

# Media Packet

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## **Pioneer**

Wednesday October 8

### **Huntington, college's help students get smart about credit**

BIG RAPIDS - Huntington Bank and the American Bankers Association (ABA) will partner on Oct. 16 for National Get Smart about Credit Day. Huntington bankers will present a free credit education seminar at Ferris State University's Rankin Student Center at 11 a.m.

The seminar comes from a new curriculum developed by the ABA, and features a video and a quiz to gauge participants' credit and credit card awareness.

One focus in the session is the cost of credit. The seminar will illustrate the lack of wisdom behind "maxing out" cards and making minimum monthly payments. The program also will introduce students to credit reports and suggest they be regarded as a second resume.

# The Grand Rapids Press

Friday, October 10, 2003

## Ferris student ducks out with her fowl friends

By Barton Deiters and Ian Storey

BIG RAPIDS -- A Ferris State University student, facing a court-ordered eviction from her student housing today because she refused to get rid of two pet ducks, says she's packing up her poultry.

Beckie Ingham said she not only is leaving her apartment, but plans to leave Ferris and Big Rapids.

"Basically, they're expelling me (today)," Ingham said from her apartment, the ducks quacking in the background. "I'm trying to get out as soon as I can."

Ingham said she hopes to be out of Big Rapids by Monday -- and she is keeping the ducks.

Ingham has battled Ferris for months over her decision to keep the two mallards she took in as house pets.

After agreeing to give up the birds in June, Ingham changed her mind, saying the leases she signed for the past two years allowed "caged birds," and she should be allowed to keep them despite a change in policy this year allowing only fish in university-run housing.

"I don't know how any rational person can look at this and say I deserved this," Ingham said. "There are drug dealers, drunk drivers and minors in possession who are allowed to stay, but because of my two ducks, I have to leave."

On Sept. 29, 77th District Court Judge Susan Grant ruled the 27-year-old biology major violated her current lease with the university and should be evicted from the on-campus townhouse she has shared with her 4-year-old daughter, Molly, and pet ducks, Britain and Merrill.

The fight began in May, when the school discovered Ingham was keeping the ducks in the West Campus Family Housing Complex where she has lived for three years.

In her ruling, Grant said Ingham was aware of the new rules restricting pets to fish only and therefore was violating the lease she signed at the end of July by refusing to give up her ducks.

Ferris Spokesman Marc Sheehan said the university was waiting until today to determine whether Ingham had moved out of the apartment or was appealing the court's decision.

Sheehan this morning had not heard Ingham had moved out but said, "If the situation has been resolved, we'd be pleased with that outcome.

"We've never thought that student housing was an appropriate place to keep ducks," he added.

Ingham said she plans to enroll in a new school, but declined to say which one for fear that her neighbors will continue to criticize her choice of pets.

She said school officials and her neighbors went overboard on the duck issue, but Sheehan said Ferris has been more than patient.

In September, the university offered to house the ducks in an on-campus facility free of charge and give Ingham access to them, a proposal Ingham rejected because she said it would be detrimental to the animals.

"I know that Ms. Ingham at times has expressed frustration with the slowness with which things have moved, but quite frankly I think we've tried to be accommodating and not to be rash in any of this," Sheehan said.

## **Pioneer**

Wednesday October 8, 2003

### **Ferris edged by Lakers in deciding game**

ALLENDALE - The Ferris State University women's volleyball team had its three-match winning streak snapped Tuesday as the Bulldogs dropped a 3-2 decision to rival Grand Valley State in Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference action at GVSU's Fieldhouse Arena.

After the Bulldogs lost the first game by a 30-27 win in the second game. GVSU claimed game three 30-24, but Ferris was unable to pull out a 30-24 victory in the fourth frame.

However, the Lakers edged FSU 15-9 in the deciding game to notch the win. Outside hitter Karla Fairbanks tallied a match-high 24 kills and 20 digs to lead the Bulldog attack. Middle hitter Lauren Heine added 13 kills and freshman outside hitter Danielle Baucher chipped in 10 kills along with 19 digs for Ferris State.

The Bulldogs had five players reach double-digits in digs. In addition to Fairbanks and Baucher, Brittany Godlewski totaled 17 digs, setter Ashley Green netted 16 and setter/defensive specialist Emily Clouse recorded 15. Green also tallied a match-high 56 assists.

Ferris held a 68-67 edge in kills and a 100-93 advantage in digs. GVSU had 10 blocks compared to FSU's eight. The Bulldogs registered eight service aces and 12 errors while the Lakers totaled 13 aces and 17 errors. FSU falls to 8-10 overall and 5-3 in league play with the loss.

