



TODAY ON FREEP.COM

Check for updates on state budget talks



Landmark athletic club is on the block 3B

Inside
Roadwork 2
Death notices 4-5
Obituary 5
Weather 6

LOCAL NEWS

Friday, April 27, 2007 Metro dept.: 313-222-6600, localnews@freepress.com

www.freep.com Detroit Free Press

B



BRIAN DICKERSON

Yes, son, it was a crank robo-caller

The voicemail began with the half-beat pause common to all robo-calls.

But this cyborg wasn't selling lakefront property or slandering someone's political rival. It was calling to rat out my teenage son.

This message is for the parents of ... the cyborg's voice began ominously. Then, after an awkward digital pause, my son's name and grade, followed by the news that he had failed to show up for school that morning.

How could that be? I'd seen him get on the bus myself; his mother had picked him up in the afternoon. When I'd prodded him for news of his school day, he'd mentioned (with a grudging sigh of adolescent impatience) a test he'd scored well on and his urgent need, as phys ed segued to swimming, for a swimsuit less appallingly out of style than the one I'd bought him six months ago.

If he'd fabricated this retrospective, it had been an Oscar-worthy performance. Was he really capable of such elaborate deception? Or was he an innocent victim of bureaucratic bungling?

The cyborg couldn't say.

Aggravating factors

I should mention that it was 9 p.m. — during the intermission of a protracted argument with my son — when I retrieved the accusatory voicemail. The argument had been an ugly one — the sort in which teenage provocation meets parental overreaction and fights it to an exhausted draw — and if I was not inclined to regard my son as a liar, neither was I flush with paternal affection.

It was, in short, the perfect time for a troublemaking cyborg to drop its seed of suspicion in the fertile field of parental anxiety.

"Go away!" the alleged truant said when I knocked on his bedroom door. My blood pressure rose perceptibly, but I affected a neutral voice before moving in for the kill.

"Were you in school today?"

"Yes!" he said testily. "Why?"

"All day?"

"Yes!" he repeated. "Why?"

"Well, then, why is your school calling to tell me you weren't?"

I'd lost the battle to modulate my voice. My last query had been an accusation, backed by the authority of the monolithic "school."

"Because they don't know what they're talking about?" the accused shot back. It was a contemptuous reply, calculated to infuriate. It was also true.

Vindication

The dean of freshmen confirmed my son's speculation the next morning: The voicemail had been a false alarm, one of hundreds the berserk cyborg had delivered to the homes of innocent freshmen. The precise cause of the digital snafu was still being investigated, but my son and his classmates were blameless.

I recalled the previous evening and wondered in how many other households the ever-smoldering embers of parental anxiety had been fanned into flame. I thought of Joe McCarthy and his lists, of all the news stories in which damaging accusations were attributed only to "those close to the investigation" or "law-enforcement officials."

Teens deserve our skeptical scrutiny, but so do robo-callers. And if a cyborg phones to say your mother loves you, check it out.

