

June 13, 2006- June 23, 2006

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## The Grand Rapids Press

May 28, 2006

### **Exhibit marries art, weddings**

GRAND RAPIDS -- When Cindi Ford got married in 1972 in the heyday of "women's lib" and "do your own thing," she eschewed a fancy wedding in favor of something befitting the times. The Greenville native bought the first wedding dress she tried on and decked out her bridesmaids in peasant dresses. She designed her purple invitations and spent three months planning the whole thing.

Given these simple marital beginnings, Ford found it difficult last year when her daughter, Jeselyn, and her son, Zachary's bride-to-be, Kate, pursued their dreams of having huge weddings, which they began planning a year in advance.

"They wanted to be princesses," said Ford, a Byron Center printmaker who earned a bachelor's degree in sculpture from Michigan State University in 1970. "I was shocked.

My daughter is an artist. It surprised me how traditional they were."

At the time, Ford was a part-time student in the master of fine arts program at Kendall College of Art and Design and in the midst of planning her thesis show, which runs through June 9. Not surprisingly, her angst about weddings made it into her exhibition, which is a double-edged look at the modern approach to this ancient tradition, titled "Weddings: Life or Theatre?"

The show features Ford's distinctive woodcuts as well as prints made with other techniques she experimented with during her MFA studies, including screen printing, photographic etching, polyester plate lithography and monotype. She used these media to create images for a storyline that winds around the gallery's four walls and takes viewers from the planning stages to implementation and aftermath of a wedding.

Ford has populated this drama with engaging, wide-eyed characters and placed them in a fairytale environment of pink and purple, inspired by the color of Jeselyn and Kate's weddings.

"I want people to have a magical spell when they walk in the gallery, a warm place to walk into, but I also want them to look underneath the lines, to look at both sides," Ford said.

That other side is the reality of marriage that gets drowned out by the "over-self-indulgence" of modern weddings, Ford said. She depicts this duality visually in parallel storylines that run through the show -- an eye-level series of scenes in dollhouse-like structures and a traffic-congested road that runs underneath it.

The dollhouse images serve as a window through which the viewer watches the wedding drama unfold. In one vignette, we see a young woman opening a gift and a balloon caption next to her head that says "Another set of knives."

Another scene shows the bride and groom at the altar, while fat yellow raindrops fall from pink and purple clouds. Ford said it rained the day of the weddings, and she put it in there as a reality check, but it also serves as a metaphor for the mixed emotions of the bride's mother (that flower child of the '70s).

The final scenario shows a low-key bride and groom in their new home. The man's feet almost look as if they've been bound, the way Ford has depicted them, and his talk balloon is an empty bubble.

The pair looks a bit bewildered, not the happy couple you'd expect to emerge from the wedding hoopla.

Underneath all of this, the black traffic border hums along, reminding the viewer of the stress of the real world that lies on the periphery of the wedding fantasy. The road is crammed with vehicles, construction signs and the occasional car crash.

## The Grand Rapids Press

June 1, 2006

### Artists, kids mingle in show

KENTWOOD -- When asked if she had named her portrait of a lady in the snow, Lejla Duric showed her temperamental side -- true artist that she is.

"Why would somebody do that?" asked the Meadowlawn Elementary second-grader. "It's fake, not alive."

Students from Brookwood, Meadowlawn, and Southwood Elementary schools exhibited their masterpieces along with pottery, sketches, paintings and jewelry by area artists in Brookwood Elementary's second annual art show.

Edina Duric stood next to her daughter, admiring the detail in every aspect of the mystery lady -- from her warm hat and coat to her purplish red lips.

"I'm very proud," Duric said. "This is my first time seeing it, and I had no idea she could do this stuff. No wonder she makes me buy all those arts supplies."

Parents and students also perused the pieces of six local artists, who did some on-the-spot work before the crowd.

Watercolorist Jon McDonald, an illustration professor at Kendall College of Art and Design, replicated a profile photo of an American Indian in full regalia.

