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The Grand Rapids Press

October 6, 2005

At GVSU, paying with plastic will cost you

Facing \$600,000 expense, university adds \$15 fee when students charge tuition.

ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP - Cassie Tinsley was planning to pay her Grand Valley State University tuition bill with a credit card this semester, but changed her mind when she found out, doing so would cost her an extra \$15.

"I wrote a check," said Tinsley, a senior from Lake City. "Fifteen dollars is fifteen dollars."

In the latest wave of belt-tightening, GVSU administrators decided to cut the \$600,000 they spent last year on credit card processing fees. The university this year is putting the onus on those who want to continue to pay with plastic.

After forums to discuss the issue with students last year, administrators contracted with Western Union Speedpay to handle all credit card transactions for student accounts.

"This gave us the option not to raise tuition as much because we're collecting more of what we bill," said Jim Bachmeier, associate vice president for business and finance.

Last year, credit card companies claimed about \$20 of every \$1,000 bill was paid with a credit card.

"It adds up to \$600,000 pretty fast," Bachmeier said.

Administrators projected credit card processing fees likely would have topped \$700,000 this year and \$1 million within the decade had the university continued to absorb the cost. The new fee has reduced campus credit transactions, but Bachmeier said there always will be students willing to pay it to be able to swipe their cards and earn cash-back rewards or frequent flier miles offered by many credit card companies.

GVSU students still can pay their bills by check, cash or electronic check with no additional charge.

Western Michigan University administrators spent more than \$1.3 million on credit card fees last year.

Jan Van Der Kley, WMU's associate vice president for finance, said the school's credit card processing expenses have doubled in the last six years and they eventually may force the administration to consider adding a credit user fee.

Dave Engels, director of business operations and student customer service at Ferris State University, said he has fought the suggestion to charge students who use credit cards, even though the university is spending about \$400,000 on processing fees.

"If you encourage them to pay online and then penalize them. I felt that would be discouraging," Engels said. "There's always people trying to find ways to save money, but it's another cost to the student."

Grand Rapids Community College spent more than \$400,000 on credit card processing fees in the last two years, while Aquinas College absorbed about \$43,000 last year.

Neither is looking to start charging students a fee.

Credit cards are not accepted at Calvin or Hope colleges.

"We did a study about three years ago and figured it would cost us about a 1 percent tuition increase to cover the additional (credit processing) cost," said Henry DeVries, Calvin's vice president for administration and finance.

GVSU's \$15 fee came as a surprise to Adam Bakker, who also paid an extra \$30 fee to pay his tuition in four installments this semester.

While the Wyoming senior doesn't like the credit card fee, he said: "I understand why I have to pay it. I guess it beats them raising tuition."

Pioneer

October 7, 2005

Homeless for Habitat

BIG RAPIDS -Several Ferris State University students were "homeless" during a 48-hour awareness project on the Campus Quad.

From noon Wednesday to noon today (Friday), students constructed and resided in Box City 2005. Three large cardboard boxes, covered with blue tarps, stood on each side of the school seal in the center of the quad, flanked on one side with a table and a few chairs and a portable fireplace.

In this flimsy shelter, approximately a half dozen students spent Wednesday night and seven people were set to spend Thursday night.

"We're trying to raise awareness of homelessness around the nation and this area," said Adam Passig, a sophomore and member of FSU's Habitat for Humanity group. "This is our third annual Box City."

The purpose of Box City is not only to raise awareness, but also to raise funds - a silver donation can was located inside one of the largest boxes.

"At our last count, we had \$85.53," Passig said Thursday morning.

The money will be given to the Habitat for Humanity International Hurricane Recovery Effort. The group doesn't have a target goal, instead accepting whatever amount people wish to donate.

Students sign up for residence in Box City, Passig explained, depending on their availability.

"They sign up for when they can come and they come," he said. "We get a lot of volunteers from the honors program to get their community service hours. You have to have 15 hours a semester of community service for honors."

Passig had "resided" in Box City since 7 a.m. Thursday, as well as five hours on Wednesday.

"It's not very comfortable," Passig began. "Last night (Wednesday) it was cold, so a lot of people were huddled around the fire."

