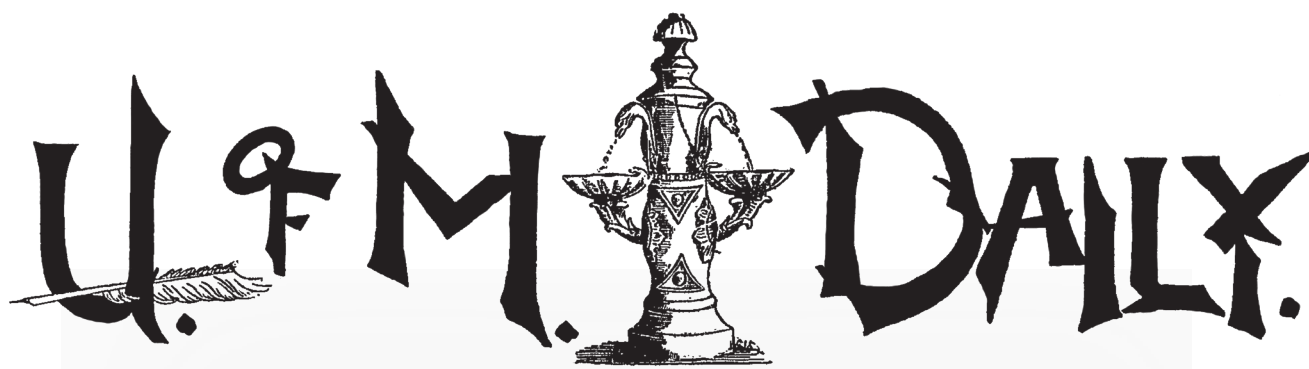


WITH STEM CELLS, A FRONTIER OF HOPE

Researchers at the University say stem cells will one day cure some of the world's most debilitating and fatal diseases. Here's the story of how they'll do it.

» INSIDE



ONE-HUNDRED-TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF EDITORIAL FREEDOM

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

michigandaily.com

RESTORING A CULTURAL ICON



Artist Richard Wolk restores the mural on the corner of East Liberty and South State streets yesterday. Wolk was the original painter of the mural that features cultural icons like George Orwell and Woody Allen and has become a landmark for the city. ERIN KIRKLAND/Daily

THE POLITICS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

For NRC rankings, a turn from much-awaited to much-criticized

New methodology paints hazy picture of how 'U' compares

By KYLE SWANSON
Daily News Editor

The National Research Council publicly released its most recent set of rankings for Ph.D. programs across the country in a press event this afternoon.

While the rankings — which are released approximately once each decade — have traditionally carried a great deal of weight within higher education, some leaders in the field are criticizing this year's rankings, arguing that they don't say much about the change in the quality of Ph.D. programs across the country.

A major reason for the criticism stems from a dramatic change in the methodology used to calculate the rankings — which delayed

the release of this most recent set of NRC rankings by three years. In addition, critics are concerned that the new system presents the rankings in ranges, instead of as a single numeric rank for each program at each institution as was the case in the past.

With the new methodology and the new format for presenting programs' rankings, it is increasingly difficult for even higher education officials to say with confidence whether their pro-

» Inside News

To see an infographic of how the 'U' stacks up, see **PAGE 5A**.

grams have improved or declined relative to the last NRC ranking, which was released in 1995.

In 1982, 87 percent of the University of Michigan's Ph.D. programs were in the top quartile nationally. That prestigious percentage fell in the 1995 rankings. See **RANKINGS**, Page **3A**

FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

Lansing to slash higher ed. funding 2.8 percent

If Granholm signs budget, 'U' projected to lose \$9 million in state appropriations

By MIKE MERAR
Daily Staff Reporter

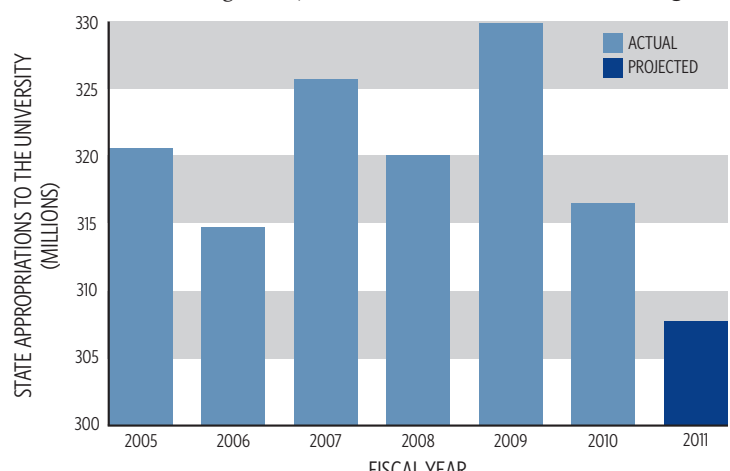
Public universities in Michigan will see a 2.8 percent cut in funding from the state, according to the higher education budget passed by the Michigan legislature Tuesday.