McDonald has created a series of American Indian paintings, inspired by a Gathering of Nations powwow he attended four years ago in New Mexico. He said children need to know that art is something students can pursue, and that it "beats working, by a long shot."

Also presenting were pastel artists Jim Markle and Julie Moore, potter Jeff Rottman, oil painter Lynn Stough and metal worker Hilary Kane.

Kane, who teaches art at Valleywood Middle School, explained to spectators her process of making pendants, bracelets, belt buckles and earrings.

While she acknowledged that it's a little early for the kids to play with a torch and hammer, Kane said they can look forward to East Kentwood High School's jewelry class, which she is slated to teach next year.

Brookwood art teacher Todd Schorr said students should take note that these artists are "real people," and that they should consider art as a serious profession.

"It's something you can do," Schorr said. "It's not just a fun class you take in school."

## The Grand Rapids Press

June 1, 2006

### **Dabbler in art wins Capitol viewing**

EAST GRAND RAPIDS -- Jessica Zevalkink would rather hang fine art than create it. She took top honors in her district of the 2006 Congressional Arts Competition, anyway.

Zevalkink's oil painting, "Holding On," beat 63 other entrants from the 3rd Congressional District.

"I didn't think anything of it. I got my painting done just in time (for the contest) because Mrs. Pollice made me get it done," Zevalkink said.

East Grand Rapids High School art teacher Sharon Pollice said she asked six students to submit entries. The top prize is having their work hang in the Capitol, and a trip for two to Washington, D.C., to attend the opening ceremony with the winners from each district.

Pollice said Zevalkink, a transfer student from Grand Rapids Christian High School, has loads of talent and plans to go to art school, but needed to build a portfolio.

"From the very beginning you could see her ability, her eye-hand coordination, her drawing skills, her use of color, were wonderful. She seems to really like portrait work; she has a real sensitivity," Pollice said. "But if she wants a scholarship, she has to have a portfolio."

Zevalkink said she is "not completely passionate about fine arts and painting." Her desire to go to art school has more to do with pursuing work in the interior design field. "I love decorating things," she said.

She's already dual-enrolled with Kendall College of Art and Design for next year, with classes in basic design as well as drafting and design.

She has plenty of artists around her, however, to keep her appreciating art. Her older sister, Alex, is an artist whose work she admires. Her best friend, Olivia Gilmore, also a student at East, is another an influence. "Whenever I see her stuff, we get ideas from each other," Zevalkink said.

Zevalkink is already making plans to tour D.C. with her parents this summer, but is thinking westward after next year. Two schools she is considering are Academy of Art University in San Francisco and Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, also in California.

## **Morning Sun**

June 2, 2006

### **PEAK set for summer**

As school doors close for the summer parents are stuck with trying to find something constructive for their kids to do.

That is where the Partners Empowering All Kids summer programs comes in.

"It's a program where we expose kids to a lot of different opportunities where they can have fun and play with other kids throughout the summer," said Nate Lockwood, PEAK director. "It's a safe way for the kids to have fun, be active, and even learn in the summer."

During the day kids take part in learning activities, while the afternoon features fun, but still enriching events. Among the activities are arts and crafts, sports, and field trips to local places like the Student Activity Center for swimming, miniature golf and roller skating, or larger scaled trips like to Ferris State University to see the Animal Education Center or to East Lansing for the water park, Lockwood said.

"It's a day camp with hands-on learning activities."

Participants in the PEAK summer programs are not required to attend a minimum number of days, Lockwood said.

"You can attend as often as you wish, but it's the same price."

This year PEAK is also partnering with Central Michigan University's Summer Reading Clinic of July 5 to Aug. 3. Cost for the reading clinic is \$125 and students in grades K-8 are eligible to improve their reading skills. Students do not need to participate in PEAK to take part in the clinic, but registration is handled by PEAK.

After not receiving any 2 percent funding this year, Lockwood said PEAK is still OK for the summer.

"We are projecting to be good through early June 2007," he said. "Hopefully we'll get another go around with the 2 percent funding and we are looking into other grant opportunities."

