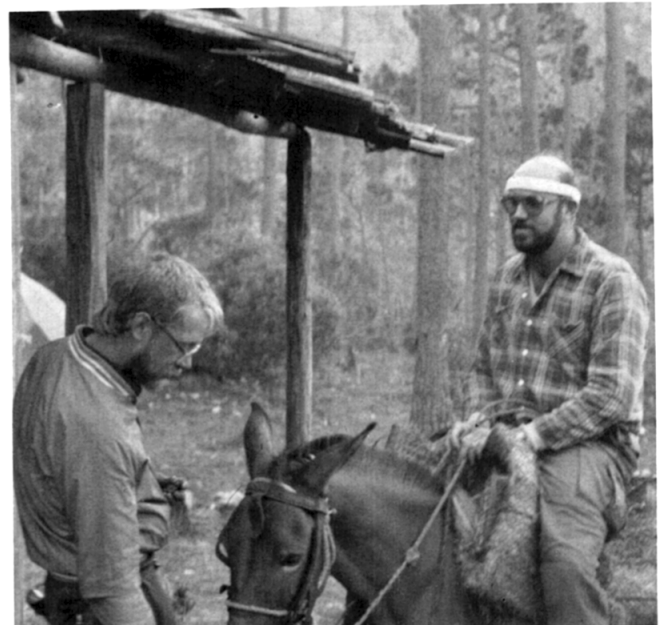
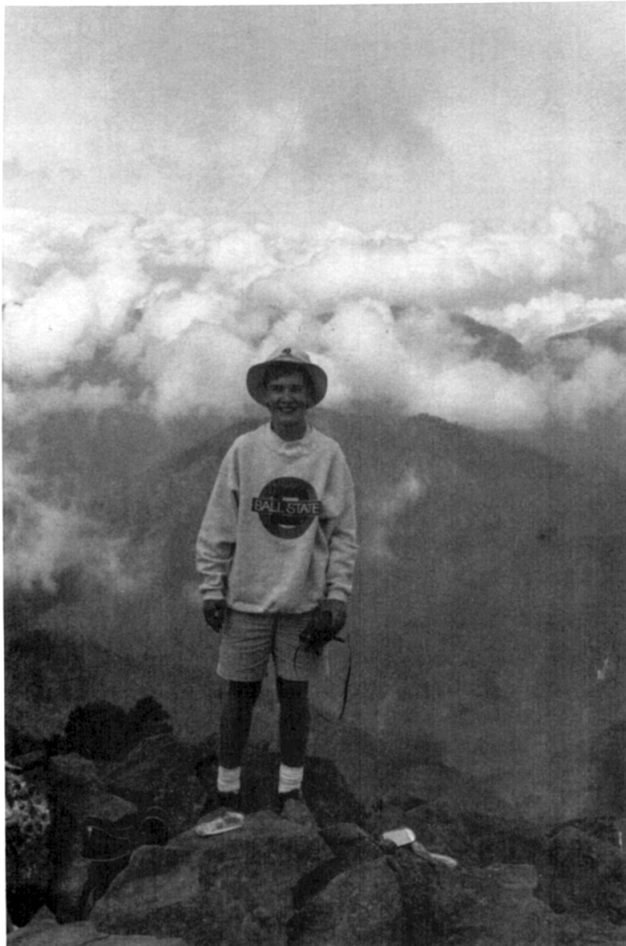
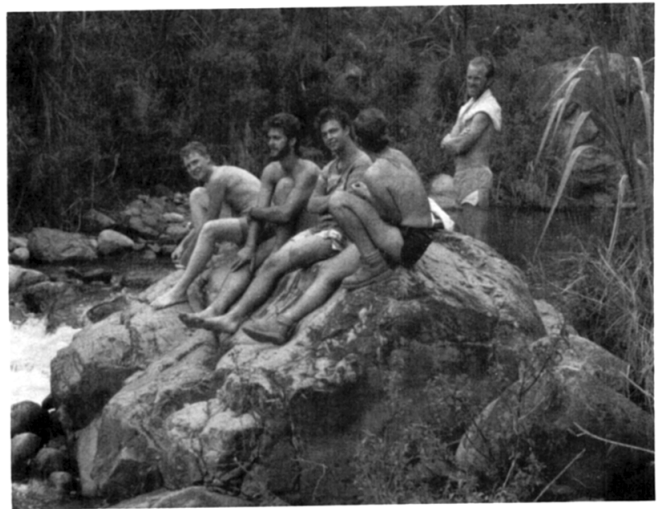
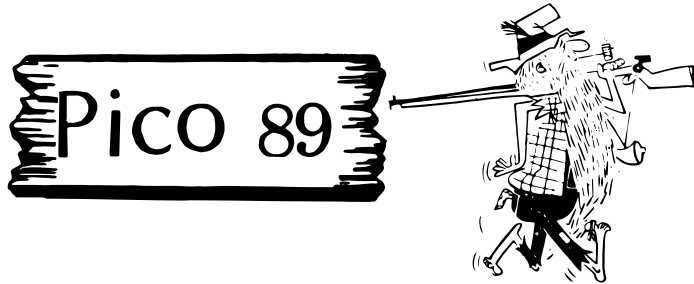
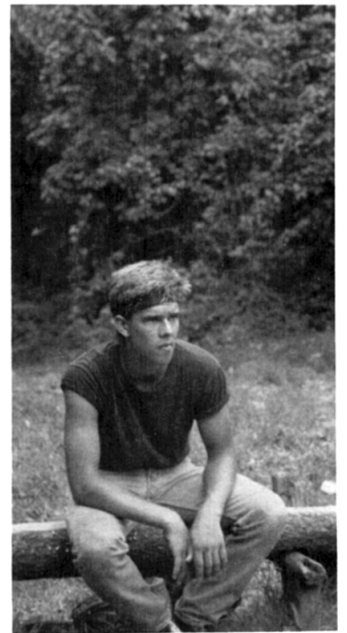


