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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS

The State News

A DRIVING FORCE FOR FUELS



PHOTOS BY GABRIELLE MOORE/THE STATE NEWS

Top: From left, technician **Pets Donald**, visiting professor **Chandour Krishnan**, statistics master's student **Lelie Qian** and research assistant **Juan Gao** work on treating plant products to produce ethanol Tuesday at the Michigan Biotechnology Institute in Lansing. Students and researchers at the lab study the use of plants as fuel.

Bottom: Chemical engineering graduate student **Bryan Bals** labels a test tube while chemical engineering graduate student **Rebecca Garlock** watches at the institute.

Biofuels as alternative energy promise to help environment, economy, prof's research shows

By **Pat Evans**
THE STATE NEWS

The field of biofuel research would have little in the tank without MSU professor Bruce Dale. The professor of chemical engineering and material science finished two studies last month that could foster positive attitudes about alternative fuels and decrease the cost of creating them. Dale's first study presented evidence against the notion that benefits of biofuels are offset by the land required to produce the corn for ethanol and the gas emissions of the vehicles using the fuel. "The issue with the arguments was that there was not data to support the claims," he said. "Our analysis shows that crop management is a key factor in estimating greenhouse gas emissions associated with land use change and associated with biofuels."

The study identified crop management practices that reduce ozone depletion caused by biofuel production, Dale said. Practices such as no-till farming and cover crops will help biofuels repay the carbon debt created by clearing land to grow corn. Cover crops grow in cornfields after the crop has been harvested, which keeps the land productive. The second study developed an MSU-patented process that could reduce the cost of producing bio-

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CRIME

SENTENCING SCHEDULED FOR 3 INVOLVED IN AG HALL ARSON

By **Kyle Feldscher**
THE STATE NEWS

Federal prosecutors are recommending a 20-year sentence for the woman convicted of setting Agriculture Hall ablaze on New Year's Eve 1999.

Marie Mason, of Cincinnati, will be sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Lansing. A plea agreement memorandum released by U.S. attorneys revealed Mason is likely to face a stiff sentence due to her unapologetic attitude about the crime.

Defendant Marie Mason ... was not only a principal architect of the MSU arson, she was, and remains, an unrepentant and unapologetic advocate of violence and intimidation as a means of protest," the memorandum states.

Mason pleaded guilty to aggravated arson and conspiring to commit arson on Sept. 25. In addition to a 20-year sen-

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FOOTBALL

Dantonio gives '09 recruiting class 'A' grade

By **Cash Kruth**
THE STATE NEWS

When MSU football head coach Mark Dantonio tells his players their hard work will pay off, he can point to MSU's 2009 recruiting class as a prime example.

On Wednesday's National Signing Day, the first day high school football seniors can sign a National Letter of Intent, the Spartans officially added 23 student-athletes to the football program for the 2009 season. Dantonio, who graded last year's recruiting class "between a B and B+," left no doubt when he thought about this year's latest group of players.

"When you do your work, I guess you get the grade you were supposed to get. You get an A, and I'm grading this class as an A," Dantonio said Wednesday in

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More inside...
For profiles of all 23 MSU recruits, see page 5A.

PAYING TRIBUTE

Community gathers to draw attention, collect donations for those in Gaza and Israel, page 3A.

Weather
Partly cloudy
High 23° | Low 15°
Three-day forecast, Page 2A

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Summers outscores Minn. in first half on way to MSU rout

By **Cash Kruth**
THE STATE NEWS

The only question following Wednesday night's game between the MSU men's basketball team and Minnesota was which Durrell Summers highlight play would find itself on the chopping room floor.

The sophomore guard continued to fill in more than admirably for junior forward Raymar Morgan, scoring a game-high 21 points on 8-for-10 shooting as the No. 13 Spartans (8-4 overall, 8-2 Big Ten) bounced back from a two-game home losing streak in dominating fashion, throttling No. 19 Minnesota 76-47 at Breslin Center.

By the time the Golden Gophers (8-4, 6-4) scored their first field goal of the game nearly six min-

utes in, Summers had already made three 3-pointers.

From then on, the first half was MSU's own version of SportsCenter's Top 10 Plays, with Summers in the lead role.

Five minutes into the game, sophomore guard Kalin Lucas (10 points, four assists) threw a pass from half-court to Summers, who laid the ball in to complete the play.

With 8:57 left in the half, Summers picked off a pass from Minnesota's Colton Iverson at half-court and dribbled down for a one-handed jam. Less than a minute later, freshman forward Delvon Roe stole the ball at the free throw line, dribbled past half-court and threaded a bounce pass to sophomore guard Chris Allen, who finished the play with a reverse layup.

The next big play came when senior guard Travis Walton stole

the ball and fired it to Lucas, who dribbled under MSU's basket. Lucas then turned and fipped the ball up for Summers, who threw the ball through the hoop to put MSU up 30-9.

The game spun out of hand from there, as the Spartans ended the half with a 42-16 lead and Summers (17 first-half points) outscored the Gophers by himself.

Summers came out of half-time and scored MSU's first four points, as the Spartans went up by 30 points. MSU held close to a 30-point margin for the remainder of the game as Minnesota (29 percent shooting) couldn't find anything but iron.

Allen broke out of his recent shooting slump by shooting 4-for-8 from the field and hitting two treys to finish with 13 points.

Senior center Goran Suton

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KATIE RAUSCH/THE STATE NEWS

Sophomore guard **Durrell Summers**, left, jokes with freshman forward **Delvon Roe** while freshman forward **Draymond Green** laughs with another teammate as MSU closes in on a win Wednesday night at Breslin Center. MSU came away with a 76-47 victory over Minnesota after back-to-back home losses.