## Pioneer

Wednesday October 8, 2003

### **Creator of Ferris State's mascot to be grand marshal**

BIG RAPIDS - Terry Davenport. Ferris State University alumnus and creator of Ferris' widely recognized Bulldog logo, along with his wife Lisa will be grand marshals for the Homecoming 2003 parade on Oct. 18, starting at noon in downtown Big Rapids.

With "The Year of the Bulldog" being the theme for this year's homecoming; Davenport's return to the university is especially timely. In 1979-80, while still a Ferris student, Davenport designed what was to become the university's trademark spike collared Bulldog.

Until then, Ferris used a number of different bulldog images: Davenport's father, Big Rapids resident Dean Davenport, was Ferris Athletics Director at the time. The 1980 Commercial Art graduate is now chief concept officer for Yum! Brands, Inc., one of the world's largest restaurant companies, whose restaurant brands include KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Long John Silver's.

'The Ferris Bulldog is not the only hugely popular icon Davenport has created. With his marketing team he developed the animated version of Colonel Sanders, KFC's founder, sparking a tremendous sales increase for the restaurant chain that is an American institution.

A highlight of homecoming will be the naming of the mascot that Davenport reinvigorated. The bulldog itself has been Ferris State's official mascot since 1930, when the name was applied to the Ferris Institute basketball team after a sportswriter described the team's tough defense as "hanging on like a bulldog." For a time the mascot was unofficially named "Governor" after university founder.

Woodbridge N. Ferris, but the name has long since fallen into disuse. The Bulldog's new name, chosen by a vote of students and alumni, will be announced at halftime of the Oct. 18 homecoming game vs. Mercyhurst. Kickoff for the contest is slated for 2 p.m. at Top Taggart Field.

Homecoming also features a performance by comedian and Michigan native Sinbad on Oct 17. at Wink Arena, and the annual student/alumni homecoming dance reception at the Big Rapids Holiday Inn beginning at 8 p.m. on Oct. 18.

# **PIONEER**

Wednesday October 10, 2003

## **Alumni Association hosts shoot**

LAKE CITY - The party's going to be a bit louder than usual for the Ferris State University Alumni Association Saturday afternoon. That's when the association will host its first Northern Michigan Bulldog Sports Shoot. Slated to take place at Missaukee Conservation Club, 1431 Morey Road (M-66) in Lake City, the shoot will run from 10 a.m.-to-3 p.m. and will include lunch.

Jeremy Mishler, director of alumni relations at FSU, says sign-up for this first shoot has been relatively small. "We've invited all the alumni in the area to participate," he said "It's really more of a social gathering type of thing we were going for, and we have about 10 people coming. This is the first time we've tried anything like this."

The shoot will feature-both open skeet and trap shooting. Cost to participate is \$10. Said Mishler, "Tom Cook, a trustee on the Alumni Association, came up with the idea. We do a lot of different things with sports. We're just trying something different. Mishler added the association would likely hold the event again next year, either in the spring or again in the fall. More information about next year's shoot is available from the FSU Alumni Office at (888)378-3647.

# Pioneer

Weekend October 11 & 12, 2003

## **Ferris State anticipates tough fight from Tech**

**By Sandy Gholston Pioneer Sports Writer**

BIG RAPIDS - The Michigan Tech football program suffered what can perhaps best be described as a tumultuous off-season. Then again, to call it tumultuous might be an understatement.

On March 18, the university announced it would eliminate its football program due to restructuring as a result of massive budget cuts for state-run institutions. On March 31, the university released a statement that the near future of the Huskies football program had been rescued - at least for the time being.

According to a university press release, "the football program will become entirely self-supporting with private, non-general fund dollars."

Millions of dollars (endowment commitments of \$1 million by Dec. 31st and \$3.5 million for the future, according to an MTU press release) had to be raised or committed to rescue the football program from doom. In between the "dropped" stage and the "rein-statement" stage, the Huskies had to endure several of their student athletes transferring to pursue college gridiron opportunities at other universities.

Eventually, the Huskies moved forward. "It's great to be here. ... I mean it's really great to be here," said Michigan Tech head coach Bernie Anderson during media day in August in Allendale. We're going to play football this year and you can count on us playing football for many years to come. "Anybody who is still with our program after everything that has happened is someone who really wants to play football for Michigan Tech University. ... The others are gone."

Ferris State football coach Jeff Pierce can appreciate the fight his Bulldogs are in for when they suit up against the Huskies at Sherman Field in the Upper Peninsula city of Houghton this afternoon (Saturday) at 1 p.m.

"They're men on a mission and that's exactly what I told our guys at the beginning of this week," said Pierce, who is 6-2-0 during his head coaching career vs. Anderson's Michigan Tech program, including a 21-14 overtime win last season in Big Rapids on Oct. 12. "When you look at the things that those young men have been through during the last six months you know that you're going to be battling against a team playing with a chip on its shoulders.