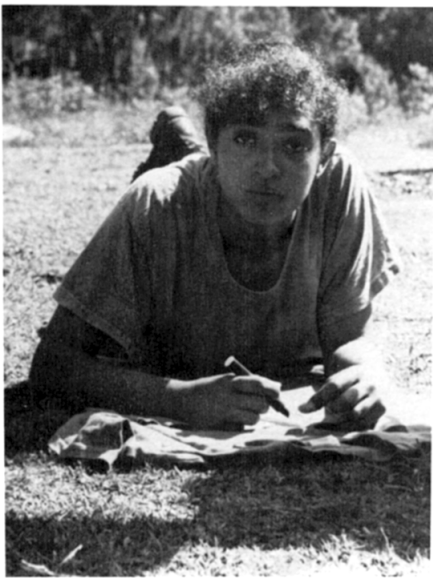


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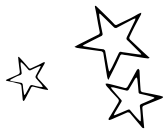






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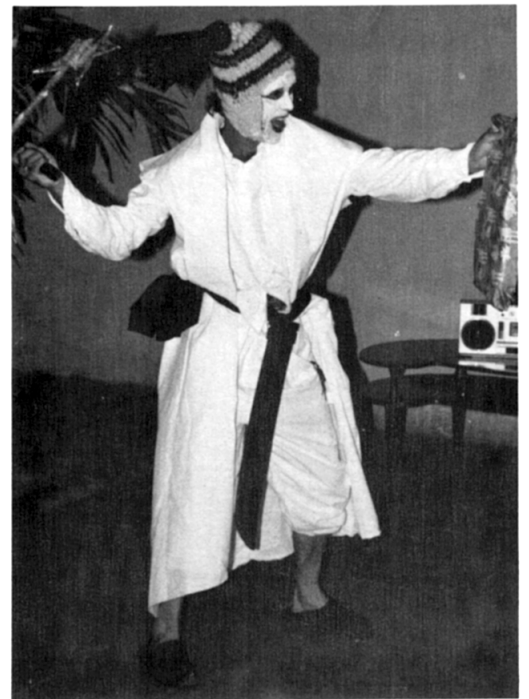
