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Cage fans being ripped off

The Joe Louis Arena, capacity 20,500, will host its first event Dec. 12 when the University of Detroit will play the University of Michigan in basketball.

ketball.

Advertisements in area papers have been promoting the game. Tickets are priced at \$11, \$10, \$9 and \$7.

Does that seem a little steep to you for a college basketball game? If it does, you're not the only one who thinks so.

does, you it are not not so.

If economy means anything to you in these times of inflated prices, skip this game and the U-D Michigan State game scheduled Dec. 20 at the Louis Arena. Ducats will cost the same for that encounter as they do for U-D-U-M arena.

that encounter as they do for U-D-U-M game.

Al Renfrew, U-M ticket manager, says \$4 tickets are available for all of the Wolverines' home dates this winter in Crisler Arena, capacity 13,609. Eve-ry seat in Crisler carries a \$4 price this season.

Season.

Home opponents include Michigan
State, defending NTA champior, Indiana, defending NTA champior, Indiduc, runner-up in the NTT.
Sal Malek, U-D athletic business
manager, says that 35 tickets are available for all of the Titans' home games
this year in Caliban Hall, capacity
8,837.

Home opponents at Caliban include
Iowa and Rhode Island, which both

participated in last year's NCAA tourney.

Tickets may even be purchased at bargain prices for special promotions at U-D for selected games. (Call the athletic department at \$27-1155 for specific details.)

As one can see, the price of the best seat in Crisier Arena or Caliban Bird won't even get you into Louis Arena for the U-D-U-M game, or the U-D-MSU encounter.

the U-D-U-M game, or the U-D-MSU encounter.
Consider, also, that U-D will host Marquette, Duquesne, Oral Roberts and Xavier later this season in the Louis Arena. Tickets for those games will range from \$7 to \$4, according to Malek.

range from \$7 to \$4, according to Malek.

Larry Geracioti, U-D athletic director, said that representatives of the University of Detroit, the University of Michigan and Olympla Stadium, who will operate the Louis Arena, met to set the ticket scale.

Both teams will meet part of the expenses. Both teams and Olympla sull receive a percentage of the gate, which will not be divided equally.

"We don't know if the prices are excessive pony, said Geraciotil. "We have to guarantee something. We're dealing, with unions who say we have to have so many people selling concessions, ushers, guards, ticket takers.
"Our alm is to attract fans, to do best by them. We're concerned about the

By Doug Funke

general public."
It's absolutely touching that U-D's concern for the public translates to \$\frac{1}{4}\times \text{1-0-9-7}\$ (ticket to watch the Titans play against U-M and MSU, but \$\frac{7}{2}\times \text{0-7}\$ (and MSU, but \$\frac{7}{2}\times \text{0-7}\$ (arguette, Duquesne, Oral Roberts and Xavier!

Roberts and Xavier!
Malek said he anticipates a sellout
for the U-M game, "The biggest thing
about it is that we know we can draw
8,000 here (in Caliban Hall). Why let
five or six thousand people out in the
streets?"

streets?"
Good question, Vet, if U-M card even sell out Crisier Arena right on campus against some excellent Big Fen competition, it seems hard to believe it will fill an arena 40 miles away at nearly double the ticket price.
When was the last time U-D sold out Calihan Hall and how many times has it done so in the past five years? It really makes sense that U-M and U-D, which haven't sold out one game yet this season in their regular home

arenas against some pretty good com-petition, are so concerned about their fans that they're willing to move the game to a bigger facility and substan-tially hike the ticket prices.

One hopes U-D isn't inadvertantly developing a visibility problem by playing home games at two different places with three different ticket price scales.

One also hopes that the public is aware of its different options for viewing college basketball in the area.

One also hopes that greed for the bucks will not take precedence over what's really in the best interests of the players and their supporters at the collegiate level.

players and unear superative, many area legiate level.

And, as an alternative, many area high schools sell family season passes for all home baskethall games for less money than it would cost for a single licket to the U-D-U-M game. That may be the best buy of all.

