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Twenty-Five Cents

Business plea by governor helps the Hills

By Tim Richard
staff writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The Golden Gate city wanted to host the 1984 Democratic National Convention to bring in business.

Delegate James J. Blanchard is trying to get industry to move the other way — to Michigan.

"We've talked to a number of CEOs (chief executives) here. Over 20 companies indicated they wanted to have lunch with the governor," the first-term governor said.

"Many of them would like to remain anonymous," Blanchard said.

ONE WHICH isn't anonymous is LTV, the conglomerate firm which manufactures aerospace equipment, military helicopters and steel (National and Bethlehem).

Recently it acquired AM General, manufacturer of military transportation equipment, from American Motors in Michigan.

Blanchard said there was "some concern" LTV would move AM General's manufacturing and engineering operations, with 300-plus jobs, from Southfield to Indiana.

Instead, he reported, the firm is con-

sidering some expansion in Farmington Hills.

Another executive interested in Michigan state is Walter Haas of Levi Strauss Inc., the clothing manufacturer which made blue jeans internationally famous.

Having Burroughs Corp. CEO W. Michael Blumenthal in the Michigan delegation helped the state's image, Blanchard said.

Asked about the impact of Consumers Power Co.'s decision to abandon its \$4 billion investment in the Midland nuclear plant, Blanchard said the subject was not brought up.

In general, Blanchard said, the executives got a more positive story than they expected to hear.

CALIFORNIANS made it clear they were open for business from visiting Democrats — for the most part.

Delegates were offered tours of the Central Valley wineries and Silicon Valley high-technology firms. But local press reports said officials were disappointed at the Democrats' lack of interest in such tours.

On the other hand, two of downtown San Francisco's major department

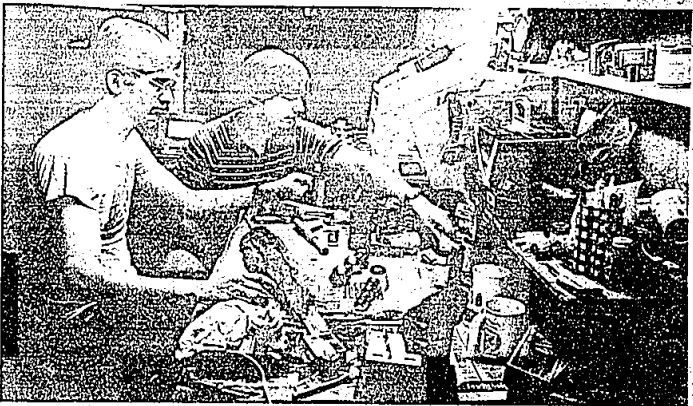
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A nice ride

The Farmington Founders' Festival was lots of fun for kids if the smiles on the faces of Kim and Richard are any indication. More Festival photos can be found on Page 4.

Young film makers take 'Route 13' to prize



RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Omega Film's Dennis Belting (left) and Jeff McGowan work on some of the models they use in the movies they produce.

By Tom Bauer
staff writer

Dennis Belting and the rest of the crew at Farmington's Omega Films Co. hope that "Route 13," a 14-minute science-fiction movie they made, will put them on the road to careers in film making.

The movie, much of it shot in Farmington Hills, earned its creators a first place and a \$150 prize in the Senior Division of the recent Michigan Student Film Festival.

Omega Films ("The name has no significance whatever, but we thought it sounded neat," Belting said) is composed of six Farmington-area teens, all recent graduates of Catholic Central High School.

Their avocation is putting sci-fi on celluloid. They started about two years ago with "The Alien Chain-Saw Massacre," a six-minute thriller which Belting calls "a tongue-in-cheek horror film."

Then came "Route 13" — "the big one" in Belting's words. Production took about 10 months of on-and-off work.

"Route 13" is a movie with a message: don't judge a book by its cover or an outer-space alien by its crinkly green skin. The plot centers around

Mary (played by Livonia's Robin Phillips), who's bored and lonely on a family vacation at a backwoods cabin reached by traveling Route 13.