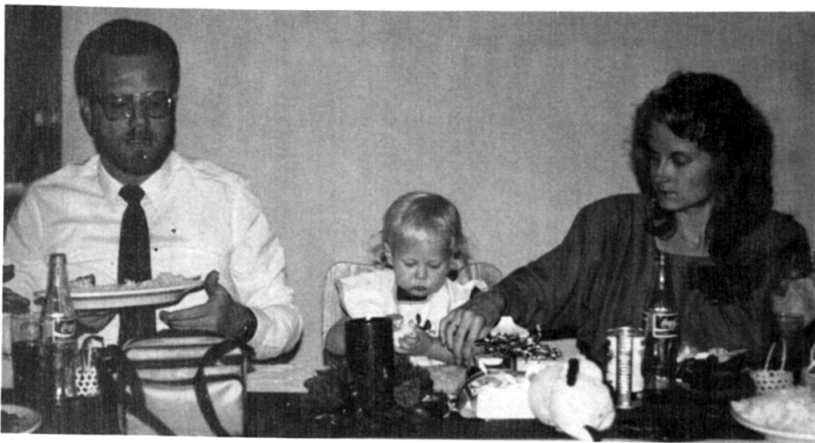
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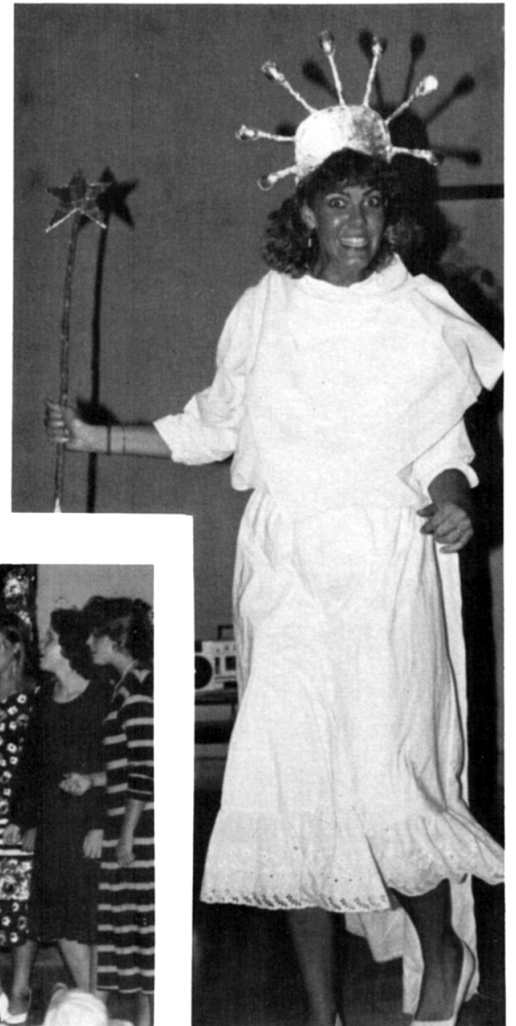
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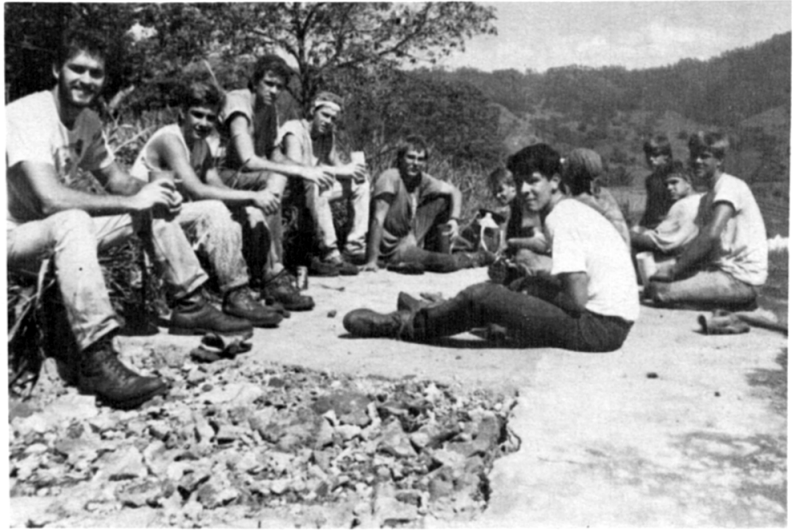