"They have fallen short in some of their recent games in the win-loss column, but this is still going to be a major challenge for our team because they are a team that's going to come out and play good, hard-nosed football," added the FSU coach whose team owns a 3-2 overall record, including 2-2 in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference standings.

For a little perspective on MTU's 1-4 record, the Huskies have three of their four losses coming at the hands of No. 1 Grand Valley State, No. 6 Saginaw Valley State and then-ranked Findlay - three of the premier Division II programs in the nation this season.

Huskies' quarterback Dan Mettlach is one of the leading passers in the conference as he has completed 71-of 149 passes for 955 yards with 11 interceptions. Brian Janeshek is one of the top receivers for the Huskies and in the league with 35 receptions for 707 yards and six touchdowns.

Tech also has the second leading rusher in the conference in Chris Lomasney, who has carried the ball 161 times for 742 yards and five touchdowns. Lomasney is second only to Ferris' Derek Fudge, who has 766 yards on 140 attempts and eight TDs.

Perhaps the most pleasant surprise for Ferris in back-to back wins over Wayne State and Northwood during the last two weeks has been the improvement in its passing game. This, season, Tom Ntarsati, competed 54-112 passes for 668 yards with three touchdowns, but seven interceptions. During the last two weeks, however, Marsan and the offense have done a much better job protecting the football.

Taking care of the ball will be critical for the Bulldogs as they seek to come away with success on the road in Houghton." Right now, the guys are believing in themselves and believing in each other," Pierce said. "We went through some tough times when there could have been some finger pointing, but we've overcome that.

"There's still plenty to play for, but we have to continue to take it one week at a time - beginning with Michigan Tech."

# Port Huron Times Herald

September 21, 2003

## **Technical Education Center gives students a head start**

Anyone who wants to put a face on career and technical education today should meet Sharon Groh. Sharon, 19, is a graduate of the St. Clair County Technical Education Center. Also known as TEC, the center is run by the St. Clair County Intermediate School District.

She also is an honor graduate of basic training in the U.S. Air Force. She plans to study veterinary medicine after completing her Air Force requirements.

Sharon is an example of the type of students who increasingly see career and technical education as a way to get a head start on their futures. They are high achievers. They have high expectations. Career and technical education must be there to help them meet those expectations.

Overall, career and technical education is far different than it was a generation ago. As always, it remains oriented to helping young people learn career skills. Today, however, many of those careers are more sophisticated than they were 20 years ago - if they even existed 20 years ago.

That means the training has to improve, the career options have to be more diverse and the overall quality of education has to keep pace.  
That is happening.

The most significant change in career and technical education came in the form of the microcircuits at the heart of modern computing - making typewriters and carbon copies virtual museum pieces as far as modern business is concerned.

The people business and industry hire must be grounded in working with computers and understanding software. By extension, that means students must have a solid understanding of mathematics and the language arts.

What could have been done by touch, feel and sound a few decades ago now requires far more specific technical skills. If you need an example of these changes, look under the hood of '67 Chevy, '75 Ford or '81 Chrysler and compare it with the engine in any 2004 model.

St. Clair County TEC and the public school academies it chartered offer nearly 1,000 students 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours of career-focused education. Students also attend traditional classes at their home high schools in each of the county's seven public school districts. In the 27 years since TEC opened, it's proven to be an efficient system. By using the St. Clair County Intermediate School District, students across the county have access to career training that would be difficult or impossible for the county's school districts to provide individually.

The ISD also works with St. Clair County Community College to provide programming and expand student options. Sharon Groh, for example, took advanced courses at the community college while in high school.

The ISD's plans to provide top-quality career and technical education wouldn't succeed without highly qualified instructors. One way to ensure that is through a unique relationship between the ISD and Ferris State University, one of the nation's leading proponents of career-oriented education.

The result shows up in success stories such as that of Sharon Groh. She also graduated from Port Huron Northern High School where she was student of the month in February. She earned her certification as a veterinary assistant via the county's Health Careers Academy.

Dr. William Burrows of the North River Animal Hospital saw Sharon's work first-hand. "Sharon was one of the best students we have had the pleasure of training," he said. "She has a great future in whatever endeavor she chooses to take on.

Sharon should be proud of what she's accomplished. The ISD sure is.

# Petoskey News

September 22, 2003

## Ferris honors Charlevoix teacher

BY LISA HAYES

Joan Nelson went to Ferris on a fluke. As a physical education teacher in a school near Grand Rapids, the now 76-year-old Michigan State University grad was close to her colleagues still at the East Lansing campus. When a request came into the head office looking for a physical education instructor at Ferris State University, Nelson's buddy took the call.

