

**A panel opposed torture during a discussion at the MSU College of Law on Tuesday, more at statenews.com**

**People examine sculptures around campus**  
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## Michigan Promise Scholarship might not be kept

By Meredith Skrzypczak  
THE STATE NEWS

A state scholarship used by almost 11,000 MSU students could be eliminated, and state-funded financial aid could be slashed following a state Senate vote Tuesday.

Some students are dependent on the funds they receive from the Michigan Promise Scholarship and might have to take drastic action to make up for lost money.

"I don't know where that money is going to come from, but I know that I can't afford

to pay for it out of pocket, so I might be looking for somewhere else to go to school," finance sophomore Artina Tyus said.

The scholarship provides up to \$4,000 for high school graduates who complete at least two years of post-secondary education in Michigan. Qualified through the Michigan Merit Exam, students who graduated in or after 2007 would be affected by the cut. Cutting the scholarship would save the state \$140 million. Officials made the move shortly after a hearing where people testified about their impact.

Tyus' parents qualify for loans but will not cosign, so taking out loans to make up for the money she will be losing is not an option.

"It's all on me," she said.

The Senate-passed bill likely will go to a conference committee to iron out differences between the House and Senate versions, which could happen as soon as July, state Sen. Ron Jeinek, R-Three Oaks, said. The state House's bill, passed April 2, did not cut the scholarship and called for limited cuts to state-funded financial aid. Even though the bill passed

in the Senate, state Rep. Joan Bauer, D-Lansing, said there are more steps before the fate of the scholarship is decided.

"When we have this conference committee, the head of the Senate, the head of the House and the governor's budget director, they sit down," she said. "They are really the ones who will then say to this conference committee, 'Here's how much you have to spend on higher education.'"

State senators said the cuts are tough, but something that has to be done to balance the state's budget deficit.

"As a state and as a state budget, we are still putting a lot of money into universities," Jelinek said. "We still support students, but they are not getting the personal support of \$4,000."

Other senators voted against the bill and supported amendments to restore funding for the Michigan Promise Scholarship and tuition grants.

"Those young men and women still deserve an opportunity to go to college," state Sen. Tupac Hunter, D-Detroit, said. "They shouldn't be shut out because their state won't sup-

port them."

Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration continues to support the scholarship and opposes efforts to eliminate it, said Tiffany Brown, a spokeswoman for Granholm.

"Clearly we have some difficult decisions to make," Brown said. "We're working with lawmakers."

Every area of the state is experiencing cuts, state Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, said. Cuts might be even deeper in the future, he said.

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## STRUGGLING FOR SAME-SEX EQUALITY

By Brittany Shammah  
THE STATE NEWS

Marriage is something urban planning graduate student Matt Earls says he's always dreamed about. But for Earls and his boyfriend, public policy graduate student Paul Holland, marriage remains a dream in Michigan, where a 2004 amendment to the state constitution banned same-sex marriage.

"I guess I just don't know why my same-sex preference is stopping me," Earls said. "There's just something about marriage that seems a lot more concrete than, 'I'm in a relationship.' I think it adds more stability."

Holland and Earls, who have been dating for more than a year, are one couple out of thousands in Michigan hoping for a change to current restrictions on same-sex marriage. The couple said they are confident Michigan is headed toward equality.

### History

Michigan's 2004 vote to approve Proposal 2 created an amendment to the state's constitution that defined marriage as between one man and one woman, making same-sex marriage illegal within the state.

The proposal was designed to protect families as the foundation of society, said Marlene Elwell, who helped draft it as director of Citizens for the Protection of Marriage. The basic unit of a family, which is the strength of a nation, has always been a man, a woman and their children, she said.

"A marriage is between only one man and one woman," she said. "It doesn't mean you have four women together and that defines a family. It's been like that forever. It's just that in recent years, people want to change that."

Holland said although he understands the position of a person who doesn't want to see a religious term used to define something against his or her beliefs, he doesn't think it is fair for marriage to be tied to civil statute. The benefits that come with marriage should be available for everyone, regard-



In the style of Grant Wood's "American Gothic," which portrayed a typical Midwestern American couple of 1930, MSU graduate students and couple Matt Earls and Paul Holland pose to illustrate a relationship that is growing in cultural acceptability, same-sex marriage. Though not legal in Michigan, same-sex marriage currently is legal in six states.

SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS

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To see a video of people talking about same-sex marriage and a map of what states are doing with it, visit [statenews.com/multimedia](http://statenews.com/multimedia).

### HELPING OUT

## MRULE GRANT TO AID AFRICA CENTER

By Megan Hart  
THE STATE NEWS

Abused children in South Africa might have a new place to stay for the night because of a \$5,000 grant given to an MSU group.

MSU's Multi-Racial Unity Living Experience, or MRULE, earned the grant from the Clinton Global Initiative University. MRULE supports Vumanzuku Bya-Yana—"Our Children's Future" (VVOFCF), a center for

"We hope it will be valuable to the youth utilizing the services and provide them with leadership opportunities at a young age."

Joe Oliver, Clinton Global Initiative University spokesman

children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in Zankizizwe, South Africa. The center now provides after-school support for the children, but with the support from the grant, new facilities will be built where abused children will be able to

stay overnight.

MRULE director Jeanne Gazel, who is leading a study abroad program in South Africa, said she did not know details about the grant and how it would be used.

Raven Lewis, a biochemistry

and molecular biology senior and a member of MRULE, visited the center while on study abroad last summer.

"It's basically a center where (children) come... after school Monday, Wednesday and Friday," she said.

Lewis said the center received its only financial support from MRULE.

"This community is too overwhelmed (to provide services)," she said. "It's basically a shantytown. Basic needs are just

met."

The center provides tutoring, HIV awareness classes and arts and crafts for the children, she said. Some children also participate in a pen-pal program with MSU students.

Lewis said the grant will allow the center to provide shelter for children exposed to abuse and alcoholism at home.

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### CITY COUNCIL

## E.L. approves road bond for use during next 3 years

By Kate Jacobson  
THE STATE NEWS

Cracked roads and uneven sidewalks in parts of East Lansing soon might be fixed after the City Council voted to approve a \$8.8-million bond for street improvements at Tuesday's work session.

The bond will include improvements such as resurfacing, installation and replacement of curbs and work to existing storm sewers to roads across East Lansing. The project is estimated to cost \$1.5 million and will take place during the next three fiscal years.

"I think that it's great we're looking to invest another \$1.5 million into the infrastructure of East Lansing," said Todd Sneathen, the city's director of public works.

Sneathen said he expects to begin selling the bonds in the next few months, but because of the economy, city officials might wait until the market becomes more stable.

"We'll invest in the market when it's the appropriate time to start selling," he said.

The council also approved the refinancing of two bonds that already have been established.

The refinancing of the Unlimited Tax General Obligation Refunding Bonds would save the city \$113,945, or 2.2 percent, during the remainder of the bond's issue, which ends in 2018.

The General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, which is up in 2016, would be refinanced to save \$242,115, an estimated 5.2 percent.

"If we get any kind of saving, we should go ahead and do this," Mary Haskell, East Lansing's finance director, said in the meeting.

All three bonds passed unanimously.

Also on the agenda was an update of Hawk Nest Park, located at the corner of Kiskadee and Bureo drives. Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Arts Tim McCaffrey discussed the Hawk Nest Park master plan with the City Council.

The proposed project could receive a \$262,500 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and \$87,500 from the city for the project. Improvements to the park include a playground, a picnic pavilion and revegetation of the site.

A design plan was submitted

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