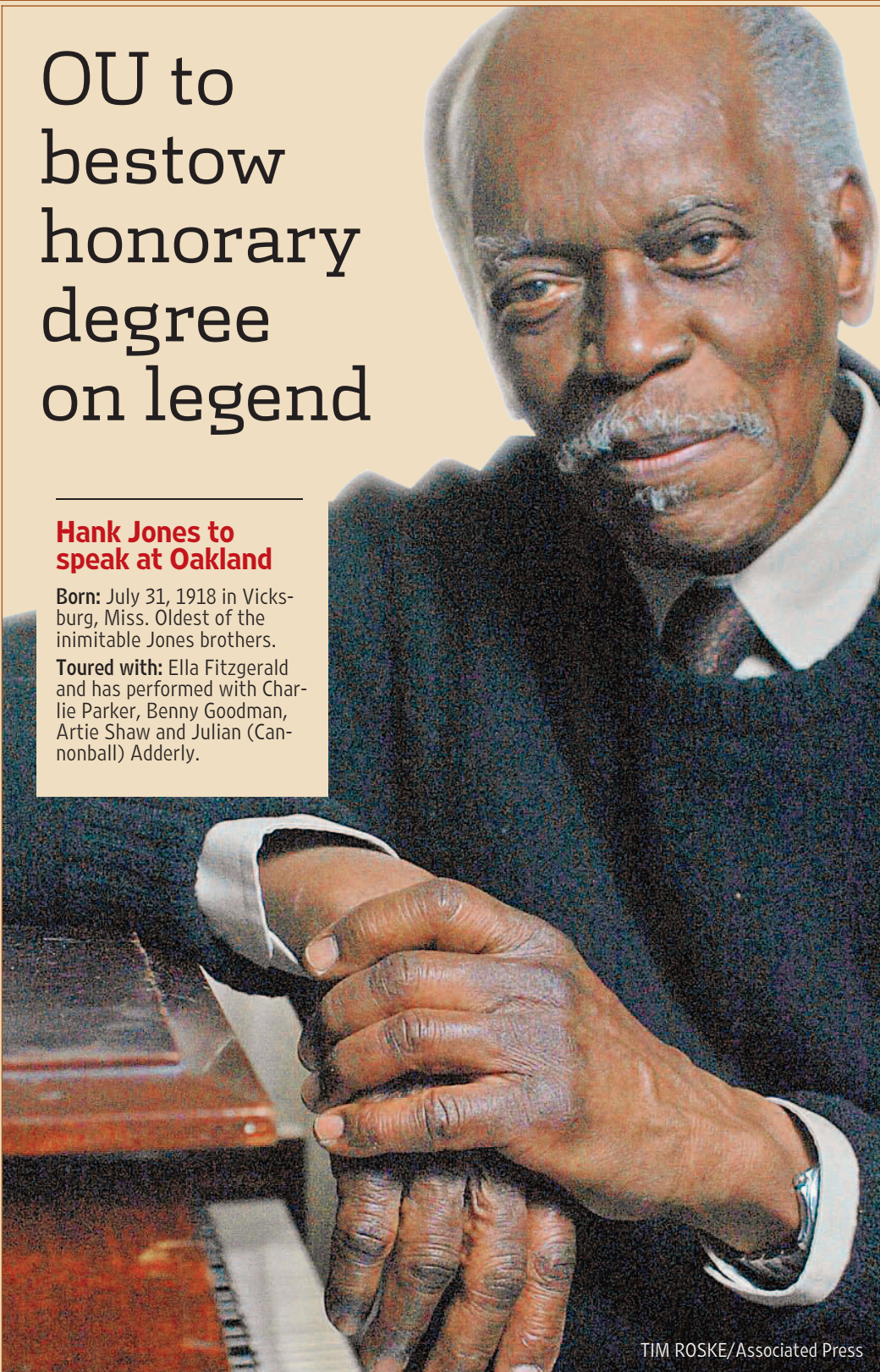
Contact **BRIAN DICKERSON** at 248-351-3697 or bdickerson@freepress.com.

OU to bestow honorary degree on legend

Hank Jones to speak at Oakland

Born: July 31, 1918 in Vicksburg, Miss. Oldest of the inimitable Jones brothers.

Toured with: Ella Fitzgerald and has performed with Charlie Parker, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and Julian (Cannonball) Adderly.



TIM ROSKE/Associated Press

Pianist tapped to inspire grads

Jazz musician's advice to be succinct and straightforward

By NAOMI R. PATTON
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Legend. Luminary. These adjectives are perhaps overused, or inadequate, to describe master jazz pianist Hank Jones.

Jazz aficionados know Jones as a noble man and consummate pianist, with a career that has spanned more than 50 years. In conversation, he is kind and forthright.

Oakland University's Class of 2007 likely will delight in the latter when Jones speaks at the May 5 commencement ceremony and receive an honorary doctorate of humanities.

As commencement season begins this weekend, luminaries from the worlds of business, politics and entertainment will come to the state to inspire

See MUSIC, 5B

Who's speaking where?

Big names are coming to Michigan to inspire graduates:

Oakland University — May 5, famed jazz pianist Hank Jones.

