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Pioneer

November 20 & 21, 2004

Michigan to rid helmet law?

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University heavy equipment professor Jeff Peticolas has been interested in riding motorcycles since he was 10-years-old. He purchased his first motorcycle in 1979 and has owned at least one bike since.

“On a motorcycle, if you are heading 60 mph into the side of a truck, your head is the least of your concerns. A helmet will not make a difference because you are going to die,” Peticolas said the recent Michigan Helmet law news.

On Nov. 10 the Michigan House voted in favor 69 to 39 votes with four representatives abstaining, of allowing bikers the ability to ride without their helmets, a Michigan law that was established in 1966.

However, the law is not officially lifted until it is approved by the Senate and Gov. Jennifer Granholm, which Peticolas said will more than likely not happen.

“(Senator Ken) Sikkema will not allow this bill to be passed. Every time the helmet law is brought up, it has gone this far in the House, but Sikkema said he will not let it get passed the Senate. Also, Granholm has vowed to veto it,” Peticolas said.

If passed, bikers over 21, who have had a special motorcycle license for at least two years and finished a safety course, would be allowed to ride without their helmets.

Peticolas and others across Michigan have been fighting to rid this law for years. “If they really want to make us safer, Michigan should make helmets mandatory in cars. There are more head injuries caused by car accidents than from motorcycle accidents,” Peticolas said.

He added Michigan should become a “free choice” state. Across the U.S., wearing a helmet is not mandatory in 31 states, including Florida, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin and most recently, Pennsylvania - lifting its 35-year-old law in September 2003, according to www.bikeraccidentlegalcenter.com.

A majority of the states require a similar restriction to those Michigan is considering approving. Also, a few states, such as South Carolina and Texas, impose heavier insurance stipulations beyond the proposed helmet requirements.

“I am just asking Michigan to give it a try. If it doesn’t work and there is an increase in accidents, we can always switch back to the old law.” Peticolas said.

Peticolas said there was a rise in the amount of motorcycle related deaths in Florida since its helmet law was lifted in 2001.

However, the riding season is 365 days in Florida, and more bikers flock to the state during major events, such as the annual Daytona Beach Bike Week in March, he added.

“There also has been a big increase in motorcycle deaths, but that could be because of the increase in motorcycle sales,” Peticolas said. “If Michigan changes to a ‘free choice’ state, it needs to be an ‘educated free choice’ state. Provide the necessary courses and show the pictures of people who have suffered from head injuries.”

Peticolas also said Michigan is losing valuable tourism dollars due to bikers, who are heading out west, bypassing Michigan and heading through states without restrictions.

“Bikers are taking their money out of Michigan. If a group of bikers want to go to Sturgis (South Dakota), they don’t want to take their helmets off or earn them or have to purchase a new helmet just to get through Michigan,” he said.

Michigan State Police - Reed City Post Trooper Michelle Taylor said not wearing a helmet is a civil infraction, and fines - similar to receiving a seatbelt infraction - vary across the state.

According to an Associated Press article, the Senate is expected to make a decision on the helmet law by the end of November.

“Helmets are good if you ditch your bike and your head bounces on the ground.”

However, if your head hits a wall going at least 25 mph, you will be a vegetable, and if that’s the case, I would rather be dead than a vegetable. Peticolas said.

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November 20 & 21, 2004

Students attend FSU career day

Gaining know-how: Ferris State University was host to Career Exploration Day Friday, held by the Mecosta County Area Chamber of Commerce for eighth-graders from Morley Stanwood and Chippewa Hills high schools. John Simaz, a building trades instructor from the Mecosta-Osceola Career Center talks about construction opportunities. Simaz was paired with Bob Cook, of Cook's Blacksmith Welding, and Jeff Carney, of the Ferris Welding Technology Engineering Department. Other presenters included agriculture, banking and education, among others.

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November 20 & 21, 2004

Ferris falls in regional opener

Allendale- In a span of less than one week, Ferris State went from one of its best performances of the season to one of its most disappointing.

Five days removed from the high of defeating Grand Valley State in the championship match of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament, in a three game sweep, the Bulldogs returned to Allendale. This time, however, the result was nothing short of heart-breaking for Ferris State head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm and her squad.

Ferris, which finishes the season 25-7, fell in a 3-2 (30-22, 22-30, 30-24, 24-30, 15-10) decision to Great lakes Valley Conference champion Southern Indiana in a first-round NCAA Tournament match inside the Grand Valley Fieldhouse Arena.

“The only regret I have right now, about losing this match, is now we don’t get to spend another day together as a volleyball team,” said Brandel-Wilhelm, whose squad fell into a big hole early in game five and never recovered. “Every day we got to spend together as a team is always special.”