"She said, 'Yes, I think I have someone for you,'" Nelson said. And she gave him my name." Following a successful interview at FSU, Nelson packed up her Norwegian mother and moved to Big Rapids.

"I didn't know that I really wanted to be a college phys-ed teacher," she said. "But I figured I would just do it and find out."

Nelson has fond memories of her first year in Big Rapids.

"Two or three people loaned me their station wagons, no questions asked," she said. "They took me under their wings. I taught with wonderful fellas."

During her 28 years at Ferris, Nelson said she advanced because of the support of her friends.

"These things don't just happen," she said. "They grow."

Her love for athletics has been growing since she was 6 years old, and announced to her family that she'd be a gym teacher.

"We didn't have gym classes or sports for girls then," the 1945 Charlevoix High School grad said. "But we did them anyway."

Now Ferris State University has recognized Nelson's continued support of the school's athletics, by inducting her into the FSU Bulldog Athletic Hall of Fame. Nelson received an Athletics Special Service Award Friday, Sept. 19, at the Hollister in Big Rapids.

"I'm happy, because it's all part of a wonderful family I have there," Nelson said. "Together, we grew and we grew."

Her award recognizes her "unrelenting commitment to Ferris athletics."

"It's not luck," Nelson said. "It's just the right person at the right time. It's how you played the game."

Throughout her career, Nelson taught swimming at the Belvedere Club in Charlevoix, played golf, swam and skied for many years. As a teacher she taught health, recreation, intramural sports, physical education, speech and English, and was a basketball, dance and cheerleading coach. Her favorite co-ed sports were volleyball and broomball.

She was the editor of the Journal for Health, Physical Education, Athletics and Dance for 12 years, and was an adviser to Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity of Women. In Charlevoix, Nelson was a board member for the Charlevoix Area Pool, and belongs to the First Congregational Church.

# The Grand Rapids Press

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

## Women sees virginity as her path to God

By Juanita Westaby

When Amy Shank, a 40-year-old Roman Catholic, tells people she is a consecrated virgin, they smirk, they titter, and they laugh out loud.

Sometimes, they congratulate her. And then, the nervous chuckles start again. "It's extremely counter-cultural," said Shank, of Reed City. "Society's gone so far in the other direction, it's difficult to understand. This isn't a well-known vocation."

Shank this summer became the first consecrated virgin in the 11-county Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids. The ancient rite is so rare today that Grand Rapids Bishop Kevin Britt had to look up how to lead it.

Shank since has become familiar with a one-word question about her perpetual vow of virginity. Why?

Why become a consecrated virgin - a religious post that stops short of sisterhood yet requires lifelong virginity as a symbol of belonging to Christ?

Shank, a media specialist for Reed City Schools, gently debunks every myth. It is not because she hates, is afraid of, or feels guilty about sex. She is not mentally ill. She loves men. She was engaged once but called it off. It is not because no religious order would take her as a member. Then why?

"I've never had any real passionate desire to get married. I had crushes on boys. I liked kids, but I never really had any real desire to get married," she said.

Virginity outside of marriage "was always something firm for me," she added. "I didn't want to displease God, and I didn't want to displease my parents."

Shank grew up in a Catholic family in Reed City, the oldest of three children of Dean and Sue Shank. She received a bachelor's degree in information systems from Ferris State University, went to work at Reed City Schools as a study hall teacher and went back to school to become a librarian. She received a teaching certificate from Ferris and a master's degree from Central Michigan University.

In her early 20s, Shank had a religious awakening during which Christ became more than just the deity to pray to at mealtimes.

"He was no longer some God up in heaven, looking down on you. He cared about every little thing about you. I wanted to do everything I could to please

She once was engaged but found herself pulled more and more to God. She looked at religious orders but found that was not right, either. What she wanted was a way to love and serve God.

Something clicked when she saw a description of a consecrated virgin as a "bride of Christ."

"God created everything including sex. He can certainly satisfy (sexual desire) and much, much more," she said. "Sex is holy, beautiful and special. But there is more to life than anything we experience in this physical realm."

The tradition of the consecrated virgin can be traced back to the Apostle Paul, who advises: "It is good for a man not to marry ... but it is better to marry than to burn with passion."

Paul counseled that being single (as he was) allows people to give Christ their undivided devotion. He directly addresses virgins: "An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world - how she can please her husband."

The rite of consecrated virgin fell out of use but was restored by the Vatican in 1970. There are five consecrated virgins in Michigan.

Bishop Britt expects Shank's ceremony will not be the last one he conducts.

"Fifteen years ago, there weren't any and, now, there are over 100 (in the United States). Is there a future for this? Obviously," he said. "As more women get to know about it, maybe more women will want to do it."

Britt said Shank's life automatically makes others re-evaluate their lives, their use of sex, and their willingness to make sacrifices. "Here's a single laywoman who's chosen to give her life to Christ - in our day and age, which is so saturated with sex."

