



Leaves make some green for MSU, prevent weed growth

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Review: Jackson movie shows pop star in normal light

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Football team falters in defeat against Gophers

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No treats for MSU

MATT BISHOP

Spartans a step behind in tragic 42-34 defeat



Minneapolis — On a night full of tricks, treats and frights, nothing was scarier than what happened to the MSU football team inside TCF Bank Stadium on Saturday night.

At 4-4 on the season, the Spartans needed to come and put the stamp on a struggling Minnesota team in order to improve their bowl positioning. Instead, what happened was a debacle of the highest order — a stunning 42-34 defeat that forces MSU to win its final three games in order to finish with a winning record.

This game was an epic fail, a fiasco, a catastrophe — whatever you want to call it. The Spartans gave up 42 points to a team that scored as many in its last three games combined. A team that was 12th in the country in offense. A team without its best player. A team that had more penalty yardage than MSU had rushing. A team with every reason to quit.

Instead, what happened was as futile a game that has been seen this season. If this wasn't a football game and instead a "which team can shoot itself in the foot last" game, MSU wins that one, thanks to senior Kendall Davis-Clark running into the punter on fourth-and-one with less than 2:30 to go, drawing a five-yard penalty and a game-ending first down for Minnesota.

The list of oddities in this game knows no bounds. There were inconsistent officiating and inconsistent booth reviews, there were receivers open all over the field, there was sophomore quarterback Kirk Cousins' dippy-doo touchdown pass, and there was Minnesota's school-record 17 penalties. But the odddest thing of all

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WHAT LIES BENEATH



Fisheries and wildlife senior Amy Viscio brings items found in the Red Cedar River to the MSU Canoe Livery during a river cleanup Saturday hosted by the Fisheries and Wildlife Club.

Red Cedar River cleaner than what some expect; MSU studies makeup of aquatic life

"A lot of people think it's a dead sewer, if more people knew about the rivers around here and would use them, then maybe they would care for them more."

Mark Stephens, education program coordinator

By Ian Johnson
THE STATE NEWS

Whenever Mark Stephens hears people call the Red Cedar River dirty, he's always quick to defend it. "It's an incredible river with a lot of life and top water quality," he said.

Stephens works as an education program coordinator in the MSU Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies, and through his research, he has found opinions of the river might be more stereotypical than substantive.

"A lot of people think it's a dead sewer," he said.

"If more people knew about the rivers around here and would use them, then maybe they would care for them more."

Stephens, along with students and faculty at MSU, are doing their part to keep MSU's most storied body of water clean, even if some people think otherwise.

The old Red Cedar

The story of the river's perception almost is as old the fight song dedicated to it, said Ruth Kline-Robach, outreach specialist at the MSU Institute of Water Research.

In the 1970s, before the federal government passed the Clean Water Act in 1972, the river deserved its dirty label, Kline-Robach said. The river was a victim of dumping and waste from people and companies in the region because there were no laws protecting the river's health.

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To see a video of a cleanup of the Red Cedar River, visit stateneews.com/multimedia.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

COST CUTS MIGHT CAUSE MSU TO DISCONTINUE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

By Meredith Skrzypczak
THE STATE NEWS

The futures of the departments of Communicative Sciences and Disorders and Geological Sciences, along with several other programs, hang in the balance after dozens of potential cuts were announced Friday at the MSU Board of Trustees meeting.

The recommendations represent the university's effort to deal with shrinking funds while supporting activities that enhance the university's future, according to MSU's Shaping the Future Web site. The university must confront a 15 percent to 20 percent reduction in its operating budget during the next three years.

The possible cuts were announced by MSU Provost Kim Wilcox, who also talked about possible program discontinuities at all levels, such as the American Studies Program in the College of Arts and Letters and retailing in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences. Various

undergraduate degrees also were recommended for discontinuance, such as those in the Veterinary Technology Program and Classical Studies in the College of Arts and Letters.

Wilcox said the recommendations partly were based on areas including student learning, reputation, research productivity and cost. At the meeting, the number of people who could lose their jobs and specific details of the cuts were not discussed.

Pamela Whitten, dean of the College of Communication Arts and Sciences, said decisions to disinvest from certain areas in the college were "painful."

"Retailing was selected due to its lack of fit within the core mission of the college of communication," she said. "In addition, retailing is the smallest program in the college and enrollment has declined significantly in the past five years."

Rodney Runyan, an MSU alumnus, holds graduate degrees in retailing and said the program

is needed.

"Not only is this program a large program on campus in terms of enrollment... there are employers out there wanting to employ the graduates," he said.

Ralph Taggart, chairperson of the Department of Geological Sciences, said the department will go through a lot as the university considers proposed cuts.

"Many things about the strength of the department were not taken into consideration," he said.

Others on the chopping block were shocked as rumors of cuts were confirmed.

"To feel that it's OK to cut a member of the veterinary health care team, it's kind of a kick in the pants," said Sarah Tomasiak, an instructor in the Veterinary Technology Program. "Even though we're a small program, we're a valuable asset to this college especially because when people hear Michigan State, they think the

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MICHIGAN

Granholtz signs budget, wipes out Promise

By Marissa Cumbers
THE STATE NEWS

Elimination of the Michigan Promise Scholarship and about 6 percent of financial aid funding was finalized Friday when Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed Michigan's last six budget bills.

The Michigan Promise Scholarship provides grants between \$1,000 and \$4,000 to 96,000 students statewide. At MSU, about 8,200 students were authorized to receive the scholarship, said Val Meyers, associate director of the MSU Office of Financial Aid.

Granholm avoided the state's second government shutdown by signing the bills one day before the state's temporary budget expired. Michigan lawmakers passed a temporary budget Oct. 1 when they failed to settle the state's \$40 billion budget, which caused a two-hour government shutdown.

"I will not pretend that this

is a good budget," Granholm said in a statement. "This budget cuts, rather than supports, Michigan's most pressing priorities — educating our children and helping them pay for a college education, maintaining health care for our most vulnerable citizens, and keeping police officers and fire fighters on the streets of our communities."

Before finalizing the budget, Granholm announced \$127 million in additional cuts through line-item vetoes. Items vetoed included earmarks and pilot programs built in by the Legislature, said Megan Brown, a spokeswoman for Granholm.

"If there was something in the budget that we didn't have enough money to fund completely, I vetoed it," Granholm said in the statement.

By signing all 15 budget bills, Granholm eliminated the state's \$2.8 billion deficit. In addition to the Michigan Promise Scholarship, financial aid cuts eliminate the Part-Time Independent Student Program, the Michigan

Work-Study Program, the Michigan Education Opportunity Grants and state nursing scholarships. University operations funding was cut by 0.4 percent for 15 universities.

MSU will receive \$29.1 million for university operations — a \$1.2 million decrease from last year's \$29.3 million.

"It's almost like they are pushing us out of the state," construction management senior James Savage said. "They're screwing the people they want to stay here."

About \$68 million of this year's \$1.6 billion higher education budget is funded with federal stimulus dollars.

And stimulus funds won't be available next year, which will make the budget even harder to balance, said Alan Fox, a political consultant with East Lansing-based Practical Political Consulting Inc. He said without tax increases, the state never will have enough revenue.

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