Welcome to the Big City. Beware the Dinosaurs.

By MAREK FUCHS

New York can be a tough place for a couple of college kids from Tulsa, as Brian and Chris Harms learned this summer.

After arriving here from Oklahoma to help with research at the American Museum of Natural History, the Harmses, who are fraternal twins, took a few wrong turns on the subway, which left them no choice but to pay a stranger for directions.

"He was an unseemly fellow," Brian Harms said, "so we just gave him the cash." The directions proved to be good, however.

Brian and Chris Harms were among the 21 students who took part in the museum's Research Experience for Undergraduates program this summer, which is financed by the National Science Foundation. The program allows college students to work with the researchers at the museum, on Central Park West between 77th and 81st Streets. It is a heady enough experience for those with specialized interests in biology and the physical sciences, but for the dozen students who come from out of state, spending a summer in New York City is equally attractive.

Students are given a $3,500 housing stipend for the 10-week program, and sometimes a museum researcher would put them up for a night or so, until they could find their own place.

After much searching in newspapers and online, Brian and Chris Harms, who attend the University of Oklahoma, ended up in International House, a residence for students on Riverside Drive in Harlem. Another student, Andrew Fleming, insisted that he wanted a studio on the Lower East Side.

"I was speaking to a landlord," Mr. Fleming, 21, said, "and he laughed at me and said, 'You're not tough enough for the Lower East Side, you'll never make it.' Luckily, he had an apartment for me in the West Village."

Mr. Fleming, who goes to school in the lightly populated Upper Peninsula of Michigan, at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, said his first days in the city were a bit intimidating. "The town has 7,000 people, and it shrinks to half that when school's out," he said. "I figured out that the entire town could fit into Central Park. It was a little overwhelming."

Even the familiar proved somehow unfamiliar. Chris Harms likes to play basketball back in Oklahoma and began playing at International House, where residents play with people off the street.

He noted with a smile that there was a discernible difference between the way the game is played back home and in the city. Could he be more specific? "They foul a whole lot more here."

The study program is selective, with an acceptance rate of about one in four. Museum staff members are asked to write summaries of their studies to be posted on the museum's Web site, where applicants can see them. The applicants then write essays about which two studies best suit them.

Eric Sahm said he made the case to come from the mountains of Utah to study rocks, specifically the properties of jadeite.

"It's just been a great springboard to graduate school," he said, though he noted that the $1,500 a month he paid to sublease a small one-bedroom apartment at 106th Street and Columbus Avenue would pay the mortgage "on a pretty nice house back home."

In addition to his research, Mr. Sahm, who is married, enjoyed Shakespeare in the Park and a romantic first anniversary dinner at a revolving restaurant atop a Times Square hotel. "It was great
and something I'd like to do again next time I can afford it, like in 10 years."

For the Harms brothers, there have been operas and Broadway plays and, for Brian Harms, a big surprise.

"I thought I was going to be studying rocks in a lab the whole time," he said. Shortly after the program started, he found himself in Greenland, looking for evidence of microscopic life in ancient rock. He stayed there for a month, bringing back 150 kilograms of rocks to study.

Speaking only days before heading home, the researchers seemed hesitant to let go of their summer.

Cataloging his social life as well as his work, Mr. Sahm just shrugged. "What didn't I like?"

Nathan Costello from Chicopee, Mass., who came to study meteorites, did have a complaint. He often had to work late, which meant walking by the various taxidermy figures in the dioramas and the dinosaurs, all in a darkened museum. "Eerie," he said, shaking his head. "Spooky."

For Chris Harms, who spent many nights at International House getting fouled by homegrown New York basketball talent, the summer was a great one.

Though he is normally soft-spoken, the prospect of no longer walking by the museum's dinosaurs on his way to work makes him sentimental.

"I can't believe I walked past those fossils every day," he said. "I used to fantasize about those dinosaurs every day when I was a kid." Working at Natural History while living in New York City, "was like living a childhood dream," he said.
One of the state's largest and last remaining colonies of a threatened bird called the common tern may have been destroyed during construction below the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge this month.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is investigating the Detroit Audubon Society's claims that baby terns were trampled on by workers using a crane and other heavy equipment to repair a free-standing sandy-topped platform. The square platform, or protection pier, rises several feet out of the Detroit River in the shadow of the bridge that connects the upscale Downriver island of Grosse Ile to the mainland near the city of Wyandotte.