The personal discomfort does have a purpose - awareness - and Passig believes it accomplishes that purpose.

"A lot of people have stopped by and gave money or asked about our organization," he said.

Pioneer

October 7, 2005

Domestic violence awareness month under way

BIG RAPIDS - According to statistics from the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, between October 2003 to September 2004 domestic violence programs in Michigan received 55,208 crisis calls - an average of 151 crisis calls per day. During that same time period in Michigan, domestic violence programs provided residential and non-residential services to 56,924 women and children.

Did you know that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month? This is a time to recognize the survivors as well as remember those who have lost their lives to domestic violence.

The Women's Information Service, Inc. (WISE) is a non-profit domestic violence and adult sexual assault program serving residents of Mecosta, Newaygo and Osceola counties. This October WISE will be offering several opportunities for the community to support victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Here's a list of some of the planned activities:

On Oct. 4 Ferris State University will be hosting a Take Back the Night March and Rally to kick off the month's activities.

WISE will be offering Domestic Violence Awareness vehicle magnets for \$3 each.

In order to reach out to the communities of all three counties, WISE will be providing various prevention and awareness presentations. These presentations are available to any school, agency or community organization. They include an overview of WISE services, domestic and adult sexual violence information as well as a time to ask specific questions about domestic and adult sexual violence. Presentations vary in length and can be designed to meet your organization's needs.

Informational displays will be placed in local schools and libraries.

Area churches will be encouraged to show support for victims and survivors by designating a Sunday in October as Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday and utilizing a hymn during that Sunday's service that was written specifically for domestic violence survivors.

If you have questions, are interested in scheduling a presentation or purchasing a vehicle magnet, please call (231) 796-6600 and press 0 for more information. Communities working together can make a difference.

Pioneer

October 8 & 9, 2005

Ferris homecoming offers 'something for everyone'

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University campus community is gearing up for Homecoming 2005, which begins Sunday and runs through Oct. 15.

As organizers fine-tune the last-minute details, they predict 2005 will be a bigger year than previous homecoming celebrations.

The week's kick-off activity, the Bed Sheet Banner contest, already has doubled its participation with registered student organization and residence hall members hanging 17 banners around campus promoting this year's theme, "Ride the Tide of Bulldog Pride."

More entry forms turned in means more participation in the week's activities, which is good news for organizers.

"Homecoming has always been a great way to bring together students, alumni and the Big Rapids community to celebrate Bulldog pride and we strive to carry on that tradition," Homecoming 2005 Committee Chair Holly Atherton said.

"Homecoming is more than just a parade and football game. With a diverse lineup of activities throughout the week, there is bound to be something for everyone to get involved," Atherton added.

Speaking of something to do for everyone, the next Homecoming activity in the lineup is the annual Lip Sync contest on Monday at 8 p.m. in G. Mennen Williams Auditorium. On Tuesday, the kickball tournament will take place at Top Taggart Field at 6:15 p.m. Pep games will take place Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m. at Top Taggart Field and the traditional bonfire is on Thursday at 8:30 p.m.

During the bonfire, the Homecoming king and queen candidates, as well as Ferris' sports teams, will be introduced and a spirit rally will be held.

"Overall, I think Homecoming week will be a big success," Director of Student Leadership and Activities Cindy Horn said. "We have an outstanding committee who has done a wonderful job putting together some great events."

Comedian Dave Attell will be featured during this year's concert on Friday at 8 p.m. in G. Mennen Williams Auditorium. Attell is the writer and host of "Insomniac with Dave Attell," which is aired on Comedy Central.

Tickets are \$8 for students with valid student identification and \$15 for the general public.

The homecoming parade will take place at noon on Saturday in downtown Big Rapids, featuring Grand Marshals Dan and Luanne Rothstein and the king and queen candidates.

The parade also will include the Ferris Pep Band, bed sheet banners and floats, along with many other university-related activities and groups. At 2 p.m., the Bulldogs will take on the Northern Michigan University Wildcats at Top Taggart field.

The Homecoming Dance will conclude the week's activities on Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. The event is free and open to the public.

