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Pioneer

July 5, 2006

FSU Community Summer Band concert Thursday

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University Community Summer Band, directed by Richard Scott Cohen, will make its fifth appearance as it performs at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Bandshell in Hemlock Park.

Area adults, college students, high school students, and sometimes even middle school students perform light and enjoyable selections for classmates, family members, neighbors and visitors to the Big Rapids area.

Featured musical artists on this week's concert will include vocalist, John King, Ed Mallett on euphonium, and vocalist Katie McInnis, director of the Big Rapids Middle School Choir.

In addition to our concerts in the new Big Rapids Riverwalk Band Shell, in previous weeks the FSU Community Summer Band has also brought the community together at the Big Rapids Old Jail, the annual Mecosta County Medical Center Ice Cream Social, and the Castle at Canadian Lakes.

Scott Cohen, director of instrumental ensembles at FSU, directs the West Central Concert Band, West Central Chamber Orchestra, FSU Symphony Band, FSU Athletic Pep Band and he teaches courses in music appreciation. He is a native of Chicago a Phi Beta Kappa scholar from the University of Illinois a doctoral conducting graduate from Northwestern University, and a Fulbright Scholar to Spain. He is active as a conductor, trombonist, composer, music adjudicator, researcher, author and lecturer throughout the United States and Europe.

The last concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. on July 13 at the Riverwalk Band shell in Hemlock Park.

The last rehearsal will take place from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on July 10, at Ferris State University's Music Center (room 108).

The New York Times

July 5, 2006

A Gift Shop in Harlem Finds Customers for the Memorabilia of Racist America

The day Glenda Taylor placed the white hood and white robe of the Ku-Klux Klan in the window of her Harlem shop was one to remember.

At the foot of the Klan gown was an 1868 issue of Harper's Weekly depicting a dead black man, with the caption "One Vote Less." Passers-by of all races stopped, stunned, in front of her memorabilia shop, Aunt Meriam's, on West 125th Street, Ms. Taylor said.

One black woman dispatched her 10-year-old daughter into the shop to confront Ms. Taylor, 50, who is black. The girl, Ms. Taylor recalled, said something like, "How could you?"

Ms. Taylor and her mother, Mary Taylor, sell all manner of black memorabilia, including advertisements for the Cotton Club and playbills for a Broadway musical starring Sammy Davis Jr.

But the Taylors and dealers like them also sell collectibles from the Jim Crow era - cookie jars, coin banks, matchbook covers, fruit-box labels, ashtrays, postcards, sheet music, just to name a few items - that portray blacks in grotesquely racist ways. Little boys eat watermelon. Men steal chickens. Women happily scrub and clean.

While selling such items in the heart of America's most famous black neighborhood might seem offensive, dealers say that blacks rather than whites tend to be the ones collecting the most repellent objects.

"Why do some Jews collect Holocaust material?" asked Wyatt Houston Day of the Swann Galleries in Manhattan, who organizes an annual auction of African-Americana.

"Any people who endure a Holocaust tend to collect, out of a lest-we-forget impulse. It is very much akin to what happened to blacks, and the objects are just as vile."

With the civil rights movement, many whites became ashamed to keep their own racially caricatured bric-a-brac, or that of their parents and grandparents. The rise of the Internet caused prices to fall as attics and cupboards emptied and glutted the market on eBay and Yahoo auction sites. An especially prized type of cookie jar - the McCoy mammy jar - once sold for as much as \$600; it now sells for as little as \$50.

"The main reason that black people collect" objectionable objects, Glenda Taylor said, is "that they love that item and hate that item at the same time."

She added, "It's like the 'n' word. African-Americans are very good at turning a painful thing into something else."

For David Pilgrim, a sociology professor at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich., however, the issue is starker. "This is the ugly intersection of money and race," he said.

Mr. Pilgrim, who is black, runs a temporary museum, with 5,000 racist objects. Stores, he argued, are not the proper surroundings for a thoughtful discussion of what he calls "contemptible collectibles."

He is trying to raise money to establish a permanent Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia (www.ferris.edu/jimcrow). "To me," said Mr. Pilgrim, whose own collection makes up nearly half of the temporary museum's inventory, "this stuff is garbage. It belongs either in a museum or a garbage can."

Most historians date the Jim Crow era from 1877, when the federal occupation of the South ended, to 1965, when the Civil Rights Act guaranteeing basic rights for black Americans was passed. Jim Crow was an 1820's musical routine performed by white men in blackface, and the term became a synonym for discrimination and segregation.

Jim Crow laws passed by Southern legislatures were a way for whites to roll back black gains after the Civil War.

But Mr. Day of the Swann Galleries said that derogatory objects were made in every state, including New York. "It is very much blacks through white eyes, not a region's eyes," he said.