One of the state's largest and last remaining colonies of a threatened bird called the common tern may have been destroyed during construction below the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge this month.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is assisting in the investigation.

Separately, an investigator from the Army Corps of Engineers visited the site Wednesday to determine whether the contractor should have requested a permit before starting work, spokeswoman Lynn Duerod said.

The common tern, which looks like a sea gull but is smaller, is considered a threatened species in Michigan. Federally, the common tern is under consideration for the endangered species list, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Rachel Levin said.

The bird travels between northern states such as Michigan and southern destinations such as Brazil. Scientists have used the tern as a barometer for water quality.

The species is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty, which forbids the disturbance of protected birds' nesting grounds.

Tampering with hatchlings or nests can bring a fine of $2,000 per bird or two years in prison.

Investigators have to determine to what extent the nesting ground was disrupted and whether any birds were killed or eggs destroyed.

Bridge owner Paul Smoke said only a few young birds were nesting when work began at the beginning of August. He said the workers made sure they did not harm the birds.

The contractor, a company Smoke said was called Faust from Allen Park, could not be reached for comment. Smoke described Faust as a "reputable company."

Smoke said he saw adult birds and babies on the pier during construction, which ended late last week. A tugboat damaged the pier in March.

"I don't know if they moved them or not. I was told they saw babies around the sides of the pier and they saw the parents feeding them," said Smoke, who owns the Grosse Ile Bridge Company, which operates the two-lane toll bridge.

He said he wasn't aware the terns were a protected species.

The Detroit Audubon Society maintains that at least 60 baby birds, many still several weeks from flying, were counted on July 17, and it said young dead birds have been seen down river.

"There's more than enough evidence to indicate they would have destroyed the young," said Jim Bull, Detroit Audubon Society president.

"What's sad is we're talking about one of the last remnants on the Detroit River. It's a particular irony that they're called the common tern," said Bull, who as a child banded terns on Grosse Ile, Boblo Island and other downriver islands with his birding father, who was also active in the Audubon Society.
The Grosse Ile terns that are the subject of the investigation lay eggs in the rocky sand on the protection pier. The pier is made of corrugated metal and placed beside and below the bridge near its midpoint to protect the bridge’s center span from boats and ice.

Another, smaller colony of terns lives at the free bridge to the island further south. No construction work was done there.

The terns on the toll bridge have forged a successful breeding ground even as their habitat has disappeared in other places.

Bull and a Michigan Tech student working on his master’s thesis on common terns counted at least 60 young on July 17, Bull said.

The same colony was part of a Great Lakes census taken last year, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biologist Dave Best said.

At that time, 122 nests were counted, making the colony the third largest in the state, Best said.

"This is a sizeable, important colony," Best said.

Best said the terns may return if the habitat is restored to its previous form.

Smoke said he doubts there will be long-term damage to the colony.

"These birds have been nesting there through many modifications throughout my lifetime," Smoke said. "And they always come back."

Contact KIM NORTH SHINE at 313-223-4557 or kshine@freepress.com
Campus finances peeve governor

State universities, Granholm at odds on tuition increases

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has pretty much established she can walk on water ... except when it comes to the state's higher education system. There, she is mired in a war of words.

The rookie governor is on a one-woman mission to whip the "fat" university conglomerate into shape. That's her word. She even used it in a contentious meeting with university presidents.

The university types advised her to knock off the "fat" stuff, because they have been cutting their spending.

That exchange produced an uneasy truce, one that went poof once her budget came out. In it, she continued her crusade. When she proposed a 6 percent whack out of state aid, universities talked about double-digit percentage tuition hikes.

She told them not to do it. She succeeded with her budget cuts and promptly got some hefty tuition increases in return.

I guess they can ship the bully pulpit to the repair shop, since it clearly needs a tune up.

