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WASHINGTON D.C. - CLOSE UP

During the last two years you have been hearing about the Close Up groups efforts to raise the funds necessary to make their trip to Washington, D.C. Thanks to the overwhelming support of the community, family and friends, and hard work on the part of the students and advisor, the dreams of 13 Butte Falls students became a reality.

Now that the students have returned home they would like to share with you a few of their thoughts and experiences. In reflecting back on her trip, senior Gina LeFever says, "as we awoke early on Saturday May 2, we had no idea what was in store for us on our long journey to Washington, D.C.. Boarding the plane at six in the morning, none of us were quite awake. The first flight to San Francisco was no problem, only an hour. It was the next flight that took the energy out of us. The five hours, plus the three-hour time difference was very tough to get over. When we landed in D.C. excitement filled our eyes. 'We made it!' were cries we heard from Mrs. LeFever."



On Sunday the group traveled together on the metro (subway) to visit the Smithsonian museums and Arlington National Cemetery. This was the last day they would be all together as a group until Friday. That afternoon, students from Maine, Nevada, Hawaii, Connecticut, Nebraska, Illinois, and Michigan began to arrive at the hotel. The students were given their supplies and assigned roommates, four to a room, two from Butte Falls along with two from another school. For many of the kids, this was their first experience rooming with strangers. For many it was exciting, for others it was difficult.

The Close Up program began early each morning. Students were divided into groups with only a couple of our kids in each group. The students attended workshops and were bussed around the city. In talking about his trip, Danny Krenwinkel said, "We toured the city each day looking at some of the popular and unpopular sites. Our PI's (program instructors) would talk to us and ask us questions during these long bus rides that would make us think and respond. We went to many different presentations in D.C. on many of the different topics that governments face such as abortion, affirmative action, and trade. I found these topics to be very interesting." During the week the groups toured the Capital building, the Library of Congress, visited museums, and many of the monuments.

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