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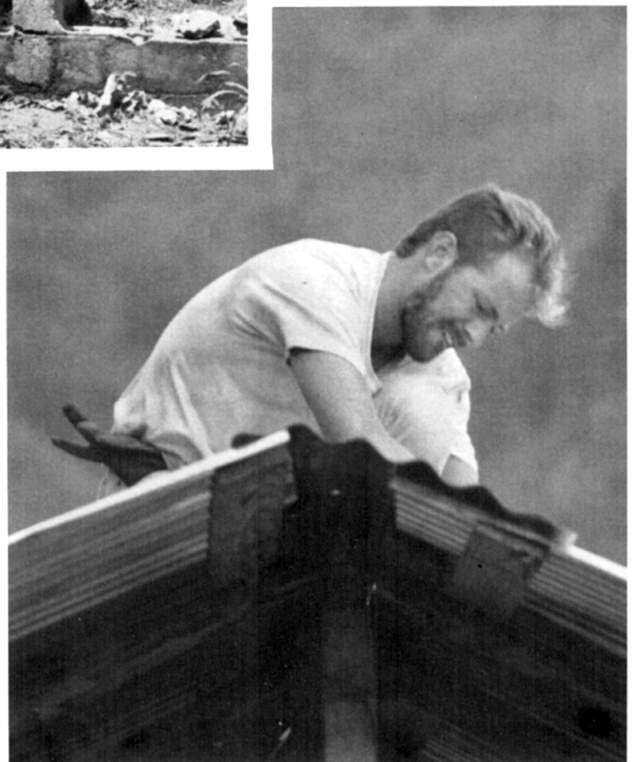
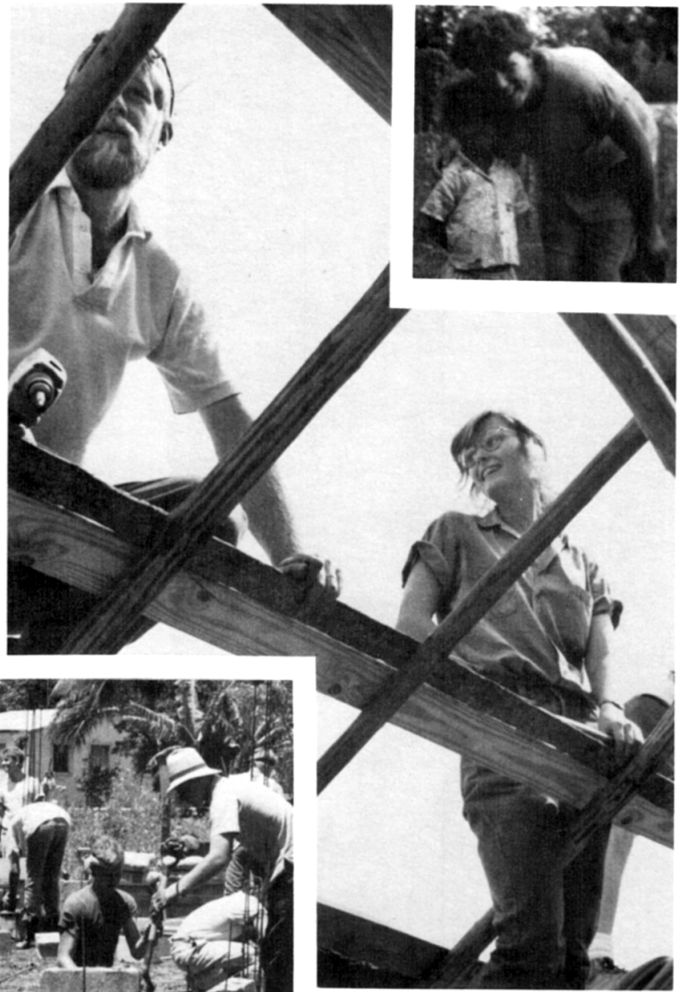
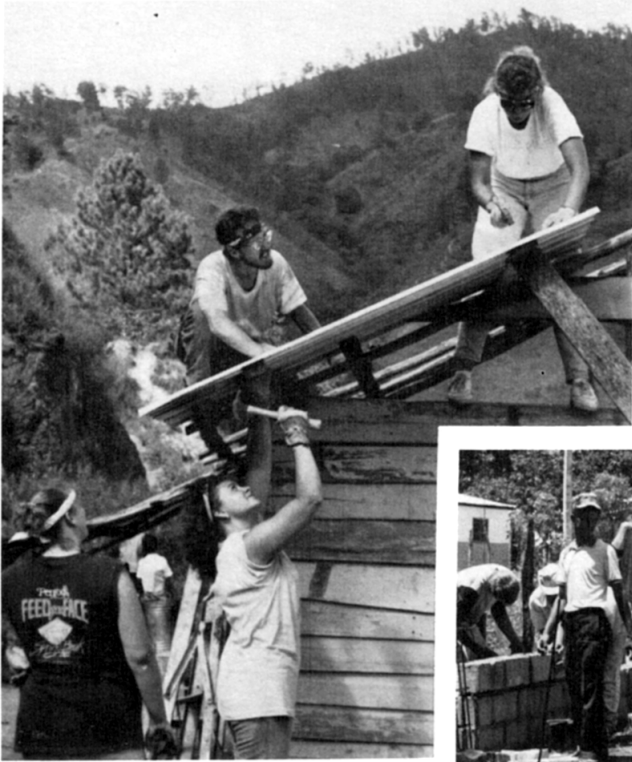