University of Michigan — April 28, Bill Clinton.

Michigan State University — May 4, Jaime Escalante, the teacher whose life inspired the 1988 movie "Stand and Deliver"; and Julie Gerberding, first woman director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Central Michigan University — May 5, John J. Grogan, author of "Marley and Me," Florine Mark, president of a Weight Watchers International franchise; and Jack Krasula, president of Trustinus LLC.

For more, see page 5B.

4 cops and a lawyer are charged in felonies

Cases involve sex crimes, assault, drunken driving

DETROIT

By BEN SCHMITT
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

A Detroit police sergeant is charged with extortion, accused of forcing couples to perform sex acts for his own sexual gratification. Another city police officer is accused of attempted murder for firing shots at another motorist in an off-duty road rage incident.

Then there is the Michigan State Police trooper accused

of assaulting Detroit police officers who went to his son's home to serve a warrant.

In Madison Heights, a police officer is accused of using a Taser electric stun gun on a suspect handcuffed in the back of a cruiser.

And an attorney for Redford Township, whose job included prosecuting drunken drivers, is himself accused of drunken driving and fleeing police.

See CHARGES, 5B

Cemetery owner is facing charges

Cox says oilman defrauded trusts

STATEWIDE

By AMBER HUNT
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Clayton Smart is accused of stealing from the living and the dead.

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox said Thursday that the Oklahoma oilman has been charged with 39 felony counts for embezzling trust fund money from 28 Michigan cemeteries he bought in an alleged kick-back deal with the cemeteries' previous owner, Craig Bush.

A total of \$70 million was taken from the trust funds, which were supposed to be used for cemetery growth and maintenance, Cox said. About \$21 million allegedly

went to Bush, who has not been charged, he says. The rest was allegedly used by Smart to pay associates and fund business accounts, Cox said Thursday.

"When trust funds are plundered long-term, there are dangers," Cox said in a news conference in Detroit.

Smart, 67, turned himself in to authorities in Oklahoma on Thursday and was expected to be extradited to Michigan for arraignment in 36th District Court in Detroit.

He faces a charge of racketeering, 10 counts of embezzlement and 28 counts of failure to trust cemetery proceeds. If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison.

When Smart bought the cemeteries, about \$61 million was in the cemetery trusts. Since then, another \$9 million was supposed to be de-

See TRUST, 5B

Wayne State ambition: Be world-class by 2011

By CHASTITY PRATT
FREE PRESS EDUCATION WRITER

In continuing attempts to improve its standing and reputation, Wayne State University launched a strategic plan Thursday that aims to establish it as a world-class research university with up to 40,000 students.

The plan stresses ways to attract more accomplished faculty and students, increase the graduation rate and build a stronger campus community for the 33,000-student institution.

Much of the 6-page strategic plan outlines abstract goals to be met from 2006 to 2011, such as strengthening

the university's ties to the city of Detroit.

More concrete plans, such as finding more ways to build revenue, are being hashed out, said Susan Burns, vice president for development and alumni affairs.

"University-wide we're all going back to our various divisions and looking for the measurable objectives," she said. "Resources are going to come from a variety of sources ... support from research dollars, auxiliary functions, state funding."

WSU already is five years and \$363 million into a 7-year campaign to raise a half bil-

See WAYNE, 5B

COUNTY NEWS CONTINUES ON 2B AND 3B>>

OAKLAND COUNTY BERKLEY

1932 babies sought for city's anniversary

Are you a Berkley resident who was born in 1932 — particularly on May 23?

The city needs you to be a representative at its 75th anniversary on May 23. Photos from 1932 also are sought as the city plans a series of events to commemorate its birth. Anyone with photos or who was born in 1932 should contact Mary Hughes at 248-546-2410 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

WAYNE COUNTY HIGHLAND PARK

New development for old Sears site

A new development at the old Sears site on Woodward Avenue will include an Aldi grocery store, a credit union, a mini-police station, a fast-food restaurant and a pharmacy.

The property, which has been vacant since the 1990s, will be developed by Michael Curis, who has worked through the Wayne County Land Bank Corp. to obtain tax breaks.