With half of the PEAK elementary summer program being funded from the 2 percent, and nearly all of the junior high's, Lockwood said the elementary portion is most feasible for saving.

"We're just looking forward to having a great summer," he said.

Summer school for junior high and high school students is also offered through PEAK by contacting the local schools.

To register for PEAK summer camp programs or for the CMU Reading Clinic call the Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation office at 779-5331, visit the office inside City Hall or online at [www.peakafterschool.org](http://www.peakafterschool.org).

## Cadillac News

June 5, 2006

### **Local student's art selected to be on exhibition**

CADILLAC - A juried art show in Traverse City selected the work of local photographer Jason Rydquist, a graphic design student at Ferris State University, to be displayed in their "One Week in May" art exhibition.

Competing with 320 other artists for the prestigious 60 selections, Rydquist was surprised and thrilled that his photograph, titled "Conductor of a Nothing Train," was included in the show.

The photograph shows one of his friends walking on top of trains in the train yard in Cadillac.

"It's a gloomy subject matter because I shot it at a low point, but there are a lot of diagonal lines and textures that make it interesting to see," the artist commented.

"To be there at all is really cool. Talking to all these talented people - it was thrilling and amazing."

Rydquist became interested in photography in high school as a way to help a friend through a hard time.

"I wanted to show her how beautiful the world was, and although it didn't work out with the girl, the photography stuck with me," he explained.

Later, as a member of the yearbook staff, he honed his skills on Nancy Vollmer's 1960 Nikkormat, a camera she "graciously gave" to him.

He credits the encouragement of teachers Penny McDonald and Chris Fisher with motivating him to pursue photography.

"When other people started to support and encourage me and told me I have a passion and it's impressive work - I don't think without that I'd be doing what I'm doing."

When describing his work, he said: "I like to challenge other people's thoughts, feelings and emotions through art."

His said his family legacy includes photography. His great grandfather Peter August Rydquist was "trigger happy with his camera."

"Seeing those old pictures is what inspired me as a kid, seeing fond things preserved as photographs."



## **Midland Daily News**

June 5, 2006

### **Ferris summer bus tour highlights educational partnerships**

BIG RAPIDS -- Ferris State University President David L. Eisler and lead administrators will visit nine cities and four community colleges during the third annual Presidential Bus Tour of Michigan June 5-8.

First on the tour is a stop from 9 a.m. to noon on June 5 at Delta College to discuss articulation agreements, sharing resources and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Four new competitive scholarships will be available this fall to transfer students in all Ferris undergraduate programs, ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,700 per academic year. They are two-year scholarships with an option for a third-year renewal.

## **The Grand Rapids Press**

June 8, 2006

### **Etching wins national award**

CALEDONIA -- When he was younger, Drew VanderVeen made drawings at his grandmother's lakefront home and copied sketches from his great-grandfather's old drawings.

Now a Caledonia High School graduate, VanderVeen, 18, is on his way to New York to accept a Scholastic American Visions Award for an etching he did during art class.

"You get to compare yourself to your peers instead of artists in books," he said of the competition.

VanderVeen was to receive the Scholastic award today at Carnegie Hall. He is one of 80 winners from more than 220,000 entrants. The etching titled "Lana," after a friend, was completed for an Advanced Placement studio art class and also won a regional competition at Kendall College of Art & Design of Ferris State University.

After carving an image in Plexiglas from a photograph he took "playing around," prints were made by spreading ink across the surface and stamping paper.

An eye is at the center of the image as the face's features fade into shadow toward the edge of the paper.

"I experimented with some, and then just started leaving-on more ink in some areas," he said. "The funny thing is it doesn't really look like her."

A new printing press in the classroom and a little motivation from teacher Mike Cornell aided VanderVeen's success.

"He pushes us to get out there," he said of Cornell.

The success is the latest for VanderVeen, who played on the school's state championship football squad. The son of Mary and Scott VanderVeen also plays drums in The Avian Conspiracy band.

He plans to study something art-related at Grand Valley State University. "He has a real gift," his mother said.

