

For some students, music is more than just entertainment

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The State News



CRIME

Man charged in 1999 arson sentenced to 9 years in prison

By Abby Lubbers
THE STATE NEWS

A Detroit man was sentenced Monday to nine years in prison and more than \$3.7 million in restitution for his involvement in a 1999 arson at MSU's Agriculture Hall. He has worked as an FBI informant in similar cases since August 2007.

Frank Brian Ambrose was the first person sentenced in connection with the New Year's Eve fire that destroyed research on genetically modified crops. Ambrose and his ex-wife, Marie Jeanette Mason, set fire to the offices of the Agriculture Biotechnology Support Project.

Ambrose's sentencing came 10 days after the prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Hagen Frank, requested the sentence be reduced to eight to 10 years from the maximum 20 years. Ambrose traveled across state lines to record conversations with other targets, Frank said.

Defense attorney Michael Brady requested the minimum sentence of five years in prison, based on Ambrose's assistance in the other investigations.

"I asked for five years because that's the least (the judge) could have given; the prosecutor asked for seven, and the judge posted more than that," Brady said. "I prefer the prosecutor's numbers to the judge's."

Frank said the sentence was legally appropriate.

"It takes account of the seriousness of what Ambrose did, and it takes account of the good he did to make things better," Frank said.

Aren Bernard Burthwick and Stephanie Lynne Fultz, of Detroit, also were charged for their involvement in the arson.

All four people were arrested in March, following an eight-year investigation. Each was charged with four counts of conspiracy to commit arson, aggravated arson and arson connected with the incident at Agriculture Hall.

"We're ecstatic about the fact the case was resolved the way it was," MSU police Chief Jim Dunlap said. "Our job is to get them

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PHOTOS BY GEORGIA RHODES/THE STATE NEWS
Lansing resident Jay Jacot, a local comic book artist who participated in a 24 Hour Comics Days challenge, holds up his finished comic book just as the final 24th hour elapsed at 10 a.m. Sunday. The challenge was held at Clem's Collectibles, 212 S. Washington Square, in Lansing.

COMIC QUEST

Local artists compete in competition to create original comic book in 24 hours

By Pat Evans
THE STATE NEWS

Lansing — In the back of Clem's Collectibles, 212 S. Washington Square, in Lansing, where classic Batman and Super Friends action figures adorn the walls, seven self-proclaimed "comic studs" worked hard to create seven original comic books in 24 hours. Artist Dean Stahl explained the artists were fueled by "enough caffeine to kill a charging bull elephant."

The challenge

Stahl, along with Ryan Claytor, Jonathon Gordon, Dan Harris, Jason Howard, Jay Jacot and Eric Wilmoth, participated in the worldwide 24 Hour Comics Days, or 24 HCD, from 10 a.m. Saturday to 10 a.m. Sunday.

Most of the artists sell their work at Clem's and hang out at the store regularly.

The concept of the 24-hour comic was created in 1990



Jonathan Gordon, a Lansing resident and local comic book artist, lays down on his desk Saturday night while working on creating a comic book.

by Scott McCloud as a challenge to artists to create a 24-page comic book — a work of art that normally takes months — in a matter of hours.

This marks the first year Clem's has hosted 24 HCD, the only store in Michigan to take part in the event. All the participating artists are local and were personally invited by store manager Tom Flammer to take part in the contest that has been an annual event in the comic book world since 2004.

"There were a lot of customers and artists interested in

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24 Hour Comics Day

The competition began in 2004 and has become a worldwide annual event.

Artists are challenged to complete a comic book — a task that usually takes months — in 24 hours.

The event is sponsored nationally by BAWLS Guarana energy drinks and Blue Line Pro Art Boards.

A collection of 24-hour comics can be found at the Ohio State University Cartoon Research Library. SOURCE: WWW.24HOURCOMICS.COM

RESIDENCE HALLS

MSU removes world flags from McDonel Hall, students upset

By Keiara Tenant
THE STATE NEWS

Four years ago, Eduardo Dominguez traveled to MSU from his hometown of Caracas, Venezuela, to experience a new lifestyle and culture.

