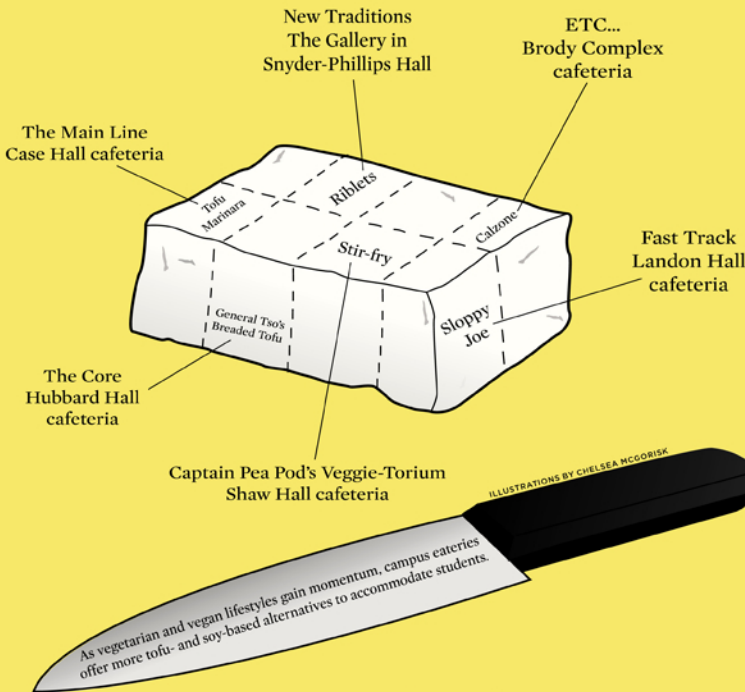


Vying for Veggies



By Justin Harris and Pat Evans
THE STATE NEWS

MSU is turning a darker shade of green. It's not because of energy-efficient light bulbs shining in the Brody Complex. It's not because of recycling receptacles that line the sidewalk near Adams Field. And it's not because of the Smart Car that occasionally rolls down Farm Lane. MSU is getting greener in its diet, thanks to a continuing increase of vegetarians and vegans on campus.

According to a Harris Interactive study conducted last year, about 3.2 percent — or 7.3 million Americans — consider themselves "dedicated" vegetarians. In 2003, a similar study said about 2.8 percent of Americans were vegetarians.

Carolyn Roy, Shaw Hall dining services manager, said the demand

See VEGGIES on page 2A

INVESTIGATION

Cause remains undetermined in death of MSU student

By Kyle Feldscher
THE STATE NEWS

The Ingham County Medical Examiner continues to investigate the cause of an MSU student's death after an autopsy performed Thursday yielded inconclusive results.

Don Ausman, a 22-year-old interdisciplinary studies in social science and international studies senior, was found dead in his Spartan Village apartment Wednesday morning shortly after 9:15 a.m., police said.



Ausman

Ingham County Chief Medical Examiner Dean Sienko said no new information will be available until an autopsy can positively determine the cause of death.

"We just need to do some more tests before we can release that information publicly," Sienko said.

MSU police Sgt. Florene McGlothlin-Taylor said the department cannot release any more information regarding the investigation that took place in Ausman's apartment. She said the department only can classify the death as "suspicious" until the medical examiner's office completes its investigation.

Ausman's friends said he was a fun-loving guy who loved meeting new people and making his friends smile.

"He loved to laugh and have fun and just really loved disco," said Ali Doyle, a friend of Ausman's. "He wanted to know everyone and make people laugh."

The secondary education junior met Ausman on an Alternative Spring Break trip last year. She said the reality of his passing hadn't yet registered in her mind.

"I'm still in shock; I can't believe it," Doyle said. "Every time I think of it, it just comes back and it's so awful that such a great person isn't with us anymore."

Doug Merian, a packaging sophomore, met Ausman in October. Merian said Ausman was a light-hearted person who always tried to make his friends laugh.

"Every time he came over, he made us feel like his best friends," Merian said. "He just made everyone feel so comfortable — you'd just connect with him."

A story of how Merian met Ausman summed up Ausman's goofy nature, Merian said.

It was Halloween weekend, and Merian sewed a part of Ausman's astronaut costume. After finishing the repair, Merian told Ausman he and his roommates were going to a party on Abbot Road that night — but he didn't plan on seeing Ausman there.

"Later on that night, he just opened up the front door with this awesome costume," Merian said. "It was like a movie, with smoke coming in, and he just stepped in and started dancing and everyone was yelling."

"We didn't even tell him what house we were going to be at. It's something I'm ever going to forget."

Police did not specify when they expected laboratory tests, including toxicology reports, to be completed.

Phone messages left Thursday with Ausman's father were not returned to The State News.

BASKETBALL

Women victorious over Iowa, 65-56

By Joseph Terry
THE STATE NEWS

The MSU women's basketball team came out running in its 68-56 victory over Iowa on Thursday.

The Spartans took advantage of their depth early and often running Iowa up and down the floor from the tip, wearing the Hawkeyes down and using their size advantage to get rebounds and points in the paint.

Iowa took an early lead in the ball game, scoring the first basket on a long jump from senior forward Wendy Ausdemore.

MSU would answer quickly though, as freshman forward Courtney Schiffauer gave MSU

three quick points to regain the lead, and never looked back.

The Spartans would extend the lead out to seven twice more in the first half before Iowa was able to fight back and tie the score at 10 with 3:34 to play in the half.

However, MSU would hold Iowa scoreless for the rest of the half, stealing the ball four times and forcing four turnovers, while going on a 7-0 run to head into the locker room up 26-10.

MSU started the second half where they left off, quickly expanding their lead to 10 points.

Iowa attempted a comeback as senior guard Kristi Smith heated up, scoring 12 points in the sec-

ond half after getting blanked in the first. However, foul trouble and poor shooting hampered any attempt to regain the lead as the Spartans continued to pound the Hawkeyes inside. Ausdemore and sophomore Kachine Alexander played much of the half with four fouls.

The Spartans would lead by as much as 16 in the second half.

This win stretches the MSU winning streak to six, the longest of the season, bringing their record to 15-6 overall and 8-2 in conference.

The Spartans head to the road for their next match to face Minnesota (14-6, 6-3).

For a photo gallery, go to statenews.com.



NICHOLE HOERNER/ THE STATE NEWS

Sophomore forward Cetera Washington blows past Iowa forward Wendy Ausdemore to shoot a basket on Thursday.