

TOY HISTORY

**Teddy bear**

Although there are many conflicting stories about the invention of the teddy bear, the most popular involves Morris Mitchom, a candy store owner, who was the first to sell teddy bears using the name inspired by former President Theodore Roosevelt.

**His wife, Rose,** was making the bears for their store when Mitchom sent one to the president and asked to use his name in selling the bears after Roosevelt reportedly refused to shoot a bear on a hunting trip.

SOURCE: INVENTORS.ABOUT.COM

**G.I. Joe**

A doll for boys — that was what Stan Weston intended to create when he invented G.I. Joe. By calling the toy an “action figure” rather than a doll, Weston thought this would remove any female connotations and make it easier to market to young boys.

**G.I. stands for** “Galvanized Iron.” Hasbro Inc. originally used the acronym thinking it meant “Government issued,” a much more appropriate designation for a military-themed toy.

SOURCE: G.I.JOELOCATOR.COM

**Rubik's Cube**

It's the most infinitely frustrating toy and there's a reason: The Rubik's Cube, invented by Ernő Rubik in the 1970s, has only one solution and an estimated 43 quintillion wrong combinations along the way.

**Rubik was not** the only one to try to patent an invention like the Rubik's Cube. Terutoshi Ishige applied a Japanese patent on a very similar cube one year after Rubik. An American inventor, Larry Nichols, patented a similar cube before Rubik. His cube, held together with magnets, was rejected by toy companies, including Ideal Toy Corporation, which eventually bought Rubik's Cube.

SOURCE: INVENTORS.ABOUT.COM

**Razor scooter**

Specialty bicycle parts maker J.D. Corporation's President Gino Tsai, a mechanical engineer, claimed his legs were too short to move quickly around his large factory in Taiwan. The Razor Scooter was invented when it was decided to update the classic scooter in the late 1990s.

**The Razor Scooter** went on to sell 4 million units within a year of its introduction. In 2005, Forbes ranked it as the most popular toy since 2000.

SOURCE: FORBES.COM

To read about Brilliant Sky Toys, a toy store in Lansing, see page 6B.

# FACES + PLACES



HELLO MY NAME IS

**Mary Shannon**

There's more than Ramen noodles on the menu for sociology junior Mary Shannon. With a degree in culinary arts from Grand Rapids Community College, cooking always seemed like the natural path for her. “In high school, I really was not academically good at anything else,” Shannon said. “I found that one thing I happened to be good at and I looked forward to doing. My grades went up and it was really the only logical choice for me.” After earning the culinary degree, Shannon came to MSU to figure out what direction she wanted to go, ultimately deciding to meld her world with a degree in sociology. “I love cooking,” Shannon said. “It's all I know how to do.”

— Compiled by Cole Bertoso, photo by Josh Radtke, The State News

Section B | The State News | [www.statenews.com](http://www.statenews.com)

Wednesday



“I couldn't have a better life than what I have (now),” said Capt. John Chamberlain, left, and with his son Chris Chamberlain, 20, a student at Lansing Community College.

PORTRAITS BY JASON CHIU/THE STATE NEWS

## Rolling on the river

Michigan Princess Riverboat still rides the Grand River through Lansing after more than 100 years



By Julie Baker  
THE STATE NEWS

The Michigan Princess has become the equivalent of the old-time bar in the Wild West to John Chamberlain. It's the town hall, the bar, the restaurant and the wedding chapel — a place people like to gather. But the difference between the old-time bar and the Michigan Princess, a paddle wheel steamboat, chugs along the shoreline of Lansing's Grand River.

**Floating idea**

In 1888, the boat started taking Lansing-area residents up to the Waverly Amusement Park, a venture that lasted until it went out of business in 1918. Automotive pioneer R.E. Olds, along with another partner, took the boat, rebuilt it and turned it into a showboat between 1947 and 1952. When Olds died, he gave the boat, as well as about three miles of land on the north side of the Grand River, to

See PRINCESS on page 2B

“Growing up, I didn't party on the weekends,” said Chris Chamberlain, “I came here to work at parties on the weekends.” He grew up on the Michigan Princess, which currently is docked at Grand River Park in Lansing. His father bought it in 1976 and renovated the boat that now hosts soirées of all kinds.

TRANSPORT

### Pedicab works for tips, love of biking in E.L.

By Daniel Luscombe  
THE STATE NEWS

Wearing a black leather jacket reminiscent of Johnny Ramone, well-manicured facial hair and a big grin, Tony Benedict, owner of Pure Power Pedicab, is East Lansing's one and only bicycle taxi.

Benedict, an East Lansing resident and former paramedic, has been serving the East Lansing community since November 2008 with his human-powered mode of transportation.

“I go completely on tips, and I do that because I don't want to set a set rate,” Benedict said. “Some people just want a ride and they really don't have a lot of money. I figure everyone should have a ride if they just want to go home and they don't live too far away.” On average, Benedict said he is tipped \$5-\$6 for rides that average about a quarter-mile, although a particularly generous customer once gave him \$100. Benedict operates his taxi

Thursday through Saturday, starting around midnight. On any given night, he'll give 20-40 rides with two or three people riding in his cab at a time.

Aimee Ryder, an interdisciplinary studies in social science and human resources and sociology senior, rode in the pedicab for the first time this winter.

“It was something I always wanted to do before I graduated,” she said. “We had left from the bar, Rick's (American Café).

See PEDICAB on page 2B



SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS

Tony Benedict, right, pedals four pedestrians home from a night of partying Friday from Albert Avenue.