Fibblestax from page E1

future of the written word but the most visited site on the Internet is Amazon.com, which sells books."

Making reading enjoyable

Making reading enjoyable
Scillian believes "writing is a
word that's intimidating to a lot
of kida." He hopes Fibblestax
changes that by making reading
and writing onjoyable. When
Scillian reads to children around
town, he always asks them their
favorite words. His favorite is
sprocket.
"Mossangas are botter loft in
bottles than in books," Scillian
snid. "I don't want to beat people
over the head. I want kids to
have fun with words."
Although Scillian paints and
draws and frequently donates
work to auctions benofiting
groups such as the Ann Arbor
Symphony Orchestra, he felt
illustrations for the book were
light left to someone else. That's
where Sleeping Bear Press came

in. They contacted Darnell whe'd previously submitted story-boards and a finished illustration for another author's book proposal. Darnell and Scillian have never met. The East Lansing illustrator faxed most of the project directly to Sleeping Bear Press.

"Fibblestax is really close to how I'd envisionted it," said Scillian, whose second children's book, A is for America, is scheduled to be published in the fall. "There's a gentleness and a medieval look to it."

Darnell is looking forward to meeting Scillian during their book signing 7:30 p.m. Friday, May S, at the Elizabeth Stone Gallery in Birmingham. She wants to find out more about the process that went into creating the story had been been about the process that went into creating the story had describes as having "a kind of a magic going on. Even though this is her first picture book, Darnell has 19 years of professional illustrating experiences."

rience to her credit. She earned her bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Michigan School of Art in Ann Arbor.

"For me it was an involved process," said Darnell, on art instructor at Lansing Community College. "I began by reading the story and thinking about the characters. The story opens with the essence of it being a fream. I looked for natural breaks in the story to get a sense of pacing. looked for natural breaks in the story to get a sense of pacing. Then I worked up a story board and ran it by the editors. A test illustration gave them a sense of technique and palette. The pro-cess took about 10 weeks to com-plete. It's primarily done in col-ored pencil with some oil cray-on."

on."

Darnell makes it all sound so easy. But there were a few bumps in the road for the illustrator who's been interested in art since she "was old enough not

to eat the crayon."
"One of the interesting things

about the story is that all the action is mental and verbal but not a lot of physical action, so I used techniques such as color movement in the background. In the crowd scene I showed people from different angles."

A winner

A former children's librarian, Elizabeth Stone likes the combi-nation of Scillian's writing and Darnell's illustrations. Stone

keeps tabs on children's litera-ture at her gallery on North Woodward.

ture at her gallery on North Woodward.
The walls are lined with art work from books with talking animals.
Devin Scillian's book is a win-ner," said Stone. "Children, par-ents and teachers will love this book. The cateby rhythm of the story and the appealing illustra-tions of Kathryn Darnell work well together. The story is a very

clever approach. Teaching things like elymology is never casy for teachers. This book should be a great help. Scillian will sign books at the

Scillian will sign books at the following locations: # 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, Barnes & Noble, Troy. # 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 18, Barnes & Noble, Rochester Hills. #10 a.m. Monday, May 22, Barnes & Noble, Bloomfield Hills.

Auction item tells 'Miracle Birth Stories'

Farmington Observer reporter Tim Smith and Devin Scillian, news anchor for WDIV-TV (Channel 4), recently teamed up to sign copies of Smith's Miracle Birth Stories of Very Permature Babies – Little Thumbs Up! for donation to the WTVS-TV (Channel 56) auction.

Channel 59 auction.

Smith, a Livonia resident, donated copies of his book to both the on-air and on-line versions of the auction, scheduled through Sunday, May 7.

He is hopeful that his auction item will catch the attention of anyone in a position to supply the books to Neonatal Intensive Caro Unit resource libraries or parent support groups.

Miracle Birth Stories of Very Premature Babies, published in spring 1999 by Connecticut-based Greenwood Publishing Group, was sparked by the pre-



Devin Scillian (left), news anchor for WDIV-TV (Chan-nel 4), and Farmington Observer reporter Tim Smith sign book.

mature birth of Smith's daugh-ter, Elizabeth. She was born at 25 weeks gestation, weighing 1 pound 14 ounces, in November 1994. Later, he found other fami-lies in Michigan and around the

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country, and captured their cap-tivating, personal stories for the

Scillian, the father of prema-Christian and Maditure twins, Christian and M son, wrote the book's preface.

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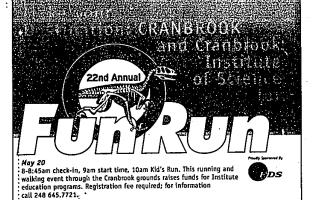
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Sunday Brunch and Science Lecture

May 14: 11am brunch followed by noon tecture

Br. Leon Stodulski, Conservation Service Laboratory, the Detroit Institute of Arts,
draw upon his 25 years of experience to describe how fragile and sometimes priceless
works of art are investigated, restored and preserved. For Information and

reservations call 248 645.3259 or 248 645.7721. \$18 members, \$20 non-members

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