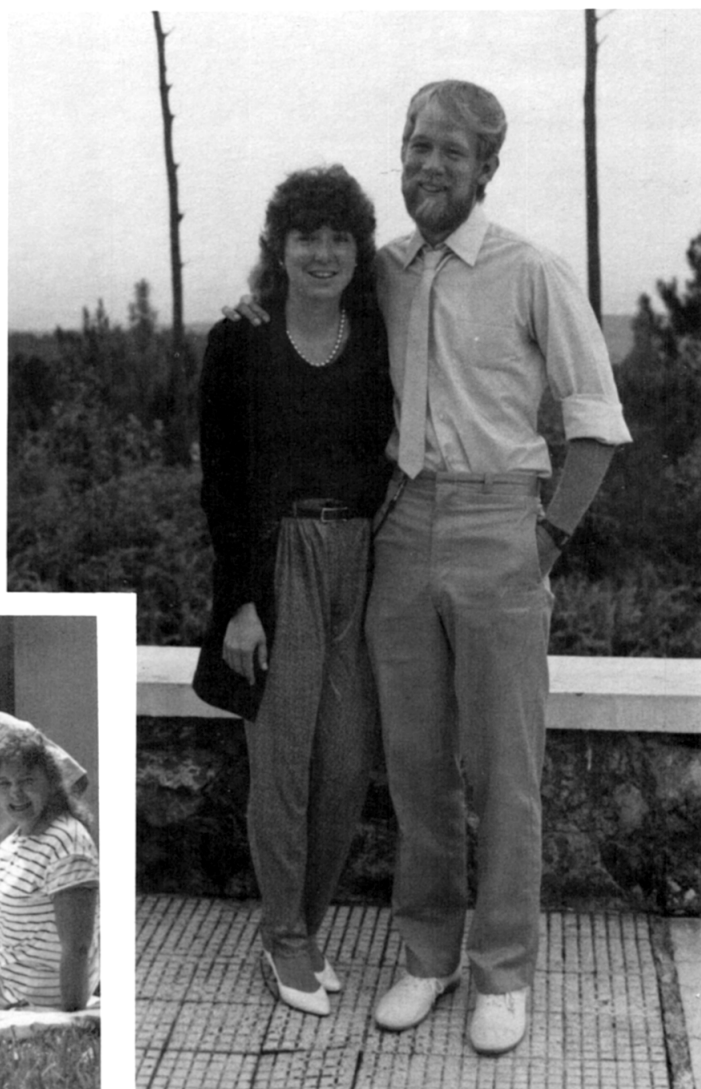
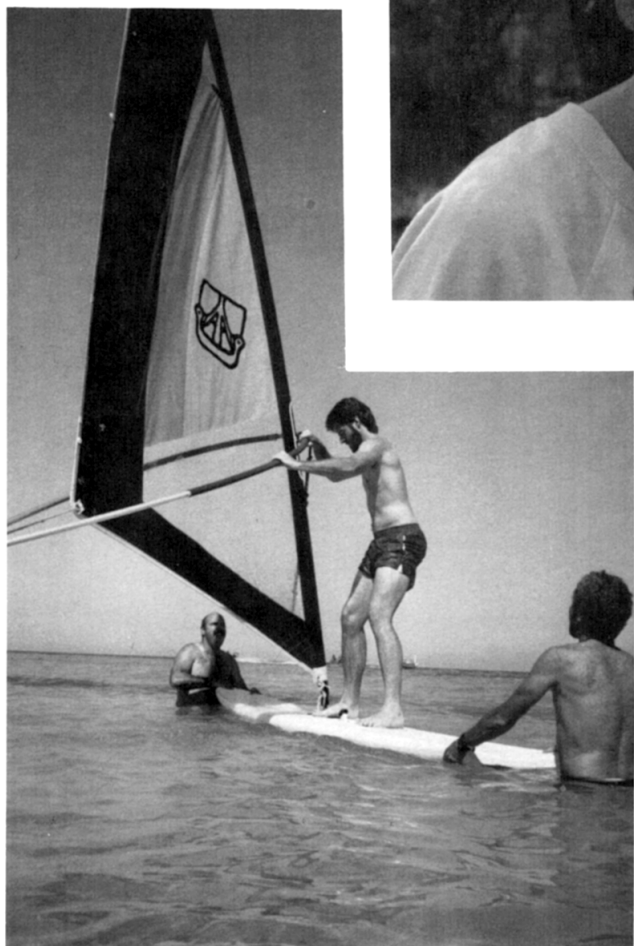
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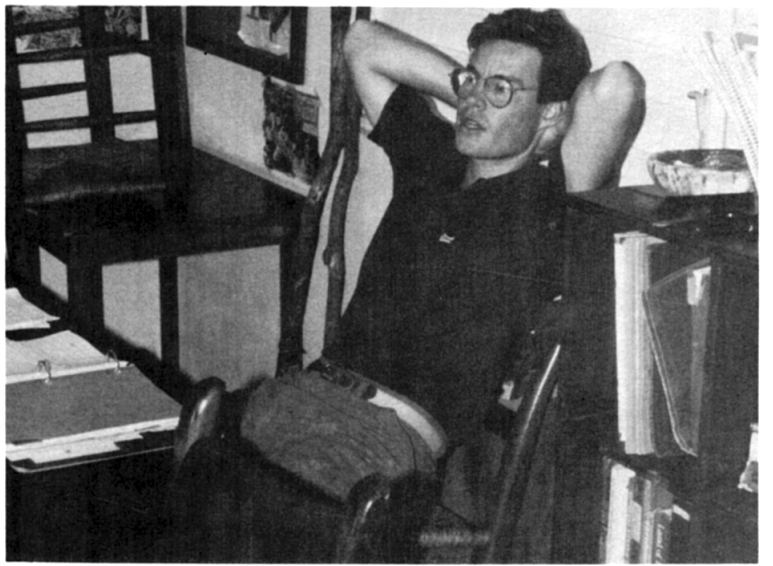