Get a load of these tuition hikes: 15.3 percent at Michigan Tech ... chilly and more pricey; 14.6 percent at Lake Superior State; 12 percent or so at Western and Eastern Michigan.

Another group of schools "honored" her request to avoid double-digit increases by boosting fees 9.9 percent. This clever group included Michigan State, Ferris, Wayne, Oakland, and Central.

To pile insult onto injury, the governor reluctantly signed off on a Republican scheme to pump extra dollars into four universities. She was dead set against it, but caved when she needed GOP help to bail out the Detroit Medical Center.

She made it clear, though, she expected those four schools to lower their earlier tuition hikes. She got stiffed again, though.

Oakland used only $700,000 of the extra $2 million in state funds to lower its 9.9 percent increase by a meager 1 percentage point. CMU did nothing; same goes for Saginaw Valley. Grand Valley tried to earn some gubernatorial brownie points by slicing its 12 percent increase to 6 percent.

That was still not good enough for the governor, who wanted increases near the inflation rate. She didn't get them. The schools point out that in the last 20 years, state government spending has mushroomed 242 percent, but higher ed funding has risen 146 percent. And they forecast 1,000 layoffs on campus as a result of her budget.

The governor let loose on Oakland: "That is not acceptable." I haven't noticed that anyone heard her on campus, though.

Henry Baskin, who chairs the Oakland board, was one of Granholm's money guys during the 2002 campaign. I wonder if he's off her Christmas list?

And what about UAW bigwig Paul Masseron? He voted no on a 9.9 percent increase at Wayne State, but neither he nor she could bully the other Democrats to join in.

If Granholm can't muscle members of her own party, who the heck can she influence?

Despite the setbacks, she's undaunted. She's warning that all future university board appointees will have to clear the "hold the line on tuition" litmus test. And her office warns lots of university types will be "hearing from" the boss.

Maybe they'll charge her for the phone call to save some bucks?

What do you think? Tim Skubick is a local television correspondent who writes a column for the State Journal on Fridays. Write him c/o Lansing State Journal, 120 E. Lenawee St., Lansing, MI 48919.
File sharers

Jeffres Jan
Lansing State Journal

FACE THE MUSIC

Flurry of lawsuits from recording industry prompts campus crackdown

Tom Davis isn't a law enforcement officer, yet he finds himself engaged in police work.

As interim director of Michigan State University's computer laboratory, he tracks students who file share copyrighted music and films. Davis then reads repeat offenders the university's version of the riot act.

Penalties on campus range from suspension from the network to suspension from school.

That isn't how he expected his job to turn out, Davis said: "I don't like this part, either."

But it's bound to get worse.

As the school year opens, Michigan State, like other universities, will step up warnings that downloading copyrighted material is against the law.

Prompting this is the Recording Industry Association of America, which vows to pepper courthouses nationwide next month with "hundreds" of lawsuits against small-time file sharers.

The consequences can be grim for cash-strapped young adults. Students at Princeton, Michigan Tech and Rensselaer settled lawsuits in the spring with the record industry, paying fines from $12,000 to $17,500.

"We're trying to do more this year. The industry has turned up the efforts to police them," Davis said.

"The kids for the most part don't see this as being terribly wrong. The recording industry differs from them greatly."

This academic year, Michigan State students in residence halls will find a flier on file sharing in their mail boxes. It will refer them to a Web page with further information.

The campus has about 15,000 students connected to its Internet service, Davis said.

When the students tie in, they must agree to abide by university policies, including a ban on swapping copyrighted material. Computer lab staff have also met with residence hall leaders to reiterate this policy.

Other schools are following suit. In New Haven, Conn., the freshman orientation at Yale, will take a new spin.

"We have new language in our undergraduate regulations and are planning an added emphasis on this topic," said Yale general counsel Dorothy Kathryn Robinson.

Robinson sits on an educators' committee the RIAA formed to tackle piracy on campus, where students move from slow home hook-ups to speedy campus networks.

"I liken it to going from a bubble-gum machine to a fully stocked candy store," says Sheldon Steinbach, vice president of the American Council on Education, a trade group that represents 1,800 universities.

