



Exchange students discover the U.S.

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

"Even the lift boy said, 'welcome to the U.S.," said Carsten Kuchnopp of Germany.

"They tell you to have a nice day when you shop. It's something. In Sweden, we never say that," said Maria Tamayo of Stockholm.

"The American people are helpful and smile always," said Mika Heinimo of Vantaa, Finland.

The teen-agers, three of 800 new arrivals in the States for a one-year stay, were getting to know each other during a Youth for Understanding (YU) orientation at the Newburgh Methodist Church in Westland recently.

Originated in Ann Arbor as an exchange program for German and American youth, YU has become a worldwide organization, offering young people and host families the opportunity to get to know each other and learn something of foreign countries and cultures.

The Swedish, German, Finnish, Swiss, Japanese, Danish and Mexican students are new in more than one way.

Travel-weary but excited, many were overwhelmed to clear airport customs and be greeted by shouting swarms of flag-waving, sign-bearing families and friends.

"We compare it to bringing a new baby home for the first time," said Westland's Lynne Larnee, a YU area representative and confessed flag-waver.

"We know they're tired and it's a lot to handle, but we can't help it."

THOUGH EXCITING, the first meeting also was suspenseful and a bit tense for students, most of whom arrived during August.

"I was so afraid about the first minute with my host family. I did not know what shall we do when we see each other," said Carsten, a tall blond from West Berlin staying with Jim and Carol Verkenns of Westland.

"Everyone was there waiting, the escalators all full of people and the crowd with signs. I felt embarrassed. "It was a great shock for me."

Arriving was just the beginning of



Nearly 30 Youth for Understanding exchange students from around the world have arrived for a year's stay in metropolitan Detroit. Many, like Japan's Mayako Aoki, (seventh from right), worked odd

jobs like washing dishes and delivering newspapers to earn the \$3,000-\$4,000 the trip is costing them.

a second or third language.

"Most Americans won't leave their country," said Peter.

"They should go out and see what's happening in the world and not be so isolated."

OF THE 28 YU students placed in Wayne County, only three have studied English for one year or less. On an average, the exchange students have taken English classes for six and a half years. The majority speaks four languages, and one speaks six.

"And our teachers say we speak bad English," said Maria.

"In Europe, everybody knows several languages. Not so much because they have to learn languages, but because they want to," said another student.

Such cultural differences and the difficulties they can cause were addressed during the three-day YU orientation for families and students, said Canton's Henriette McDonald, YU area representative and American mom to Axel Skielka, (Axel, from Bremen, Germany, often reminds the McDonalds that Bremen is the home of Beck's Beer, says McDonald.)

Built into the orientation schedule was free time to enable students to

catch up on school work. Some curled up with volumes of American history or literature, while others played soccer in the gym.

Neither activity appealed to Carsten. "I just want to talk," he said.

"It's great to be an exchange student.

I feel something is going on with me. I don't know what it is, but it is great.

"Coming here is a dream from very long ago. I was not expecting anything, but so much is happening. It's wrong if you expect your host family to be rich or to have lots of cars. "Don't do that."

Staff photos by Art Emanuele



European, Oriental and Mexican teen-agers are attending school while staying with families throughout the county. American hosts are paying for room and board and receive \$50 tax deductions for each month the young visitors are in school.

INSIDE ANGLES

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024.

WOMEN OF NORTH FARMINGTON present astrologer June Lowell as their guest speaker for their Wine & Welcome Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, in the Farmington Community Center. The pollock luncheon is prepared by the members of the club featuring many different dishes. Reservations are being taken by Charlotte Wachberg, 553-0459, and Elaine Rousseau, 477-6849. Cost is \$5 per person.

MICHAEL SOLAN, of Farmington Hills and vice president and general manager of WLLZ-FM, has been elected senior vice chairman of the southeast Michigan chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. Under Solan's tenure, WLLZ-FM has been instrumental to the success of numerous March of Dimes activities, most notably WalkAmerica, an annual 32-kilometer walkathon.

