

OU class project helps Silverdome

As director of operations for the Pontiac Silverdome, Bob Haney keeps daily tabs on a \$2.4 million budget. But it wasn't so easy, until he got assistance in a management information systems class from Oakland University (OU).

It started with a story in the area newspapers, Haney said. Haney added that while designed for the operations division, the system can also be used by other divisions within the Silverdome.

"I have worked with students on special projects before, and I have faith in their ability and in their integrity to finish what they start," the director said.

Dan Newman, operations detailer, agreed. "We got a lot more out of this project than the students did. It is a very fine program and it is going to help us a lot."

THE SYSTEM was implemented shortly before the holidays and, except for the normal bugs, is working beautifully, Haney said. Haney added that while designed for the operations division, the system can also be used by other divisions within the Silverdome.

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"I was delighted with the performance of the students and happy that we could provide a service to the Silverdome," Smith said.

As an instructor in Oakland University's School of Economics and Management, Smith is now seeking computer application projects for his next class.

The criteria remain the same: real world problems that can be completed in a semester, problems that will provide a learning experience for the students and service for an area firm or organization.

Detroit chamber says 'no' to permanent tax

The board of directors of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce opposes Gov. James Blanchard's proposal for a permanent income tax increase. But the chamber does support a temporary income tax hike to eliminate Michigan's budget deficit.

The committee recommended to the board that substantial real cuts be made in the state budget immediately and that no additional tax burdens should be imposed on business. That was suggested especially in light of the \$2.2 billion in new taxes businesses will pay over the next four years to address the unemployment compensation crisis.

State Treasurer Robert Bowman met with chamber directors to summarize the governor's budget plans. Prior to today's meeting, the chamber's State Taxation Committee had analyzed details of the state's fiscal crisis including the report of the Michigan Financial Crisis Council. Robert Allison, vice president of National Bank of Detroit, is the chairman of the chamber committee.

On these two matters, the chamber is essentially in agreement with the governor's plan, although the chamber feels that further reductions in the size of state government are necessary.

Bowman told the board that a permanent income tax increase is needed.

Cuts a threat — Macomb prexy

Reaction to Gov. James Blanchard's income tax hike proposal was mixed at Macomb Community College, Michigan's largest community college. Blanchard proposed to raise the income tax by 1.75 percent to 6.35 percent and to cut expenses \$225 million.

because the mission of community colleges all along has been to provide specific job skills to people. In this regard, community colleges are pinching in and helping the state right now — and would like to do more."

"There is no question that the two major goals identified by the governor — jobs and restoring fiscal stability — are of utmost importance to the long-term health of the state," said Albert L. Lorenzo, president of Macomb.

"It's right — there is no higher task than putting Michigan back to work. I was encouraged to hear those words,

But a critical balance must be struck, Lorenzo warned, as the state implements the proposed \$225 million across-the-board funding cut.

"Higher education endured four executive-order cuts in the last 12 months," said Lorenzo. "We are operating under a state aid deferral right now, and another cut threatens to jeopardize the quality and scope of our job-training programs."

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