Pending Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm's signature, this

decrease will result in about a \$9 million loss for the University.

Down from the current fiscal year, next year's budget will allocate about \$1.567 billion toward higher education. The 2009-2010 fiscal year budget appropriated about \$1.612 billion for the state's public universities and colleges, State Rep. Rebekah Warren wrote in an e-mail interview with The Michigan Daily on Monday. This represented 3.63 percent of the state's total budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, which was \$44.4 billion, according to Warren.

The cut in funding is part of an effort to minimize the state's \$484 billion budget. See **BUDGET**, Page **2A**



MICHIGAN STUDENT ASSEMBLY

MSA pres. responds publicly to criticism for the first time

Ass't AG for Mich. has criticized Armstrong on his blog

By ROBIN VEECK
Daily Staff Reporter

Michigan Student Assembly President Chris Armstrong publicly responded to verbal and cyber attacks levied against him for the first time at last night's MSA meeting.

"I will not back down. I will not

flinch. I will not falter. I will not succumb to any unwarranted attacks. What I will do is I will carry on with the utmost pride and vindication," Armstrong read aloud to the assembly from a written statement. "I, along with the rest of this assembly, were elected to this body to represent the University. And nothing said about us, or regarding our personal merits, will waive our commitment to serve the student body."

Though Armstrong opted not to specifically address any personal attacks, he has recently been the target of a blog called Chris Armstrong

Watch. The blog, created by Andrew Shirvell, an assistant attorney general for the state of Michigan, has accused Armstrong of advocating a "radical homosexual agenda." Shirvell has posted on his blog regularly since April to criticize Armstrong, his friends, family members and other members of MSA.

In addition, Shirvell has shown up at events on campus criticizing Armstrong, including the first MSA meeting of the semester.

Armstrong said in an interview after the meeting that he wanted to See **ARMSTRONG**, Page **3A**



Microsoft representative Tony Franklin discusses the benefits of using Microsoft for the University's IT system yesterday. ERIN KIRKLAND/Daily

Microsoft pitches to do IT for 'U'

Microsoft, Google competing to be new 'U' provider

By ELYANA TWIGGS
Daily Staff Reporter

Many current students forward their University e-mails to different web mail systems, favoring a more cohesive model. Yesterday, Microsoft officials made their pitch as to why the company should be the go-to solution for the University's IT needs.

Nine representatives from Microsoft presented their ideas to

support the University's initiative to rejuvenate its information technology infrastructure last night in an East Hall auditorium to a crowd of about 25 students and professors.

The presentation was hosted by NextGen Michigan — a strategic team within the University working toward the overhaul of the IT system — and showcased Microsoft Product Suite as a possibility for a new, collaborative system for online student resources. This Microsoft program would replace the existing University Internet resources that are currently available to students like CTools and ITCS Webmail.

In addition to Microsoft, the University is considering proposals

from Google, which will be making its pitch on Oct. 7.

Lynn Johnson, professor and assistant dean of Informatics and Innovation in the School of Dentistry, said that through employing a new IT system the University hopes to become the leading institution of 21st-century information technology. The initiative started this semester and will be implemented within three years, Johnson said.

"We want to go with the vendor that has a strong relationship with the University already," Johnson told the crowd before the Microsoft representatives took the floor.

See **MICROSOFT**, Page **3A**

LIVING NEAR CAMPUS

In off-campus housing, it appears bed bug wave has hit Ann Arbor

University Housing: No recent incidents reported in res. halls

By STEPHANIE BERLIANT
Daily Staff Reporter

In recent months, bed bugs have been making their way across the United States, starting on the East

Coast and now the bed bug wave has reached Ann Arbor.

Bed bug breakouts have reportedly occurred in at least two units of Corner House Apartments, located on the 200 block of South State Street, the Muriel Lester Cooperative House, located on Oakland Avenue and an apartment on Arch Street. Representatives from Lester Co-op and the Arch Street apartment had not returned phone calls

seeking comments by press time.

Amy Khan, the vice president of CMB Property Management, which manages Corner House Apartments, said that after one residence reported a possible infestation on Sept. 20, a pest control company began treatment the next day. Other residences were inspected and treatment began on a total of four residences. Residents of the building say there may See **BED BUGS**, Page **3A**