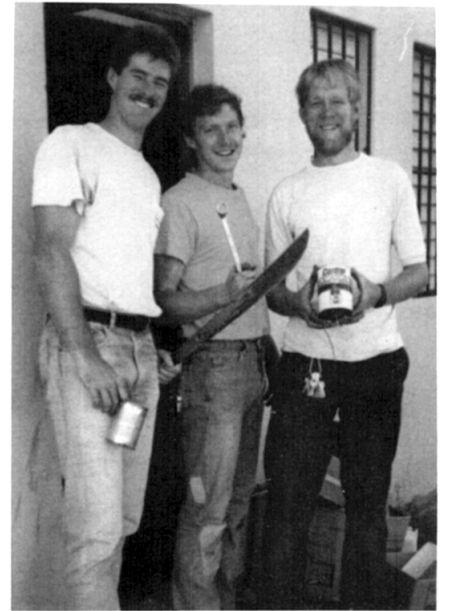
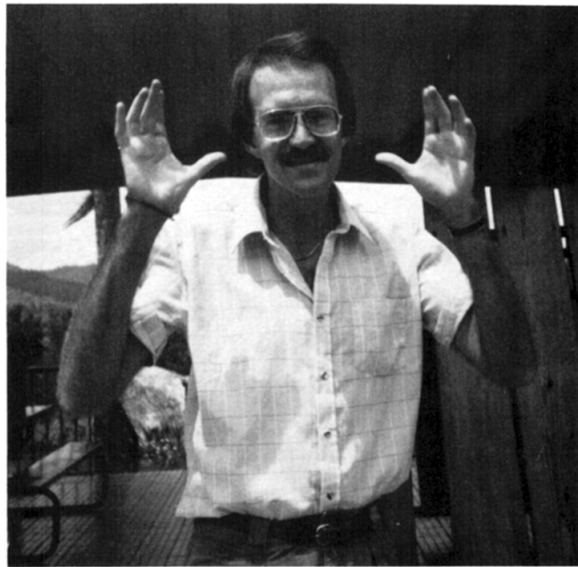
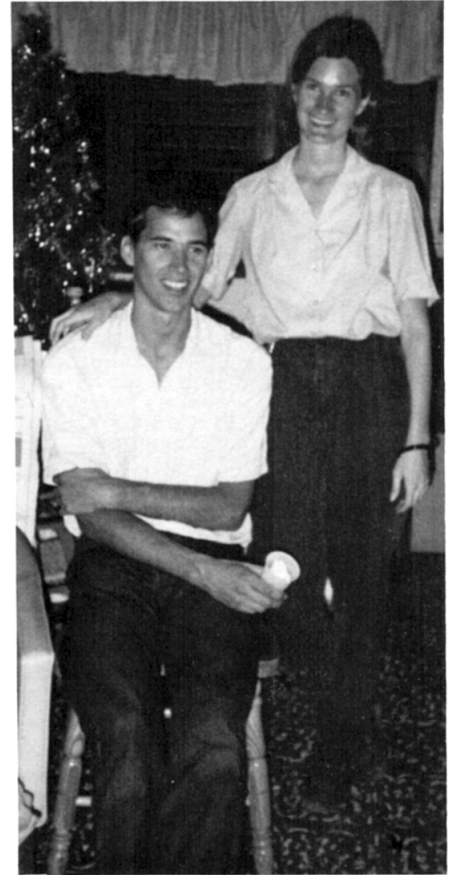
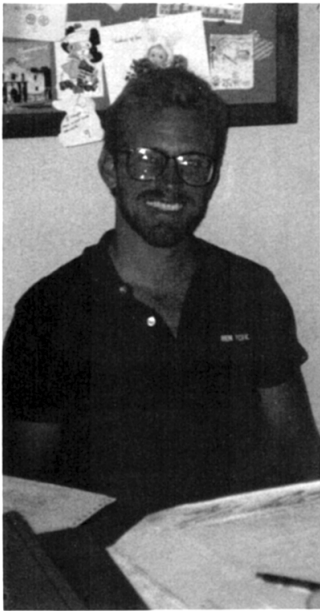
SERVICE PROJECT



