

Guatamalan attends Ravenswood

Carmen Soberanis, an exchange student from Guatamala, is now visiting Ravenswood as part of a nine month trip to the United States in hopes of learning more about American life.

To talk to Carmen Soberanis about her life in Guatamala is to shatter one's ideas about all of the country being rural and backward.

The Soberanis family resides in one of the more wealthy districts in Guatamala City where Carmen's father has served as a colonel in the army for twenty-nine years.

"In Guatamala, family life

and dress are much the same as in America. The stores are smaller, but the prices are about the same. I like the very large stores you have here."

"Also, there are not many blacks or whites in Guatamala, but there are many Indians who still wear their native clothing."

Though the food here is very different from her own she says that she likes most everything and that just as we have taco stands, in Guatamala the streets are littered with hamburger stands.

This Christmas will be Carmen's second in America, and though she finds the ritual the same, she notes that the United States is lacking an important element.

"I do not find much Christmas spirit here in America. Everyone seems so concerned with making money. In Guatamala we have Saint Nicholas and celebrate as you do, but there is a great feeling there."

When asked what else she doesn't like about America,



Exchange student Carmen Soberanis chats with her good friend Estella Guterrez in the Reading Lab. Don Litton

she has trouble explaining and picks up a photo pamphlet on Guatamala. "You see, most of the United States is like this," she explains pointing to a

photo of a large, industrialized city.

"And most of Guatamala is like this," and again she points to a photograph only this time one of a beautiful lake free of stifling modernities.

All the same, when asked if she has plans to ever live in the United States, she answers with an emphatic "yes."