This year's orientations at universities "will be night and day" compared to last year's, Steinbach says, in terms of tough talk about unauthorized downloading and how it violates conduct codes.

The RIAA says the practice is eating into the profits of the business and its artists. Last year, the industry was valued at $12.6 billion.

However, compact disc shipments dropped almost 9 percent in 2002, while unit shipments of all music formats decreased 11 percent, according to a PricewaterhouseCoopers study.

At Michigan State, penalties for peer-to-peer or p2p file
sharing range from suspension from the Internet network to suspension from school, Davis said. No one has been booted from campus so far.

But Lansing Community College isn't planning a campaign to tip off students. The college has another approach.

"What we do through the technology is we block both KaZaA and Gnutella," said Ray Warwo, executive director of technology at LCC. "We don't allow these downloads."

KaZaA and Gnutella are peer-to-peer sites used to trade music.

LCC enrollees have 24-hour access to a 160-computer lab. There, users can engage in file swapping. However, LCC doesn't make it pleasant.

"Anytime we know it's from one personal computer to another, we restrict the speed by which they can download," Warwo said. "They could probably do it faster at home on a modem."

Students don't just need to protect themselves from the recording industry - and vice versa.

Davis said Michigan State must increasingly confront hackers who enter into other systems and download music via the innocent parties' accounts.

Davis said about a quarter of the students he contacted about illicit file sharing last year turned out to be victims of hackers.

Students are advised to patch their systems and install protective firewalls, as well as to keep their anti-virus programs up to date.

"It's almost like someone's breaking into your house and selling drugs out of your basement. And you're not even aware of it," Davis said. "We're encouraging students about having good locks on their doors."

Gannett News Service contributed to this report.

Contact Jan Jeffres at 377-1191 or business@lsj.com.

GRAPHIC: KEVIN W. FOWLER, Lansing State Journal; Playing cop: Tom Davis, director of the Computer Lab at Michigan State University, must monitor students who engage in illegal file-sharing of copyrighted material. On the screen in front of him is the Web page that advises students that they will be removed from the campus if they download these peer-to-peer files. Box: On the Web; * Michigan State University's acceptable computer use policy: www.msu.edu, aup; * The Pew Internet & American Life Project: www.pewinternet.org; Box: Who pays for music? The Recording Industry Association of America has compiled these statistics, based on a 2002 survey of 3,000 music consumers. * The industry was valued at $12.6 billion last year. * For the first time, more consumers, 50.7 percent, bought their tunes at stores other than record stores, including book shops. * Record-store purchases decreased to 36.8 percent. * Online buyers made up 3.4 percent of the market. * Compact discs were 90.5 percent of all purchases. * Cassette accounted for only 2.4 percent of sales. * DVD audio accounted for 1.3 percent of music sold. The Recording Industry Association of America. 35 million number of U.S. adults who download music files online; 56 percent percentage of full-time students who download music; 67 percent percentage of music downloaders who say they do not care about whether the music they have downloaded is copyrighted. 2,515 adults 18 and older were surveyed between March 12-19 and April 29-May 20, 2003. The margin of error is ± 3 percent. Source: Pew Internet & American Life Survey
The Wooden Nickel, a popular biker hangout and college haunt going back to the late 1970s, is scheduled to close Sunday.

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission decided last month to revoke the bar's liquor license. The commission said the Wooden Nickel was cited three times in two years for selling alcohol to minors, The Mining Journal reported Thursday.

The newspaper said 18 charges had been levied against the bar since December 1990 for offenses such as selling alcohol to intoxicated people.

"The commission considered the establishment's total record," said commission district supervisor Kim Peters, based in Escanaba.

John Stevenson, vice president of Bola Inc., which owns the bar, said an appeal will be filed with the commission this week.

"I know we've had our problems but we've taken steps to address them," said Stevenson, who also is the bar's manager. "Of course, if we have to close, it's going to be hard. We've had a lot of friends come through here over the years. There are a lot of memories here."

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. (AP) - The former treasurer of the Sault Michigan Hockey Association has been sentenced to six months in jail and ordered to make restitution totaling $35,000 for embezzlement.