Mary Taylor, 68, remembers growing up with mammy dolls and other racially stereotyped objects in Hallandale, Fla., near Fort Lauderdale. "We resented this stuff," said Ms. Taylor, a former administrator at Medgar Evers College. "It depicted us as ugly."

She added that blacks now looked at it differently. "We look at ourselves differently. A lot of black people don't have that inferiority complex anymore."

The Taylors scour garage sales, lawn sales, auctions, flea markets and estate sales in upstate New York, Pennsylvania and Florida for items. "The smaller the town, the better," because they tend to have more of the smaller auctions and estate sales, where prices are still low, the elder Ms. Taylor said.

Glenda Taylor, a former administrator for nonprofit education groups, said she got the 1920's Klan robe from "a white collector who got it from an estate sale from someone's attic," she said. The Taylors later sold the hood and robe for \$1,500 to a collector in Washington State.

The younger Ms. Taylor likens her shop, named after a favorite aunt, to a time machine. Older black customers, prompted by the memorabilia, like to reminisce, she said.

A black man in his 60's, looking at a "For Colored Only" reproduction in the shop, remembered the time when as a college student he had lunch in a Louisiana coffee shop.

As he left, the white owner broke every dish he had used.

The next day, the black man, a drum major at nearby Grambling State University, brought the entire football team - all blacks - for lunch. They watched in satisfaction as the shaken white owner broke dozens of his dishes.

"If any type of shop like this should be, it should be here in Harlem," the elder Ms. Taylor said. "There should be a black museum. I would prefer that, if we had the money."

PGA of America News

July 6, 2006

Arizona State's McSparran heads 11 recipients of the Runyan scholarship

The scholarship was inspired by Paul Runyan, a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame and a two-time PGA Championship winner.

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. -- Peter McSparran of Madison, Conn., a senior this fall in the Professional Golf Management Program at Arizona State University, heads the list of 11 recipients of the Paul Runyan Collegiate Golf Management Scholarship.

McSparran earned a \$5,000 scholarship, which is presented to a college junior in the PGA of America's Golf Management Program (PGA/PGM) currently offered at 18 colleges or universities.

The scholarship was inspired by the legacy of the late Paul Runyan, one of the game's premier instructors who passed away in 2002. A member of the World Golf Hall of Fame and a two-time winner of the PGA Championship and Senior PGA Championship, Runyan was chosen one of GOLF Magazine's Top 50 Teachers.

McSparran, 44, who spent eight years in military service before pursuing a golf career, has a cumulative 4.0 grade-point average as a Professional Golf Management major. He is joined by 10 other Paul Runyan Scholarship recipients who each earned a \$2,500 scholarship:

--Scott Chambers, 22, of Webster, N.Y., and Clemson University

--Jay Childers, 22, of Reno, Nev., and the

University of Nevada-Las Vegas

--Brett Dysart, 22, of Raleigh, N.C., and Campbell University

--Gregory Hassell, 21, of Williamston, N.C., and North Carolina State University

--Anthony Jensen, 23, of Rupert, Idaho, and the University of Idaho

--Casey McKinnon, 21, of St. Ignace, Mich., and Ferris State University

--Chad Osborne, 22, of Panama, N.Y., and Coastal Carolina University

--Michael Pius, 22, of Herndon, Va., and Penn State University

--Anthony Vitale, 20, of Albuquerque, N.M., and New Mexico State University

--Colleen Walsh, 22, of Burlington, Mass., and Methodist College.

"The PGA of America is proud to award the Paul Runyan Collegiate Golf Management Scholarship to an outstanding and most deserving list of recipients this year," said PGA of America President Roger Warren. "This program's origin follows Paul Runyan's legacy of improving oneself through education and using one's skills to give back to the game. The Paul Runyan legacy serves as a model for all PGA Professionals and those who aspire to attain PGA membership."

Applicants for the Paul Runyan Collegiate Golf Management Scholarship must be currently enrolled in a sanctioned PGM program and be completing their junior year at that university or college.

Applicants must complete Level II Golf Professional Training Program checkpoint; carry a grade point average of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 grading scale; have successfully completed the Playing Ability Test (PAT), demonstrate community involvement as it relates to growing the participation in the game of golf; and present a paper (500-word minimum) discussing "Why Do You Want to Become a PGA Professional?"

Since its beginning, the Paul Runyan Collegiate Golf Management Scholarships has awarded \$72,500 to 19 students.

Currently, 1,744 students are enrolled in The PGA's Professional Golf Management Program (PGA/PGM) at 18 colleges or universities nationwide. The program has 1,586 graduates who have become PGA Professionals.

