

SN takes part in Q&A with Piven, star of HBO series
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Campus officials remember, weigh in on moon landing
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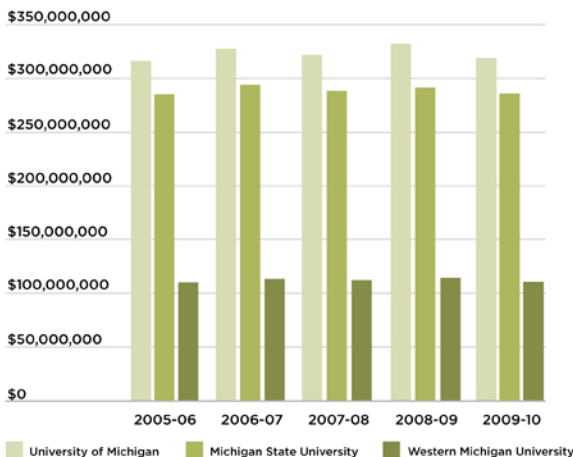
Cronkite remembered for ability to connect with U.S.
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MSU 2nd in Mich. for appropriations

State appropriations to Michigan universities

State appropriations have fallen for all of the universities in Michigan.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR THREE UNIVERSITIES



SOURCE: MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
ANDREA ZAGATA AND CHELSEA MCGORISKI/LSN

"We have a couple choices — we can raise taxes or we can make cuts and in 2007 we mostly raised taxes to make up the shortfall we faced then."

Tom George,
state senator,
R-Texas Township

By Kayla Habermehl
THE STATE NEWS

MSU and other universities in the state are feeling the pressure from a potential cut in state funding. MSU ranks second in state appropriations only to the University of Michigan out of the 15 public universities, according to data from the state Senate Fiscal Agency.

Although there's no set formula on how to divvy up appropriations among universities, why and how much a school receives changes from year to year. Cuts to higher education funding come as the state tries to get out of an approximately \$1.8 billion deficit, said state Sen. Roger Kahn, R-Saginaw Township, who is on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education. "In these tough budget times, the amount of additional funding has been less than in the past," Kahn said. "If you're talking to years, about 30 percent would have come from the state and 30 percent from tuition. Now it's the reverse."

How to cut the pie

Deciding how much each university gets is a process that has evolved based on history, said state Sen. Tom George, R-Texas Township, who is the vice chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education. "We look at what the universities got last year and then we increase or decrease it by the same percent," he said. "I'm not necessarily saying that's good or fair, but that's what happens. It goes back over decades to look, it would reflect their research status, it may reflect political pull at varying times in history — it's not a specific formula." The number of degrees conferred or the number of students isn't a set indicator of what each university gets either, George said. "There has been debates about creating a formula but it's never been adopted since the way it's weighted could lead to bias.

One possible solution George sees lies outside of the realm of higher education — health care. "If you look at the budget, the pie has stayed about the same size but the university gets less," he said. "There's less because money is going to health care — there might be more for higher education if people took better care of themselves." Some relief might come in the form of federal stimulus funds. In order to receive the money, the state wasn't able to give the universities less than what they received in 2006, according to the state Senate Fiscal Agency. Kahn said because of the stimulus requirements, there wasn't much they could trim off the higher education budget. "There are requirements that are part of the stimulus dollar appropriation," he said. See FUNDS on page 2

EAST LANSING

Downtown development company lags on tax bills

Project problems

Strathmore Development Company owes about \$145,000 in 2008 property taxes. There are seven properties owned by the company with past due taxes. The amounts due range from about \$6,000 to more than \$50,000. If the taxes aren't paid by March 31, 2010, the properties will be in tax foreclosure by the county. SOURCE: INGHAM COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

By Kate Jacobson
THE STATE NEWS

An East Lansing-based development company owes about \$140,000 in back taxes for a major downtown development. Delinquent property taxes forced Strathmore Development Company to go into temporary foreclosure for the properties involved in the City Center II project, said Eric Sanko, vice president of special assets at Huntington National Bank. City Center II is a \$116.4-million mixed-use development slated for the area bound by Abbott Road, Grand River and Evergreen avenues.

A notice of foreclosure for City Center II published July 9 in the Ingham County Legal News was a mistake. It stated several of the project's properties had gone into foreclosure. Strathmore is in negotiations with Huntington and the notice was never meant to be published. The development is no longer in foreclosure because of the negotiations. Sanko said Huntington decided to declare foreclosure on the property because of the delinquent property taxes. "There are a substantial amount of past due property taxes," he said. See PROJECT on page 2



Loomis

CRIME

POLICE ABSORB INFO ON STRING OF THEFTS

By Brittany Shammus
THE STATE NEWS

MSU police are following a flow of information regarding two leads in a series of thefts from feminine-hygiene product dispensers, MSU police Detective Steven Beard said. Police Sgt. Florene McGlothlin-Taylor said one of the suspects came to the attention of police when thefts stopped during his incarceration for another offense. Beard declined to comment further, citing a need to form a more solid case. The break-ins and thefts, which first occurred between June 1 and June 12, launched a police investigation when a period of increased cases were reported across campus. Women's restrooms in campus buildings, including the

Chemistry Building, Human Ecology Building and the Computer Center, were targeted. The incidents became more sporadic after June 12, discontinuing altogether until another cycle of thefts began in July. On July 9, a theft was reported in the Music Building. Between July 13 and July 14, feminine-hygiene dispensers on the first, second and fourth floors of the Chemistry Building were broken into. At least nine incidents have been reported to date, resulting in the theft of an unknown sum of money from women's restrooms in at least seven campus buildings. The dispensers, which cost about \$316 per unit, might have to be replaced because of the damage they sustained during the break-ins, McGlothlin-Taylor said. First-year medical student Isaac

Elgammal said she is happy to hear police are on the case and the person responsible needs to be stopped because it is unfair for the rest of the university to suffer for one person's immature actions. "What's going to happen is, if you're in a jam and you do need a tampon, you're not going to be able to get one," she said. "If they keep vandalizing the machines, the university is not going to keep tampons in the machines." Police are waiting for more information to come in regarding the case, Beard said. The breaking and entering of the machines and the larceny from the building are misdemeanor and felony charges, he said. Police hope to disrupt the cycle in the near future.

CATCHING SOME AIR



East Lansing resident Matt Stine prepares to run and jump onto a mat at MSU's Ralph Young Field as his daughter Vanessa Stine, 2, playfully shoos her brother Luke Stine, 8. NICHOLE GREENE/ THE STATE NEWS