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The Port Huron Times Herald

January 19, 2005

SC4 offers nursing bachelor's degree

St. Clair County Community College will make a four-year nursing degree available in Port Huron next school year through Ferris State University in Big Rapids. Classes will be scheduled for nights, weekends and online. An information session about the program will start at noon Monday in SC4's Michigan Technical Education Center on the north end of the Port Huron campus. Ferris will waive its application fee for students who apply for admission at the session. To reserve a seat, call (866) 387-9430. Deadline to apply for the program is July 1.

Grand Rapids Business Journal Express

January 24, 2005

Region Is Sustainable Business Hub

GRAND RAPIDS - The often confused and misunderstood concept of sustainable business is quietly gaining ground in West Michigan.

Usually colored green - vegetative roofs, alternative fuels and water conservation - the movement is grounded on potential for another sort of green, with basic principles that reflect the core values of the West Michigan community.

Predicated on collaboration, cost efficiency and value preservation, sustainability is becoming a central and resounding theme for West Michigan business, government and academia.

With nearly two-dozen separate efforts representing all corners of the West Michigan economy - many of which are the first or only such initiative of its kind - the region has become a national hub of the sustainability movement, a position that many of its leaders feel will be a key to its future economic vitality.

Mayor George Heartwell brought these concepts to the forefront last week in his State of the City address. Six months in the making, his address was able to tie all of the challenges facing the region into a central theme: Creating a Grand Rapids that sustains future generations.

“We must meet our needs today in a sustainable way with an eye on the needs of future generations,” he said. “We must leave them with a sustainable world, one that provides opportunities for economic prosperity, quality of life, enjoyment of the beauty and bounty of the natural world, and a government that works.”

To do this, Heartwell said that policy must be judged by its merits toward social equity, environmental value and economic prosperity.

This triple-bottom line is something that Fred Keller knows well.

Keller founded Cascade Engineering in 1973 with the belief that a business could be profitable and socially and environmentally responsible.

Recent years have seen many of the region’s manufacturers suffer, yet Cascade has seen double-digit growth. In its first Triple Bottom Line Report last year, it reported \$157 million in sales.

Meanwhile, Cascade sponsors an employee home-ownership program, a welfare-to-work program, and twice has been recognized by Goodwill of Greater Grand Rapids for its placement efforts. Next month, it will be honored with the Environmental Stewardship Award at the 2005 Global Plastics Environmental Conference.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality named Cascade a Clean Corporate Citizen, a competitive designation granting expedited DEQ permits. Waste reduction in processes and design efforts toward sustainability and the removal of absorbents from the waste stream are other eco-conscience efforts that created competitive advantages for the firm.

“There is this idea that if you are building social capital, you are taking away from economic capital,” Keller said. “This is good for business, good for the economy, the ecology and the community. You can have all these things at the same time.”

Keller expounded on these principles, using Cascade Engineering as a case study, at his alma mater, New York’s Cornell University. He talked about the company’s values - about Midwestern, West Michigan values. The college told him that wasn’t what was taught there; the school taught things that maximize in three to five years and sell. Keller explained that wasn’t his belief, and soon found himself teaching an accelerated course on his sustainable business philosophy.

“Two years ago, people would have thought sustainable business was some sort of liberal fantasy,” he said. “These are values that we’ve always had; now we just have a new way to talk about them.”

“Quite frankly, this is an opportunity for West Michigan to be a leader and become known nationally for its sustainable business activities.”

Now, Keller is teaching a sustainable business class at Aquinas College, home to the nation’s only bachelor’s degree in sustainable business. The degree is designed to integrate science, business and environmental studies through a curriculum balanced with input from businesses like Steelcase, Dow Chemical and General Motors.

Created with the support of the Van Andel Institute’s Luis Tomatis, M.D., and college trustee emeritus Peter Wege, the program has far surpassed expected enrollment in its first two years. Program director Matt Tueth had hoped to have 15 majors by this fourth semester. There are 30, with nearly 50 students at the minor or continuing education level.