Celebrating its 90th anniversary, The PGA of America was founded in 1916, and is a not-for-profit organization that promotes the game of golf while continuing to enhance the standards of the profession. The Association is comprised of more than 28,000 men and women PGA Professionals who are dedicated to growing participation in the game of golf.

Detroit Free Press

July 6, 2006

Home for girls doesn't want help to end at 18

Recently, there's been a hue and cry for somebody to do something to help young adults who are too old for the foster care system, but who still need support to get on their feet.

There's no doubt that such a need exists, and the Free Press has even endorsed a proposal to establish a full-service, residential village to help ease their transition into the real world.

But the need touches children who are aging out of the juvenile justice system, as well.

That's where Vista Maria comes in.

Increasing odds of success

Years ago, I had the good fortune to visit Vista Maria, a residential home for severely disturbed girls, ages 11 to 17. The 170 residents of the Dearborn Heights facility all have a history of abuse and neglect or deep emotional and mental health problems.

Vista Maria has been taking them in since 1883, cloistering them on a beautiful, 37-acre campus. Tiffeny Lang was 16 when she arrived at Vista Maria two years ago, a violent and incorrigible teen who'd been referred there by the juvenile court. After a year of treatment for her bipolar disorder, Lang, now 18, just graduated on the dean's list from Woodhaven High School.

But for so many other residents of Vista Maria, leaving the facility can be yet another trauma in their turbulent lives.

"We commonly hear from the girls, 'This has been great, but now what?'" said Cameron Hosner, president and chief executive. "It tears us up to have to let them go at 18."

Several years ago, Vista Maria's board began to nurture a new vision. The facility already has dorms, a school, and recreational and health care services. It also has community-based programs to prevent delinquency and after-care programs to help Vista Maria alumnae stay on track.

Why not expand the campus to embrace the needs of all marginalized women and girls?

"We already have such a great infrastructure," said Hosner. "We need to invest in restoring girls over the long haul. Why not create a Village of Hope?"

Inside the Village of Hope

The first phase of an all-encompassing Village of Hope will happen in eight months -- the opening of a charter school on Vista Maria's campus. The school, which Vista

Maria hopes to run in conjunction with Ferris State University and Bay Mills Community College, will enable girls to continue to learn in a nurturing, supportive environment even if they no longer need residential treatment.

Older women from the community who want to return to school could also attend and take advantage of the envisioned day care services, the existing 12-step program and other support services.

"If something like that had been there when I was there, I would have stayed and graduated from Vista Maria," said Lang. "Many of the girls feel like an outcast in their regular public schools because no one has experienced the things we've experienced."

Brandi King, 17, is one of those girls. She came to Vista Maria out of a foster home after being charged with shoplifting. Taken from her drug addicted mother at the age of 7, King had been a delinquent and a runaway almost ever since. She left Vista Maria in January after a nine-month stay, but she's had to struggle with getting back into school, and has a hard time coping with peers who aren't as interested in graduating.

"Now I'm working on my GED," said King, who lives with her sister. "But I want to get back in and get a regular diploma."

A campus of continuing care

That's where the Village of Hope comes in. It will not be a lifelong crutch for the girls who age out of the program, but a much-needed continuum of support to help them make a successful transition.

According to a January report by the Michigan Taskforce on Youth Permanency and Transition, 47% of foster care youth experience homelessness within three years of aging out of the system. Within that time period, only 36% graduate from high school and 54% receive public assistance. Hosner believes girls who graduate from Vista Maria perform as poorly over time. What they need, he said, is more support.

"We can be a full-service center and the cost would be relatively inexpensive," said Hosner, who estimates the first phase, including a 500-student charter school, a day care/health care center and supported living programs on campus, would cost \$10 million. The 10-year plan that would include off-campus supported housing and an entrepreneurial training center, would be an additional \$10 million.

"Clients would pay for our services on a sliding scale -- they need to feel like they're contributing to their own development. The program here will make them feel normalized, not broken."

I have respect for the incredible job that Vista Maria does, serving some of the area's most troubled girls. But listening to Hosner talk about all of the support that his campus

will provide for not only abused and neglected girls, but for marginalized women and their children, I worry that the agency is trying to take on the world.

But Hosner, who is looking forward to an aggressive fund-raising campaign, is unfazed. "You're right, we can't save the world," he said. "But we can save our corner of it."

Pioneer

July 10, 2006

Tuition trauma could ease for college students

LANSING (AP) - Students at Michigan's 15 public universities this fall should be able to avoid the hefty tuition increases of recent years thanks to a recent state budget deal.

According to a tentative agreement reached June 30 between Republican legislative leaders and Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm, the schools will get an average 3 percent funding increase in the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

That would be the first significant state aid increase in the past five years and slightly more than most schools were expecting when budget talks began earlier this year.

