

Candidates agree MSU needs to be more affordable for students

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Election '98

Every candidate agrees that Michigan State University needs to be affordable to students and is working to put more full professors in undergraduate classrooms.

Republicans David Porteous and Dee Cook emphasize that as trustees they would be "good stewards" of tax dollars, tuition dollars and policy.

Democrat Doris Sims says more attention should be paid to "faculty concerns for comparable salaries" and student input on how to curtail campus drinking.

They fielded questions Sept. 24 from the Livonia Branch of the American Association of University Women. No-shows were Democrat John Schlunker and Libertarians Barbara Goushaw and Mark Heil.

Candidates are quoted in the order in which they replied.

Affirmative action

They had some differences on "affirmative action," the subject of a lawsuit at MSU's sister institution, the University of Michigan. Cook (R): MSU has "a College Academic Achievement Program (CAAP). This is not a race-based program. It assigns mentors and support efforts. It has brought a large minority pool (of students)."

Porteous (R): "I am opposed to quotas and set-asides. I favor an aggressive recruiting program that brings in diverse students through alumni organizations and schools throughout the state. We have tens of thousands of alumni who are glad to go into schools and become mentors... They will hear about Michigan State and assure our university has a diverse student body." Sims (D): "I am firmly for affirmative action. It is not just recruiting minorities but women also. It will allow them to compete. It's an opportunity that will allow them an edge on getting into the university of their choice. Minorities and women have not had the tools to have access to universities. I support it wholeheartedly."

Charter schools

Of the Big Three state universities, only Wayne State has chartered a public school academy. Candidates were asked whether MSU should charter any and, if so, should it follow Central Michigan's example of prolific issuance of charters.

Cook (R): "I support the concept. MSU has an award-winning college of education. We have an experimental program in the Lansing public schools where we have a school of choice within Lansing. We are equipped to help."

Cook favors following CMU's lead, "but the key is follow-up. We should be perfectly primed and equipped."

Porteous (R): "We have some particular expertise that could evolve into effective charter schools. We used to have agricultural classes in our (K-12) schools. We don't have that any more, yet there is a great need. MSU, as a land grant university and has the staff, the expertise, to implement a very effective charter school in agriculture. I do not think we should establish charter schools in areas where we do not have expertise."

"I'm reluctant to comment on Central Michigan's experience. Although there are some very fine people on that board, I'm not privy to the details of what Central has done," said Porteous, referring to the highly critical Auditor General's 1997 report on CMU's weak supervision of its charter schools.

Sims (D): "Charter schools are here to stay. MSU should be allowed to offer that. We have an undergrad school where students could run a charter school, or contribute to a charter school, beneficial to the students."

"There has to be control over the number of charter schools springing up around the state as well as controlling what's going on inside. From my observation, some charter schools that have come out of CMU have not been successful," Sims said.

Profs in class

An audience member said there had been past complaints of graduate assistants rather than tenured professors teaching undergraduate classes.

Porteous (R): "It's a challenge to balance the goals of research and teaching."

Cook (R): President Peter McPherson's principle is that "every member of the faculty will make a demonstrable contribution to undergraduate education." She added, "We've gotten more productivity at the university. We've made great strides."

Sims (D): "To turn classes over to graduate assistants is unjust to the students."

AAUW asked the candidates' attitude toward the Open Meetings Act and the several lawsuits filed against MSU and U-M over violations.

Porteous (R): Citing his municipal legal work, he said, "When municipalities get into trouble, it's when the meetings are closed."

Cook (R): OMA is "controversial." She said the 1996 revisions — allowing the presidential hiring process to be closed until interviews of the finalists — "will remove the reservations I have by improving the pool of applicants."

Sims (D): "I support openness."

Michigan State University

Description: Based at East Lansing with eight "outreach centers." Nearly \$1 billion budget; 40,000 students. Host to Agricultural Experiment Station and Detroit College of Law.

Terms: Eight trustees serve eight-year terms; two elected in even-numbered years; nominated at party conventions.

CANDIDATES:

REPUBLICANS

► **DELORES (DIZ) COOK**, incumbent and board chair; elected in 1990; 12 years on Greenville school board; a founder of Montclair Community College; motivational speaker.

