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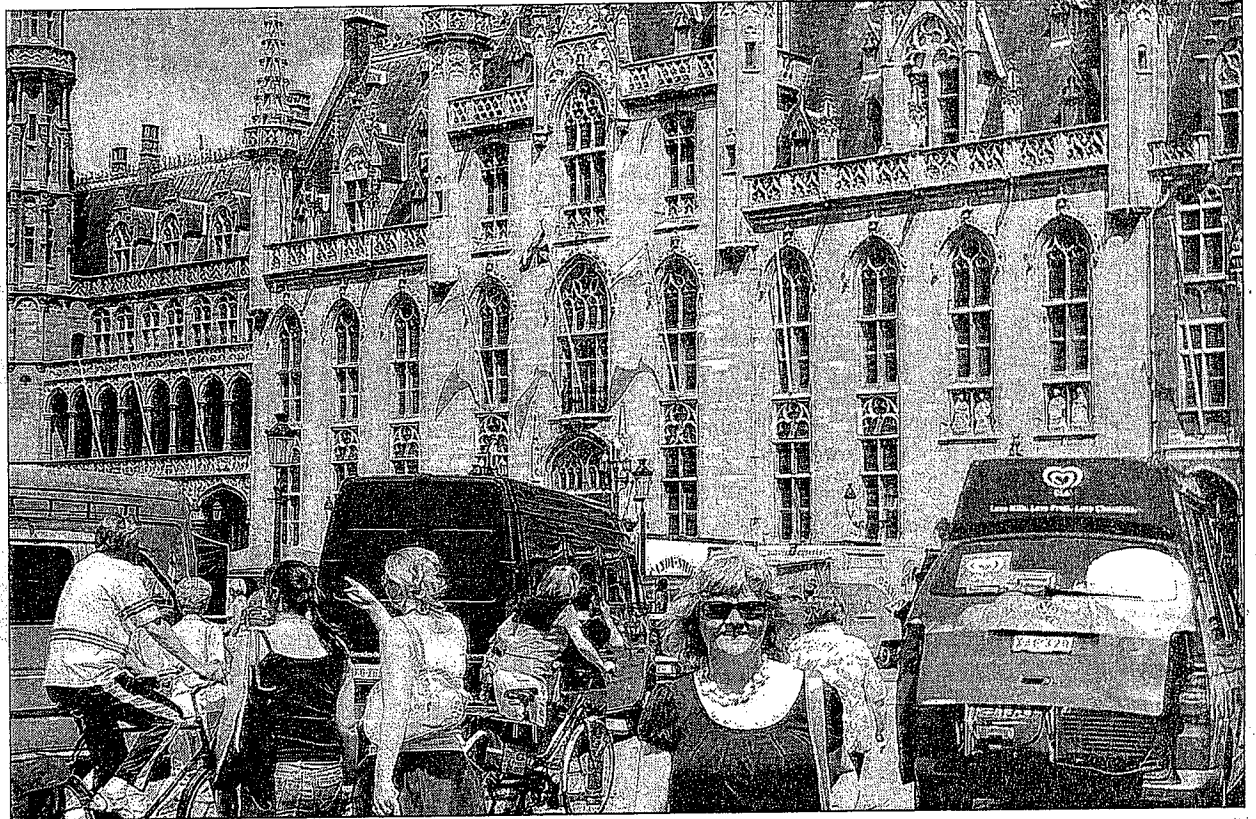
LHS teacher chosen for Belgium trip

FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

Brigitte Musallam, Lincoln High School social studies teacher and department chairman, visited Belgium from June 20 to 26, courtesy of the European Union and the University of Wisconsin-Madison EU Centers of Excellence.

This opportunity came through an essay contest for high school social studies teachers, whose curriculum includes the study of the EU and Europe.

Bill Gibson from Madison East and Musallam were chosen to go on the week-long education trip to Brussels, Belgium. Csanad Siklos, assistant director of the European Studies Alliance of UW-Madison Center, headed the Wisconsin delegation. Other states also sent delegations for a total of 27. All participants stayed at the Royal Windsor, a five-star hotel, in the heart of the capital Brussels during the week of June 20. The format of the trip was to visit the sites and attend informative briefings by highly placed officials and diplomats. All participants had undergone intensive security screenings.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brigitte Musallam poses in the main square of Bruges, Belgium. It is the Provincial Court. The building is part of the market place (Grote Markt) of Bruges, which became traffic free in 1996. The building was renovated in the 19th century to look like medieval buildings. Brugge, as it's written in the Flemish of the region, is very proud of its medieval roots. Many of its buildings stem from the Middle Ages or Baroque.

The educational program included visits to the European Parliament, European Council, US Mission to the EU and NATO Headquarters.

"One of my personal highlights was a tour of Bruges and the College

of Europe," Musallam said. "The architecture in this medieval town was fantastic. The façade of the 400- to 500-year-old buildings represented various architectural styles. Most prominent though seemed to be

Baroque. However, I also was able to uncover several medieval buildings that are still in use.

"Just like in most European towns bicycles were everywhere," she said. "An elementary class even took their field trip

on bikes."

A visit to the College of Europe, a highly selective graduate school, which prides itself in educating the future diplomats of the EU and Europe in general, rounded up the trip to Belgium.