

TODAY IS INAUGURATION DAY

FOR INAUGURATION COVERAGE, INCLUDING A LIST OF CAMPUS EVENTS, VISIT STATENEWS.COM/INAUGURATION

The State News

Lansing resident Delyce Reynolds, who works for the Michigan Department of Community Health, shakes hands with Gov. Jennifer Granholm during the Pre-Inaugural Michigan Open House.

NICHOLE HORNBERG/THE STATE NEWS



CRIME

Scam artist targets MSU students seeking work

By Kyle Feldscher
THE STATE NEWS

An alleged scam disguised as a job opportunity capitalized on some MSU students looking for work with a charity organization.

MSU police have identified and made contact with a man who reportedly interviewed 10 MSU students for a job with the MSU Boys & Girls Club. During the interview, the suspect had the students fill out an application and provide their Social Security number and their MSU Personal Identification Number. In addition, the alleged scam artist had the students take a drug test, for which they were charged \$20, MSU police Sgt. Florene McGlothlin-Taylor said.

The two incidents reported to police were in Holmes and Akers halls.

The report has been forwarded to the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office to issue an arrest warrant for the suspect, McGlothlin-Taylor said. Prosecutors could not be reached for comment Monday.

"Most employers will send you to a lab (for a drug test)," McGlothlin-Taylor said. "We just want to remind students to be careful about who they contact and give their personal information to."

MSU Director of Residence Life Paul Goldblatt said scam artists see students living in dormitories as easy targets. He said the best way to prevent any sort of identity theft is doing more research about potential employers.

"All it requires is going to a Web site and doing a little research," he said. "A lot of these situations happen when someone makes up a file and sees who responds to it."

The organization the man was reported to be representing, the MSU Boys & Girls Club, does not exist. The Boys & Girls Club of Lansing has put a notice on its Web site warning visitors about the alleged scam. The director of the Boys & Girls Club of Lansing could not be reached for comment.

Andrea Hoffman, a premedical sophomore who lives in Campbell Hall, said the reports of the scam surprised her. However, she still feels guarded against identity theft.

"I've heard of e-mails trying to get your Social Security number," Hoffman said. "People should know not to give that information."

See SCAM on page 2A

Council meets
Development proposals are on the East Lansing City Council's agenda tonight, page 3A.

Weather
Cloudy
High 17° | Low 8°
Three-day forecast, Page 2A

MICH. APPEALS TO OBAMA

By Kelly House
THE STATE NEWS

Washington — For Mike Green, driving to Washington, D.C., to take part in the week's inauguration activities was well worth the 10-plus hour car ride.

That's because Green, president of Lansing's United Auto Workers Local 652, has more at stake than simply ushering in a new president this inauguration. For Green, Barack Obama's oath of office could be the first step in making or breaking his hope of relief for the auto industry and the workers his union hall represents. Green, along with Lansing UAW Local 602 President Brian Fredline and 652 Vice President Randy Freeman, arrived in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, looking forward to celebrating President-elect Obama, whom auto workers heavily supported in the election. "The UAW was very involved in backing Obama," Green said. "It's finishing up what we started. We put the man in there." Green said while the main purpose of the trip was being a part of Obama's inauguration, "it is a little bit of business."

He said he would like to see Obama "loosen up" more federal money to aid the struggling automotive industry, and attach fewer strings to the loan.

Earlier this week, the government expanded the bailout by offering \$1.5 billion to Chrysler Financial. The move brought the grand total of auto industry loans from the \$700 billion financial rescue package to \$24.9 billion in total lending.

Despite the additional money, Green is not alone in his call for help.

At a state welcome reception Monday morning, Michigan lawmakers and auto industry elites mingled with everyday citizens. When asked the most important thing Obama can do for Michigan, Gov. Jennifer Granholm had a one-word answer.

"Help!" she said, referring to the economic stimulus package Obama is expected to introduce soon after taking office. Granholm said she hopes Obama will allocate a cut of that package to Michigan.

Granholm said the stimulus plan could keep the auto industry afloat, while allowing Michigan to invest in new technology that would diversify the state's economy and keep young people from leaving the state to find jobs.

Although the stimulus package isn't expected to be specifically geared toward the auto manufacturing sector, industry leaders are hoping some of the money will come their way.

"The most important thing that he can do now is to work hard and

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More Inauguration coverage inside and online...

MSU Debate Team is in action in Washington D.C. this week, page 2A.

Nation + World coverage, page 6A.

Photos from State News photographers in Washington, D.C., page 8A.

More online... For more stories, blogs, video and audio, visit stateneews.com/inauguration

ALUMNI

MSU alum to bartend during inauguration

By Allison Bush
THE STATE NEWS

Washington — While most people in Washington, D.C., will be fighting off other spectators at the National Mall today, 2006 MSU alumnus David Thurou will be trying to tame a different kind of crowd — the one expected to gather at the bar where he works.

Thurou works as a bartender at Capitol Lounge, 229 Pennsylvania Ave., in Washington, D.C., while working on his master's degree at Naval War College. He began bartending in Washington in 2006 at a different bar, where he got the idea to broadcast MSU games for him and his friends, he said.

"I got a hold of the alumni

association, and it turned my group of 12 into a steady group of 100 coming in for the games," he said.

When Thurou switched to the Capitol Lounge, he brought his idea and his business with him, he said.

"I went to Capitol Lounge, and said 'I'll bring you good, sizable business every Saturday as long as you hire me as a bartender,'" he said.

There are many items on the menu tailored to Michigan, Thurou said.

"We have ... Pokey sticks. We can't use the term — we call them Spartan sticks — but they're essentially the same thing," he said.

In addition, the MSU fight song is on the jukebox and there

is a button on the cash register that reads "MSU Spartans," he said.

Although bars in the Washington, D.C., area can stay open until 5 a.m. during inaugural week, Capitol Lounge will be closing at its regular time, Thurou said.

"It was a decision by our owner," he said. "When you have people used to pacing themselves until a certain time, and now they have another two or three hours, you're just asking for trouble."

Chris Montesa, a 2005 MSU alumnus, also works as a bartender at Cafe Bonaparte, in Georgetown.

"It's just an exciting time to



KATIE RAUSCH/THE STATE NEWS

David Thurou, center, jokes with an employee while serving drinks at his bar, Capitol Lounge, Sunday evening in Washington, D.C. Thurou runs the bar with a midwestern theme, often showing games that can't be seen locally and offering MSU-themed food and drinks.

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