Senior Karla Fairbanks, in her final collegiate contest, totaled a match-high 25 kills on a .328 attack percentage. In addition, Fairbanks finished with two service aces and 14 digs. Fellow senior Ashley Green tallied 46 assists and five kills’ with nine digs in her final contest. Danielle Baucher had 12 kills while Karla White finished with 10. Lauren Heine had five kills, Becky Thureau had three and recording one apiece were Brittny Godlewski and Megan Dusnik.

Defensively Godlewski had a match-high 22 kills. Baucher had 20, Fairbanks 14 while Emily Clouse had 13.

“It’s disappointing to beat ourselves at this point of the season,” said Brandel-Wilhelm. “At the same time, we got to this point of the season by playing so well, together as a team, and because our mental approach was so strong and was so focused.”

“We beat some outstanding opponents throughout this season because of that strong mental game.” Southern Indiana was led by Laura Ellersbusch, who had 16 kills; Emily Ryan, who finished with 14; Chelse Doubler, who compiled 13 and Leeanne Gross, who put up 11.

Setter Stephanie Wilson had 56 assists and 17 digs for the Screaming Eagles (24-6), who advance to the regional semi-finals to play Northwood today (Saturday).

Defensively, Amanda Probst led the Screaming Eagles with 21 digs.

“Southern Indiana is a good team that did a lot of good things in this match against us,” said Brandel Wilhelm, whose team entered the tournament as the No. 2 seed in The Great

Lakes Region. “The bottom line is what this match came down to was they got a lot of scoring on our errors.”

For the Bulldogs, Friday’s loss was the end of the road for Green, the most Valuable Player of the GLIAC Tournament, and Fairbanks, who was a first-team All-GLIAC pick and should be in line for some more post-season honors.

“Those are two incredible people and two great players,” said Brandel Wilhelm. “They are the kinds of players who bring so much heart and soul to a team.”

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November 23, 2004

Ferris students awarded New Horizon Landscape Scholarships

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University students Kala Briolat of Ubyly of Vernon Duddles of Chase have been awarded New Horizon Landscape Scholarships, presented to eligible full-time ornamental horticulture students in good academic standing.

New Horizon Landscape of Big Rapids owned by Andrew and Catherine Archer, has provided a wide range of landscaping services for 18 years. The scholarships are designed to help the next generation of landscape professionals' gain the knowledge and skills the need to excel in their own area of expertise.

The Ferris ornamental horticulture program combines classroom, laboratory and field experiences to prepare graduates for employment in such diverse areas as landscape design and construction, turf and golf course management, park management, botanical garden management and a wide range of supporting businesses.

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November 24, 2004

Three Men and a Tenor to present vocal music spanning five decades

BIG RAPIDS - Three Men and a Tenor will bring its high-energy, vocal music show with selections spanning five decades to Ferris State University on Dec. 7, at 8 p.m. in Williams Auditorium.

Tickets are \$8 for students, \$22 for Ferris faculty and staff, and \$24 for general admission and can be ordered online at <www.ferris.edu/arts> or by phone at (231) 591-5600. The Williams Auditorium ticket office, located in the lobby of Williams Auditorium, is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and two hours before the performance. Anyone needing special accommodation to attend this performance should call the auditorium office at (231) 591-3676.

The show is the second presentation in this season's live at Williams Performing Arts Series.

The popular group voted Michigan's highest-rated touring group by the Michigan Touring Artists Association, has performed internationally, and has shared the stage with such American artists as Lee Greenwood, Chuck Berry, Dionne Warwick, and the Beach Boys. Three Men and a Tenor have been seen and heard on more than 60 radio and TV stations in the U.S. The group also has a national PBS-TV special produced by Detroit Public Television (DPTV), airing in more than 70 cities.

Their live concert consists of original a cappella songs as well as songs from a variety of musical artists like Elvis Presley, The Eagles, The Beatles, Bob Marley, Sugar Ray, Garth Brooks, The Temptations and The Ink Spots, all presented with a big dose of clean humor.

"We think that people need some positive energy in their lives right now," said group member Mark Stiles.

The guys have titled their current tour and new CD, "Listen to the Music," after the song, written and performed by The Doobie Brothers.

"In the song, the lyrics say, 'What the people need ... is a way to make them smile,' and that's what our show seems to do for people." added Stiles.

Three Men and a Tenor were formed by four members of the Men's Glee Club at Michigan State University in January of 1992. Now, more than 12 years later (nine years as a full-time professional act), they continue their musical journey by touring with an international performance schedule of more than 150 shows/clinics, workshops per year, and have recorded four CD's on the House Broken Records recording label.