“We think we’re fulfilling a demand here in West Michigan,” Tueth said. A misconception about sustainable business practices is that it is just another environmental program. Most businesses think it will increase production costs without a return in profits, but it’s not and they’re now interested.

“Profitability is No. 1.”

Last May, the program sent the first of two delegations to Tokyo, accompanied by another Aquinas professor: Heartwell.

Because of Japan’s fiercely proprietary business culture, sustainability pioneers like

“Toyota doesn’t share successful practices. So a group of Japanese professionals and academics reached out to the only educational institution they could find teaching sustainable business.

And while Tueth and company were teaching seminars, the mayor was selling West Michigan as a prime location for innovative sustainable practices.

“We are a hotbed,” Tueth said. “West Michigan is a core of sustainable business development nationwide and even internationally. We can be a technology producing center and an innovative business center that will distinguish us in this global market.”

Professor Bruce Nanzer believes the world offers few better places to teach sustainability.

Herman Miller was recognized with the U.S. Green Building Council’s (USGBC) Green Building Leaders Recognition Award last month. Likewise, Steelcase has embraced sustainability, driven partly by Wege, a member of one of the Steelcase founding families and one of the area's foremost philanthropists.

Eleven percent of the nation’s USGB(; Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certified buildings are in West Michigan, and green building is firmly entrenched in the business models of firms like Bazzani & Associates and Progressive AL.

“We can take people and show them,” Nanzer said. “If they want to see a LEED building, the (Bazzani & Associates’ The Fast Hills) Center of the Universe is only a few blocks away.”

The Japanese group already has formed an organization styled on the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum. Created in 1994 as a partnership between the business community and the West Michigan Environmental Action Council, the forum is the first and largest of its kind in the United States.

“The fact that this exists shows that West Michigan is in a leadership position,” said current forum President Mark LaCroix of Guilford of Maine.

“Through its more than 80 member companies, the forum has helped drive the region’s sustainability agenda. Executives from competitors like Steelcase and Herman Miller are seen sitting next to each other, collaborating.”

The forum’s larger members provide an energy manager for the smaller companies, identifying opportunities for energy cost savings.

Construction members have formed a partnership with the Inner City Christian Federation. They will break ground this year on My Healthy Green Home, a model for an affordable green-built multifamily home.

The region will have yet another demonstration opportunity with the completion of the LEED-ready Metropolitan Health Village in Byron Center.

Providing its energy needs is The Center for Sustainable Energy and Education. Created in partnership with Aquinas and Novi Energy Inc., the center includes a thermal and electric power plant as well as classroom and lab space.

This will likely be the first of many partnerships for Aquinas.

Next month, the school will announce that it has received funding for a center for sustainable business. Planned as a clearinghouse for sustainable business information, Nanzer expects that it will help to centralize the region's sustainability efforts.

"A lot of stuff is going on in this field in West -Michigan," he said. "But it's very uncoordinated."

Tueth and Nanzer have been actively involved with administrators from Grand Valley State University and Ferris State University in Grand Rapids as they work to develop their own sustainability programs.

Tueth believes the community would benefit from cooperation.

"Instead of competing, we can cooperate and see if the pie is big enough for everyone."

GVSU's Muskegon Alternative and Renewable Energy Center offers significant collaboration opportunity. Calvin College's Bunker Interpretive Center and Ecosystem Preserve could be another possibility.

The greatest value might be in complementary concentrations not available at Aquinas, such as engineering and design.

FSU-GR academic dean Don Green is designing a sustainable business degree, and has been actively soliciting input from the business community for a new Sustainable Product Design and Manufacturing Bachelor of Science degree.

"We are responsible for changing the way the next generation thinks," Green said. "When you begin to change perceptions about environmental impact, you create new possibilities and a new vision for the future."

The proposed FSU program integrates the competencies of the school's industrial management, manufacturing and product design, plastics, digital animation and chemical engineering programs along with the design expertise of Kendall College of Art and Design.

Sustainable business, low-impact manufacturing, biomimicry, life-cycle analysis, environmental science, entrepreneurship and alternative energy all are concepts that Green

would like the program to address, with a central emphasis on applied research and product design.

