

The State News

Earvin "Magic" Johnson canceled his book signing at Barnes & Noble, which was scheduled for later today.

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From left, member of the Greater Lansing Gay Men's Chorus Jerry Slade, executive director of the Lansing Area AIDS Network Jacob Distel and Lansing resident Doug Hawks hold candles to remember those who have died because of AIDS and those living with AIDS on Monday at Hannah Community Center.

PHOTOS BY SAM RUIZ/THE STATE NEWS

EDUCATION

MSU professors help research environmental reform policy

By Heather Guenther
THE STATE NEWS

Six panels of education experts, including three MSU professors, have been tapped to assist President-elect Barack Obama's administration with an education reform initiative.

More than 400 individuals from a broad range of organizations, including the U.S. Department of Education and

the National Science Foundation, registered for the meeting last month in Washington, D.C.

As part of the National Academy of Education's Education Policy White Papers Initiative, the group teamed up with national researchers to identify the major educational issues facing Obama's incoming administration, said Robert Floden, a university distinguished professor.

The National Academy of Education promotes education research and its use in policy formation, and Floden served on the steering committee for its initiative. Officials said additional meetings could occur following Obama's presidential inauguration in January.

Suzanne Wilson, chairwoman of MSU's Department of Teacher Education, and William Schmidt, a university distinguished professor, each participated in a panel as well. Wilson chaired the panel on teacher quality, and Schmidt served on the panel focusing on standards, assessments and accountability.

"This is important because most of the time, education policy is made by people's opinion and their own personal experience and not informed by educational research," Wilson said.

The group assembled teams of education researchers to analyze statistics for six areas: Equity and excellence in American education; math and science education; reading and literacy education; standards and assessments; teacher quality; and time for learning.

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STAYING IN THE KNOW

Students, community gather to give HIV/AIDS attention on World AIDS Day

By Kayla Habermehl
THE STATE NEWS

Red ribbons. Candlelight. Singing. Against the backdrop of snow, these things appear as if they are more holiday festivities. To many people across the world, they are symbols of remembrance, leadership, awareness and a significant loss of life.

"I think people have an idea in their head that HIV/AIDS only strikes people in different countries and that it's not prevalent in the U.S.," said Julia Rice, a dietetics senior and health advocate at Olin Health Center. "It's

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Nancy English, center, auxiliary services coordinator and administrative assistant for the Lansing Area AIDS Network, lights a candle Monday at Hannah Community Center.

The facts

HIV is transmitted through sexual contact, shared needles or from mother to child.

HIV is not transmitted through hugging, shaking hands, water fountains or any other kind of casual contact. HIV is not transmitted by mosquitoes.

Twenty-seven percent of MSU students have been tested.

Olin Health Center offers free HIV tests.

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, MSU

POLITICS

Clinton to lead diplomacy as next secretary of state

By Liz Sidoti
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago — President-elect Barack Obama picked a national security team headed by former campaign rival Hillary Clinton and Bush administration hold-over Robert Gates on Monday, and said he wants to consult with military commanders before settling on a firm timetable to withdraw U.S. combat troops from Iraq.

Obama said a newly completed agreement between Iraq and the Bush administration covering U.S. troop presence signals "a transition period in which our mission is changing" after a long war. The president-elect campaigned on a call to pull out most combat troops within 16 months of taking office, a period he said he still believes "is the right time frame."



Clinton

Obama named Clinton, a New York senator, as secretary of state and said Gates would remain as defense secretary, a post he has held for the past two years.

At a news conference, the president-elect also introduced retired Marine Gen. James Jones as White House national security adviser, former Justice Department official Eric Holder as attorney general, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano as secretary of Homeland Security and Susan Rice as ambassador to the United Nations.

The announcements rounded out the top tier of the team

that will advise the incoming chief executive on foreign and national security issues in an era marked by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and terrorism around the globe.

"I assembled this team because I am a strong believer in strong personalities and strong opinions," Obama said. "I think that's how the best decisions are made."

"One of the dangers in a White House, based on my reading of history, is that you get wrapped up in group-think and everybody agrees with everything and there are no dissenting views. So I am going to be welcoming a vigorous debate inside the White House."

"But understand, I will be setting policy as president. I will

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MICHIGAN

Auto companies wait for Congress' reply

By Tom Krisher
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Detroit — They'll park some corporate jets, cut executive pay and serve up concessions from the United Auto Workers, but Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp. and perhaps Chrysler LLC also will have to address massive debts to persuade a skeptical Congress to loan them money.

As the CEOs of all three companies prepare for a return trip to Washington this week seeking \$25 billion in government loans to help them survive a worldwide economic slump, their debt likely will be scrutinized as Congress decides if they can once again become viable with help from the government.

GM alone spent \$847 million on debt payments in the first nine months of the year.

"There's no guarantee these guys will make it."

Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas

"There's no guarantee these guys will make it" even with government help, said Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, one of Detroit's critics who advocates letting them go into bankruptcy. "It's also why we have bankruptcy courts, so these businesses get reorganized and the resources are used in a better way ultimately to benefit our society."

Automakers argue that bankruptcy isn't an option, maintaining that no one will buy a car from a company that might not be around for the life of

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EAST LANSING

The City Council will decide if a local fraternity can move into its house, page 3A.

WORLD

The greater MSU community reacts to the terrorist attacks in India and reflects on those killed or injured, page 3A.



Weather

Snow
High 29° | Low 27°

Three-day forecast, page 2A