All events this year are sponsored by the Student Homecoming Committee, Student Activity fees as allocated by Student Government, Student Leadership and Activities and the Alumni Relations office.

Pioneer

October 11, 2005

Alumni to be parade grand marshals

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University alumni Dan and Luanne Rothstein were selected to serve as grand marshals and will appear in the 2005 Homecoming parade on Oct. 15 at noon in downtown Big Rapids.

Jeremy Mishler, director of Ferris Alumni Relations and one of many people who recognized the Rothsteins' dedication, chose the couple to serve as grand marshals as a result of their community involvement and "long, strong history" in Big Rapids.

When asked to be the grand marshals for this year's homecoming parade, both were overcome with joy.

"I've watched homecoming parades my entire life," said Luanne, a life-long resident of Big Rapids. "I was absolutely thrilled and honored to be asked to be in one."

Dan and Luanne, who graduated from the College of Business in 1964 and the College of Arts and Sciences in 1963, respectively, have been heavily involved in Big Rapids activities for many years, said Mishler.

As avid members of the community, the Rothsteins' long-standing history began in the 1920s when Luanne's father attended Ferris to receive his high school education. Coming from a poor family, he would "feed the boiler" in order to pay for his tuition. Later, he served on the board of control (referred to now as the board of trustees) and served on the alumni board.

During the 1960s, freshmen Dan and Luanne met for the first time on a blind date. The men were referred to as "pinheads," the women, "townies." During the time, Luanne said the ratio of men to women was about 8:1, so impressing the "townies" was very important.

The rest, of course, is history. Throughout the years, the Rothsteins have been avid supporters of Bulldog hockey, participating for six years in the Blueline Club, four of which they served as co-presidents.

They also have been involved with the city's Sesquicentennial Celebration, for which Luanne served as chairwoman. The celebration marked the anniversary of the birth of Helen Gillespie Ferris, co-founder of Ferris State University.

In addition, Dan also is serving his second four-year term on the Big Rapids City Commission.

Pioneer

October 12, 2005

Hospital, health department, university announce flu clinic plans

BIG RAPIDS - Local agencies that protect the community's health are planning flu clinics again this year, pending the availability of vaccines and new guidelines for vaccination.

Mecosta County Medical Center, District Health Department No. 10 and Ferris State University's Birkam Health Center have announced tentative plans to provide flu vaccinations during October and November, based on vaccine availability from manufacturers and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Last year, supplies of flu vaccine were virtually cut in half due to manufacturing shortfalls, leaving many individuals and communities to struggle through the winter flu season without sufficient immunization.

Difficulties with manufacturing capacity triggered national public health efforts to avoid unequal distribution and focus on vaccinating those most at risk. The ensuing shortages and spotty availability have led health officials to proceed cautiously in scheduling flu vaccination efforts for 2005.

Currently, and at least until Oct. 24, Centers for Disease Control guidelines allow persons over 65, residents of long term care facilities, persons aged 2-64 years with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, household contacts and out-of-home care givers of children under 6 months old and children aged 6-23 months to receive flu shots. Most providers of vaccinations will not immunize other individuals until the CDC relaxes stringent guidelines put in place during last year's flu vaccine debacle.

It is expected that CDC will allow the more stringent rules to expire in late October unless massive shortages again exist.

This year, information received from Sanofi and Chiron, the two primary suppliers of flu vaccines in the U.S., indicate that supplies will be adequate to meet historic demand.

Sanofi has already shipped significant portions of ordered stocks, while Chiron and associated suppliers, have indicated that shipments will move forward during October.

In response, local agencies who offer immunizations have tentatively scheduled adult flu clinics, whose dates and times may be subject to further change.

Current plans for flu clinics are listed here. Individual agencies may be contacted for updated clinic schedules and availability of flu vaccines.

Pioneer

October 12, 2005

Our View: Flu shots plan set: Maybe or maybe not

Flu season's just around the corner and local state and national figures are busy preparing to vaccinate as many people as possible to, limit the effects of "the bug" among the general population.

Last year, of course, the annual process was complicated by a shortage of vaccine and this year health officials are hinting that we may face the threat of a second strain of flu now rearing its ugly little head in Asia.