There are an estimated 1,500 consecrated virgins worldwide, said Judith Stegman, of Lansing, who last month was voted president of the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins.

They are required to be self-supporting and never dependent on the church financially, notes Stegman, a certified public accountant who owns a firm.

She was consecrated a decade ago, at age 37. "It's important to give myself to Christ rather than to any other man," Stegman said. America's freewheeling attitude about sex is part of the reason most people cannot say the word "virgin" with a straight face, she added. "You can talk about anything to do with sex but virginity."

Stegman attended Shank's consecration at the Cathedral of St. Andrew's in Grand Rapids. Shank wore a white lacy dress. A gold wedding band was placed on the ring finger of her left hand. The rest of the ceremony is more similar to a priest's ordination than a wedding ceremony, Britt said.

Shank was warned she might not have a huge religious experience during the ceremony. She did not, she said. But two months into her marriage with Christ, things are going very well, she said.

She had a work-related problem at the beginning of school that left her "completely overwhelmed. Prior to my consecration, I would have been a blithering idiot," Shank said. "My tears flowed easily, but they were held in check this time. I was still overwhelmed, but I was at peace.

"A friend of mine says I smile a lot more often."

All consecrated virgins do some work in the church, but "it's not about doing, it's about being," Shank said.

"I had already made my commitment to Christ a long time ago and knew I would be single the rest of my life." The difference now is, "as a consecrated virgin, I'm a symbol of the church. My perspective is not me, me, me, me, me. My concern is for the church."



# Pioneer

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

## **Bulldog's compile nation's second-best GPA**

**By Sandy Gholston Pioneer Sports Writer**

BIG RAPIDS - Not too many topics of conversation generate a bigger smile for Ferris State women's basketball coach Tracey Fisk than her squad's stellar grade point average.

Talk about her team, along with its lofty academic status, and a big smile typically is the result for the sixth-year head coach.

The Bulldogs tied for the nation's second-highest cumulative grade point average in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Division II Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll. It's the fourth season in a row -the Bulldogs have finished among the top 25 teams in the nation under Fisk, whose squad boasted a 3.604 grade point average. Ferris tied with Dowling (N.Y) for the No. 2 spot and finished behind only Nebraska-Kearney's 3.723 mark.

During the 1999-2000 seasons, Ferris earned the nation's highest GPA with a 3.534, but Fisk notes this season -- even though the team finished in a tie for second - FSU earned its highest GPA ever. The Bulldogs' 3.604 GPA also ranked fifth-highest among institutions from the NCAA Divisions I, II and III, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and the National Junior College Athletic Association. "For us, this is a school record ... even though we did not finish No. 1 in the nation like we did before," said Fisk, whose team returns all five starters from last season's squad and eight letter winners overall. "The kids work extremely hard to be the best at everything they do.

"These ladies' goals are so high. Their expectations are so high and that carries over from the basketball court into the classroom.

"Whether on or off the court, these ladies have very high expectations."

The Bulldog women's basketball team was not just recognized by the WBCA. After the 2002-03 seasons, Fisk's club had numerous athletes recognized by the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference for their lofty academic efforts. Seven of the team's players received GLIAC

All-Academic Team honors. The athletes who earned league academic honor roll honors were Stephanie Benear, Lucy DeMartin, Sarah Duesing, Bridget Horwitz, Patti Larson, Molly Potvin and Kari Searles. Additionally, DeMartin collected first-team 2002-03 Verizon Academic All-District IV College Division and Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Athletic-Academic Honor team accolades.

The Bulldogs were one of two GLIAC schools recognized in the top 25 along with Ashland, which finished ranked No. 15 with a 3.449 GPA. Team grade point averages were determined by dividing the total number of quality points earned by each player on an institution's squad in the given academic term by the total number of hours earned by the team. They were rounded to the nearest thousandth of a point.

Last season, the Bulldogs finished 15-11 overall and 10-8 in the GLIAC and qualified for-the conference tournament for the fourth straight season. The 15 wins also represented the program's seventh-straight season of 10 wins or better.

Ferris begins practice this week, in the early morning hours Wednesday, in preparation for its season opener on Nov. 15 in Romeoville, Ill., against Lewis in a non-conference showdown.

# Pioneer

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

## **State officials say deficit is \$898 million**

LANSING (AP) - The state must fill a budget shortfall of nearly \$900 million after state economists Tuesday dropped their revenue estimates for the past and current fiscal years.

House Fiscal Agency director Mitchell Bean, Senate Fiscal Agency director Gary Olson and state Treasurer Jay Rising announced the figure, which they attribute to revenue that didn't come in for the fiscal year that just ended as well as lower than expected revenue for the current year.

