



When students from the Goodland High School and Marlborough (Mass) High School AFS clubs had a social in Goodland on Saturday, they played a game called, "Honey, I love you, won't you please smile." Brittney Kane and Meghan Condry, Marlborough students, found that it's not easy to avoid smiling while saying that. When Alicia Felver changed the phrase to "Brother, I love you. . ." for her brother Josef Felver, they were both smiling, and Kali Rietchek was laughing, before Alicia even started.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

# Massachusetts students visit Kansas farms

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Twelve Massachusetts high school students learned about farming, ranching and small-town friendliness last weekend as the Goodland High School AFS club hosted a short-term exchange.

And 12 northwest Kansas students will soon get a look at big city life in Massachusetts. The AFS club at Marlborough, Mass., High School, west of Boston, was looking for a school to do an exchange with; the only criteria being that it had to be different from where they were.

Jess Farrell, one of the club's officers, said she and the other officers were looking at a map and thought Kansas looked like it was different. The club called Goodland

High School to try to set up an exchange and were welcomed with open arms.

"No one ever wants to come here," Goodland AFS Sponsor Mary Porterfield said.

The Massachusetts students, all girls, said they were excited about the trip, and Kansas didn't disappoint. Much was different, and the city students had a ball learning about those things.

"The cameras are getting a workout," Marlborough AFS Sponsor Roberta Collins said. "Everything is a Kodak moment, for all 13 cameras."

She said the students had to have their pictures taken with the tornado shelter signs. And they were fascinated with tumble weeds, loved the baby animals and quickly embraced

small-town friendliness.

"Everyone here waves," the girls said, "so we just wave back."

And they said they told everyone back home that Goodland threw a parade for them. They said school let out while they were at Mueller Grain Friday afternoon, and a whole line of cars drove by, the occupants waving at them.

The students were amazed that everyone in Goodland knows everyone else and that everyone immediately knew who they were.

"There are 2,000 students (at Marlborough High)," Collins said; "your whole school is like one of our grades."

When the Goodland students go to Marlborough, Collins said, they will get to fight their way through a crowded hall with kids carrying all

their books in backpacks. The school is so big, she said, they just carry all their books with them.

Besides visiting the grain elevator, the students went to Ken and Laurie Klemm's buffalo farm, Sigco Sunflower Seed Plant, T-Bone Feedlot, Bill and Diane Gattshall's farm, Connie and Tim Livengood's feedlot and farm, Chuck and Janet Thomas's farm and the Kidder Massacre site.

The Massachusetts students raved about the baby animals on the farms they visited. A baby calf had just been born before they went to Gattshall's farm, and they got to see it get to its feet. They also held puppies, fed the horses and gathered eggs. The students were surprised the eggs were still warm, Collins said.

And they found the baby animals adorable. Collins said she had to check the students' pockets before they left the farms.

Besides the puppies and calves at the Gattshall farm, the students held lambs at the Thomas farm. They just passed the lambs from one student to another the whole time, Collins said.

"The animals were so wicked cute," Farrell said.

The Massachusetts students also enjoyed the warm weather, a club social that included a piñata with six pounds of candy and the X-Pressos, who serenaded Massachusetts student Monica Hammett.

The show choir in Massachusetts does more with top hats and canes, Collins said; the X-Pressos are more contemporary. The X-Pressos

are known as "the dancing boys" to the Marlborough students, she said.

The only thing they didn't enjoy were the distinctive feedlot odors.

The students talked to someone back home Friday, Collins said, and it was snowing there. They bragged about the warm weather here, she said, but then said they were smelly from visiting the feedlot.

The students kept a journal during the trip, and one of the Goodland AFS sponsors, Elaine Felver, said the Kansas students will probably take it with them to Massachusetts and add to it.

Twelve Kansas students, nine from Goodland High School and three foreign exchange students, will make the trip at the end of March. The exchange students are at the high schools in Sharon Springs, Colby and Norton. Felver will be the sponsor on the trip.

## corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

# Woman sues claiming sexual harassment

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A former student is suing the Northwest Kansas Technical College, its president and two of its teachers saying she was sexually harassed and discriminated against.

Jan Johnson of San Antonio, Texas, is suing the college, Kenneth Clouse as the president and as an individual and instructors Ed Lofland and Bill Lacy and is asking for \$105,000. Her case was removed to a federal court in Wichita in January under U.S. Title IX.

Johnson was a student at the college from Feb. 1, 2002, until Jan. 30, 2003, in the Communications Network Technology program.

She said, through her attorney Kevin Berens, in a petition in the Sherman County District Court files that the college did not uphold the claims made in its handbook with regard to what is considered sexual harassment, with regard to handling complaints of sexual harassment and with regard to helping students find jobs.

She said she suffered severe emotional distress as a result of the inaction by the defendants to correct the inappropriate behavior by male students in her classroom and that she became depressed, angry and became unable to cope effectively with other males she came in contact with outside of the classroom.

Johnson said she had to quit her job at a local bar and lost wages as a result of the emotional distress and that her social life was diminished and she became reclusive.

Her petition said the defendants allowed sexual harassment to take place in the classroom to the extent that it was severe, pervasive and offensive enough to be considered sexual discrimination.

Johnson said the college acted with deliberate indifference to the situation in that the classroom teachers, Lofland and Lacy, failed to correct such behavior or failed to follow the procedures for sexual harassment or for students' misuse of college technology as set forth in the student handbook.

Among the statements Johnson quoted from the handbook in the petition are that college equipment would not be allowed to be used for "downloading, viewing, transmitting and/or processing pornographic, X-rated, profane, sexually explicit or racially offensive material."

The petition also quotes the handbook as saying there is an "assurance of non-retaliation" for any complainant of sexual harassment.

Johnson said the college and Clouse acted with deliberate indifference to the situation and that Clouse failed to investigate or correct the problem in the classroom even though he was informed of it.

She said in the petition that Lofland gave her a bad reference in retaliation to her complaint about

inappropriate behavior of students in his class.

It's pending negotiations right now, Clouse said; there's nothing to talk about. The insurance companies and attorneys will have to deal with that, he said.

The petition asks the court find that the college violated the Kansas Consumer Protection Act in that it misrepresented its sexual harassment policies, its post graduate placement services and its policy against retaliation for reporting sexual harassment; that the court award Johnson \$10,000 for each violation for a total of \$30,000; that the court find that the college, Clouse, Lofland and Lacy acted in an extreme and outrageous manner which recklessly caused Johnson severe emotional distress; that the

college violated Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and that the court award Johnson damages in excess of \$75,000 and any other remedy the court deems just and equitable.

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