Pioneer

November 24, 2004

Holiday band concert Dec. 5

BIG RAPIDS- The annual holiday band concert of the Ferris State University West Central Concert Band will take place Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. at Williams Auditorium on the campus of Ferris State University.

This free concert is open to the public. For assistance with attending this event, please call Williams Auditorium at (231) 591-3676.

The annual Holiday Band Concert is a lively assortment of holiday favorites and also will feature the talents of vocalist Rachel Schumann and narrator Donna Smith.

The program will be selected from the following works: "Adagio" by Tomaso Albinoni, "A Christmas Festival" by Leroy Anderson, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" by Martin & Blane, "Holiday Favorites" by Paul Lavender, "In Bethlehem on a Cold, Cold Night" by Robert Garrels, "Midnight Sleighride from Lieutenant Kije Suite" by Prokofiev, "Radetzky March" by Johann Strauss, "Shalom!" by Philip Sparke, "Silent Night" arr. Jay Dawson and "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson.

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November 24, 2004

Mallet Force prepares for debut concert Dec. 7

BIG RAPIDS - A new community musical group named Mallet Force has been rehearsing this fall, and will be performing in its debut concert on Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. The concert is free of charge.

“Mallet Force is a five-member percussion ensemble,” stated group founder and artistic Erector Ron Rizzo. “We play a wide variety of percussion instruments including several works for the percussion keyboard instruments only.”

“When people think of a percussion ensemble, they often think of a bunch of performers banging on drums and cymbals, and this is a misconception of the percussion ensemble genre,” he continued. “While we do use a fair amount of drums, we are also playing some incredibly sensitive mallet arrangements of works such as ‘Irish Tune’ by Percy Grainger, and a new piece call ‘Imagia di Uno Noel.’ The group will also be premiering three movements of a new work for mallets by member Daniel Johnson titled ‘Dances.’”

Guest performers at the concert include Ginny Kerwin and Karol Hartley, soprano, and Randy Groves on guitar. Kent Boulton, director of the Big Rapids High School bands, will be guest conducting the ensemble on a work by Percy Grainger.

Mallet Force also will be performing as guest artists with Voca Lyrica on Dec. 5 and at the Ferris State University Gala concert on Dec. 12. “We have several holiday piece contemporary percussion ensembles present,” said Rizzo. “We want members of the community to come out and see this unique musical group.”

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November 24, 2004

Ferris' 'Live! at Williams receives Heartland Arts Fund Performing Arts Grant

BIG RAPIDS – “Live! at Williams,” Ferris State University’s Arts & Entertainment program, has received a Heartland Arts Fund grant to support an upcoming performance of The Preservation Hall Jazz Band on Feb. 12.

As part of the grant, Ferris’ Harry Dempsey, professor of music in the Humanities Department, will present a pre-show lecture on the “History of Jazz.”

The lecture and concert are supported by the Heartland Arts Fund; a program of Arts Midwest funded by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional contributions from General Mills Foundation, Land O’Lakes Foundation, Sprint Corporation and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. The Fund enables individuals and families throughout America’s heartland to share in and enjoy the arts and cultures of this region and the world.

“Ferris State University is to be commended for its commitment to serving its community with this distinctive event,” said David J. Fraher, Heartland Arts Fund chair. “Audiences in Big Rapids will have the opportunity to see the exciting work of The Preservation Hall Jazz Band, many for the first time, and the Heartland Arts Fund is proud to help support this work and ‘Live! at Williams.’”

Named for the historic Preservation Hall in New Orleans, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band has been referred to by one critic as, “a bridge across the ages - a link between the present day and the heyday of traditional New Orleans music.” Collectively, the musicians represent the industry’s elite; a finely tuned band whose members hail from highly regarded musical families. Together, they keep alive the traditions and history of a uniquely American sound.

The Detroit News

November 24, 2004

Career night planned at Dakota High School

CLINTON TOWNSHIP: A Career Planning Night for parents of Chippewa Valley middle school and high school students will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. Dec. 9 at Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile, in rooms 130 and 131. Dr. William Potter, Dean of University College at Ferris State University will be the featured speaker. Parents will receive valuable information to help guide their children with career planning.

Dinner to benefit education center

A spaghetti dinner to benefit the Conductive Education Center of Metro Detroit and the Dakota National Honor Society will be held from 5-7:30 p.m. Dec. 2 in the Dakota High School Atrium, 21051 21 Mile. Dinner is \$7 per person. The Program is designed to help children with cerebral palsy and other motor disorders gain better physical mobility and independence.

Donations sought for scholarships

Chippewa Valley High School's Community Scholarship Program is seeking donations to provide seniors with financial assistance for college. Donations of \$20.