With that in mind, Green has worked to line up partnerships with local businesses.

“The trend of sustainable development will require we redesign almost every product in the market today,” said Crystal Flash Energy President Tom Fehsenfeld. “West Michigan could become a center for sustainable product design.”

Verbally committed to an FSU partnership, Crystal Flash is one of the Midwest’s largest recyclers of used motor oil. Ten percent of its sales are from recycled or renewable products, and its Soy Diesel YC is the only biodiesel available in the local market.

A new federal program was launched this month to remove the price barriers of biodiesel fuels, and Fehsenfeld is preparing an aggressive marketing plan around that development.

Meanwhile, Crystal Flash is dedicated to finding new markets for waste products, developing a marine fuel for large freighters from used motor oil and a program to recycle industrial hydraulic oil that should launch this year.

Waste is something Buzz Lynds knows all about.

Lynds - of Allied Waste Industries, parent company to Sunset Waste - accompanied Green to the USGBC national conference last year. He hopes FSU can help find new uses for hard-to-recycle materials.

An ardent environmentalist, Lynds came to work for the natural enemy of sustainability four years ago as a construction sales representative. Although it didn’t fit into the landfillers’ corporate philosophy, Lynds’ sales manager allowed him to become involved in environmental interests.

“I was overstepping my bounds quite a bit,” Lynds said.

He developed a full-service waste stream management solution for LEED construction. Waste management counts for points toward LEED certification, and Lynds’ program can manage that through predesign, construction, occupation., and the course of the five-year certification period. Last week, he was tapped for a new corporate position to propagate that program on a national level.

FSU is also working to strike a partnership in this program with GRCC.

In GRCC president Juan Olivarez’ tenure, the GRCC campus has built rain gardens and undertaken energy audits, with plans to install a vegetative roof on the Applied Technology Center this spring.

GRCC, Aquinas and GVSU have partnered with the city and the Grand Rapids Public Schools on a new sustainability effort with \$100,000 in support from Wege.

“We think this is a critical piece for our kids’ understanding,” said GRPS Superintendent Bert Bleke. “So many of our kids don’t have an opportunity to get into the environment and understand and feel that it’s important to sustain us.”

There are currently four schools within the Small High School program. The next two will both have sustainability themes.

Based largely on Wege’s 1998 book of the same title, The Economicology Institute will focus entirely on sustainability. The School of Residential Construction will teach some green building principles through partnerships with firms like Bazzani & Associates.

The Detroit News

January 29, 2005

Granholm appoints 12 to university governing boards

Associated Press LANSING -- Former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer leads a list of 12 people appointed to university governing boards on Friday.

Archer, now chairman of Dickinson Wright PLLC law firm in Detroit, was appointed to the Western Michigan University Board of Control by Gov. Jennifer Granholm. His term will expire Dec. 31, 2012.

Archer succeeds Birgit Klohs, whose term has expired.

The appointments by the Democratic governor are subject to approval from the state Senate.

In other appointments, all of which would run through 2012.

-- Larry Tolbert of Kalamazoo, secretary of health and pension funds for Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers, was named to the Western Michigan board. He succeeds Vernice Anthony, whose term expired.

-- Marilyn French Hubbard, of Bloomfield, corporate vice president of community partnerships for Henry Ford Health System, was appointed to the Central Michigan University Board of Control. She succeeds James Fabiano, whose term expired.

-- Sambasiva Kottamasu of Saginaw, a radiologist with Advanced Diagnostic Imaging P.C., was named to the Central Michigan board. He succeeds Melanie Reinhold Foster, whose term expired.

-- George Menoutes of Flint, a retired pharmacist, was appointed to the Ferris State University Board of Control. He succeeds Louis Meeuwenberg, whose term expired.

-- Ronald Snead of Greenville, vice president of corporate relations for Dixien LLC, was appointed to the Ferris State board. He succeeds Bruce Parsons, whose term has expired.

-- Noreen Myers of Lowell, an attorney, was named to the Grand Valley State University Board of Control. She succeeds John Kennedy, whose term expired.