## **Savannah Now**

June 12, 2006

### **A high school diploma just isn't enough**

Savannah Tech's customized training helps employers find workers to suit specific needs.

Job applicants who expect to get a paying position had better bring something more than a high school diploma to the interview.

"Industry is tired of hiring people straight off the street," said Thomas Crandell, director of corporate services at Ferris State University in Michigan, which runs the National Council for Workforce Education.

"It used to be if you graduated high school and could carry a lunch box you could get hired in manufacturing. But kids aren't learning applied knowledge in high school. What they learn they don't know how to apply, and that makes it difficult for them to pick up a good job."

But Savannah Technical College has developed customized training programs that get high school graduates into good jobs and produce qualified workers for local industry.

Demand for skilled workers

Workers just out of high school used to be able work their way up in manufacturing and service jobs. But those industries have become more complex and require skilled workers with certification.

In fact, six out of every 10 jobs in America are available only to workers who gained advanced skills and training in college or technical schools, according to the American Council on Education's 2004 School to College Transition report.

That shift has led the nation's educators, politicians and business leaders to call for all high school graduates to complete at least two years of college-level academics.

But answering that call isn't so easy in states such as Georgia, which has the second-highest dropout rate in the country and the third-lowest number of 18 to 24-year-olds enrolled in college.

A large number of young Georgians don't even have high school diplomas.

A recent study by the conservative-leaning think tank, the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, reports that 44 percent of the Georgia students leave school without graduating.

And many of those who graduate are going to work and not college.

Only 28 percent of the state's 18- to 24-year-olds enroll in college.

### Work force development

Savannah Technical College's Economic Development Division offers services that help build the skills of the unskilled workers in Chatham, Effingham, Bryan and Liberty counties. They create customized training courses for businesses, designed to upgrade the skills of current employees. When students complete the customized programs they are guaranteed a job interview.

Kerry Scott, president of International Longshoreman Association Maintenance and Repair Local 2046 said Tech does assessments to determine if their workers have welding skills that would qualify them for jobs repairing containers and chassis. They are also working to create a welding training program.

"We're working with them now to set up an apprenticeship program to train people in welding," Scott said. "There's really no training for that around here."

If companies are looking to attract a large number of applicants for a highly specialized job, Tech will also set up diploma and certification programs designed to generate graduates who are trained to suit.

Orafol USA Inc., a self-adhesive PVC film manufacturer opening its first U.S. headquarters and manufacturing site in Bryan County this summer, has an agreement to train prospective employees for 400 jobs. Training will include everything from an overview of the manufacturing process to working with decimals and digital calipers.

Tech also created certification programs designed specifically for Gulfstream, which is planning a \$300 million expansion. Training in aircraft structural assembly, warehousing and distribution, and customer service is open to those with high school diplomas and GED certificates.

"We expect the partnership with Savannah Tech will result in a larger, more qualified local candidate pool, which is a benefit to both Gulfstream and the community," said Gulfstream spokesperson Julie McCoy.

Tech is also developing an airframe and powerplant certification school to train and license future maintenance technicians.

Students benefit just as much as the companies, said Ken Boyd, vice president for economic development at Savannah Tech.

"If a person goes out there and supplements their high school education with skills that businesses are hunting for, that company will guarantee them an interview," Boyd said.

"Companies know the students coming out of our programs are exactly what they want to hire."

Many people who want higher paying jobs, but don't have the education and skills to get them, think college is beyond their reach. But by offering on-site training programs many unskilled people are getting technical college training.

A Savannah Tech instructor comes on site to assist with the masonry, basic carpentry, and concrete forming training courses offered at St. Paul CME Technical Training Center downtown.

"Even if they don't have a high school diploma they can start this program and work on their GED as they go," said Donnie Gillis, instructor and director of the St. Paul training center.

The program has a 65 percent completion rate and all program completers are certified as apprentices in their specific trade.

"When they finish, they may get 15 or 16 contractors making them job offers," Gillis said.

## **Pioneer**

June 14, 2006

### **FSU Community Summer Band Concert No. 2 today**

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University Community Summer Band directed by Richard Scott -Cohen will perform at 7 p.m. today in Centennial Park located near the Mecosta County Medical Center in Big Rapids.