MACOMB COUNTY STERLING HEIGHTS

Advertise garage sales on Web, TV

Sterling Heights residents now can use the city Web site and Sterling Heights Television at no cost to promote garage sales.

The city also offers a free e-mail subscription service that provides information about all garage sales to 1,200 subscribers.

For more information, go to the city Web site at www.sterling-heights.net.

MUSIC | OU to give jazz legend honorary doctorate

From Page 1B

Michigan's college graduates. And, in some cases, pick up honorary degrees.

Jones, who grew up in Pontiac, said he looks forward to returning to Detroit for the first time in five years.

"I just feel a certain nostalgic feeling about things like this," he said Thursday from his home in New York. "And, it's an honor to receive this award."

Jones began his career in the 1940s. The oldest of the famed Jones brothers — cornetist and composer Thad and drummer Elvin — he has recorded and performed with Charlie Parker, Benny Goodman, Coleman Hawkins, Andy Kirk, Billy Eckstine and Milt Jackson. He also toured with Ella Fitzgerald in 1948-53.

Jones was nominated for the honorary degree by Oakland's David Daniels, emeritus professor of music, and endorsed by the jazz faculty.

University officials said Jones warned them he would keep his remarks to the students brief.

"I think they should know they have to take the ball and carry it from here on," he said, adding that Oakland students should be concerned about issues like the environment and health care. "There are lots of challenges out there ... and they should be prepared to face up to it."

Now 88, Jones still practices regularly. He released an album last year, "Hank & Frank," and plans to continue to perform despite triple heart bypass surgery a few months ago.

This trip — his first since the surgery — will follow his return to the stage, as well. He said he is scheduled to perform with trumpeter Roy Hargrove's Big Band in Chicago just before he comes to Detroit.

Musically, Jones insists, there are things he has yet to do. "I just want to do it better ...

Other speakers at commencements in state

Some of the commencement speakers at public colleges and universities across the state:

■ Eastern Michigan University — Sunday, W. Frank Fountain, senior vice president, external affairs and public policy, DaimlerChrysler; and Mary Kramer, publisher, Crain's Detroit Business.

■ Ferris State University — May 5, William Dansby, executive vice president of the Michigan Optometric Association; and John Fenn, founder of the surveying firm Fenn & Associates.

■ Grand Valley State University — Saturday, David Van Andel, chairman and CEO of the Van Andel Institute, will be the morning commencement speaker. Martin J. Allen, chairman emeritus of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, is the afternoon speaker.

■ Lake Superior State University — May 5, former Michigan State Sen. Walt North and Louis B. Lukenda, a retired dentist and now chair and CEO of Tendercare-

Michigan.

■ Michigan Tech — May 5, Josephine (Jody) Olsen, deputy director of the Peace Corps.

■ Northern Michigan University — May 5, Stephen L. Gulis Jr., executive vice president and CFO of Wolverine World Wide Inc., a Michigan-based manufacturer and distributor of footwear.

■ Saginaw Valley State University — May 12, U.S. Rep Bart Stupak.

■ University of Michigan-Dearborn — April 29, Daniel Howes, Detroit News business columnist (morning only).

■ University of Michigan-Flint — April 29, Archie Hayman, chief judge of the Genesee County Circuit Court and 68th District Court.

■ Wayne State University — May 5, no speaker. (School has never had one).

■ Western Michigan University — Saturday, Frank J. Sardone, president and CEO of Bronson Healthcare Group.

Contact **NAOMI R. PATTON** at 313-223-4485 or npatton@freepress.com.

LOCAL DEATHS

Lillian Dermovses-Clarke: She always put others first

By **JOE ROSSITER**
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER



Lillian Dermovses-Clarke

No one ever doubted the fact that Lillian Dermovses-Clarke had plenty of heart. What concerned doctors and loved ones most was its precarious condition.

Previously diagnosed with an enlarged heart, the health of the Bloomfield Hills wife and mother began to deteriorate the past few years, forcing her to undergo three major heart surgeries and several brain surgeries before complications caused a massive stroke.

