

# Tom Jones Forges A School Budget Despite Uncertainties In Albany

(Continued from page 1)

some children are "classified" in order to secure special education reimbursements. The proposed cap would serve as an economic incentive to maximize the number of "mainstreamed" youth and cut unnecessary special education costs.

"I don't think that Lansing has ever classified a child who didn't need the services," said Jones. "Our Committee on Special Education (CSE) works cooperatively with parents to keep youngsters in mainstream programs wherever possible."

Jones does not anticipate that this proposal will be enacted this year. "I have faith that the Legislature will do what's best for the schools," concluded Jones, "but realize that there's going to be give and take in the budget process."

## Building Aid

Also shadowing the horizon is a gubernatorial proposal to retroactively change the way building aid is calculated.

When Lansing voters approved the soon-to-begin building and sports facilities renovations and expansion, voters were told that 62.8% of the cost would be reimbursable as "Select Building Aid." This figure was calculated based on regulations that permitted Lansing to choose the most favorable 1993-94 building aid ratio as the base for our current project's reimbursement.

Since the June and October building votes, however, Gov. Pataki has made a new proposal that would require school districts to operate on the current year building ratio. For Lansing, the current 45.6% building aid ratio is 17.2% less than the figure in effect at the time of the building project vote.

## Women's Financial Seminar

### Tomorrow In Lansing

A financial planning seminar designed for women's particular investment needs will be held tomorrow (Thurs., May 15) at the Triphammer Lodge and Conference Center on Sheraton Drive in the Village of Lansing by Smith Barney at 7:00 pm. For further information, contact Julie at 273-1190.

Unfortunately, this change would not only affect building projects begun after passage of the proposal, but would be phased in over a 10 year period -- even for projects that had previously been approved.

This retroactive feature would make the Governor's proposal a very expensive proposition to property taxpayers who had voted the capital project in good faith based on current rules.

In the first year of the proposed formula, building aid reimbursement would be cut by 1.72% below the project "Select Aid Reimbursement." In year two, reimbursement would be 3.44% less than anticipated; year three = 5.16 less than anticipated ... and so on. From year 10 through year 20 of the 20 year payback period, reimbursement would be 17.2% less than the level in effect at the time the project was presented.

"You don't have to be a wizard to see the potential impact (of this change)," said Jones, who noted that the voters cast their ballots based on the premise that we'd have a "Select Building Aid Ratio."

As soon as Lansing's Board of Education learned of this proposal, it expressed its chagrin to Albany and placed a notice in the March school district bulletin asking district residents to voice their concern to Sen. Seward and Assemblyman Luster. "It's my hope that this (proposal) won't be going anywhere this year," said Jones.

Meanwhile, Tom Jones will continue to sift through the unending stream of documents flowing from Albany looking at each number and calculation. Perhaps that's why, even with uncertainty, Lansing has stayed within the budget levels authorized by its voters.

### Lansing's State Legislators

Senator James Seward  
Rm. 307, Leg. Office Bldg.  
Albany, NY 12247

Assemblyman Martin Luster  
106 East Court Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850

# Aladdin Flies In To Lansing May 16-17



Photo: RAM SEETHARAM

"In the capital of one of the large and rich provinces of the Kingdom of China there lived a tailor who was so poor that he could hardly, by his daily labour, maintain his wife and son Aladdin. His son had been brought up in a very careless and idle manner and was in the habit of going out early, playing in the streets with idle children of his own age...."

- "The Story of Aladdin: Or, The Wonderful Lamp," *The Arabian Nights*, ed. version of 1909

When the tale of Aladdin and his Magic Lamp was first transcribed in French in 1704, the 1000+ year-old collection of oral stories known as *The Arabian Nights* had already thrilled dozens of generations of children.

So it's no surprise that the Lansing Middle School production attracted nearly 100 young actors and actresses who want to take YOU on a magic carpet ride of the imagination this Friday and Saturday night at 7:00pm in the Middle School Auditorium.

Your local community newspaper is, of course, sworn to secrecy about the "larger than life" genies and unique airborne delivery system that our intrepid teachers and parents have put in place. So, get dressed up and come on down. You'll come for the magic and stay for the fun!

### Eighth Grade

Matt Aasen, Matt Adams, Richard Boga, Mary Broadway, Martha Brophy, Emily Dean, Erika Eddy, Julia Fedorka, Andrew Gorman, Kate Hamill, Lisa Hover, Mike Huffman, Michelle Lacourt, Darin LeBlanc, Anne Lin, Jessica Lyon,

Sara Long, Brian Parks, Puneet Panda, Dorthea Slocum, Rachael White and Ruth Zweigenbaum

### Seventh Grade

Crystal Albrecht, Amy Avery, Allison Bishop, Nicole Brooker, Michael Ducharme, Dan Fenton, Karl George, David Jones, Joey June, Eric Losey, Rose Marcy, Ross Munson, Lynnsey Schramm, Jean-Philippe Shulman, Chris Slutsky, Lee Tucker, Frank White and David Withiam

### Sixth Grade

Jeff Abbott, Jamie Bain, Andrew Barnard, Eileen Begley, Des Borst, Melanie Bortz, Ben Bruno, Krista Campbell, Michael Darfler, Jeremy Deans, Matt Fenton, Sarah Grover, Caitlin Hardie, Simon Ingall, Kristal Kemp, Katie Keyes, Jacki Ryan, Rebecca Reeves, Nicole Schramm, Alan Searles, Peter Skavaria, Jessica Tull, Luvdmila Vuvk, Edward Walker, Carolyn Wharton, Bobby Williams, Jamie Wingate and Bryan Zaborowski.

### Fifth Grade

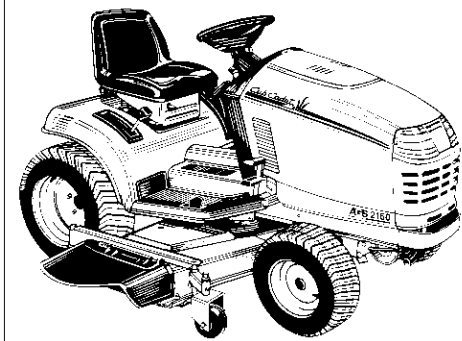
Lina Boga, Boomer Burling, Erin Carlson, Nicole Coleman, Asa Diebolt, Jenny Geiger, Cody Inman, Dustin LeBlanc, Danitra Lee, Ora Long, Hannah Mack, Gwynne Mapes, Amanda Mix, Matt Ravas, Rachael Reicher, Joey Rogan, Annie Ryerson, Jessica Sherman, Soparry Sok, Heather Stull and Seth Tucker.



Photo: RAM SEETHARAM

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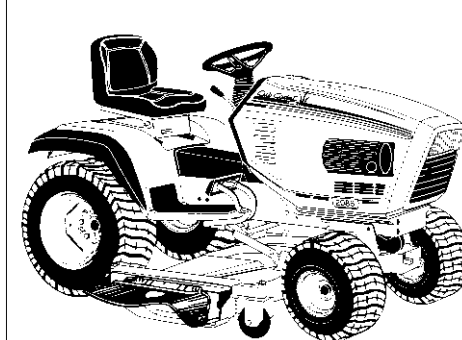


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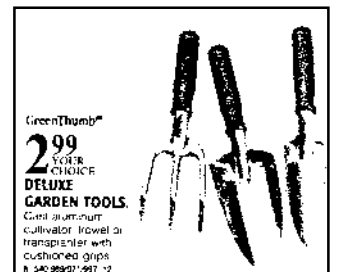
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