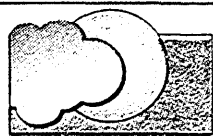


### Upscale

Royal Oak will be home to \$35-million complex Business, Page 1C

### Rimming

Tip-in propels MSU past 16th-ranked Iowa, 62-60 Sports, Page 1D



Partly cloudy High, 30; low, 24

### Crosswords

Magazine's is in Comment; another puzzle is in Travel Pages 5E, 8P

### Battle

A diva comes to town; just what makes a diva? Entertainment, 1F

# The Detroit News AND Free Press

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## Finance guru leaves long trail of debt

Author of money management book denies unpaid bills hurt credibility

By Daniel Howes  
The Detroit News

Kelvin E. Boston, author of a new personal finance book for African Americans and host of Public Broadcasting's *The Color of Money* has trouble paying his bills.

And his rent. And his federal income taxes. Boston, author of *Smart Money Moves for African-Americans*, has a history of failing to pay debts and taxes, a Detroit News review of financial and legal documents found. Creditors and his landlord have taken him to court and won default judgments and the Internal Revenue Service has tax liens spanning more than a decade.

In a lawsuit filed last month in Oakland Circuit Court, Boston also is accused of improperly signing a business partner's name to checks and "falsifying invoices for payment."

Yet the Detroit-based Boston is touted by his publisher, G.P. Putnam's Sons, as "a foremost African-American authority on investments ... (who) has helped thousands of people put their financial lives in order, no matter how much debt they've incurred or how little income they have."

His personal finance television show is broadcast by public stations nationwide. Until last September, *The Color of Money* also was carried by Black Entertainment Television, the Washington-based national cable channel.

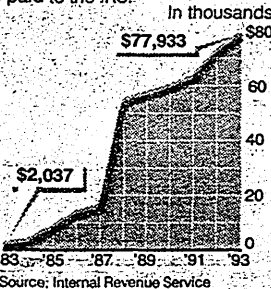
Asked about his troubled financial affairs, Boston said: "To be a financial commentator on television doesn't mean you have to be a financial genius. It takes



Detroit's Kelvin E. Boston, personal finance writer, says he'll pay all his debts.

### Mounting debt to the IRS

Kelvin E. Boston's federal tax troubles began in 1983 and have been mounting over the past decade, federal documents show. Five separate tax liens totaling nearly \$78,000, are on file with the Wayne County Register of Deeds. Boston said "a couple thousand" has been paid to the IRS.



Please see BOSTON, Page 6A

## Perles' football program broke rules, MSU admits

By Dave Dye  
The Detroit News

EAST LANSING — Michigan State has given its football program a slap on the wrist.

Rather than wait for the NCAA to complete its investigation, MSU has imposed its own penalties for violations during George Perles' tenure as coach.

All of the self-imposed sanctions affect recruiting for this year only. They include cutting scholarships from 25 to 23, reducing the number of campus visits by recruits from 54 to 48, and restricting the number of coaches permitted to recruit from seven to six.

MSU spokesman Terry Denbow confirmed the self-imposed penalties Saturday, but said the university, which has spent at least \$325,000 on its internal investigation, won't reveal what violations were broken until after the NCAA finishes its investigation.

President (Peter) McPherson has overseen the thorough, intensive and now substantially complete investigation, Denbow said.

The NCAA investigation began after allegations were made to The Detroit News by former MSU player Roosevelt Wagner in October

1994. Wagner, who played at MSU from 1988-91, said grades were changed to keep players eligible and players received illegal payments from boosters.

The NCAA is not expected to reveal any of its findings for at least a couple of months. The NCAA infractions committee meets in early February, but MSU has not been summoned to that meeting. The severity of MSU's self-imposed sanctions suggest it is only admitting to secondary violations. There is no action being taken on postseason or TV appearances.

This method of enforcing voluntary sanctions is a trend for programs being investigated by the NCAA. The general philosophy is that the NCAA might be less severe with its punishment if it sees the school has already taken action to correct the problem.

What isn't known at this point is whether the NCAA will decide that more severe penalties are needed.

All of the violations reportedly occurred before Coach Nick Saban was hired to replace Perles, who coached the Spartans from 1983-94.