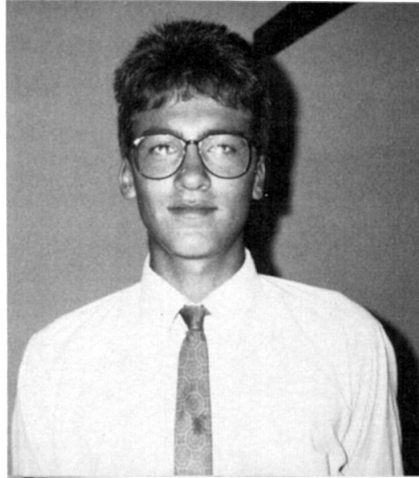
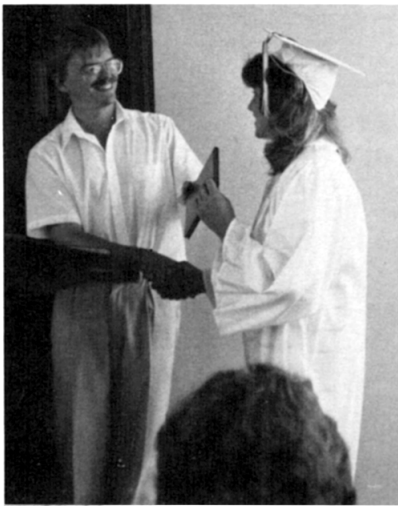
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Snapshots



