

World Language Press

Meet Manuel from Argentina

By Julie Adams

Manuel Alvelo a native of Buenos Aires, Argentina; is one of the many exchange students this year attending Mahar. He resides with the Quatrocelli's while attending school here in Orange.

Back in Buenos Aires, Manny lives his father, mother, a sister and a brother. His neighborhood is made up of many different social classes. Often people play soccer in the middle of the streets. Nearby there is a river where sometimes he and his friends go boating.

Manuel attends a private school back in Argentina. The school day starts at seven o'clock and ends about five o'clock. He studies French, English, litera-

ture, and biology. He explains that most children attend private schools because public schools are "messy". The government doesn't fund the public schools well. Though the school day is about ten hours long, they have ten to fifteen minute breaks in between classes and have an hour and a half lunch and they can wander out in the city of Buenos Aires to get food. After school, two days a week, Manuel has snack with his friends and then goes to rugby practice till nine o'clock. He also enjoys listening to reggae and going to dancing clubs.

When he goes back to Argentina he has a half of a year left of high school, then he will be attending college.

If you ever visit Argentina, Manuel suggests checking out *Perito Moreno* a glacier, Iguazu Falls, the largest in the world and *La Boca*, the port area of Buenos Aires. He also suggests when traveling to Buenos Aires, make sure you watch out; there are many big ghettos that can be dangerous. Manuel himself has traveled out of Argentina to Chili and Uruguay.

When Manuel first got to the United States he didn't know what to expect. He didn't like it at first. Everything was new to him, especially going from the big city of Buenos Aires, to a small town of Orange. He couldn't wait to start school and learn new things.



Manuel Alvelo is staying with the Quatrocelli family in North Orange.

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Dear Diary: Buenos Aires, Argentina

December 20, 2005

Dear Diary

Wow! What a plane ride. It took forever. Luckily, I had my friends with me, otherwise it would have been extremely boring.

Once the plane landed in Bue-

nos Aires, we immediately took a taxi to our amazing hotel, the Hotel Intercontinental, and checked in. Then it was time for exploring. We left the hotel all excited to see all of Buenos Aires' beauties.

We visited this restaurant called La Rosada. They had food there

that I actually considered trying and did. We spent, I don't know how long, just wandering the streets and seeing all the different buildings and stores. Then we stopped outside of this club and wondered if we should go in. We decided to go in.

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My hotel in Buenos Aires.