Daniel C. Mugavero, an accountant and former professor at Lake Superior State University, was sentenced Wednesday in Chippewa County Circuit Court.

"The damage that has been done in this case goes far, far beyond the monetary amounts," Judge Charles Johnson said, adding that he would have imposed a tougher sentence if the defendant had not struck a plea bargain. "This strikes at the heart and trust of people in a small community like this."

Investigators said they had tracked more than $49,000 coming out of the Sault Michigan Hockey Association coffers during Mugavero's tenure as treasurer, The Evening News reported.

They said Mugavero placed the funds into different accounts and wrote checks to himself and other people.

Mugavero said his actions were not meant to benefit himself, but to hide money from the hockey association board so it wouldn't be spent on new uniforms, goalie equipment or reduced banquet rates until all its bills for ice time had been paid.
LAKE LINDEN, Mich. (AP) - The pipes of the newly restored organ at the Houghton County Heritage Center will sound once again.

Marilyn Mason, professor of music and organ department chair at the University of Michigan, will perform early American pieces on the early American organ this weekend.

Mason will play on the Heritage Center's rare 1874 tracker organ, installed as part of the restoration of the center's home at the First Congregational Church.

"We're building a lot of our programs around the organ because it's just a wonderful instrument," Dick Taylor, historical society board member, told The Daily Mining Gazette of Houghton for a story Thursday.

The program highlights works by American composers who wrote music for organ in the mid-19th century.

HOUGHTON, Mich. (AP) - The Houghton City Council may reinstate mandatory building inspections for rental properties.

City Manager Scott machines said Wednesday he is developing such a plan after a weak response to the city's free voluntary program.

"I've come to the conclusion that it's time to reinstate the (rental) housing registration and fees," he said, according to The Daily Mining Gazette.

There has been increased interest in fire and building safety in the year since a fire at the Phi Kappa Theta fraternity house killed a 20-year-old Michigan Tech University student.

machines said safety is the principal reason he wants mandatory inspections. In addition, enforcing building codes may prompt property owners to improve deteriorating homes, he said.

He said he would begin introducing proposals in two to four weeks.

"I hope we're moving in the right direction," he said. machines estimates there are about 900 rental units in 400 buildings in the city.

ESCANABA, Mich. (AP) - The annual steer competition never fails to fill the stands, as youth parade a year's worth of work and sacrifice in front of judges.

Participants get up before school to feed and care for the 1,000- to 1,600-pound animals or walk them three to four miles a day in hopes of winning at the UP State Fair.

That hard work paid off Tuesday for 11-year-old Andrew Jaroche of Vessel, handler of Pistol, the 1,300-pound steer named this year's grand champion.

"I just kept thinking of this," Andrew told the Daily Press, nodding toward his two blue ribbons. "You have to give up playtime with friends and I don't get to go to friend's houses. But I'd rather go with winning."
Campus news

Staff, Staff

Derrick R. Siebert, Wausau, a student at Michigan Technological University -Houghton, was awarded the 2002-2003 American Institute of Chemists Outstanding Chemistry Senior Award by the Michigan Tech Department of Chemistry.

Michelle Jacobson, Wausau, received a Master of Arts degree in education from Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, on June 1.
The Detroit News

August 13, 2003 Wednesday Two dot Edition

Corrections

* The University of Michigan enrolled 4,261 international students last year. A story on Page 1C of Monday’s Metro section had the figure incorrect.

* The University of Michigan’s tuition increase was the second lowest in the state. That information was incorrect in stories on pages 1A and 4A in some editions on Monday. In addition, Michigan Tech’s tuition increase was 12.9 percent and Oakland University’s was 9.9 percent. The figures were incorrect in a graphic on page Page 1A Monday.
Tuition hikes limit students' dreams
Scarce jobs, loan debt add to financial pain

Margarita Bauza

As more than 300,000 students return to Michigan colleges this month, they face double-digit tuition increases and a poor economy that has made jobs scarce and financial aid critical.

They've had to extend their educations, go deeper into debt and work harder at whatever jobs they can find.