This is the second of six weekly concerts presented by the FSU Community Summer Band. Area middle school students, high school students, college students and community members perform light and enjoyable selections for classmates, family members, neighbors and visitors to Big Rapids.

Last week the FSU Community Summer Band brought the community together for a delightful evening of music, balmy breezes, refreshments, and support of the Old Jail's Roof Restoration Project.

For the second concert, the FSU Community Summer Band will once again join forces with the community, this time at the annual ice cream social hosted by the MCMC Auxiliary at the hospital and Centennial Park.

This event also will celebrate the hospital's official change of name to Mecosta County Medical Center. Featured soloists on this week's concert will include Susan Wenger on Alto saxophone, vocalist John King, and Ed Mallett on euphonium and tuba.

The program will include the following works:

- Blue Bells of Scotland by Arthor Pryor
- Cherrio March by Edwin Franko Goldman
- Flight of the Bumble Bee by Nikolai Rinsky -Korsakoff
- The Florentiner March by Julius Fucik
- Over the Rainbow by Harold Arlen & E.Y. Harburg
- The Pink Panther by Henry Mancini
- Put On a Happy Face by Charles Strouse & Lee Adams
- What a Wonderful World by George David Weiss & Bob Thiele
- William Tell Overture by Gioachino Rossini
- The Wizard of Oz by Harold Arlen & E.Y. Harburg

Celebrating its 41st season, the FSU Community Summer Band is proudly sponsored by Ferris State University. The band meets every June and July for a series of 6 weekly musical escapades, each of which includes one rehearsal and one concert.

The concerts are free, open to the public and take place each week on Thursdays in parks and other venues around the greater Big Rapids area.

Each concert features a different program, making for rich musical encounters for our performing musicians and for our community of friends, family, neighbors and visitors who come to watch and listen.

An alternate rain location is set for Riverview Elementary School located at 509 Willow Ave. in Big Rapids.

## **The Flint Journal**

June 19, 2006

### **'Smart pills' Drug use on rise in classroom**

Jeff Ewing was first prescribed Adderall to help him focus after he returned to Ferris State University after a major auto accident that had robbed him of a year of school.

But what the 24-year-old Fenton resident found "amazing" was how many healthy students were taking the stimulant to help them study after either partying or procrastinating.

"A lot of people would share them," Ewing said. "Some students (would) procrastinate and put all their studying onto two nights what would take most students a week."

Adderall is one of a host of pharmaceuticals - dubbed smart pills - that healthy students increasingly seem to be using across the country to survive in an ever competitive scholastic world.

Some ambitious students even see them as the winner's edge, the difference between a 3.8 average and a 4.0 or maybe their ticket to Harvard Law School.

These so-called "brain steroids" - such as Ritalin, Provigil, and Strattera - help with concentration, focus, wakefulness and short-term memory. The drugs can be purchased on campuses for as little as \$3 to \$5 a pill, many students report, or obtained free from friends with legitimate prescriptions, as Ewing observed.

Recent statistics are now supporting the anecdotal evidence.

More than 7 million Americans used bootleg prescription stimulants, and 1.6 million of those users were of student age, according to a study of 2002 data published in February in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, an international biomedical and psychosocial journal.

In May, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America's annual attitude-tracking study on drug use reported that among kids of middle school and high school age, 2.25 million are using stimulants such as Ritalin without a prescription.

That's about one in 10 of the 22 million students in those grades, as calculated by the U.S. Department of Education. Half the time, the study reported, the students were using these drugs not so much to get high as "to help me with my problems" or "to help me with specific tasks."

Locally, officials at area colleges and universities say they are aware of the issue, but say there is little evidence of widespread use. Health consultants at the Genesee Intermediate School District say they're discussing adding questions about the drugs in their student surveys try to find out how serious the problem might be, said Jerry Johnson, a spokesman for the GISD.



"There is an awareness that it may be happening, but we don't know who, where or how much," he said.

