

The State News

Planning a party? Here are a few tips to make sure it's a smash

LOWDOWN, PAGE 1B



AP PHOTO

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama is shown on TV screens Wednesday during the final presidential debate with Republican presidential candidate John McCain at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

RIGHT ON POINT

McCain improves debate performance; experts say it might not be enough to win election

By Kelly House
THE STATE NEWS

In the final presidential debate that was deemed a must-win for John McCain, the Republican presidential candidate ran the tone of the debate, but it might not have been enough to bridge the 8-point gap he is facing in the polls, experts said.

"McCain really needed to have a game-changer moment in this debate to declare it a victory," said MSU director of debate Greta Stahl. "I don't think that he had that."

Before a crowd that included Gov. Jennifer Granholm and former Republican

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AP PHOTO/SETH WENIG

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, left, listens as Republican presidential candidate John McCain, speaks during the presidential debate Wednesday at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

"This is the most important issue that our future economy is going to face. Nothing is more important than us no longer borrowing \$700 billion or more from China and sending it to Saudi Arabia."

Sen. Barack Obama, democratic presidential nominee

UNIVERSITY

Department of Energy examines MSU bid for new science facility

By Justin Harris
THE STATE NEWS

Standing in front of a 37-member federal review committee earlier this week with a half-billion-dollar project on the line, MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon and a team from the Cyclotron made its case for why East Lansing should be home to the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams.

FRIB would update the university's Cyclotron facility and make it a world leader in nuclear physics. In addition, the project would bring about 5,800 jobs to Michigan and give the state \$1 billion in economic stimulus during the next 20 years.

The team spent the first half of the week in Washington, D.C., outlining MSU's proposal for the facility to reviewers from the Department of Energy. The two-day session is a required part of the proposal process. MSU's competitor, the federally funded Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois, will present to the committee today and Friday.

"They've crafted a competition to let a university compete with a national lab," Simon said. "But (the committee has) to hear out of two languages — the university and the national lab's — and be able to compare them. And I think people made an effort to do that but you always worry about the translation."

Konrad Gelbke and Thomas Glasmacher, the senior members of the proposal team, answered questions Tuesday about the details of MSU's plan for FRIB. Fred Poston, MSU's president for finance and operations, also was on site to address financial concerns the committee had.

"I think there were people that were skeptical that a university could do this," he said. "But I think we left and they weren't nearly as skeptical. I don't know how to read as to what our chances are, but I would bet they are better than when we went into the oral presentations."

The \$550 million project pits MSU against federally funded Argonne, which Simon said makes MSU the underdog in the competition. Cyclotron spokesman Geoff Koch said MSU's lab is often compared with Argonne's entire facility, which is made up of many different projects, one of which is nuclear physics. He said the comparison isn't legitimate.

"Again and again, it's this little lab with a \$20 million budget and 300 employees going

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CRIME

SUSPECT CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH OCT. 6 ASSAULT ON CAMPUS

By Abby Lubbers
THE STATE NEWS

A 25-year-old Lansing man was arraigned Wednesday for a campus assault on a 19-year-old student, according to MSU police.

Jason H. Evans' arraignment was connected to the fourth crime alert sent by MSU police this semester.

He reportedly approached a female student near Beaumont Tower and West Circle Drive and held a pocketknife to her neck. The woman was walking from the Main Library to Campbell Hall.

Evans reportedly fled the scene when two people approached the area, and the woman did not report any injuries.

"It's just a relief to know he's

been apprehended," MSU police Inspector Kelly Beck said.

"For a fairly serious crime, I'm glad things are coming together."

Evans was arrested Tuesday night. Police released a composite sketch of the suspect Oct. 7.

Evans was charged before East Lansing 54-B District Court Judge David L. Jordon with one count of felonious assault with a dangerous weapon. He is being held in the Ingham County Jail on a \$50,000 bond.

A pretrial appearance is set for Tuesday, with a preliminary examination scheduled for Oct. 24.

"It just reminds me not to walk around campus by myself at night," physiology senior Jocelyn

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BASKETBALL

PLAYERS SEEK FINAL FOUR SPOT IN DETROIT

By Sean Ely
THE STATE NEWS

There are two main strengths MSU men's basketball head coach Tom Izzo has seen in the preseason thus far.

Athletic ability and an improved depth.

And at MSU's men's basketball Media Day on Wednesday, Izzo said his team will continue to use those strengths and fight hard in the weeks leading up to its first preseason game (Nov. 5 vs. Northern Michigan) in order to get to a specific point as a unit — confident to take on the



Izzo

Big Ten schedule.

"If anybody thinks we're going undefeated this year, we're probably not," Izzo said. "That's a bad thing for a coach to say because you're looking at the negatives, but I'm trying to make sure everybody understands that what we do is not what everybody else does."

Although each program has its own set of practice drills, pre-game rituals and other ways of building a program, Izzo said it's "players that play the game," and not always so much every little thing the school does.

In that sense, he's content with the team he's going to war with in a few weeks. He just wants the entire program to get to a point where they won't drop games they're supposed to win, especially in

conference play.

"I think what fell short last year was our Big Ten performance," Izzo said. "I'm not ready to say the season fell short; we still played one of the toughest schedules and won 27 games. It is hard to keep expectations and reality up with what goes on in college basketball."

But his team is way ahead of him, wanting nothing more than to smack around the Big Ten teams and roll to a conference championship. That's the goal and each one of them is hungry for it.

"We're going to go out there and prove ourselves and show everyone that we can play with anyone, anywhere," senior guard Travis Walton said. "There ain't no taking us down

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For video footage of Media Day, check out statenews.com.

SPEAKING OUT

A veteran of the military and teacher at West Point shares his experiences by contributing to a book, page 3A.

ACADEMICS

A university committee is looking into altering minor requirements, page 3A.



Weather

Partly cloudy

High 56° | Low 38°

Three-day forecast, page 2A