Ultimately though, they said, Michigan's economic doldrums are to blame.

The overall \$38.6 billion state budget for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1 was expected to be between \$750 million and \$903 million in the red, according to estimates released Monday.

Earlier Tuesday, Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration estimated the shortfall would be \$974 million.

"We cannot fund the services that people have come to expect from state government at the level we've been ... and that's the bottom line," Granholm said.

But she said, the state will fix the budget.

The revenue estimating conference, normally scheduled for January and May, was set for Tuesday to update estimates for the current and previous fiscal years.

In May, Bean, Olson and Rising expected tax collections would be 3 percent higher at this point than the year before. Instead, tax revenues are down more than 1 percent from a year ago.

The Senate Fiscal Agency estimates last year's general fund budget took in \$197.2 million less than originally expected. The House Fiscal Agency estimated it got \$211.2 million less than first estimated.

The current general fund budget is expected to take in \$319.8 million less than economists thought in May, the House Fiscal Agency said.

The Senate's estimate was \$381.3 million.

Granholtm said if the state needs to cut about \$1 billion, every Michigan resident would be affected.

She placed blame on a "floundering" national economy. "People out of jobs are not paying income tax, and they're not buying," Granholtm said.

The governor also said there would be \$400 million extra for the state if the federal government would pass a Medicare prescription drug plan that would cover low-income seniors now covered by Medicaid.

She said she hopes she won't have to ask for new concessions from state employees, and that she doesn't support cuts to the foundation grant for K-12 education.

The School Aid Fund, which provides funding for schools and educational programs in the state. Also is expected to take in less money.

**The Detroit News**  
Wednesday, October 15, 2003

## **Colleges brace for tighter budgets. Schools, students wary with \$900 million shortfall for '03-04**

By Margarita Bauzá

**DETROIT** -- Students still reeling from double-digit tuition increases and curtailed student services fear another round of state budget cuts will tarnish their dream of getting a college degree.

"I'm afraid more cuts will push back my graduation," said Tiffany Owens, a Wayne State University information systems and manufacturing major from Detroit. "If I get less financial aid, I'll have to cut back on the credits I'm taking."

Owens, 23, said her financial aid already has been cut, forcing her to take fewer credits this year.

"I hope they leave my money alone," she said.

University official's state-wide cringed at the possibility of more cuts.

"We're not finished implementing all the cuts we had to do the previous year," said Wayne State Provost Nancy Barrett.

Those cuts included layoffs, early retirement, fewer class sessions and hikes in parking, tuition and services.

"We have units that have fewer employees than before and they have more students to support," she said. "That's happening all over. We've been hoping (more cuts) wouldn't happen."

State officials have not spelled out how much of a \$900 million budget shortfall would come from higher education spending, but college officials are wary.

University of Michigan vice president for government relations Cynthia Wilbanks said Provost Paul Courant would be leading discussions about where more cuts could come from.

"We worked over a period of months to plan for this year's budget cuts," Wilbanks said. "It certainly wouldn't surprise me if this one took another period of months. With a billion-dollar hole, what I'm hearing is that once again everything is on the table

# The Grand Rapids Press

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

## **Educators promised input on state spending cuts**

**Melissa Slager**

Faced with the specter of further state budget deficits, local educators were promised Tuesday they would at least have a say in what goes on the chopping block.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm said she planned to consult with "my employers" during hearings next month, before making further cuts to the school aid fund -- estimated this week to fall short by more than \$300 million combined over the last and current fiscal years.

"We've cut into the bone," Granholm said Tuesday after participating in a televised town hall meeting on early childhood education at WGVU studios. "We can't cut any further without consulting."

Government leaders will hold six to eight hearings statewide to get input from schools on what and where to reduce or eliminate expenses, Granholm said, adding "What can you tolerate? What can you do without for a year?"

One of the hearings likely will be in Grand Rapids. No dates have been set.

Public schools, universities and all other state spending plan recipients learned Tuesday they will likely feel the fallout from the deficit, estimated at nearly \$900 million.

The shortfall comes after the state took in \$302.7 million less in tax revenue for the budget year that just ended. Treasury and fiscal agency officials said the state's poor economy also will keep revenues about \$595 million lower than expected for the current budget year, which began Oct. 1.

Shortfalls in the school aid fund last fiscal year forced an executive-order cut in January, trimming school budgets mid-year by a collective \$127 million. State per-student grants were frozen for this school year at their 2002-03 levels, with adult education taking hefty cuts.

Granholm said she wanted to again spare per-student grants -- the bread and butter of school budgets. "However, the budget deficit is so serious, we have to evaluate everything, top to bottom," she said.

That means the state's portion of a \$39 million program to give sixth-graders laptop computers will be on the table, along with funding for categorical programs -- state-funded special programs, such as those for at-risk youth or the gifted and talented.