-- Kate Pew Wolters of Grand Rapids, president of the Kate and Richard Wolters Foundation, was appointed to the Grand Valley State board. She succeeds Karen Henry Stokes, whose term expired.

-- Martha Richardson of Grosse Pointe Park, president of Services Marketing Specialists Inc., was appointed to the Michigan Technological University Board of Control. She succeeds Claude Verbal, whose term expired.

-- Kathryn Clark of Ann Arbor, president of Docere LLC, was reappointed to the Michigan Tech board.

-- Brian Cloyd of Grand Rapids, director of corporate and community relations for Steelcase Inc., was appointed to the Northern Michigan University Board of Control. He succeeds Mary Lincoln Campbell, whose term expired.

-- Jon LaSalle of Marquette, field representative for the Michigan State Building and Construction Trades Council-AFL-CIO, was appointed to the Northern Michigan board. He succeeds Scott Holman, whose term expired.

Pioneer

January 29 & 30, 2005

Museum attempts to acquire new pieces

BIG RAPIDS - The Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia is bursting at the seams with artifacts and organizers soon may acquire more at an auction today in Howell.

Ole Gray Nash Auction Service is holding a bidding session for Ku Klux Klan- (KKK) related material at 7 p.m. in downtown Howell and Ferris State University Assistant Professor of Languages and Literature Kevin Miller and Professor of Social Sciences David Pilgrim will be attending.

“The museum is always interested in preserving a portion of the past,” Miller said. “People ask, ‘Why do you want to keep objects of ugliness and hatred?’”

“This is a negative part of human history and we hold onto these things so not to forget the past ... to learn from it and look at it from a scholarly setting,” he added.

Woodbridge N. Ferris was charged with changing the world and this is the purpose of the museum - to educate and change lives for the future. Miller said.

Currently located in 314 STARR on Ferris’ campus, the university began a fund-raising campaign to construct and endow a new museum, which will be located off the lobby of Ferris’ Arts and Sciences Commons. The project is expected to finish in 2007 and is being designed by Neumann Smith and Associates, of Southfield.

According to museum Director and Social Sciences Academic Department Head John Thorp, the move will allow the organization of artifacts around six related stories.

“To really appreciate race relations in this country, you need to understand how violent it has been,” Thorp said.

The museum will educate visitors on what was Jim Crow, violence related to Jim Crow, Jim Crow and caricatures, African American achievements, the death of Jim Crow and how society can learn from its racial past.

Pilgrim donated his memorabilia to the university in 1996. A room was designated and organized to display this material, along with other donated and acquired pieces, in January 2001.

Pioneer

January 29 & 30, 2005

Congratulations go out to:

• Longtime director of the Michigan Department of Community Health James K. Haveman who recently received the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

He received the honor, the highest civilian award, during ceremonies at the Pentagon hosted by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

The honor was bestowed upon him for his work as the Coalition Provisional Authority Senior Advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

Working from headquarters in downtown Baghdad, Haveman was responsible for developing a budget and strategic plan and leading the restoration and rebuilding of the Iraqi healthcare system from June 2003 to April 2004.

The award further credited “his selfless dedication” with ensuring that the Iraqi healthcare system is “on track and poised for success.”

The Calvin College social work graduate presently is serving an eight year term on the Ferris State University Board of Trustees.

- Kevin Roe, the outgoing president of the Mecosta County Area Chamber of Commerce, as well as outgoing board members Kathy Bauman, Debbie Szot and Rob Wheeler, for your tireless efforts to strengthen the chamber and make Mecosta County a better place to live, work and visit.
- Incoming Chamber President John Norton and new board members Jeff Mossel, Eric O’Neil and Brendon O’Rourke, for stepping forward to keep the chamber on the move.
- Brandy Waite, Roger Knapp, Jennifer Worth, Phillip Currie, Sue Armand, Diane Leichty and Judy Garner for receiving ambassador awards from the chamber for promoting the county to others.
- Members of the 2004 state championship Quiz Bowl Team from White Cloud who stayed alive in defense of their title by defeating the 2003 state championship team from Leslie in a quarterfinals match Jan. 18 on the WKAR Quiz-Busters syndicated television show.