Her existence soon is enlivened, however, by the arrival of an outer-space alien named Pejar (played by Belting), who looks almost human. Pejar, who is injured in a spacecraft crash, is on the run from another bunch of recently arrived aliens, the Coridians, who are downright ugly.

MARY HIDES Pejar in the cabin, and later helps him kill the other,

agony, alone with a smiling rifle. But in the end, Mary finds that Pejar is the one with the black spots indeed. He kills Mary and goes off to summon his fleet for the invasion of Earth.

"Our films are geared toward science fiction," Belting said, "but we wanted 'Route 13' to be a story in general with the theme of never judging a book by its cover."

"We tried to be... and I know it's kind of a big word to use... but we tried to be kind of literary in the way

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Boundary rift left up in air by state delay

After nine months of consideration, the Michigan Board of Education once again has delayed a decision on the transfer of Walled Lake School District property to the Farmington School District.

The request to transfer Section 6 to Farmington schools initially came before the state board last November. The issue was pulled from the agenda twice before it finally came for a vote in January.

There was little discussion when the request was presented, but a vote to deny the transfer found the eight-member board split 4-4. The board's re-

mained divided on a subsequent motion to grant the transfer. Unable to break the deadlock, the board moved the transfer request to its February meeting.

The item was withdrawn from the February meeting agenda and every monthly agenda since that time. "I had Donkowski, state board secretary, said the request was not considered this month because all board members were not present at the meeting," Donkowski said the item will be added to the August board agenda.

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She mixes profession, home life

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

Sirag Balg, a Farmington Hills dentist, has the best of both worlds. Practicing family dentistry in her own office enables her to fulfill her professional goals as well as the traditional roles of wife and mother.

"Dentistry is a very good profession for a woman today," says the 31-year-old Balg, who emigrated from Madras, India, in 1972.

"It is much more convenient for a woman who wants to have a family and a profession, especially a private practice like mine, because you're your own boss. I have the best of both worlds," she says, smiling.

A graduate of Loyola University's College of Dental Surgery, Balg is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Detroit along with taking care of her practice and family.

"It's a pretty hectic life," Balg admits. "But it's stimulating — you get so much more out of life this way."

Balg's philosophy is that you only get one chance at life so you might as well make the most out of it.

doing. I think one of God's greatest gifts is for you to be satisfied and happy with what you do," she says.

In fact, Balg enjoys her work so much that it doesn't even seem like work to her, she says.

"I guess I like the independence of having your own practice the most," she says. "It gives me enough time to

be a professional yet leaves enough time for myself, my career and my family."

Caring for a family is just as demanding on Balg as her practice, she says. Her husband is finishing up his residency in pediatrics at Mount Carmel Hospital in Detroit.

When not on call he takes care of their 3-year-old son while she conducts evening and Saturday office hours.

"My husband is really excited about my career," she says.

"As a professional, he wants a wife he feels comfortable presenting to society. While he is going forward in his profession he wants me to be right there with him," Balg says.

With both husband and wife fulfilling their career goals there is less chance of feelings of inadequacy, she says.

"We've been married eight years — I guess we have successfully survived the seven-year itch," Balg laughs.

So far, Balg has also survived the first three months of running her own dental practice.

LOCATED IN: the Medical Center Building on Orchard Lake Road east 10 Mile, Balg has established a clientele of about 100 patients since opening her

practice in March.

Balg attributes her growing popularity to her ability to gain the confidence of her patients.

"You should be something special to your patients," she says.

"You should be their friend and really care about what you are doing. Once you gain their confidence, you have reached the most important step."

People of all ages feel comfortable with Balg, and are evidently not bothered by the fact that she is a female dentist.

"Most people are pleasantly pleased to have a woman dentist," she says.

"One gentleman said he would rather have me working on him than some husky man," she said.

Young children don't even seem to mind paying a visit to Dr. Balg's office.

"They are actually eager to get in the dental chair, and will even fight among themselves as to who gets

next," she says.

Balg plans to practice dentistry in Farmington Hills for the next 20 years or so.

"We have laid down our roots here, and most of my family is here now," says Balg. "We may go back to India, but only for a visit."

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