KRISTEN DANA BOE, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Boe of Farmington Hills, is flying to France to take part in the 1983 Junior Year in France program. She is majoring in international relations at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. Before leaving New York, she and her parents were honored at a reception arranged by the Junior Year in France. Kristen is scheduled to return to the United States next summer.

EVELYN VILLARUEL of Farmington Hills once again has achieved special professional recognition by the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) as a nationally certified teacher of piano. Villaruel was recommended for this advanced professional standing by the Michigan Music Teachers Association on the basis of continued outstanding achievement and high professional standards in the field of music pedagogy. This includes musical competence, teaching preparation, and successful teaching experience.

MARCH OF DIMES Superdome '83, a 75-kilometer bikeathon against birth defects, will happen Saturday, Oct. 1, at three locations: Belle Isle, Camp Dearborn and Stony Creek Metropark. All proceeds raised by Superdome '83 help the March of Dimes fight birth defects via medical research, educational programs and community service projects. Riders who bring an official sponsor form to the event will receive a free bike patch. In addition, there are prizes for persons who raise large amounts of money for the fight against birth defects by collecting pledges per kilometer from family and friends. Prizes range from T-shirts and hand-held calculators to radios, TVs and 10-speed bicycles. To sign up, call the Superdome Hot Line at 453-3332.

ST. ALEXANDER CHURCH in Farmington Hills is sponsoring its ninth annual fall festival from Friday, Sept. 23, through Sunday, Sept. 25. The festival features rides, games, contests, foods, bingo, casino and entertainment. A special attraction this year will be a live presentation of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," featuring young actors from several neighboring parishes. St. Alexander's is located on Shawwassee between Inkster and Middlebelt. Hours are Friday, 5-11 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 9 p.m.

THERE WAS A big welcome home for Karen Garms this week when she returned home from a three-month internship with the Armed Forces Recreational Services in Berchtesgaden and Lake Chamsee, Germany. After completing her internship she traveled for four weeks throughout Scandinavia, venturing as far north as the Arctic Circle in Norway and from there to Scotland and England. Karen is a sophomore at Michigan State University in the hotel management program.

THE UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT named Eric Surmann a Presidential Scholar, a distinction that includes a four-year half-tuition scholarship for undergraduate study at the University. To compete for the title, students must graduate from high school with a 3.0 or higher grade point on a 4.0 scale and score at least 25 on the ACT or 1,100 on the SAT college entrance examinations. Eric was one of 77 students of the country's 1983 high school graduates honored.

THE COX FAMILY reunion took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Cox of Cadillac Street in Farmington Hills on Sunday, with 61 persons in attendance. These are descendants of Mr. & Mrs. John Garland Cox, who came from Somershire, England in 1860 and lived on 13 Mile Road near Drake in Farmington Township until their deaths in 1904 and 1907. The oldest person attending was Gladys Cox of Drayton Plains, and the youngest was the host's 10-day old son, Matthew Alan Cox. The person who came the farthest was Willie Regnier from Clay Center, Kans. This group has met annually since 1920, with occasional get-togethers before then, including Mr. & Mrs. John Cox's 50th wedding anniversary in 1901.

GEORGE MAJOROS JR., of Farmington Hills and a 1979 North Farmington High School graduate, received his bachelor of science in economics from the University of Michigan this summer. He is attending Case Western Reserve Law School in Cleveland, where he is on the staff of the Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law.

Seminar for Brides

Come to the next session of our Seminar for Brides ...this one featuring Bride's Magazine

At Hudson's Eastland on Saturday, October 1, 9 a.m. and Sunday, October 2, 11:30 a.m., Bride's Magazine representative, Connie Hendricks, will offer a world of information on weddings. How to put your own wedding together, from engagement to honeymoon. Plus all the important homemaking advice brides want, but don't know who to ask. So have your questions ready. Tickets are 2.50 each, available at Hudson's Eastland Bride's Registry. Or call for reservations, 223-1895. Door prizes, refreshments and advice from manufacturers' representatives included. Also a drawing for a Honeymoon Package: 8 days, 7 nights on St. Lucia Island at the Dasheene Hotel...transportation via Pan-American Airlines. Compliments of: St. Lucia, Dasheene Hotel, Pan-American Airlines, Bride's Magazine and Hudson's.

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