Projected funding increases range from 2.5 percent at Wayne State University and Michigan Technological University's up to 6 percent at Grand Valley State University.

Overall, state aid going to universities for operating budgets would increase by more than \$43 million. That should lower the pressure on tuition and fees, which have increased by an average of more than 10 percent in two of the past three years.

"It's got us turned around in the right direction. We're very pleased," said Michael Boulus, executive director of the Presidents Council, an organization representing Michigan's public universities. "By and large, (tuition increases) most likely will be under double digits."

A few schools already have decided on tuition rates for 2006-07. Saginaw Valley State University in University Center approved a 4.9 percent tuition increase for undergraduate students from Michigan. Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie plans a 5 percent increase, while Michigan Technological University in Houghton plans an 8.75 percent increase for resident undergraduates. Most other universities plan to set their tuition rates in the next several weeks.

The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, which had a 12.3 percent tuition increase last year, plans to set rates for the upcoming year on July 21. The university expects "a much more modest tuition increase than last year," spokeswoman Julie Peterson said.

Michigan State University also sets its tuition later this month. Diana Locher, a senior from Minneapolis, hopes the university keeps increases reasonable for all students, including out-of-state residents.

"It's starting to get pretty tough," Locher said of the tuition bills. "It's harder for the average student to afford college, at least the college they want."

Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant and Saginaw Valley are among the schools reporting a record number of student applications for the upcoming school year, a

sign that some of the universities with the lowest tuition rates are getting more interest from students.

Granholt and Republican legislative leaders share a goal of increasing the number of Michigan's college graduates, a move they say should help the state's economy by providing a better-educated work force.

About 24 percent of Michigan residents 25 and older had at least a bachelor's degree in 2004, below the national average of nearly 28 percent, according to estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.

State funding for Michigan's public universities this fiscal year is about 10 percent less than it was in the 2002 fiscal year, according to the nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency.

That's a major reason the average cost for a full-time student's tuition and fees - more than \$6,800 in the recently completed academic year - increased more than 35 percent in the past five years.

The state's relatively sluggish economy has led to stagnant tax revenues in recent years, giving lawmakers and Granholt little extra money to invest in anything.

But for the upcoming fiscal year, they plan to make education a top priority.

"It's a clear signal we feel investment in higher education is an investment in our economy," said Greg Bird, a spokesman for the state budget office.

Granholt's proposed budget had called for a 2 percent funding increase for universities. Both the Republican led House and Senate proposed slightly more operating money for universities, and the agreed-upon budget target came in at 3 percent.

Part of the reason for the higher figure is because more money could be available for the general fund, the state's main checking account, than first thought.

Sen. Mike Goschka, a Brant Republican who chairs the Senate Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, said the higher-than expected funding should make schools think twice when setting tuition.

The Flint Journal

July 14, 2006

BASKETBALL: Kearsley grad named EMU assistant coach

Tianna Kirkland, a 1997 Kearsley High graduate who became a two-sport star at Ferris State University, has been named assistant women's basketball coach at Eastern Michigan.

Kirkland was an assistant at Butler the past two seasons and a graduate assistant at Central Michigan the previous two years. She takes over for Mahogany Green, who left for a similar position at Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne.

Kirkland was a Division II third-team All-American and Great Lakes Conference Player of the Year in basketball at Ferris.

She also holds school records in the shot put and discus.

Pioneer

July 14, 2006

Ferris may cut degree

FSU board of trustees may vote to close auto body program at meeting today.

BIG RAPIDS - The future of the auto body program at Ferris State University may be about to run gas.

The FSU Board of Trustees may vote to close program Friday during its regular meeting at 11:00 in the Centennial Dining Room of the Rankin. The potential closure of the auto body program teaches collision repair and body work, is not a reflection on the overall automotive program at Ferris, said Ron McKean, associate dean of the College of Technology.

This vote comes as a result of the auto body associate degree program's Academic Program Review, a faculty-driven review of university programs that takes place on a five-year cycle, McKean noted. The review looks for the relevancy of a program to the university and evaluates the program's use of university and state resources. The auto body program had several concerns for the review board, "revolving around the usage of resources" McKean said.

"How well can students be trained by other facilities?" McKean said, adding auto body students can find training at career centers, high school programs and two-year institutions. Additionally, program enrollment was low.

"It's about how to best utilize our resources to help the students we have," McKean said.

The 26 students currently in the program will be allowed to complete their training, but no new students will be admitted if the board votes to close the program.

Graduates of the program did not have trouble finding work, according to Greg Key, automotive department chair, and job placement problems did not contribute to the recommendation for closure.

Auto body began as a body and fender certificate program in 1955, Key said, and has averaged 10 graduates a year for the past 10 years.