Officials' project that we should have plenty of vaccine for standard types of flu, but are scrambling to protect people here in the United States from the avian (bird) flu that has claimed at least 60 lives in Asia.

While there seems to be disagreement over the likelihood of the avian flu spreading from chickens to people and then people to people, state and national officials aren't taking any chances and are pushing drug companies to speed the production of a vaccine for the latest threat and are even formulating mass vaccination plans.

Meanwhile, federal rules initiated last year to see that those people who needed the shots most would get them first are still in effect and may well interfere with mass vaccinations of the regular strains of "the bug."

Local officials have released dates for vaccinations at Mecosta County Medical Center and District #10 Health Department and Ferris State University is making plans to vaccinate employees there in the latter part of October, but since federal limitations still apply, the shots will only be available on those dates to limited numbers of people, if the federal limitations aren't lifted.

While local health officials are expecting the "feds" to drop last year's restrictions, they can't guarantee it will happen before the dates they have established for their clinics. In fact, they're not even sure whether they will have enough general vaccine available in time for the planned dates.

So, as things stand now, clinics may be held in late October and early November, but those dates could be changed depending upon the availability of some or all the expected vaccine.

Or perhaps the shots will be available only for those most in need. Or...

And, then maybe we'll go through the whole thing again for the avian flu.

Isn't it great to see a plan come together?

Pioneer

October 14, 2005

Former FSU administrator Buckingham dies

BIG RAPIDS - William "Bucky" Buckingham, a former Ferris State University administrator and associate Vice President of Student Services passed away Tuesday; Oct. 11.

Buckingham worked at FSU from 1963 until his retirement in 1990. He served almost 20 years in a volunteer position as public address announcer for the Bulldogs men's' basketball and hockey athletics. Buckingham was known as the "Voice of the Bulldogs."

For his contributions to Ferris athletics, Buckingham received the first Bulldogs Athletics Special Service Award.

The Pioneer

October 18, 2005

The Drive to perform CD release show Friday

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University brought the trio together in 2000 and now they are performing their music throughout the area.

On Friday The Drive will release their third CD, Live Music, for an 18 and up crowd at The Hideaway in Big Rapids. The Locals, a band from Chicago, will open for the CD release party. The cover charge is \$3 and copies of the CD will be available to purchase.

The Drive is a "get-up-and-go acoustic rock" band comprised of three students from FSU's Music Industry Management program: Bryan Southerton of Manistee, who plans to graduate in December, plays acoustic guitar, performs lead vocals and serves as the primary music writer; Brad Southerton of Manistee (Bryan's brother), a May 2005 graduate, plays drums, sings back-up vocals, serves as the secondary music writer and lyricist; Randy Ray of Midland, who plans to graduate in May of 2006, plays bass and sings back-up vocals.

Other members of The Drive team include Mario Casa de Calvo of Lubbock, Texas, who serves as the band's primary lyricist and Michael Southerton of Marquette who performs Web site design and management, graphic design, photography and other music writing. The band performs, writes, records and promotes all original music.

"Our performances deliver high energy entertainment," Brad said. "Our music includes something for every one of all ages."

Recent shows include the band's 100th performance on Sept. 10 at Ten Bells in Grand Rapids, the Hard Rock Cafe in Cleveland and the XMG Conference. The band has performed in the following cities: Grand Rapids, Manistee, Traverse City, Saginaw, Detroit, Hersey, Mt. Pleasant, Hastings, Comstock Park and Midland: Out-of-state performances include Columbus, Ohio; Shelbyville, Ind.; Toledo, Ohio; and Milwaukee.

Although the band plans to move to Chicago someday, Michigan will always hold a special place in their hearts.

"The fans we have here are phenomenal," Bryan said. "We will always come back to Michigan."

The Drive also will be performing at "Rock You Like a Hurricane," a benefit for hurricane victims at The Hideaway on Oct. 27. Other bands participating in the fundraiser are Five Year Echo, The Afterword, Decadence and \$10 Minimum.

After the release party on Friday, CDs will be available to purchase at Java Jacks and Sam Goody in Big Rapids: For more information about The Drive, visit <www.drivethe.com>.