The contingent of Captain John Gunnell, Valerie Kowalczyk, Tiffany Tremlin, Nick Kuhns, Deric Underhill and Jerry Reid will now move on to the semifinals of this year’s tournament.

The Detroit Free Press

January 29, 2005

Ku Klux Klan robes sell for up to \$1,450 at auction in Howell

HOWELL, Mich. (AP) -- Ku Klux Klan robes sold for up to \$1,450 and a KKK knife drew a \$400 bid Saturday night during an auction of robes and other paraphernalia that has attracted a high level of interest and criticism.

One of the robes was bought for \$700 by the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University. It hopes to use the robe -- designed to be worn by a woman -- as part of its efforts to teach tolerance.

"I felt like I was at a Klan rally at some times," museum curator David Pilgrim said after the Big Rapids-based museum made its winning bid.

Other robes sold for \$1,450 and \$1,150. Many of the people who bought items at the auction didn't want to give their names. One person in attendance was seen wearing a KKK pin and another wore an arm band with a Nazi swastika.

Auctioneer Gary Gray said a steady stream of people visited the auction house in Howell, about 35 miles east of Lansing and 55 miles west of Detroit, in the hours leading up to the evening auction. He planned to sell seven KKK robes and items including buttons, books, movies and a lantern.

"Maybe I have taught more people about history, at least this week, than some schools," Gray said in an interview. "It's not a question of racism. That's intertwined. But it's not the main focus."

About 10 protesters chanted "No Nazis, no KKK" as their attempts to enter the auction house were rebuffed. About 25 other people gathered outside the auction house in silent protest, holding signs that read: "Hate has no home here," as about 200 people crowded into the area for the auction.

"People say it's historical, but it shouldn't be something we have to remember every day," said protester Michelle Soli, 19, of Fowlerville.

Gray, 51, said the auction is a sale of history.

But the NAACP branch in neighboring Oakland County and other civil rights groups have blasted it as insensitive. Community and business groups also have said the auction does nothing to fix Howell's racist reputation. A KKK leader lived on a farm near the town until his death in 1992.

Jerry Gowlan, 46, of Livingston County's Howell Township, said he planned to bid on KKK literature and pamphlets, but said he wasn't a supporter of the Klan. He said the items being sold are a part of history that should be preserved.

“If we as a society don’t learn from past mistakes, we repeat them,” Gowlan said.

The auction originally was scheduled for Jan. 15, but was delayed after Gray learned it was the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday. Since one robe was consigned for sale in early January, dozens more items have poured into the gallery because of the publicity.

Howell is a growing city of more than 9,000 people in overwhelmingly white Livingston County. About 97 percent of the county’s 157,000 residents in the 2000 census were white. Only a half-percent -- fewer than 800 people -- were black. In Howell itself, only 29 blacks were counted.

Outside the auction, Howell Mayor Geraldine Moen was among the protesters. She said the auction reignites stereotypes about the community.

“Hate and its symbols do not belong in Howell,” Moen said.

CNN News
January 30, 2005

Auction house sells Ku Klux Klan paraphernalia

HOWELL, Michigan (AP) -- Ku Klux Klan robes sold for up to \$1,425 and a KKK knife drew a \$400 bid during a Michigan auction that critics have blasted as insensitive.

Auctioneer Gary Gray said a steady stream of people visited the auction house Saturday in Howell, about 55 miles west of Detroit, in the hours leading up to the sale, where participants could bid on 12 KKK robes and capes, as well as buttons, books, swords, patches and movies.

"Maybe I have taught more people about history, at least this week, than some schools," Gray said. "It's not a question of racism. That's intertwined. But it's not the main focus." One of the robes was bought for \$700 by the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University in Big Rapids. Museum officials hope to use it to teach tolerance. The items sold raised at least \$24,000, the auction house said.

"I felt like I was at a Klan rally at some times," museum curator David Pilgrim said. Other robes sold for \$1,425 and \$1,150. Many of the people who bought items did not give their names. One person wore a KKK pin, and another wore an arm band with a Nazi swastika.

