



## Neighbors in the news

**Carlos Bermudez**, of Canton and **John Cullen** of Plymouth were invited to join Wayne State University's Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

Phi Beta Kappa is open to students in the top 10 percent of their class and have academic records that reflect the broad liberal arts and science spirit.

**Steven Decker** of Plymouth was named to the Dean's List at Iowa State University.

Decker is majoring in Meteorology.

The following students were named to the Dean's list for the winter term 1997 at the University of Michigan College of Engineering. From Canton: **Matthew Abbot**, **Uzmaa Balbale**, **Michael Chappell**, **Jennifer Gawlik**, **Daniel Grube**, **Andrew Hoisington**, **Harry Lee**, **Marcus Sarkesian**, **Bradley Sprecher**, **Rebecca Steinhebel**, **Elaine Wisniewski**, and **Nick Yang**; from Northville: **Joseph Allen**, **Kevin Becker**, **Aaron Frankel**, **Amity Heckemeyer**, **Michelle Lorenz**, **Steven Moore**, **Srinidhi Nagaraja**, **Maxwell Sprauer**, and **Benjamin Zumbrunnen**; and from Plymouth: **Theodore Betley**, **Benjamin Grover**, **Aaron Leanhardt**, **Jennifer Ma**, **Dawn Marrocco**, **Jennifer Mufakh**, **Alison Nemier**, **Christopher Pratt**, **Mark Reed**, **Neelesh Varde**, **Angela Zaetta**.

The following students have been named to the Dean's List for the winter semester 1997 at the University of Dayton. From Canton: **Graig Bellomo**; From Northville: **Jill Heathcock**, **Elizabeth Rivard**; and from Plymouth: **Kathleen Dankert**, **Elizabeth Lemkuhl**, and **Amy Stidwell**.

**Jennifer Kuchera** from Canton and **Amanda Humphrey** from Plymouth have been named to the Dean's list at Adrian College.

Kuchera is a junior majoring in psychology. Humphrey is a freshman majoring in art. Her work can be seen in The Crier, including the cover for the upcoming Fall Fest edition.

**Marine Lance Cpl. James P. Altmann**, son of **Ruth A. Altmann** of Canton, recently returned to Camp Lejeune, N.C. after a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

Altmann helped in the evacuation of civilians from Albania after the U.S. State Department decided that the civil unrest situation had worsened.

# Friends & neighbors

## Who needs Hollywood?

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Making an independent film is a lengthy process, but the rewards are worth it, says 30-year old Ken Guertin of Northville.

And he ought to know.

His first full length feature film, "The Incorporated," will debut at the Millenium Theatre in Southfield in two weeks.

The film, shot entirely in Michigan, with a Michigan cast, was sold in 33 countries but has yet to achieve domestic distribution. It is the culmination of more than 18 months work, said writer/director Guertin.

"We spent the first year just raising money," Guertin said. "We would call people, state our case, and they'd say they weren't interested."

Potential investors were scared off by the rocky reputation of Michigan films, Guertin said.

"A lot of people say they are going to make movies but never do. Once we started, and had something on tape to show them, the process was easier."

Then Guertin had to fill in cast and crew. The last roadblock was finding the director of photography.

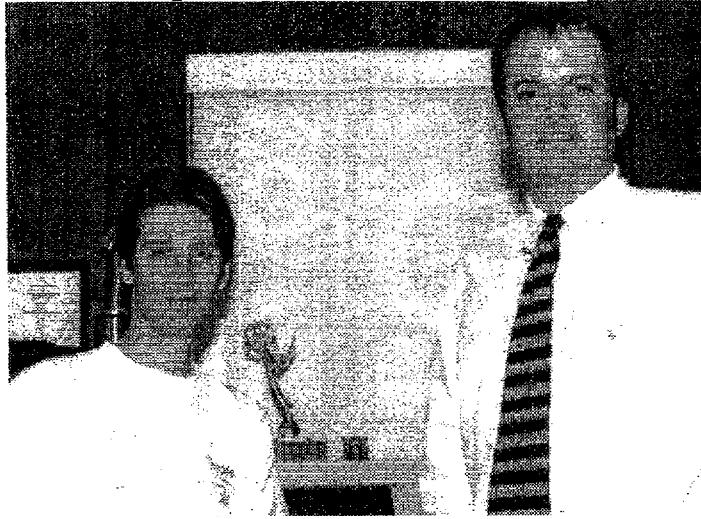
With most of Michigan's video production focused in the commercial and industrial areas, Guertin had a hard time finding someone who could commit to a large block of time.

