

# La República

## A Warm Embrace.

Senior Muriel Neary holds a child from Batey Libertad, an immensely poverty-stricken Haitian community. Basic necessities, such as clean water and food, are difficult to come by. The group of 10 girls and two teachers spent an afternoon there, playing with the children and learning about the batey. The girls also visited an orphanage for disabled children. "The kids were so enjoyable! It was frustrating not being able to change their living conditions," Neary said.



**A Time to Reflect.** Senior Frannie Hollinger looks out over the Caribbean Sea on her last day. The June 9 to June 19 trip ended with a day at the beach to reflect on the time spent with the people of the Dominican Republic.

## Language Immersion.

Senior Abbey Furlow converses with a 13-year-old Dominican named Guillermo. After spending four days in Santiago, a major city in the D.R., the group lived in a campo for four days. A campo is a small village outside of the city. The girls were forced to talk in Spanish to communicate with the natives. Sometimes the language barrier was difficult to deal with. "The hardest part for us was getting across to the people of Llano del Higo what we were really feeling. In Spanish class we're taught the basic vocabulary, we're not taught how to express our feelings in that type of situation," Furlow said.



**Dominican Family.** Top row: Senior Carla Gibbs. Bottom row: Junior Megan Andreasen, seniors Maggie Rossiter, Frannie Hollinger, Muriel Neary, Abbey Furlow, Alexa Baumer, junior Kat Dudley, seniors Erin O'Brien, and Emily Reynolds. Religion teacher Mrs. Lori Spanbauer and Spanish teacher Señora Beth Shanahan also accompanied the girls on the immersion trip.

## Manual Labor.

Senior Erin O'Brien digs a foundation for a brick wall to be added on to the school. The project for the girls in their campo also included painting a community house and making two sidewalks for the school. Before going on the trip, the girls raised money for the supplies, along with other expenses. The immersion experience was done through ILAC (Institute for Latin American Concern), an organization that promotes health care and education in Latin American countries.



# Dominicana

Photos by Carla Gibbs & Alexa Baumer  
Illustration by Allison Dethlefs