

# Danes came to study car plants, share culture

From Denmark to Venezuela, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Westland. That's been the itinerary for Eigil Hensen and Mie Bruus, two Danish students who have come to town to study auto plants and workers.

They found a friendly roof over their heads in Westland with Diane Dawson, who heard on a television report that the students wanted to stay with a working family.

"An ordinary, middle-class, blue collar working home," said Mrs. Dawson last week. "That's what you wanted, that's what you got."

The traveling duo are part of a group of eight students from Denmark's Traveling Folk High School, which they say is nothing like American high schools.

There are no diplomas, no exams and no classes.

"We choose our own subjects. We educate ourselves," said Hensen.

THE DANISH STUDENTS spoke recently to a general language class at Whittier Junior High in Westland.

"We started out in Venezuela on the first of February," said Ms. Bruus. "Then we went to Colombia."

"The first week, we lived with peasants," Hensen said. "We tried to find out how they lived,

**'We have one Burger King and that's all. That's where all the American people go.'**

their working conditions, what they earned, and so on."

The group worked with an organization that fights for better conditions for peasants. They stayed four weeks, helping to clear some land. And they plan to write a book about the organization and its work.

"After Colombia, we went to Guatemala," Ms. Bruus said. "We got there by boat, a banana boat or something like that."

"The people there were even poorer than the people in Colombia, even worse conditions."

They then went up to Mexico, spending a week in sprawling Mexico City, and hitchhiked across the United States to get to Detroit.

"We are going to factories and talking with families," Ms. Bruus said.

Other groups from the school are traveling to Africa, Pakistan and England. The travelers will make a written report of what they've learned to share with the others.

RESPONDING TO questions in the classroom, Hensen and Ms. Bruus, who are from a town called Juelsminde, said Danes don't wear wooden shoes, soccer is the main sport, there's not as much snow because of the proximity to the ocean, and "hello" in Danish is "goddag."

Denmark has only one television station, and it has no commercials. The station is owned by the government and people who own televisions must pay a fee.

There is no age limit on drinking there, they said, and gasoline costs five times American prices.

One of the Whittier students asked if there were fast food restaurants.

"We have one Burger King and that's all," Hensen replied.

"That's where all the American people go," Ms. Bruus added.

Are wedding traditions different there?

"We don't marry," Hensen replied. "We just live together."



Danish students Eigil Hensen (seated) and Mie Bruus (right) talk with Westland students (from left) Tim Jablonski, Sam Harp and Juli Stockman (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)

## History dug up by developers

Precious architectural and archaeological resources are disappearing under developers' bulldozers, state historians say. It is the price of "progress."

Concern about preservation of such treasures has resulted in a \$36,000 grant to Oakland University from the Michigan History Division to finance a cultural survey in Oakland County.

"THIS IS really part of a nationwide movement to inventory America's cultural resources," said Richard Stamps, an Oakland University anthropologist. Stamps and John Cameron, chairman of the OU department of art and art history, will be the principal investigators in the study.

Once the resources have been identified and documented, efforts will be made to preserve the artifacts by requesting that developers leave historical buildings or sites intact.

THE PROJECT will provide the state with written and photographic documentation of buildings, canals, churches, homes and above-ground objects of historical or architectural significance. The researchers also will prepare documentation on historic or pre-historic archaeological resources.

The researchers will be meeting with people from local historical societies, consulting maps and surveys, and traversing the county by all means of transportation, including airplane.

The two professors will be assisted by two OU graduates, Nancy Lang, an architectural historian from Utica, and Rick Zurel, an archaeologist from Birmingham.

OU WILL finance half the project cost, matching the state's \$36,000 contribution. The state's funds were made available through the federal Department of Interior.

The OU survey is part of a broader state survey of cultural resources, Stamps said. The professors estimate it will take about one year to complete the survey.

OU will address the government's concern that despite the presence of local historical societies, there is no central repository for historical and archaeological files by keeping copies of its survey on file both in Lansing and at the university.

## County looks at EDC

Creation of an Economic Development Corporation (EDC) in Oakland County will be discussed at a 3 p.m. meeting Monday, May 14, at the Main Event restaurant in the Pontiac Silverdome.

The county EDC task force wants comments from residents, local government officials and businesses regarding the establishment of an EDC.

Speakers' comments should be limited to five minutes each.

The task force plans to make a recommendation to County Executive Daniel Murphy early next month.

Questions will be answered by Jeff Kaczmarek, 858-0732.

## Math camp is at OU

The faculty of Oakland University's department of mathematical sciences is sponsoring a summer mathematics camp for boys and girls between the ages of 10-15.

The camp's premise is that boys and girls can have fun doing math if it is presented in the proper circumstances.

The sessions will include films, mathematical games and strategies, and other mathematical problems and solutions that students normally would not encounter during regular classroom instruction.

Students may enroll for any one of the three one-week sessions to be held July 9-13, July 16-20, and July 23-27. The \$50 registration fee includes a luncheon for each class day. For registration information, call OU at 377-3430.

## Outdoor art show is seeking participants

Applications are now being accepted for the Madison Heights Art Society's outdoor art show "Vertu," set for June 3 in the park next to Madison Heights City Hall.

Entry fee is \$10 per artist; original arts and crafts in all categories are acceptable.

Area artists 18 and over may obtain entry blanks or more information by calling 689-1988.

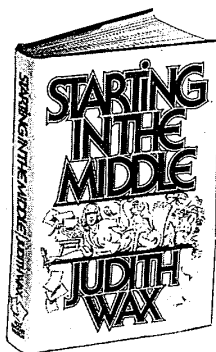
## For Mother's Day, the Birmingham Bookstore recommends...



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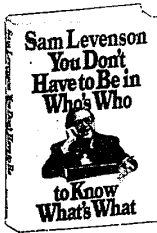
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