To listen to its music online, visit <www.purevolume.com/thedrive>.

The Grand Rapids Press

October 19, 2005

U-M pledges roll in, but donations for faculty support lagging

University campaign has raised \$1.83 billion of targeted \$2.5 billion.

ANN ARBOR - In this fundraising campaign, it is buildings over brains.

In the midst of a massive \$2.5 billion capital campaign, the University of Michigan is raising money at a clip that will exceed its goals in all categories except for one - money raised for faculty support, which includes endowed positions for faculty professorships and chairpersons.

Overall, \$1.83 billion has been pledged or received for the campaign, dubbed "The Michigan Difference." That's 73 percent of the \$2.5 billion goal accounted for, and U-M has more than three years left before the campaign ends in December 2008.

While the overall campaign has been sustained by many large donations from alumni and friends of the university over the past few years, money for faculty support is being raised at a slower pace than fund raisers had hoped. About \$182 million for faculty support has been pledged or received, which is 43 percent of that category's \$425 million goal.

For several reasons, U-M officials say, early on in the campaign the university chose to put buildings and facilities needs near the top of the list. Potential donors were directed toward building projects.

"You have to have the dollars by a certain date to put a shovel in the ground," said Robert Groves, associate vice president in U-M's development office and director of the fundraising campaign. "Many times we end up working on student support and faculty support over a longer period of time with people funding them over a period of years."

The facilities needs identified by faculty and administrators were great, U-M officials say. Facilities needs are a greater portion of the campaign than is typical at a public university, Groves said.

But in any case, improving facilities helps the students who learn in them, and helps U-M recruit and retain top professors, one of President Mary Sue Coleman's top priorities.

"I thought it was the right trade-off to make, because so many of the deans and so many of the faculty came with their real concerns about the facilities they were in, either for renovations or for getting new spaces," Coleman said. "And when I went around and looked, I could understand what they were talking about."

The Michigan Difference campaign was announced publicly in May 2004, but the so-called "quiet phase" of the campaign began in July 2000. Private dollars raised early in the campaign, along with the U-M's own resources and investments have fueled a current build-up of about \$1.7 billion in projects that are either being built or designed.

Among those projects are performance spaces in the Walgreen Drama Center being built on North Campus and the academic spaces of Weill Hall, a new home for the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy that is rising at State and Hill streets.

Money also is being raised for still more projects that have not yet received a green light and are still in conceptual stages. Among them are a new addition and renovation to the Law School, which has been working with Renzo Piano Building Workshop.

Private fundraising also is being sought to cover some costs of a new biology building.

Pioneer

October 22 & 23, 2005

Diversity workshop brings student, administration leaders together

GRAND RAPIDS - For the first time in West Michigan higher education, student leaders from the region's colleges and universities will meet in a day-long diversity symposium designed to address issues of diversity, cultural competence and inclusion in educational environments.

The workshop will take place Tuesday beginning at 9 a.m. in Aquinas College's Donnelly Center. Immediately preceding the student leader symposium, the presidents of West Michigan's colleges and universities will gather in the Donnelly Center at 8:30 a.m. to reaffirm their support for the Campus Diversity Compact they initialed three years ago. The gathering also will include remarks from several of them about their respective campus initiatives.

Ferris State University is one of the schools in the compact and FSU President David Eisler will be at the meeting Tuesday.

"Ferris has always had a strong commitment to diversity," he said. "We're one of the most diverse universities in the state."

Eisler said the group had "lots of good intentions" and the opportunity to work together was "an asset for all of us."

"This group has been in existence a long time," Eisler continued. "It's a real positive step for the presidents of West Michigan institutions to come together."

The Diversity Compact was designed to reinforce the leadership roles university and college presidents take in supporting various diversity initiatives, not only on their campuses but throughout the region. The Compact pledged that the presidents would work together to share efforts and resources, support the activities of other institutions, engage in appropriate reciprocal partnerships with the broader community, hold one another accountable to these goals and cooperate in concrete ways to promote anti-racist and multicultural efforts. Their goal is to ensure the institutions of higher education actively contribute to the efforts in West Michigan to affirm, respect and embrace people of all ethnic and racial backgrounds.