On a list of potential heart recipients at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mrs. Dermovses-Clarke died Friday at that facility before a compatible match could be found. She was 37.

Benevolent to the end, she donated her kidneys and liver to the Gift of Life so others could continue to live.

"She knew she was at risk and that every day could be her last, but she remained upbeat and positive," said her husband, John Clarke. "What amazed everybody was her attitude. Her main concern was to always put others first, to make sure that everyone was taken care of after she was gone." Born an only child in Melrose, Mass., she was raised in Waterford and attended high school at AGBU Alex and Marie Manogian School, an Armenian charter school in Southfield

graduating in 1988. She received a degree in industrial engineering from the University of Michigan in 1992.

She worked at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan in Southfield as an analyst. In 1996, she married John Clarke, and she received a master's degree in business administration from Wayne State University a year later. She began working at Ford Credit in Dearborn in 1998 as an analyst.

Her husband said she decided to donate her organs because, "like others in similar situations, she knew what they were going through, waiting for donated organs.

"Which is why she felt strongly that it was the right thing to do so that others could go on living."

Proud of her Armenian heritage, she was an active member of Homenetmen, an Armenian youth group and once visited the country.

Other survivors include a son, Anto, and her mother, Elen Dermovses.

The funeral is at 11 a.m. today at St. Sarkis Armenian Church, 19300 Ford Road, Dearborn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit.

Contact **JOE ROSSITER** at 313-222-6594 or jrossiter@freepress.com.

Board will allow controversial shots

OAKLAND COUNTY

By **KATHLEEN GRAY**
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners agreed Thursday to allow the Health Department to provide a vaccine that will treat the Human Papillomavirus, a sexually transmitted disease that has been linked to cervical cancer.

The vaccine will not be mandatory for women, but offered at cost — \$360 for the three shots. The approval Thursday also included \$50,000 to stock the vaccine and print educational material about Gardasil, the brand name of the vaccine.

The issue has been controversial for Oakland County. Several commissioners said they didn't want the county to offer the drug, which is being marketed by Merck pharmaceutical company, because it was so new.

"I'm strictly voting no on this because of the uncertain long-term side effects," said Commissioner Christine Long, R-Commerce Township.

But Commissioner Tim Greimel, D-Rochester Hills,

said, "This has the potential to help save lives, and it should be offered to the people of Oakland County."

The vaccines will be available within the next few weeks. For information on how to get it, call 800-848-5533 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon-8 p.m. on Monday.

The issue, which passed on an 18-7 vote, was included on a busy agenda for commissioners Thursday. The board also: ■ Approved selling 25 acres of land — for \$725,000 — to the Parks and Recreation Commission to create Catalpa Oaks, making it the 13th county park.

The county has leased the land to the city of Southfield for \$1 a year for nearly 30 years. It is next to the county's health department on Greenfield Road in Southfield.

The park is used for softball, Little League and soccer. It has about 45,000 visitors a year.

■ Instructed the Health Department to study the use of trans fats in Oakland County restaurants.

Contact **KATHLEEN GRAY** at 313-223-4407 or gray@freepress.com.

TRUST | Cemetery owner bilked clients, Cox says

From Page 1B

posited but wasn't, the Attorney General's Office said.

The 39 felony charges account for \$38 million of the \$70 million missing, Cox said. What happened to the remaining \$32 million remains under investigation, he said.

Mark Zausmer, the state-appointed conservator who took control of the cemeteries in December 2006, said Smart didn't properly care for the cemeteries. But, Zausmer said, he toured six locations Thursday, and the conditions have improved dramatically.

"The complaints are declining," he said. "We believe that the consumers that come to the park in the spring will be very pleased with the progress."

This week, a court order was approved allowing the state to sell the cemeteries.

"We are hopeful and optimistic that will cause many

bids to be received from reputable owners," Zausmer said.

Smart also owns cemeteries and funeral homes in Tennessee, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

The 28 Michigan cemeteries include 12 in the metro Detroit area. They are among 152 cemeteries in the state that are required by state law to have two trust funds: one with money from people who prepaid for plots and ground maintenance, to be kept even after the customer dies, and another with money from those who prepay for funeral goods such as headstones and vaults so the goods are there when the client dies.

