MET marketing State steps up efforts to sell tuition plan

By Wayne Peal staff writer

By wayneven autorium wayneven autorium to ranning those who say they rest easily knowing their children will someday go to college through the Michigan Education Trust.

"You could never the money on your own," said Currky, an Oakland Consty most late Rep. Lyn Bankes and her habsand have chosen another college payment plan on behalf of their unbern grandchild.

Histog state tuition and rival plans have leaded MET's future since the college to the rest of the

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ple out in a beavy rain storm, I think it shows what kind of interest there is in MET," state treasury department spokesman Robert Kolt said.

Metro area residents, especially these from Oakland County, formed the backbone of last year's crop of MET enrollees.

More than 40,000 youngsters were enrolled last year, with little state profiled that year, the state is spending \$25,000 to promote MET. The Royal Oak forum was part of a state-wide series preceding this year's Oct. 2-6 sign-up period.

A MET video is available at area video stores. State officials have asked store owners to provide free rentals.

Treasury department officials are aware alternature programs, both public and private, have emerged in the past year.

"We've told people that if they can make investments that would outstrip MET then that's what they should do," Kolt said.

That's what Bankes did, opting for a U.S. Savings Bond program. But the Republican state representative said a potentially higher rate of re-

stores. State officials have asked store owners to provide free rentals.

turn wasn't the misjor reason.
"MET GUARANTIEES tultion, but it's room and board that's the big college cost," Bankes sald. "The way we look at it, our grandehlid will probably be able to afford college, but our investment in Savings Bonds could well determine whether he or she goes away to college or stays

she goes away at control of the home."

In contrast, Sigworth and her husband decided to stick with MET after reviewing other plans with a financial planner.

"We're really glad we did it," said sigworth, grants coordinator for Schoolcraft College, Livonia. "We tell people we're already sending her to college."

to college."
State officials said they wen't know how many people will sign up for MET this year until results are for MET this year, tallied.
"Last year, we predicted 5,000 and

got eight times that," Kolt said. "It's hard to tell."

MET supporters and detractors agree on one point — college is becoming increasingly expensive.

State Treasurer Robert Bowman said four-year tuition at a state university currently averages \$10,000.

By the time today's newborns haverity currently averages \$10,000.

MET is also becoming more expensive. This year's enrollment cost averages 13 percent more than last year.

year.

Peace of mind, Kolt said, is MET's

Peace of mind, Rolt said, is MET's chief soiling point.
"Most people, we believe, will choose MET because of its tuition guarantee," he said. "People can make money through a variety of in-vestments, but MET guarantees tui-tion and that's important."



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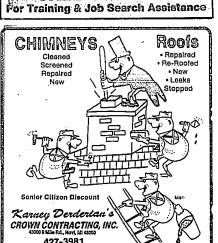
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Saturday Fun Day aimed at disabled

Disabled people and their guests can have a day of Indian summer fun at the Oakland County Fun Day set for noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Southfield Civic Center.

Center.

Ricreational activities such as tennis, abuffeboard, softball, golf putting and volleyball.

Live entertainment every half hour. Group's and individuals with disabilities will perform.

Lunch — noon to 2:30 p.m.

Appearances by Channel 4 personalities Mort Crim, Mal Sillars and Mike Lewis.

Door prizes.

Purpose is to provide an oppor-tunity for mentally impaired and physically disabled people to try a variety of recreational activities, sald Jackie McParlane, recreation-

"We encourage family and friends to join in to show that the disabled don't have to participate in recreational activities independ-ent of their families," she said.

ent of their families," she said.

Sponsors are: WDIV Channel 4;
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Easter Seals; Oak Park Recreation
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department; Birmingham YMCA;
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