

## Student wants to thank his new country

Frans Laubscher, of Long Island is at basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

When he returns home, he will be in his senior year at Northern Valley High School.

Mr. Laubscher is a power generator specialist. Once he returns from advanced training, he will get a \$10,000 sign-on bonus, \$10,368 in Montgomery GI Bill payments while a full-time college student after he completes high school and 100 percent college tuition assistance.

Frans moved here from South Africa. He wanted to join the Army National Guard to thank his new country for allowing him to live here.

His parents received an award from Kansas for their patriotism and faith in Frans that they demonstrated when they allowed him to enlist in their local Army National Guard unit.



Frans Laubscher

# FREEDOM Will Prevail

By EMILY GROSE

What living in a democratic society had meant to me is freedom! I don't always remember what that simple phrase actually means however, because I have never known anything different. There is one thing that I do know however, I have my freedom because of all the soldiers that have gone before me. Because of those brave soldiers I can go to school every day without fear, dress the way I want to. That is what living in a democratic society has meant to me.

By LIZ HANSEN

When asked what it means to be an American I answer that I don't know. I think of all the women and men in the military forces that put their lives in danger to protect the country I live in. But are we really free? Do we really have all of the Bill of Rights, or have they been amended to death?

One example is the freedom of Religion. There is no God in schools, state, or government anymore. America was founded on the Gospel of God. If we remember to keep God in America, maybe we wouldn't have so much violence that we have today.

By KRISTEN HICKMAN

Being an American is a big deal to me. It means that I am free to do and say what I want. With no one person in control of the nation. We get the chance to do so many things that in other countries would not even be thought of. Such as girls going to school and to be able to do sports. We don't have to wear any special clothing or symbol to show religion or race. We are all treated equal. Yeah we do have problems in American but people take for granted what they have and don't even think of how good they actually have it here in America. In many other countries people would be shot just because they look different or have a religion that is restricted in that country. People just need to love what they have because if we weren't Americans they would not have the freedom to do what they do and worship how they do now.

By DONNY HILDEBRAND

It is good to live in this country. I like this country because I'm free and I don't have to do certain things. I'm glad we don't have car bombs every day. I can speak my mind if I want to, can talk on the street and not have someone telling us to get off the street.

# Kansas Army National Guard

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.  
We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream.  
It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for  
them to do the same. — *Ronald Reagan*

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