Each of Smart's 28 cemeteries was regulated by the state and required to keep those trust funds.

Left unchecked, losing that money would mean the cemeteries would have to shut down, Cox said, but the state is trying to ensure that doesn't happen.

"We want to reassure peo-

CHARGES | Cops, lawyer are charged with felonies

From Page 1B

"There's no joy in doing this," Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said Thursday as she announced separate criminal charges against the five. "It's always difficult for a prosecutor to announce charges against others who are charged with a duty of enforcing the law."

Detroit Police Sgt. Roosevelt Tidwell is charged with 16 felonies, including five counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, in allegedly forcing several couples to perform sex acts in Detroit's Chandler Park.

"He basically used these citizens as his sexual pawns," Worthy said of Tidwell, 39, who allegedly told the couples they would get out of tickets and possible jail time for drinking in the park if they cooperated.



Detroit Sgt. Roosevelt Tidwell

On Thursday, a 21-year-old woman told the Free Press that Tidwell began calling her on her cell phone after he had forced her to put her hand on his genitals and perform oral sex on her 30-year-old male friend.

"I'm glad he's locked up now," said the woman, whose identity is being withheld because she is a victim in a sexual-assault case.

Two couples reported similar incidents April 14.

Tidwell of West Bloomfield was arraigned Thursday and was remanded to the Wayne County Jail. If he posts 10% of his \$1-million bond, he would be placed on house arrest.

Another Detroit officer, Bryan McClarty, 31, was charged Thursday with felony assault with intent to commit murder in a March 13 road rage incident that began in Detroit and ended in Livonia. McClarty allegedly fired shots from his .40-caliber Glock at another motorist, striking the other car three times.

McClarty was arraigned Thursday at 16th District Court in Livonia, where his bond was set at 10% of a \$100,000 bond.

The charges Thursday meant more bad publicity for the Detroit Police Department. On Monday, former Detroit police homicide Detective Lance Newman pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to wire fraud for bilking an Ann Arbor family out of \$12,300 to investigate their son's 2005 stabbing death.

Detroit Police Assistant Chief Robert Dunlap addressed the news media Thursday after-

noon. He read from a statement and took no questions.

"Although officers are held to a higher standard of conduct, we should all be mindful that officers, like any person accused of a crime, are considered innocent until proven guilty," he said. "It should also be noted that the alleged actions of the accused officers are not consistent with the hard work and dedication of the more than 3,500-plus members of this great department."

Worthy also announced charges against a state trooper, Thomas Goods, 51, in allegedly fighting with several Detroit police officers who went to his son's Detroit home March 26 to serve a search warrant.

Goods' son had been barricaded inside, firing shots, Worthy said. One Detroit officer sustained a back injury as a result of the altercation, Worthy said.

Goods, who joined the State Police in 1986, is charged with assaulting a police officer and resisting and obstructing a police officer, both felonies. He has been suspended with pay.

"The MSP has a long-standing tradition of demanding the highest possible standards," the State Police said in a statement.

A Madison Heights police officer, Michael Joseph Kulwicki, 38, has been charged with misconduct in office and mistreatment of a prisoner in allegedly using a Taser on a handcuffed prisoner, who was arrested Dec. 27 on suspicion of car theft. The suspect had been detained in another police car when Kulwicki used the Taser, Worthy said.

"We cannot have officers of the law — after a prisoner is secured, unarmed and handcuffed — exacting further punishment," Worthy said.

In addition to the police officers, Worthy charged attorney Jeffrey Charles Hart, 38, who contracted with Redford Township as a prosecutor, with fleeing and eluding and drunken driving in a March 16 arrest.

Hart handled drunken-driving prosecutions for the township, Worthy said.

He was arraigned Wednesday and a preliminary examination is scheduled for May 8.

Contact **BEN SCHMITT** at 313-223-4296 or bschmitt@freepress.com. Staff writer Amber Hunt contributed to this report.