David C. Coates / The Detroit News

Katie Cornman, 5, competing in the Roseville Wrestling Club's under-6 Tot Division, applies pressure on Billy Davidson of the YMCA Panthers. Katie won on a technical fall over Billy.

## Pinning a stereotype

Girl wrestlers hitting the mats against boys and gaining respect

More girls are trying out for boys wrestling teams. And they're not weak sisters, either.

Jessi Ross, a junior at Esserville-Garber High School, became the first girl to qualify for an individual high school state regional and had a 76-20 record her freshman and sophomore seasons.

She did not try out this year because "she got a little bigger and was concerned about the strength of the boys at a higher weight," said her former coach, Steve Brissette.

"I wrestled because I loved it, not because I was trying to make a point," Ross said.

Waterford Kettering High's Amber Morris, 16, who plays ice hockey and roller hockey, has earned the respect of her wrestling teammates.

Said Morris: "We're not as weak as they think we are."

Katie Cornman, 5, of Eastpointe participated in the Roseville Wrestling Club's under-6 Tot Division. She won a 10-0 technical fall in the first period of a recent match against a boy.

"I don't mind her wrestling," said her mother, Carole. "I'm not so sure how I'd like her to wrestle boys when she's in high school, but that will be her choice."



Jack Gruber / The Detroit News

Amber Morris practices with teammate Rocky Bills. "We're not as weak as they (boys) think we are," she says.

An up-close and personal look at girl wrestlers. Page 6D

## Suburbanites crusade to block mega-churches

Residents fear massive places of worship will cause traffic problems.

By Ron French  
The Detroit News

Carol Levitte remembers when she was condemned to eternal damnation.

"I was standing on the street (outside Our Lady of Good Counsel church in Plymouth), and a couple of parishioners told me I was going to hell for what I was doing."

If that's true, Hades will be packed with Metro Detroiters like Levitte, who are doing what once would have been unthinkable — fighting churches that want to move or expand in their neighborhoods.

In suburbs across the region, residents are filing lawsuits and shouting down zoning commissions, protesting church expansions in a manner once reserved for toxic dumps.

"How would you like to wake up one day and find a big church across from you?" asked one upset

neighbor. "It's kind of scary."

It's not that suburbanites are losing their religion. Instead, they're responding to a trend that is turning neighborhood chapels into mega-churches with the same parking and traffic problems as strip malls.

"They're not the quiet little structures they once were," said Gary Word, city manager of Northville, where residents aren't even waiting for Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church to complete its plans before campaigning to stop it.

Neighbors began objecting late last year when they learned church officials were contemplating a 36,000-square-foot addition for classrooms and a family life center across the street from the church. However, their opposition could backfire: The church is now considering using part of its parking lot for the addition, creating additional traffic and parking headaches for residents.

Other examples of conflict in the

## Most believe America is in serious trouble

A survey, conducted ahead of Tuesday's State of the Union address by President Clinton, asked whether the country's problems are the same or worse than in recent years.

The United States is in "deep, trouble": 50%

No worse off: 47%

Feel they're better off than 3 years ago: 31%

Feel they're worse off than 3 years ago: 18%

Believe American dream impossible for most: 63%

Believe children will have a higher standard of living: 63%

Time/CNN poll surveyed 800 Americans. The margin of error is ± 3 percent. Source: Reuter The Detroit News



INSIDE THE DETROIT NEWS

### BUSINESS MERCY'S ANGEL HELPS REVIVE AILING HOSPITAL



Mercy Hospital needed triage and Brenita Crawford wasn't afraid to administer it. As president of one of Detroit's leading Catholic hospitals, she integrated Mercy into the community and is managing to make it profitable, too. Page 1C

### OUTLOOK HILLARY CLINTON TELLS HER SIDE

Investigations costing taxpayers about \$30 million turn up nothing illegal, unethical or wrong, first lady says in column about Whitewater. Page 11A

### METRO EX-HOUSING CHIEF DISPUTES CHARGES

A former Detroit Housing Commissioner describes new federal bribery indictments of four former Detroit public housing employees as "chicken feed." Page 1B

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HOME DELIVERY: 313-222-NEWS  
TOLL-FREE: 800-395-3300  
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ROBERT H. GILES  
Editor & Publisher  
Office: 313-222-2588  
Fax: 313-223-4389

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