Lance Schwart



Flash flood pulls Topeka teenager to his death

By Laurie Whitten
Staff Writer

Lance Schwart, like many teenagers, needed a nudge when it came to taking responsibility. An enthusiastic Christian, Schwart had been able to avoid most of the demands of adulthood while growing up in his sheltered Topeka home.

When he left in January to attend a Christian boarding school in the Dominican Republic, it was a different story.

"Lance was experiencing some typical problems for his age," said Bob Botts, Schwart's uncle. "His parents thought it would be

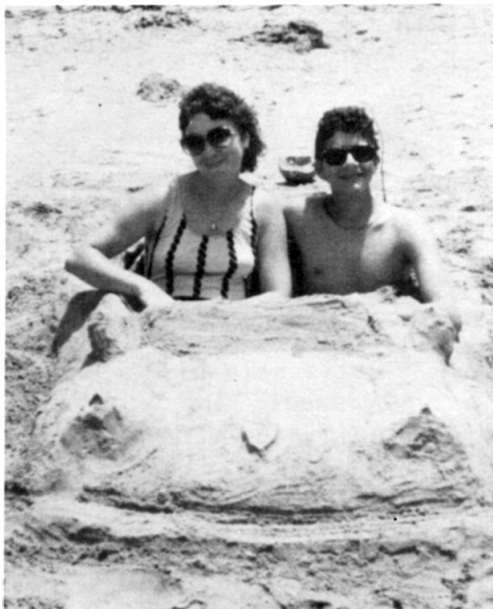
helpful to place him in a more structured environment. They liked the Dominican Republic

school because it was Christian-sponsored, and because it would teach him all about adult responsibility.

"He seemed to be getting along fine there. His strong belief in God was a witness to the students there."

Lance Robert Schwart, 18, was killed Sunday when a flash flood crashed through a canyon near the college, sweeping him from the grip of his friends.

Schwart and seven friends from the United States had been at a favorite swimming hole adjoining a canyon river when the accident occurred. The swimming hole was near the bottom



of the canyon and within a mile of the school, said Bill Gilfillan, Schwart's pastor at Topeka Bible Church.

Gilfillan said Schwart and his friends looked up in time to see a 20-foot wall of water rushing toward them, and they tried to escape.

"They saw the water coming at them, and they scampered up the walls of the canyon to get away," he said. "But it came too fast--there was no place to go. They all joined hands and hung on. Unfortunately, Lance was swept away."

Flash floods are common in the Caribbean, Gilfillan said. In the one that killed Schwart, the water rose almost 20 feet in a minute.

About 30 students, most of them from the United States, attended the small boarding school. Schwart was the only member of his congregation attending the school.

Hank Nelson, youth minister at the Topeka Bible Church, said Schwart, who was born in Wichita and moved to Topeka in 1976, was a leader both in the church and at school. A former student at Washburn Rural high school, he was a member of Choice Lifestyles bible study and Campus Life, a Christian youth organization.

"He was a real people person, and he had a heart for everyone," Nelson said. "He was artistic. He designed T-shirts for our youth



group as well as for Choice Lifestyles.

Botts said his nephew was sweet and gentle with friends and family.

"Lance was a sweet-spirited young man," he said. "I have a 7-year-old son, Brandon, and Lance was very fond of him."

Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at the First Southern Baptist Church in Topeka. Memorials may be made to the Topeka Bible Church, 1101 S.W. Mulvane, Topeka, 66604. Penwell-Gabel funeral home is handling the arrangements.