Cemeteries taken over by State of Michigan

Albion Memorial Gardens Inc., Albion
Acacia Park Cemetery, Beverly Hills
Cadillac Memorial Gardens East, Mt. Clemens
Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Westland
Eastlawn Memorial Gardens, Saginaw
Elm Lawn Cemetery, Bay City
Floral View Memorial Gardens, Grandville
Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens, Dimondale
Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Detroit
Garden of Rest, Wells
Graceland Memorial Park, Grand Rapids
Grandlawn Cemetery, Detroit
Hillcrest Memorial Park, Inc., Jackson
Kent Memorial Gardens, Grand Rapids

Midland Memorial Gardens, Midland
Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens, Livonia
Northland Chapel Gardens, Negaunee
Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi
Oaklawn Chapel Gardens, Sault Ste. Marie
Oakview Cemetery, Royal Oak
Oakwood Mausoleum, Saginaw
Restlawn Memorial Gardens, Holland
Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkeley
Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Saginaw
United Memorial Gardens, Plymouth
Washtenong Memorial Park, Ann Arbor
Woodlawn Cemetery, Detroit
Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit

ple ... that we're working at keeping them going and preserving them," he said.

Cox got a court order in January freezing \$22 million in a bank account belonging to Bush; the state also aims to recoup more of the losses from

Smart's business investments.

The case will prompt changes to laws overseeing the state-regulated cemeteries, Cox said.

Contact **AMBER HUNT** at 313-222-2708 or ahunt@freepress.com.

WAYNE | University launches plan to be world-class

From Page 1B

lion dollars to support programs, construction and scholarships.

The strategic plan also calls for the university to find ways to:

■ Increase graduate student stipends to attract students from across the country.

■ Provide additional weekend

and evening hours for study rooms and university retail outlets.

■ Increase marketing efforts.

■ Create a plan for an honors college.

Work to renovate and expand research facilities has been going on for years, with new dorms being added over the past five years. Also, the university plans to break ground

Wednesday for the Danto Engineering Development Center.

Brandyce Monroe, 25, of Detroit, a senior majoring in journalism and sociology, said free parking and a wider variety of online classes would make Wayne more attractive to students who take classes at night, as she does.

Monroe said she has noticed new facilities on campus that re-

flect the university's push to improve its standing.

"They want to do this by 2011," she said of the plan. "I think they can do it."

The plan can be found at www.strategicplan.wayne.edu.

Contact **CHASTITY PRATT** at 313-223-4537 or cpratt@freepress.com.

70 Deaths Helmed

WILLIAMS
WILLIAMS, a 70-year-old man, died of a heart attack on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at his home in Detroit. He was born on January 1, 1937, in Detroit, Michigan. He was a member of the Detroit Police Department and a member of the Detroit Police Association. He was a member of the Detroit Police Association and a member of the Detroit Police Association. He was a member of the Detroit Police Association and a member of the Detroit Police Association.

70 In Memoriam

WILLIAMS
WILLIAMS, a 70-year-old man, died of a heart attack on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at his home in Detroit. He was born on January 1, 1937, in Detroit, Michigan. He was a member of the Detroit Police Department and a member of the Detroit Police Association. He was a member of the Detroit Police Association and a member of the Detroit Police Association. He was a member of the Detroit Police Association and a member of the Detroit Police Association.

WOLFE

WOLFE
WOLFE, a 70-year-old man, died of a heart attack on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at his home in Detroit. He was born on January 1, 1937, in Detroit, Michigan. He was a member of the Detroit Police Department and a member of the Detroit Police Association. He was a member of the Detroit Police Association and a member of the Detroit Police Association. He was a member of the Detroit Police Association and a member of the Detroit Police Association.

We're here for you during your time of need.

It's difficult to deal with anything but your loss when a loved one dies. We're here to help you with everything you need to know to honor him or her in a special way. Our funeral directors will be with you every step of the way, from the funeral home to the cemetery.

For more information, contact a funeral home near you or call 1-800-451-7292. We will be with you every step of the way.

www.detroitchambers.com

detroitchambers.com