The student workshop will be led by Oscar Perry, a training specialist and project manager for the Woodruff Institute for the Study of Racism and Diversity at Aquinas. He said the program is designed "to create a thought-provoking experience that challenges the student leaders to be more intentional about acceptance and inclusion, create new 'mental models' and turn mindless intolerance into mindful inclusion."

"Students will also gain awareness for success in a global society and strategies for effective cross-cultural and interpersonal communication," he added.

In addition to Ferris, the other schools involved are: Aquinas College, Baker College (Muskegon), Calvin College, Cooley Law School, Cornerstone University, Davenport University, Grace Bible College, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Valley State University, Hope College, Kendall School of Art and Design, Muskegon Community College, Reformed Bible College and Western Michigan University.

Pioneer

October, 25, 2005

College of Optometry student and faculty member recognized

LANSING - Two members of the faculty and a student at the Michigan College of Optometry, Ferris State University, have received recognition during the 109th Annual Convention of the Michigan Optometric Association at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

Dr. Mark E. Swan, member of the faculty, was elected association president during the convention. Dr. Swan, a 1988 graduate of MCO, previously served as association secretary-treasurer and trustee and is a winner of the association's Keyperson Award for significant contributions to the association and profession of optometry. As vice president, Dr. Swan is in charge of the association's State Affairs Division which includes committees on legislation, interprofessional relations and political action.

Another faculty member, Dr. J. James Saladin, received the Jack W. Bennett Educator of the Year Award during the annual awards luncheon at the convention. The award, named for the founding dean of MCO, recognizes an outstanding optometric educator. Students at the college nominate persons to receive the award. Dr. Saladin, who retired from the faculty this year, taught at the Ohio State University College of Optometry before coming to MCO in 1978. While at MCO, he developed FSU's first patent, the Saladin Card which assesses visual fixation disparity and heterophoria, areas of his expertise.

Devon Nicole St. Louis, fourth year student at MCQ, received the association's Student of the Year Award during the awards luncheon. St. Louis, who carries a 3.64 cumulative grade point average in the College of Optometry, has been an active member and secretary of the American Optometric Student Association and Michigan Optometric Student Association. She just completed a year as president of the, Optometry Student Government of MCO and president of the MCO Lions Club. Other activities include service with the Michigan Volunteers in Optometric Service to Humanity, the Special Olympics Opening Eyes program and Kids Day America. St. Louis was selected for the award, which recognizes outstanding leadership and academic achievement, by the MCO Scholarship and Awards Committee.

Pioneer

October 26, 2005

FSU fall concert set

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University West Central Chamber Orchestra will perform on Nov. 20 at 4 p.m. at FSU's Williams Auditorium. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

This year's annual fall string orchestra concert features a variety of classical hits by Bach, Dvorak, Mozart, Respighi and Vivaldi, as well as a new work by renowned Hollywood arranger and composer, Lennie Niehaus.

Currently celebrating its 39th season, the FSU West Central Chamber Orchestra is sponsored by Ferris State University as part of its "Music for Life!" initiative. It is comprised of Ferris State University students, adult community members, and select students from throughout West Central Michigan. Ferris students can earn credit and scholarships for their participation in the WCCO by enrolling in Music 271. Adult community members and qualified pre-university students recommended by their directors may participate free of charge. This string orchestra rehearses every Tuesday evening throughout the school year from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Music Center on FSU's main campus. We invite all experienced players of string instruments to join the orchestra.

Please contact director Scott Cohen at (231) 591-2484 or rscohen@ferris.edu to get signed up!

Scott Cohen is associate professor and director of instrumental ensembles at FSU. He directs the FSU West Central Chamber Orchestra, the FSU West Central Concert Band, the newly formed FSU Symphony Band and the FSU Athletic Band, and he also teaches courses in music appreciation. A native of Chicago, Cohen is a Phi Beta Kappa scholar from the University of Illinois, holds masters and doctorate degrees in conducting from Northwestern University, and is a former Fulbright Scholar to Spain. He is active as a conductor, trombonist, composer, arranger, music adjudicator, researcher, author and lecturer throughout the United States and Europe.