

□ SURVEY □



Nathalie Beaulieu

Kari: I do think that my education was less coherent than it could have been, and especially in subjects in which I had difficulties, I think it would have been helpful to stay with one system.

Michael: For me, no. There was actually more stimulus, more exposure to different points of view. It was never dull or boring, and I have learned to adjust to change more easily.

Nathalie: It is difficult to do school work when you are moving all the time. On the other hand, you have to look at the good side of things. You do learn many different things. It's difficult and requires much work. Sometimes you lose a year, but you can also gain a year, because the systems are often different from our Canadian system. On the whole, it's a rewarding experience.

• *Is it more difficult to engage in sports or musical activities in other countries?*

Catherine: I don't think so. The problem of adjusting might slow you

down for awhile. I personally began studying music in Brussels, and afterwards we came back to Canada, so I can't really speak authoritatively on the subject.

Kari: It is difficult to follow activities in some places (Third World, for example) and easy in others, depending on the nature of your activity and the country you are in.

Michael: I grew up in the tropics and pursued those activities available there (stamp collection, swimming, etc.), and not the more "Canadian" activities such as hockey or skiing. When I returned to Canada, I took up canoeing, but not many winter sports, although I could have. Music teaching abroad was better than here (trombone). Different countries (India, Kenya, USA) offered different things and I enjoyed the diversity.

Nathalie: Yes, things are different wherever you are. There is always an alternative.

• *In your opinion, what has the foreign service given you that will help you prepare for the future?*

Catherine: Travelling has made me very flexible socially and in my way of seeing things generally, and has helped to mature me. In having to adapt often to a new environment, I have had to put forth considerable effort, not only toward others, but toward myself also. You have to be open-minded to accept others and to be accepted.

There are many positive points in being associated with the foreign service, the main ones being the open-mindedness and social skills that it gives you. Of course, the contact with foreign cultures really broadens your horizons. You become flexible socially and more inquisitive intellectually.

Kari: The foreign service has given me an attitude which I think is perhaps more liberal and accepting than some, and has shown me that life can be valid whatever your ways and customs.

Michael: The foreign service life has given me an adaptability and versatility which will always be useful, as well as a broad view of the world which does not allow one to view any one group in isolation. I have met a great many people, and as a consequence have become very people-oriented. This life has given me at least one more thing — a lot of patience!

Nathalie: Being in a foreign service family gives you experiences with different ethnic groups from different countries. It's a good experience for someone who is going into public relations. For me, it's a great advantage. I work in a travel agency. So the fact that I have travelled and lived abroad has been very helpful. Yes, being in a