Cuts to special programs could disproportionately hurt large urban districts, such as Grand Rapids and Detroit.

Talk of more cuts has many area educators wondering what there is left to trim. There is early talk of cutting further into staffing and programs, but until districts see a solid figure, administrators are not outlining specific plans.

"They all cut as much as they possibly could (last year). To cut further is very, very difficult," said Ron Koehler, a communication specialist for Kent Intermediate School District. "We really think that legislators will have to look at pausing the cuts."

Concern over cuts come amid growing pressures to improve achievement, under such accountability programs as the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the state's Education YES! Accreditation system.

The governor was in Grand Rapids to promote early childhood learning through reading and play -- programs that educators long have desired to have public funding for to lift at-risk students' abilities before they enter kindergarten.

"We ought to be putting our money where our mouth is and funding early childhood education," Granholm told moderator Fred Martino and the studio audience for a program that aired Tuesday night.

But she made clear the "state government can't do it all" -- and absent federal funds, communities instead should rely on partnerships with businesses, churches, intermediate school districts and foundations to support such efforts.

**The Detroit News**  
Thursday, October 16, 2003

**10-year tax increase helps pump new life into college**

By Karen Bouffard

Wendy Daubenmeyer, 41, of Canton was a stay-at-home mom for her three boys, ages 9, 11 and 13, before enrolling in Wayne County Community College's dental hygiene program. She plans to graduate in spring 2005.

"I stayed at home until the youngest started school and then I wanted to start a career," Daubenmeyer said. "I decided to come here because of the quality of their program, and the high rate of passing the boards after completing of the program."

It's by catering to adult students like Daubenmeyer that enrollment at the college has jumped 31.5 percent compared with fall 2002, from 27,834 to 36,611 students.

A May 2002 Detroit News analysis of 1999 enrollment data found that six in 10 students who lived within the Wayne County college district attended suburban schools such as Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn -- and even Detroit students passed Wayne up, with about 40 percent attending suburban colleges.

But since then, a 10-year, 1.5 mill voter-approved tax increase has pumped money into the college for capital improvements and technology upgrades. And the college has retooled its focus to improve customer service and accountability, said Chancellor Curtis Ivery.

"In 2001, we were the fifth-largest community college in Michigan. Now we're the third-largest in the state, and certainly we're the fastest-growing. Obviously, we had a lot of room for growth," Ivery said.

"Things are just crazy in terms of enrollment -- when the economy is bad, students go to school, and we're doing a lot of retraining due to a lot of the layoffs. Community college enrollment is up all over the country, but things are just going extremely well.

"The perception throughout the county is that we're progressive, we're being accountable and responsive. Our faculty has worked really hard, and we're focused."

Enrollment is up 32 percent at the Downriver campus in Taylor, which serves the primarily suburban students who used to shun the school.



In the past year, the campus's 700-car parking lot has been repaved, classrooms and hallways repainted, and new carpeting, linoleum and lighting installed, said Nick Fleezanis, president of the Downriver campus.

"To create a proper inviting image, you have to have facilities that are proper and inviting," Fleezanis said.

But the changes go beyond sprucing up appearances, he added. The most important factor for attracting students is the quality of programs the college offers, he said. Convenience is also important, especially for adult students.

Tamim Jumah, 41, a security guard from Brownstown Township, will graduate from Wayne County Community College next spring with an associate's degree in computer information systems. He hopes the degree will lead to a better job.

He works nights and attends classes in the afternoon at the college's Downriver campus. It's close to home, the tuition is inexpensive, and he can drop off his 4-year-old son, Zacharia, at the on-campus child care center.

"I considered Henry Ford (Community College) but I found this more convenient," Jumah said. "It's very close to where I live, and they have connections with Wayne State, U of M and all the universities in case I want to transfer."

Technology upgrades have made it possible to offer online courses that enable students to download lessons and assignments any time of the day or night. Via telecourses, students can sit in on classes taught by teachers at different locations. There are also "hybrid" courses that combine online lessons with personal meetings with a teacher, Fleezanis said.

"Students are extremely mobile today, and they will go anywhere to take a course," Fleezanis said. "They will go where they can get the classes they want, when they need them, and in the delivery system they want."

"This helps them be able to manage their time and not be saddled with how we schedule the classes. It's a major convenience for an adult that is working or raising a family."

Ivery said turning the college around has required a commitment to quality by the entire faculty and administration.

"There's a real desire to say, 'Yes we can,'" Ivery said. "We will, we have, and we will continue to improve."

# Pioneer

Weekend, October 17, 2003

## **Homecoming festivities begin today in weekend of Ferris State events**

BIG RAPIDS - This weekend Ferris State University unleashes a series of events to celebrate homecoming 2003 with the theme "Year of the Bulldog."