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November 27 & 28, 2004

United Way-WBRN Cake and Pie Auction sets new record

Auction: Monty Dean and Bill Beckwith sung their magic on the air once again as they sold 24 items (sometimes doubling the goods) on the air at WBRN for a record \$5,400. The "Top Bid" getter was Roxanne Cullen from Ferris State University with her two Chocolate Cheesecakes that sold for a total of \$1,300 to FSU Student Affairs. Mark Klumpp earned the "Second High Bid" trophy as he sold two Black Magic Cakes to Big Rapids Public School employees and Century 21 Big Buck Camp. Jeremy Mishler won "Most Unusual Item" with his Chocolate Covered Strawberries, movie tickets and an overnight at the Holiday Inn selling to Todd Webber of On The Level Construction. Patterson's Flowers earned "Best Presentation," which was purchased after active bidding by Rich and Rose Mary Jennings. Margaret Taylor and Jean Winther, event co-chairs, said the 11th annual auction "would not be the success that it was without the support of community volunteer bakers and bidders." The United Way campaign is 70 percent of the way to its goal of \$400,000. Dean auctions off the cake made by students at the Mecosta-Osceola Career Center. Representing the students are Helen Kubiak and Alisha Bregg.

Pioneer

November 30, 2004

FSU students speak to children about poisons

Poison patrol: Students from Ferris State University's School of Pharmacy celebrated National Poison Prevention month by speaking to the Eastwood Early Childhood Center classes about poisons. The students belong to the Academy of Student Pharmacists and volunteer their time to this cause to make the students aware of poisons. Student Pharmacists who were here: Heidi Michels, Stephanie Coccimiglio, Justin Reid (Cowboy Randy), Jackie Robach. Students in Sarah Doering's kindergarten class, Dawson Neibarger, Lauren Maynard and McKenna Saunders.

Pioneer

December 1, 2004

Club supports Ferris athletics

Booster club: Lynn and Gary Trimarco are shown receiving their membership cards for Ferris State University's new Rebounders Booster Club. They are Cory Anderson, Ferris assistant coach; Brian Kegler, FSU assistant athletics director; and Pam Nyman, club secretary. The reorganized group, headed by President John Lunden and Vice President Steve Miller, is conducting a membership drive in support of Bulldog men's basketball. The club plans to hold receptions and will honor the team at an April Recognition Banquet to be hosted by the Rotary Club of Big Rapids. Further details about the Rebounders Booster Club are available by calling Ferris athletics at (231) 591-2860.

The Grand Rapids Press

November 27, 2004

Charting a new course

Michigan's public universities must do some creative thinking to fill holes in budgets for the long term.

The leaders of Michigan's 15 public universities need to have a frank discussion about the future of higher education that goes further than how to protect themselves. A detached assessment of whether 15 state schools are too many to sustain should be undertaken by leaders and their governing boards. A higher education commission appointed by Gov. Granholm earlier this year would be an excellent partner in the effort.

Reduced aid to public universities has forced them all to make cuts, but so far they have been cutting with an eye toward not giving their peers a competitive advantage. No one is rushing to eliminate duplicative programs offered at sister institutions. Neither is there serious discussion of whether state aid would go further and do more if one or two of the public universities were eliminated. There should be.

In the past two years, approximately 2,000 full-time employees have been cut at state institutions. Other belt-tightening measures such as course reductions, increased class size and student services cutbacks (reduced library hours, counseling and health care) seem destined to continue unless other options are found to deal with state revenue shortfalls. The practice of depending on tuition increases as a convenient option for fixing budget crunches could eventually price some families out of the higher ed- market.

Certainly, contracting the public university system would be a major change, but these are tough times. Everything ought to be on the table, including an impartial analysis of whether Michigan's public university system is over-built and redundant.

With its sparse population, does the Upper Peninsular warrant three state universities? One of them, Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, has about 3,000 students and chronic recruitment woes. Could the millions it receives in operating funds from the state be better spent if divided up among the other schools?

Does the state need eight of the universities to offer advanced degrees instead of consolidating graduate programs at a few schools? Are the liberal arts programs offered at least five of the schools what this state needs as the nation shifts to more technically demanding jobs that will be dominant in the next decade?

Is the proliferation of branch campuses adding to avoidable college costs? Four state universities have a presence in Grand Rapids. Ferris State University recently announced plans to consolidate its presence in the city with an urban campus that could cost \$10 million over five years.

Gov. Granholm has set a goal of doubling Michigan's percentage of college graduates within 10 years to produce a more competitive work force. If Michigan is going to chart a new course for higher education, the state needs to take a look at what it has vs. what it needs.