

Loss to Illinois Sunday caps disappointing season for MSU men's tennis

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JASON CHIU/THE STATE NEWS

Junior Jason Norville eyes a return headed out of bounds during a doubles match Sunday against Illinois' Marek Czerwinski and Marc Spicijaric at the MSU Indoor Tennis Facility.

The State News

ENVIRONMENT

NEW POLICY WOULD REWARD E.I. BUILDINGS THAT GO GREEN

By Jeff Kanan
THE STATE NEWS

Beautiful outdoor walkways, water-collection gardens and natural lighting might become staples of the city's buildings if legislation passes in East Lansing City Council this week to create a Green Building Policy.

The resolution to adopt the city's Green Building Policy would require new businesses that receive funding from economic development programs to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

Buildings that are LEED certified have features that make them environmentally friendly and promote the health of employees and tenants, said Dave Smith, an environmental specialist for East Lansing.

"The benefits for tenants are a better-quality work environment, and energy efficiency means the long-term costs of tenants would be less," Smith said.

The amount of financing the project receives from development programs, such as Brownfield redevelopments or Tax Increment Financing, would determine the level of LEED certification the building must meet.

City officials said the policy would be applied only to buildings with site plans that haven't yet been approved.

The trouble with going back and forcing existing buildings to comply is that people will get turned off to the process, said Tim Schmitt, a community development analyst for the city.

Schmitt said the East Village project would be a potential flagship candidate for the LEED certification rules.

"That's kind of a poster child for this," he said.

The MSU Federal Credit Union Headquarters, 3777 West Road, celebrated its grand opening in September and is in the process of becoming LEED certified, said Joyce Baniach, vice president of university and community

public relations for the credit union.

If it receives certification, it will be the city's only LEED-certified building, city officials said.

To promote employee and environmental health, the building features natural lighting, water-collection gardens, bicycle stands, a fitness center and low-flow shower heads, Baniach said.

"There's also the special grass developed by MSU that manages less water," Baniach said.

"We've decreased water use by 40 percent."

Baniach said the credit union is expected to achieve at least a silver LEED certification level, which is the third-highest level. The lowest level is certified, while gold and platinum are the two highest levels of LEED certification. Points are attained from several categories, ranging from water efficiency to indoor environmental quality.

"(The features) improve productivity and employee morale, and reduce absenteeism," Baniach said.

Baniach said the cost of the extra features amounts to 10 to 15 percent of the total budget to build the credit union, but the building's increased efficiency will cut expenses, allowing the extra building costs to pay for themselves.

Schmitt said LEED upgrades generally only account for zero to 2 percent of the total budget for certified or silver certification.

If the legislation is passed, East Lansing will become the first city in the state to tie economic incentives to green construction, Councilmember Nathan Triplett said.

"There's a strong environmental and business case," Triplett said.

The business case, Smith said, could come in the form of future development spurred by the city's emphasis on environmental awareness.

"It also helps attract development to the city because it shows a commitment to green buildings," Smith said.

getting out of the HOUSE



JOSH RADTKE/THE STATE NEWS

Elementary education junior David Holcomb has a laugh with his mother Kathy and father Gary, of Southfield, on Sunday afternoon during a reception at the Evans Scholars house, 831 E. Grand River Ave. Holcomb was homeschooled from kindergarten to 12th grade by his mother Kathy, who has homeschooled all five of his siblings.

Homeschooled students adjust to learning with 40K classmates

By Jacob Carpenter
THE STATE NEWS

When applying to MSU as a prospective freshman, David Holcomb boasted strong test scores, plenty of extracurricular activities and passing grades from a few community college courses. Yet Holcomb had one major difference from his peers — he was homeschooled until coming to MSU.

Holcomb was one of 27 applicants for admission to MSU's fall 2006 class who were homeschooled and only one of nine who enrolled.

In each of the past five years, fewer than 30 homeschooled students have applied to MSU. Each of those years, no more than 10 have enrolled, a surprisingly low number considering an average of about 1,500 stu-

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Making MSU home

The number of homeschooled students who have applied to and been accepted by MSU has been relatively constant in recent years.

Application year	Number of homeschool applications	Homeschool students accepted	Homeschool students enrolled
2005	25	20	9
2006	27	22	9
2007	26	23	10
2008	29	17	3
2009 (exp.)	28	24	7

SOURCE: MSU ADMISSIONS

For audio of our interview with MSU junior David Holcomb, visit stateneews.com/multimedia

CAMPUS

ASMSU increases funds for student defenders, Welcome Week activities

By Chris Vanni
THE STATE NEWS

A possible Welcome Week fireworks or laser show could be a part of next year's ASMSU budget, which included a sizable increased appropriation to student defenders.

The budget passed by consent Thursday by ASMSU's Student Assembly.

ASMSU is MSU's undergraduate student government.

The assembly voted Thursday to allocate up to \$10,000 from special events to fund Welcome Week activities. Special events is appropriated money completely from rollover funding, assembly Chairperson Michael Webber said.

The show likely would be Sept. 1 at Munn Field or Demonstration Field and would be free to students and community members, Director of Event Planning Morgan Green said.

"It's a good way to kick off the year and a good way to build relationships with the community and the university as well," assembly Vice Chairperson for External Affairs Kyle Dyzarsz said.

ASMSU's revenue comes from a \$16.75 refundable tax charged to all undergraduate students each semester. Its projected revenue from the 2008-09 academic year is more than \$1.4 million.

"(ASMSU) is going to have a good amount of working room to sponsor activities for students and continue to provide services

to students," Webber said. "The legal services, student defenders and blue books are things that we hope to continue to provide in the future because those are really important for students."

Student defenders received almost \$15,000, which is about \$6,000 more than the 2008-09 school year, in an effort to make people more aware of their function, Webber said.

"I think the idea was to increase the money so we could advertise more so they would get more people to represent because I think that's something we struggle with — making sure that students know the services we provide," he said.

"We did get a large number of cases this year and we're hoping

to increase that more."

Student defenders are comprised of eight to 10 undergraduate students who advise students with university disputes such as academic dishonesty or appealing judicial decisions. They are trained to guide students through the university hearing process.

The student defender's director also received more funding because the director will work year-round, rather than only in the fall and spring because of some demand from students, Webber said.

More than \$270,000 is appropriated to legal services, which can represent students free of charge in legal matters such as a minor in possession, noise violations and landlord/tenant issues.

The legal services staff is comprised of two attorneys from the law firm of Jeffrey & Newton.

The funding board will receive more than \$15,000, which is about \$15,000 less than last year. Most of funding board's money is allocated to registered student organizations.

ASMSU will determine by May 31 how much leftover funds it has from the 2008-09 school year.

"We don't want to spend money just to spend it," Webber said. "We want to spend it efficiently and we give it back to students through programming board and funding board."

FROG FINDS TROUBLE

The bronze frog statue in front of the 4-H Children's Garden was stolen last week, page 3A

CAMPUS DRAG SHOW

The MSU Drag Show drew more than 1,200 patrons Saturday, page 3A

Weather
Showers
High 49° | Low 38°
Three-day forecast, Page 2A