Duane Parker is adding a roommate to reduce living expenses. Sean Johnston will seek more work and take fewer classes. Alissa Mobley had to take a semester off.

Others, like Livonia's Dennis Kusiak, are going to less prestigious colleges than they had planned. Kusiak started at Alma College, but high tuition compelled him to transfer to less-expensive Schoolcraft College, where he will start this month.

"What would you rather do, pay $61 for a 100-level English class at Schoolcraft or would your rather pay $300 per credit hour for that same class at a four-year university?" he asked.

It's part of a new reality for Michigan college students, who are getting squeezed by the state's reduced spending on universities. As a result, the state's colleges raised tuition about 10 percent for classes beginning this month. Increases ranged from 5.8 percent at Grand Valley State to 15.3 percent at Michigan Technological University.

By contrast, Michigan State University, the state's largest, raised tuition an average of only 2.8 percent per year between 1994 and 2001 before a 9.9 percent increase this fall.

In the meantime, parents have lost jobs and stock market investments in the slumping economy.

It's definitely much more expensive and difficult for everybody," said Will Doyle, senior policy analyst for the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.

"But changes in prices have a much more pronounced effect on lower-income students." The center is an independent advocacy group in San Jose, Calif.

As a result, federal student aid is increasing, but mainly in the form of loans. That is strapping students with record amounts of debt, a trend that worries experts.

"Student indebtedness is a concern that's been raised year after year as costs are going up," said Linda Sigh, MSU associate director of financial aid. "But students are continuing to borrow and, at least at MSU, they're very good about paying it back."

At MSU, the average student debt is $19,000, a 66 percent increase from 1997.

"In the larger scheme of things, most students and parents feel the value of higher education is worth it," said Alisa Cunningham, director of research at the Institute for Higher Education Policy.

"For low-income students it's harder for them to do these things -- an increase of $300 is making a difference for them."

That's the case with Alissa Mobley, 32, of Detroit, who decided to skip the fall semester at Wayne State University. She must occasionally skip a semester to work and earn enough for school.

"I really can't afford it," Mobley said. "I'm completely doing this on my own, and it's been hard for me to get proper funding."

Students who insist on finishing degree programs quickly are seeking more work, aid and loans. But colleges also report heightened competition for residence hall supervisor positions and other jobs that pay for room and board.

Others are opting for programs that pardon loans or offer attractive deferment options like Teach for America, the Peace Corps or the armed forces upon graduation.

"We've been busier than usual for the last couple of years," said Scot Roskelley, spokesman for the Peace Corps in Chicago. The program pardons a portion of Perkins Loans, a type of federal student loan.

Some are bypassing the four-year school experience for community colleges, where classes are thousands of dollars cheaper.
"I didn't even bother applying to U-M," said David Parks, a 29-year-old from North Carolina who is returning to get his bachelor's degree after quitting 10 years ago. Parks attends Washtenaw Community College, where he pays about $1,000 for classes compared with the $25,000 it would cost to attend U-M for a year as an out-of-state student. But he still shares an apartment and takes out loans.

"I'm sacrificing a few things," he said. "But it's something I knew going into this."

Adding to the pain of high tuition is the increasing competition for jobs around college campuses, said Doug Stites, chief executive officer of Michigan Works!, a Lansing employment service agency.

Employment opportunities around college campuses in markets such as East Lansing and Ann Arbor still are more plentiful than those in more rural parts of the state.

Jobs scarce

Jobs are hard to find in Mount Pleasant, says Central Michigan University senior Sean Johnston, who has two jobs during the year.

"It was nearly impossible to find a job this summer," he said.

Jobs are more scarce than ever in Flint, which surrounds Kettering University, the former General Motors Institute, said Kettering economics professor Martin Wing.

"Minimum-wage and unskilled jobs have been taken by people who have been laid off from other positions because of economic conditions," he said. "The economy here is trashed, and it's particularly hurt students looking for part-time work."

Duane Parker, an MSU senior from Detroit, has been lucky to find a couple of jobs at school, one at the library, the other tutoring in the Lansing School District.