Things get under way today (Friday) with the annual alumni nine hole golf outing at Katke Golf Club starting at 3 p.m. This evening the popular comedian Sinbad performs live at Wink Arena with an 8 p.m. show.

Starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, the Ferris Alumni Association hosts a Welcome Tent Tailgater at Top Taggart Field. Tailgaters also will find a chili cook-off tent sponsored by the College of Technology and a "Safety gate" tent sponsored by College of Education and Human Services.

The annual homecoming parade makes its way through downtown Big Rapids starting at noon on Saturday. Grand marshal for the parade will be returning Ferris Alumni Terry Davenport, designer of the university's bulldog logo, along with his wife, Lisa.

A 2 p.m. kickoff sees the Bulldogs battle Mercyhurst in a gridiron match-up at Top Taggart Field. A highlight of the "Year of the Bulldog" events will be the announcement during halftime of the results of student and alumni balloting to name the university's bulldog mascot.

Homecoming festivities culminate with the All-Student, All\_ Alumni Dance Reception at the Big Rapids Holiday Inn and Conference Center starting at 8 p.m. There will be a free "Dial-a

Continued from page 1A

ride" shuttle from Bond Circle and Lot 39 in front of the Rock Cafe to the Holiday Inn.

"The Student Homecoming Committee and everyone on campus is excited now that Homecoming 2003 is upon us," said Jeremy Mishler, Ferris alumni relations director.

"We are not only looking forward to welcoming back thousands of alumni and friends to campus, but making their experience memorable and part of Ferris history with the naming of our bulldog mascot in this, the Year of the Bulldog.

# Pioneer

Weekend, October, 16 2003

## Two issues concern former resident

To the Editor:

Congratulations go to Meijer and Big Rapids Township for their obvious plan to sell-out the township residents along Woodward Avenue in exchange for tax dollars.

I believe it was back in the year 2000 as Meijer was just beginning construction when the Big Rapids Township Board tried to extend the road north to Woodward but faced stiff opposition from residents and they lacked the funds to build it.

The township wanted it for an "emergency access" road on the east side of the expressway.

This was NOT the reason why the Big Rapids Township Board wanted the road. GREED.

The Big Rapids Township Board wants the road for development = tax dollars, so why not hint to Meijer to fund the project in exchange for the assurance that they would not get any "road blocks" from the township? Notice how quickly the road is being built, like this wasn't planned long ago.

When Waldron Way extension is completed, you will be able to avoid four traffic lights on Perry, but be subject to about a mile of 25 mph speed limit ... which currently a large majority of the traffic does not obey.

I may no longer live in the community, but my heart will forever be connected to Big Rapids, a town where I grew up and volunteered a lot of my time to try and make the community a better place either at the time or for years to come.

There have been a lot of exciting things going on in the area recently, which puts a smile on my face ... however that smile is quickly replaced with a frown when I hear of vandals damaging the new Riverwalk Bridge over the Muskegon River, or some FSU Criminal Justice students "drag racing" Michigan State Police cars down U.S.131 or when FSU students discovered a deceased person in a vehicle and rather than do the normal thing and contact authorities, these idiots decided to invite more of their friends over the next several days to "party with the dead guy"

I live just outside the second largest city in the state and people down here make fun of those that live in that "northern air" up there in Big Rapids.

Grand Rapids is not without its crime and problems, but holy cow, why can't people act a little more responsible?

There are nice pathways with bridges that are not vandalized and students from various colleges down here do not act the way that FSU students evidently do. Why? Nowadays when I am asked, where am I from? I say "up north."

David Puszczak Grand Rapids

## **Pioneer**

Weekend, October 17, 2003

### **Man pleads in stabbing**

BIG RAPIDS - A man has pleaded no contest to stabbing his girlfriend and another woman at a Ferris State University apartment complex, the Mecosta County prosecutor's office said.

Ryan Armond Freeman, 25, pleaded to two couples of assault with intent to commit murder, the prosecutor's office said in a news release. A plea of no contest is not an admission of guilt but is treated as such for sentencing purposes.

Freeman, a Grand Rapids native who attended North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C., entered the pleas in Mecosta County's 49th Circuit Court. A sentencing date has not been scheduled.

He was charged with stabbing his girlfriend, Asia Spearman, and her friend, Kameron Higgins, during the early morning hours of Oct. 7, 2002.

Armond was arrested four days later at a suburban Detroit hotel. Police said the women were stabbed with a knife after an argument at the Finch Court apartment.

Higgins, of Grand Rapids, was visiting Spearman, a Ferris State student who lived at the apartment with her two children.

Freeman is the father of the children, who apparently were sleeping in the apartment at the time of the attacks, police said.