



Good neigh-bors

A donkey and Belgian horse side up while Kensington Children's Farm manager Lincoln Friend lends a hand in the corral at the new attraction at Kensington Metropark near Milford. The working farm is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Charges are \$125 for adults and 75 cents for children aged 12 and under, plus \$1 Metropark daily permit fee. Ten ponies can be ridden by children for 50 cents per person. Swan-like boats seating four persons will cruise the ponds at 50 cents per person. There are an arts and crafts center, information office and food service, in addition to a host of animals waiting to welcome families.

UM happy with SAT scores

Incoming freshmen at the University of Michigan appear to be brighter than last year's crop, according to the UM Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

The office reports an improvement in academic and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) performance among the incoming group of students this year, following a decline last year.

Median scores on the SATs improved a total of 10 points over student scores last year, while the median high school percent rank of the incoming students jumped from the 93rd percentile last year to the 95th percentile this year.

Last year the admissions office reported a significant drop in the SAT test scores which corresponded to a nationwide decline. The College Entrance Examination Board, which administers the tests for college-bound high school juniors and seniors, has not yet published nationwide scores for incoming students this fall.

BASED ON THE 1976 admissions figures at UM, Clifford F. Sjogren, director of admissions, said he was "happy" to report that the recent decline in SAT scores for incoming UM students appears to have been reversed—at least for the time being.

Among all incoming first-year students at the UM Ann Arbor campus, the median score on the mathematics portion of the SAT jumped from 590 last year to 600 this

year, while scores on the verbal portion remained the same at 520. The tests are scored on the basis of 800 as a perfect score.

The figures on incoming students at UM include students in the schools of art, education, music, natural resources, engineering, pharmacy, nursing and literature, science and the arts.

Sjogren said the most noticeable increase this year in academic and test performance involved first-year students in nursing and pharmacy, and to some extent engineering. He suggested that this is indicative of increased student interest in the health science professions and in professional schools in general.

CONSIDERING RECENT declining scores at UM and nationally, Sjogren said he felt it was "good news" that we do not have had news, this year.

In addition to the 10 point improvement in the median SAT math score, Sjogren reported improved academic and test performance by UM students in virtually all areas which are measured quantitatively. Some examples he cited are:

• The top 10 per cent of incoming students at UM scored over 600 on the verbal portion of the SAT, compared to 600 last year, and 720 on the mathematics portion compared to 710 last year.

• The performance of in-state first-year students increased significantly. They posted a median SAT math score of 590 this year, compared to 580 last year, and a median verbal score of 510, compared to 515 last year.

For out-state students, three results were noted. Their median math score jumped from 615 last year to 629 this year, but their verbal score dropped from 545 last year to 540 this year.

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3 to fight further use of gas tax

Three area men are part of a newly formed group fighting further use of the state highway fund for public transportation and seeking more funds for county roads.

Thomas P. O'Rourke, managing director of the Wayne County Road Commission, served as chairman at the organizational meeting of the Michigan Forum for Balanced Transportation.

Among the other 16 members are John Grubbs, managing director of the Oakland County Road Commission, and Russell F. Theiman, of Bloomfield Hills Transportation Planning Associates.

Besides county road commission representatives, the group includes representatives of the Michigan Trucking Association, Michigan Road Builders Association, Michigan Township Association, Michigan Association of Counties and the Michigan Public Transit Association.

"WHILE PARTICIPANTS in our meeting had no authority to commit their organizations to new policies, we were pleased to discover existing policy of the organizations permitted consensus on principles we consider necessary to a balanced transportation system," said O'Rourke.

One principle is that the motor vehicle highway fund "should not and must not be further diverted for other purposes," the group said.

The fund currently allocates a half-cent of the nine-cent gasoline tax to public transportation.

The group called for supplemental funding in county road commissions "to make necessary improvements to keep county primary and local roads abreast with needs."

THE FORUM called for a series of public forums around the state to bring people together with their legislators for mutual discussion of the problems.

The group called the automobile "the dominant transportation mode in Michigan for the foreseeable future," adding that other complementary modes should be developed.

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