He is adding more loans this year, working two jobs and adding a roommate to cut his living expenses by $200.

"Last fall, I dropped one class to save money," Parker said. "My social life is lacking some because I have to work to pay my bills, but I guess I always find a little time for fun."

Begin today, The Detroit News launches a continuing series about Michigan schools and education. In-depth reports on higher education and K-12 issues will be complemented by practical news for parents and students, ranging from nutrition advice, to the best school gear. What to look for this week:

Learning Advice
Communicate, motivate: How to talk to your kids about their school goals and your expectations, plus what parents can do to help kids succeed with coursework and information on where to go for help.

Prep Sports
Advice for athletes: More than 100,000 male and female high school athletes begin training Monday for the fall sports season. We talk to players and stress that they must watch out for heat problems during training outdoors.

Back to School
Radio extra: The News and WWJ-AM radio begin a weeklong series of tips on helping your children prepare for the new school year. Read The News and tune in to WWJ (AM-950) for upcoming reports on health, parental involvement, food and nutrition, and clothes and gear.

On the Web
Information: Find a compendium of resources for students from kindergarten through college at www.detnews.com/schools. Check out homework help on dozens of subjects and weekly quizzes based on news headlines.

CORRECTION: A story and graphic about college tuition increases that ran on Page 1A Monday contained an incorrect figure for Michigan Technological University. The university's tuition has increased 12.9 percent. (August 12, 2003 A2) The University of Michigan enrolled 4,261 international students last year. A story on Page 1C of Monday's Metro section had the figure incorrect.* The University of Michigan's tuition increase was the second lowest in the state. That information was incorrect in stories on pages 1A and 4A in some editions on Monday. In addition, Michigan Tech's tuition increase was 12.9 percent and Oakland University's was 9.9 percent. The figures were incorrect in a graphic on page Page 1A Monday. (August 13, 2003 A2)
Dinosaurs in that era inhabited almost every corner of the globe until the fatal fall of a giant meteorite: then a huge storm arose, and dust clouds for 2 years did not let the sun’s rays come to Earth. The process of photosynthesis stopped, and the reptiles of the Mesozoic era began to die out. Triassic. 

The dinosaurs were covered with wrinkled skin with tiny sandpaper-like scales. Depending on the type of animal, the skin changed its density and texture: in some it resembled the skin of a chicken, in others it was something in between snakeskin and fish scales. The skin contained more than 2 dozen layers of collagen and fats - similar to what is found today in reptiles, sharks and dolphins today. Our Country Mouse character is young, idealistic, innocent, naive, you name it - and it's their first time in the big city. How to show that? Why, by him or her being confronted with any combination of pickpocketing, prostitution and generally upsetting behaviour, of course. And the sooner the better, often right as he steps off the train/plane/coach/boat from whatever idyllic rural paradise they came from. New York City is a popular venue for this. Examples of Welcome to the Big City include Dinosaurs were superbly adapted to the challenge of maintaining a consistent body temperature. In other words, they were more than ideally equipped to survive almost anything that the constantly changing planet could throw at them. We now know that some smaller dinosaur species possessed feathers, thus providing the perfect insulation against the worst affects of any Ice Age. 

Of course the most fascinating aspect concerning the dinosaur extinction, is that there are still dinosaurs around today. So it's actually wrong to say that they died out as a whole. 

Hi Sam, welcome aboard, glad to have you with us. I see you've written a hub about Jurassic Park, sounds interesting. I'll check it out. Beware the Dinosaurs. By Marek Fuchs. Aug. 20, 2003.

New York can be a tough place for a couple of college kids from Tulsa, as Brian and Chris Harms learned this summer. After arriving here from Oklahoma to help with research at the American Museum of Natural History, the Harmses, who are fraternal twins, took a few wrong turns on the subway, which left them no choice but to pay a stranger for directions. "He was an unseemly fellow," Brian Harms said, "so we just gave him the cash." The directions proved to be good, however. "I used to fantasize about those dinosaurs every day when I was a kid." Working at Natural History while living in New York City, "was like living a childhood dream," he said. Advertisement. Continue reading the main story. Site Index. Go to Home Page ».