About 10 protesters gathered outside the auction house, holding signs that read, "Hate has no home here." Some tried to enter the house, chanting "No Nazis, no KKK," as about 200 people crowded into the auction.

"People say it's historical, but it shouldn't be something we have to remember every day," protester Michelle Soli said.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in neighboring Oakland County and other civil rights groups has criticized the auction as insensitive. Members of a local diversity council were raising money to buy one of the robes for an anti-racism museum exhibit.

Jerry Gowlan, who attended the auction, said he planned to bid on KKK literature and pamphlets, but said he wasn't a supporter of the Klan.

"If we as a society don't learn from past mistakes, we repeat them," Gowlan said. Community and business groups said the auction would do nothing to fix the town's racist reputation, which they trace to one man -- Robert Miles, a KKK leader who lived on a farm outside Howell until his death in 1992.

The auction was originally scheduled for January 15, but was delayed after Gray learned that was the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

After one robe was consigned for sale in early January, dozens of other items poured into the Gray's gallery because of the publicity.

Howell is a city of more than 9,000 people in Livingston County, one of Michigan's least diverse counties. In Howell itself, only 29 blacks were counted in the 2000 census.

Outside the auction, Howell Mayor Geraldine Moen was among the protesters. She said the auction reignited stereotypes about the community. "Hate and its symbols do not belong in Howell," she said.

The Grand Rapids Press

January 31, 2005

Campus boards get new members

Governor appoints several West Michigan residents to university governing bodies

ALLENDALE - The Republican-dominated governing board at Grand Valley State University will see some different faces.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm picked Kate Pew Wolters of Grand Rapids and Norene Myers of Lowell for eight-year terms on the Board of Trustees.

If confirmed by the Senate, they will replace two Republican appointees, Karen Henry Stokes and John Kennedy, both from the Grand Rapids area, whose terms expired.

Wolters and Myers are officers in the Progressive Women's Alliance, a local political group, and were active in Granholm's election in 2002.

"It's one of our goals to make sure progressive thinkers get appointed to positions in state government," Wolters said. "It's great that two of our board members have been appointed."

The Steelcase heiress is president of the Kate and Richard Wolters Foundation. Myers is a lawyer in private practice.

Stokes, the widow of late U.S. Rep. Paul Henry, R-Grand Rapids, said she wanted to stay on the GVSU board "but was well aware of the political realities." She and Kennedy were appointed by Republican Gov. John Engler.

She said one of her achievements was easing the transition between the departure of longtime President Arend "Don" Lubbers and the arrival of the school's current leader, Mark Murray.

"Having that go smoothly and to be a part of hiring someone as outstanding as Mark Murray surely was one of the high points," Stokes said.

Granholm also appointed former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer to the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees, replacing Birgit Klohs of Grand Rapids, president of The Right Place.

Steelcase Inc. executive Brian Cloyd, of Grand Rapids, was appointed to the Northern Michigan University Board of Trustees.

Ronald Snead of Greenville, a vice president at Dutien LLC, was appointed to the Ferris State University Board of Trustees.

Pioneer

January 31, 2005

Ferris museum buys Ku Klux Klan robe at auction

HOWELL (AP) - Ku Klux Klan robes sold for up to \$1,425 and a KKK knife drew a \$400 bid Saturday night during a 3 1/2 hour auction of robes and other paraphernalia that has attracted a high level of interest and criticism.

One of the robes was bought for \$700 by the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University. It hopes to use the robe - designed to be worn by a woman - as part of its efforts to teach tolerance.

"I felt like I was at a Klan rally at some times," museum curator David Pilgrim said after the Big Rapids based museum made its winning bid.

Other robes sold for \$1,425 and \$1,150. Many of the people who bought items at the auction didn't want to give their names. One person in attendance was seen wearing a KKK pin and another wore an arm band with a Nazi swastika.

Auctioneer Gary Gray said a steady stream of people visited the auction house in Howell, about 35 miles east of Lansing and 55 miles west of Detroit, in the hours leading up to the evening auction. He sold 12 KKK robes and capes, as well as items including buttons, books, swords, patches and movies.