At Kettering University - a co-op school known for its high achievers - sometimes healthy students attempt to get the pills after seeing how they help fellow students who have been prescribed them for medical reasons, said Deborah Williams Roberts, director of the school's wellness center.

"They think they know what they need," she said. "We're not going to do it because we generally (know) what it's all about."

Williams-Roberts said the center will help those students seek alternatives for problems they may be facing with stress, sleep or their studies. If the student legitimately needs the medicine, the issue will be referred to a family doctor.

She said it doesn't appear that healthy students are abusing the drugs, although that doesn't mean it isn't happening.

"We're definitely on the lookout," she said.

Some area college students also have heard of the drugs but say they don't know anyone who uses them for studying. "It'll probably be more prevalent on more competitive campuses," said Derek Williams, a 23-year-old economics sophomore at the University of Michigan-Flint.

"(But) if you really like what you're doing, you shouldn't need that for an edge."

Still, Williams, who went to Bentley High School in Burton, said that in high school it was known that Ritalin was available for kids who wanted to get high. "I'm surprised you're using it for a smart pill," he said.

Ewing, who recently stopped taking Adderall and is back in the area to take one class to complete his degree in business administration, said society should pay closer attention.

"It truly is an over prescribed drug," he said. "It's very difficult to get off of. They should definitely regulate it more."

## **Pioneer**

June 20, 2006

### **Wife of Gov. 'Soapy' Williams dies in Georgia at age 91**

LANSING- Former Michigan first lady Nancy Williams Gram was remembered Monday as a gracious, intelligent woman who was ahead of her time in pushing for women's rights and child labor laws and often served as a statewide ambassador for her husband, Gov. G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams.

She died Monday in Savannah, Ga., a family friend said.

Tom Farrell Confirmed the 91-year-old former first lady's death after being told about it by Grams son, G. Mennen "Grey" Williams, Jr.

Nancy Quirk was born in Ypsilanti on June 12, 1915.

## **Pioneer**

June 21, 2006

### **Summer Band Concert No. 3 set for Thursday**

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University Community Summer Band, directed by Richard Scott Cohen, will perform at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Castle in Canadian Lakes.

This is the third of six weekly concerts presented by the FSU Community Summer Band. 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 artists on this week's concert will include vocalist John King, Ed Mallett on euphonium and tuba, visiting guest conductor Erik Janners, of St. Xavier University in Chicago, and Ferris President David Eisler as guest conductor.

In the previous two weeks the FSU Community Summer Band has brought the community together at the Big Rapids Old Jail and at the annual Ice Cream Social hosted by the Mecosta County Medical Center Auxiliary at the hospital and Centennial Park.

The program will include the following works:

- Azcarraga Spanish March by Richard Scott Cohen • Big Fun in the Sun by David Marshall
- Cheerio March by Edwin Franko Goldman
- Eine Kleine Nachtmusik by Wolfgang Amadeus 'Mozart
- Fiddler on the Roof by Harold Arlen & E.Y. Harburg
- Flight of the Bumble Bee by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakoff
- The Florentiner March by Julius Fucik
- Napoli (Funiculi, Funicula!) by Arthur Pryor
- Man of La Mancha by Charles Strouse and Lee Adams

Celebrating its 41st season, the FSU Community Summer Band is proudly sponsored by Ferris State University. The band meets every June and July for a series of six weekly musical escapades, each of which includes one rehearsal and one concert. The concerts - which are free and open to the public - are presented each week on Thursdays in parks and other venues around the greater Big Rapids area.

Each concert features a different program, making for rich musical encounters for our performing musicians and for our community of friends, family, neighbors and visitors who come to watch and listen.

Upcoming concerts include the following:

- June 29 at the Riverwalk Band Shell, Big Rapids, 7:30 p.m.
- July 6 at the Riverwalk Band Shell, Big Rapids, 7:30 p.m.
- July 13 at the Riverwalk Band Shell, Big Rapids, 7:30 p.m. Rehearsal dates for those interested musicians are as follows:
  - June 26, July and 10 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the FSU Music Center (room 108).