"I decided to come to MSU, specifically because of its size and number of students, and the multicultural diversity that comes with those numbers," the medical technology senior said.

One of the things Dominguez liked most about McDonel Hall

— where he has lived since his freshman year — was the international flags coloring the walls of the cafeteria. He was disappointed to return from summer vacation this year to find the flags had been removed.

"The cafeteria looks empty, lifeless, simple and has no connection whatsoever to the atmosphere in McDonel Hall," Dominguez said.

During the summer, the McDonel Hall management and the MSU Construction, Maintenance & Interior Design department removed the flags and drapes

in the cafeteria to create a more welcoming atmosphere and brighten the cafeteria, said Bruce Haskell, associate director of University Housing.

Haskell said the flags were also removed because they weren't supposed to be a part of the decor in the cafeteria, violated fire code and some students complained the flags were not evenly hung.

Students were not included in the decision.

"Part of our objective here is

See FLAGS on page 2A

DEATH

Quadruple homicide case has new leads

By Abby Lubbers
THE STATE NEWS

Police are investigating a possible suspect in the Sept. 29 homicide of an MSU student and

three others in Wright Township.

Troy Brake, 31, of Grant, Mich. was arrested Thursday for allegedly shooting

a man and assaulting a prostitute on South Division Ave-

nue and Hall Street in Grand Rapids, according to The Grand Rapids Press.

But police are looking into a connection Brake may have with the quadruple homicide.

Katherine A. Brown, 19, who was an agribusiness management sophomore, was killed Sept. 29 at her boyfriend's home in Wright Township. Jeremy Zimmer, 20, who was dating Brown; his mother Sharmaine Zimmer, 53; and his brother Tyler Zimmer, 17, also

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SPORTS

MSU athlete injured after weekend fight

By Jacob Carpenter
and Abby Lubbers
THE STATE NEWS

A fight involving MSU athletes at an off-campus house where several hockey players live sent one MSU athlete to the hospital Sunday morning.

East Lansing police Lt. Kevin Daley said "three, possibly four victims" suffered injuries during a fight involving "multiple" suspects at about 1 a.m. Sunday outside 130 Center St., which is located on a side street near Michigan and Harrison avenues.

Daley said some of the suspects involved are members of the MSU athletics program but their names and sport affiliations were not released.

"We're still trying to determine who got assaulted and who did the assaulting," Daley said.

Daley said one unidentified individual left a house party at the residence and later returned with several other suspects, instigating multiple fights.

Daley declined to comment on what triggered the altercation.

One victim was sent to Lansing's Sparrow Hospital with undisclosed injuries and remained hospitalized Monday evening, Daley said. WLNS TV-6 reported Monday that the individual hospitalized was sophomore A.J. Sturges, a defenseman for the MSU hockey team. A hospital spokesperson said Monday evening that Sturges was in fair condition.

Police would not confirm that Sturges was the victim. Sturges' father, John, declined to comment Monday night.

There were between 50-60 people in Center Street, yelling at each other between 12:30 a.m. and about 1:15 to 1:30 a.m., said Aly Moore, a dietetics junior who lives on Center Street and watched the night's events from her window.

"There was name calling, people hitting each other and then people would go away," she said. "Then they would come back — on and off for about an hour."

Moore's roommate, elementary education junior Alyse Pallas, heard the incident from her second-floor bedroom.

"You could tell there were two sides versus each other," Pallas said.

Moore and Pallas did not see or hear emergency vehicles.

Daley said police are in the process of interviewing witnesses and victims who might have been injured at the scene but left without receiving treatment.

Charges stemming from the fight have not been filed and would not be filed until the end

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ACADEMICS

Dean of the College
of Communication
Arts and Sciences
heads to Israel,
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Weather

Sunny
High 49° | Low 29°

Three-day forecast, page 2A