The items sold brought in at least \$24,000 as of Saturday night, the auction house said.

"Maybe I have taught more people about history, at least this week, than some schools," Gray said in an interview. "It's not a question of racism. That's intertwined. But it's not the main focus."

About 10 protesters chanted "No Nazis, no KKK" as their attempts to enter the auction house where rebuffed. About 25 other people gathered outside the auction house in silent protest, holding signs that read: "Hate has no home here," as about 200 people crowded into the area for the auction.

"People say it's historical, but it shouldn't be something we have to remember every day," said protester Michelle Soli, 19, of Fowlerville.

Gray, 51, said the auction is a sale of history.

"I am not a racist," Gray said. "I am not prejudiced."

But the NAACP branch in neighboring Oakland County and other civil rights groups have blasted it as insensitive. Community and business groups also have said the auction does nothing to fix Howell's racist reputation. A KKK leader lived on a farm near the town until his death in 1992.

Jerry Gowlan, 46, of Livingston County's Howell Township, said he planned to bid on KKK literature and pamphlets, but said he wasn't a supporter of the Klan.

Pioneer

February 1, 2005

Governor appoints two to Ferris board of controls

LANSING - Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm Friday announced the appointment of George J. Menoutes and Ronald E. Snead to the Ferris State University Board of Controls.

Menoutes, of Flint, succeeds Louis J. Meeuwenberg, whose term expired. Snead, of Greenville, succeeds Bruce Parsons, whose term also expired. Both Menoutes and Snead will represent the general public for terms expiring Dec. 31, 2012.

Granholm also appointed boards of control members for Central Michigan, Grand Valley State, Michigan Technological, Northern Michigan and Western Michigan universities.

Michigan Daily University Wire

February 1, 2005

Organ donor battle expands

Last week kicked off the second annual Gift of Life Competition, a contest that has universities from around the state competing to register the most people to agree to put themselves on the organ donor-list.

Sponsored by Gift of Life Michigan, a nonprofit organ recovery organization, the competition has previously involved only Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. But this year, it has expanded to include 11 other universities and colleges in Michigan, including Albion College, Central Michigan University and Ferris State College. The competition runs through Feb. 17.

Judged by percentage of the school population, the competition has Albion leading with 11 percent of the school population registered for organ donation. Ferris State has registered the most people, with 419 in total. The University has 97 students registered out of a total student population of 39,000.

"While it's a competition and that's wonderful, we are just trying to get more people to sign up," said Christine McKillip, LSA junior and co-founder of the University of Michigan Gift of Life chapter.

According to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, a group that helps organize the system of organ donation in America, 86,000 people in the country are waiting for an organ transplant. Moreover, the United Network for Organ Sharing, an organ procurement and transplant network, estimates that every hour and a half, a person dies waiting for an organ. In the state of Michigan, about 2,834 people are waiting for organs, and about 150 people have died this year waiting for an organ, according to Gift of Life Michigan's website.

Tammie Havermahl, public education coordinator for the Gift of Life Michigan, said that for the organ donation system to be successful, millions of people need to be signed up as willing donors. One reason for this is that only 4 to 6 percent of all deaths produce organs preserved well enough to be donated. The deaths most likely to produce usable organs are those resulting from brain hemorrhaging, such as strokes and motor vehicle accidents. Organs must also be matched with recipients according to blood type, reducing the chances that each person on the waiting list will find a suitable organ.

"Only 8 percent of Michigan is signed up. We would like 5 million," Havermahl said. One donor can potentially help 50 people, because both organs and tissues can often be used to save lives she added.

The University has the largest organ transplant center in the state, conducting about 300 organ transplants a year. In the 1960's, it was the first in the state to transplant a kidney, which is still functioning to this day.

Robert Garypie, the special events coordinator at the University of Michigan Transplant Center, helped organize the competition.

”Most people agree for donation, but in hospitals most people don’t. The key to that is public awareness,” Garypie said. He said the discrepancy is caused by people not making their wishes known to their loved ones, due to the sensitivity of the subject.

”There is no good way to talk about organ donation. We find that any event that is fun or in the public eye sparks the conversation,” he added.