► **DAVID PORTEOUS**, 45, attorney from Reed City, with much municipal work; chair of Michigan Strategic Fund; vice-chair of Michigan Economic Growth Authority; State Corrections Commission; on board of several banks and an insurance company; filled vacancy on MSU board by appointment.

DEMOCRATS

► **DORIS SIMS**, Lansing, governmental affairs agent, Michigan chapter of National Association of Social Workers.

► **JOHN SCHLUNKER**, East Lansing, attorney in labor relations.

LIBERTARIANS

► **BARBARA GOUSHAW**, Southfield.

► **MARK HEIL**, Harrison Township.

My primary concern is giving the public the opportunity to view the candidates. Closed meetings limit their access." The revised OMA is "acceptable."

AAUW's interviews with MSU, U-M, Wayne State and State Board of Education candidates were videotaped by Time Warner of Livonia. To view any or all of the 30-minute programs, call your local cable company.

Airport opens info center

Airport Central, a public information center at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, opened Thursday as Wayne County's newest endeavor in a crusade to make the airport a friendlier and less-complicated facility.

"I expect this will be a very popular addition to the airport, based on how well our green-vested customer service agents have been received," said Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara.

"Our passengers appreciate their helpfulness in providing directions and thoughtfulness in providing assistance," McNamara said. "This service can only be enhanced with the resources available at Airport Central."

Centrally located between Concourses D and E, the facility features interactive displays, models and photos, airport facts and information on services and expansion plans.

Wayne County's green-vested customer-service agents will staff the facility to answer questions and offer assistance to the public.

"We are listening to our customers," said airport director David Katz. Airport Central features include:

► A model and renderings

of the new 74-gate terminal.

► A touch-screen display featuring the airport's Web site as well as links to other Web sites including the airlines, local attractions, Henry Ford Museum, Detroit Zoo, Metro Detroit Visitors and Convention Bureau and the Detroit Institute of Arts.

► A computer-generated tour of the new terminal.

► A touch-screen video wall highlighting the airport's growth, expansion plans, neighborhood compatibility program and wetland mitigation program.

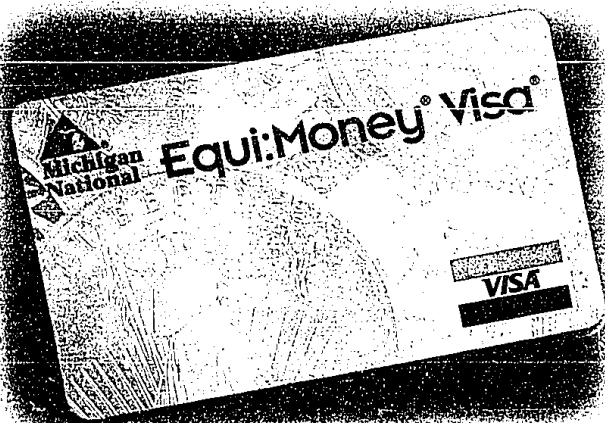
► All of Wayne County's airport-related brochures and reports.

While Airport Central is a Wayne County facility, its construction was managed by Northwest Airlines.

Wayne County-based Crudo Brothers performed the construction, Detroit-based Madison, Madison International managed the design, displays and signs, Unique Media Group handled the computers and software equipment.

The information tables, activated during the Northwest pilots' strike, will continue operating as satellite Airport Central stations.

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Introducing Michigan National's Equi:Money Visa® — the tax-deductible credit card. Look great? Absolutely. When you use Equi:Money Visa, the interest you pay is generally tax deductible since it is secured by the equity in your home — ask your tax advisor. Equi:Money Visa also offers a permanently low interest rate based on Prime Rate. You can even consolidate outstanding balances on other credit cards or loans to increase your savings. With Equi:Money Visa, spending money has never looked so good.

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*The Annual Percentage Rate is based on the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate, the amount of the line of credit, and the LTV. For example, the APR as of September 15, 1998 for 80% LTV line of credit was 8.50% for lines of \$20,000-\$250,000, 9.00% for lines of \$25,000-\$49,999, 9.50% for lines of \$50,000-\$99,999, and 11.50% for all lines of credit with an LTV greater than 80%. APRs are variable and subject to change. Minimum APR is 10.00%. \$40 annual fee is waived the first year. If your State Equi:Money Visa does not qualify you for the loan amount requested, you will be required to pay \$250 for an appraisal. Property insurance required. Consult your tax advisor regarding tax deductibility.

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