Guertin then heard about Robin Browne of Bloomfield Hills, who had earned acclaim as director of photography in more than 70 productions, including James Bond movies, Gorillas in the Mist, Ghandi and A Passage to India.

They'd found their Director of Photography.

"We got lucky. We went from thinking we weren't going to be able to find one to sitting in a huge house, drinking English coffee and talking about Sigourney Weaver and 007 within the span of three hours."

Once the cast and crew were in place Guertin set aside 90 days to film the movie, a tense, action drama about corporate



Director Ken Guertin and producer Dave Baker pose in front of Emmy Award winning their company, Make Believe Productions, won for a commercial. (Crier photo, Scott Spielman)

espionage and intrigue. The temptation in making a first movie is something that can be shot cheaply, such as is sometimes done in art films.

"It wasn't an easy sell. A lot of Michigan films don't do well because the people making them are making them for themselves. They throw in violence and sex scenes. We think we can make movies people will enjoy without those things."

"We want to make movies everyone will enjoy," Guertin said, "not just writers or ourselves. This will please a much bigger audience than that."

"The Incorporated" premieres at the Millennium Theater Center in Southfield Aug. 14. The first public showing is at 9:30 p.m.

## Spanish teen gets taste of the States

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

When Maria Vivancos Albentosa flies home next week, she'll be taking more than a recipe for chocolate chip cookies.

Albentosa, 16, of Murcia, Spain, spent a month in Canton as part of a cultural exchange program learning the differences and similarities of America and Spain.

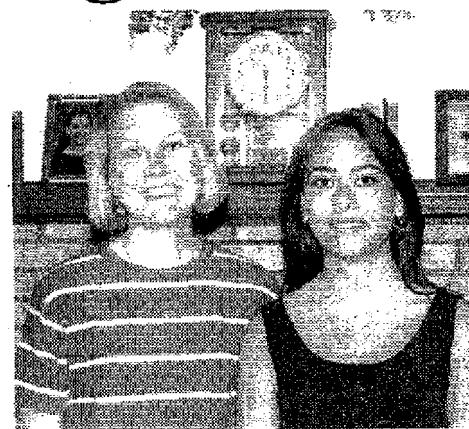
"It's basically the same," she said. "There are little differences. Little things like food. And most teenagers in Spain don't work. You can find teenagers in Spain that work, but it's not the rule."

Other differences include living in an area as spread out as Metro Detroit compared to the smaller coastal town of Murcia.

"We walk everywhere in Murcia," Albentosa said. "There's no way you could walk anywhere here. Everything is so far away."

Albentosa has been staying with the Holderack family in Canton, part of the Nasel Open Door Program for high school students, according to Marnie Holderack.

"It's a one-month cultural exchange. She's not here to go to school, just participate in a normal family," Holderack said. "Although I'm not sure you could call us a normal family," she joked.



Marnie Holderack and her Spanish house guest Maria Vivancos Albentosa. Maria spent a month in Canton and its environs as part of a cultural exchange program (Crier photo, Scott Spielman).

Holderack has taken Maria everywhere from canoeing in Ann Arbor to movies to Canada, and sampled all types of ethnic foods, including chocolate chip cookies.

"It's been a lot of fun," Holderack said. "It's a shame more families don't take advantage of the program."

Holderack said she learned of the program late, and by the time the family had filled out the questionnaire and been accepted, there was barely time to express

mail some pictures and information about the family to Maria in Spain.

Too little time, as it turned out.

"It didn't arrive there until a week after she got here," Holderack laughed. "The poor thing didn't know a thing about us until she got off the plane."

This is not Albentosa's first trip abroad, she said. She also spent a month with a family in Ireland.

"It's the best way to learn a language. We have language school every day, but the teachers are British. There are 30 people in the class and you can't really practice your English," she said. "Also, there are things you can't learn in school, like slang."

Michigan has held some surprises for Albentosa. "Most people in Europe think America is fast food. People only eat hamburgers and hot dogs. I was surprised that the diet is so good."

Knowledge of similarities will be another thing Albentosa brings home with her, she said.

"It's good to see people around the world are more the same than they are different," she said. "People around the world are basically the same, customs are different and thinking is different, but the people are basically the same."