



## Highly hyped "The Hangover" disappoints from start to finish

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## Four people open new textbook store on Grand River

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### TRAGEDY

## 14-YEAR-OLD DIES AFTER COLLAPSING AT MSU GYM

By Meredith Skrzypczak  
THE STATE NEWS

To those who knew him, Dorian Dawkins was a go-getter and a team player.

The 14-year-old son of Saginaw High School basketball coach Lou Dawkins collapsed Friday night during his team's game in MSU's Team Shootout tournament at IM Sports-East.

He died after being taken to Sparrow Hospital in Lansing by ambulance. The cause of death has not been released.

Alycia Giles, a close friend of Dawkins' parents and Saginaw High School counselor, said Dawkins' character was obvious both on and off the basketball court.

"He was just a go-getter, an excellent player and a hard worker," Giles said. "He didn't care if they were winning by 10 or 20, he was always giving 100 percent. He was a true team player."

According to an MSU press release, Dawkins received medical attention immediately after his collapse from a certified trainer assigned by the university and a nurse who was in attendance at the game.

"As a coach and even more so as a parent, I grieve, pray and suffer with the Dawkins family, and the many people in Saginaw and beyond who mourn the passing of a wonderful young man, Dorian Dawkins," MSU men's basketball coach Tom Izzo said in the release.

"The hours I spent ... with the Dawkins family have reminded me in a dramatic way that, like in coaching, the 'basics' are ultimately what it's all about."

Dawkins was gifted athletically and academically, said Marshall Thomas, former athletics director and Dawkins' basketball coach at Saginaw High School.

"Dorian was a very popular kid around town," Thomas said.

"Sometimes when we know of someone who is being a great athlete, sometimes we lose that these people are excellent students also."

The Shootout hosted 62 high school basketball teams from four different states. The teams were guaranteed to play a minimum of five games during the two-day, open tournament.

"The MSU community is united with the Dawkins family, the people of Saginaw, and the young people at the Team

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# Always with PRIDE

More than 12,000 come to Lansing this weekend for annual Michigan Pride Festival



SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS

Woodhaven resident Ashley Cicotte, left, cries as she rubs noses with her partner Shayna Kecheo, also a Woodhaven resident, shortly after vowing her love to Kecheo during the commitment ceremony held on the steps on the Capitol Saturday during the Michigan Pride rally. Despite the commitment ceremony, Cicotte and Kecheo, who have been dating for a year and a half, cannot be recognized as anything but partners by the state government, a point which was the main topic of discussion among the day's speakers.

By Daniel Luscombe  
THE STATE NEWS

For Monique Goch, the Michigan Pride Festival is more than a celebration. Goch went to the festival for the first time in 1997 after coming out as a lesbian at age 26. She now serves as the festival's outreach coordinator.

"It's very personal to me because I didn't come out until I was 26," Goch said. "I really needed that energy. I needed someone to say it's OK, and now if we do that, look at our response. We have so many allies here."

The Michigan Pride festival, march, and the Michigan Equality Rally & Commitment Ceremony took place Saturday among a number of events that took place this weekend as part of Michigan Pride 2009. The festival was held at Addo Riverfront Park in Lansing and attracted more than 12,000 people.

The weekend's events began on Friday with the White Party, a benefit in Old Town for the Lansing Area

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For an audio slideshow from this weekend's Michigan Pride Festival, visit [stateneews.com/multimedia](http://stateneews.com/multimedia).

### TECHNOLOGY

## MSU alumni spread funny texts via Web

By Marissa Cumbers  
THE STATE NEWS

If you've ever woken up to discover your text message outbox full and your mind bit hazy on how it got that way, you can probably testify along with other bizarre, bold and dirty texters that a cell phone "send" button has no

restrictions.

Whether it's an embarrassing occurrence or the exposure of quirky habits, TextsFromLastNight.com, a Web site founded in February 2009 by MSU alumni Benjamin Bator and Lauren Leto, allows users to post outrageous text messages and is quickly becoming a bookmark in browsers everywhere.

Bator said.

### It all started with 517

"Finals week has to be one of the reasons it got big as fast as it did," Bator said. "I wish we could have the numbers to show how many people have logged on from the MSU library."

One of the initial increases in page views happened around April 22-23, in line with crunch time for college students all over, Leto said. Since then, the page receives as many as 1.2 million hits daily.

Allison McGreevey, an arts and humanities sophomore, said she visits the site regularly and had no idea it was created by MSU alumni.

"It's absurd and ridiculous but really funny," McGreevey said. "I kind of sit in class and just laugh reading it."

On top of giving some credit to patrons of the MSU's Main Library for the viral spread of TFLN, Leto said much of the site's development can be credited to East Lansing's

bar scene.

"This idea was born out of Lou and Harry's," she said. "I think Harry literally gave birth to it."

Leto said Lou and Harry's 245 Ann St., and the Landsark, 701 E. Grand River Ave., were regular hangout spots for the duo, who have been friends since their junior year at MSU.

"We are probably going to have to give them half of our revenue from this year."

### Nation's dirtiest texters

Each day, Bator and Leto check the site at least 10 times, sort through the thousands of potential posts and select the funniest for publication.

"I'd like to say there is a really complicated algorithm, and we have created this funny meter where it picks out good texts, but usually if it is something that we laugh at, then it goes up," Bator said.

Because posts are anonymous and the only identification required is an area code, only

extremely "grotesque" texts are deemed too dirty, Bator said.

Leto, currently a law student at Wayne State University, said along with reading outrageous text messages, her morning routine includes attempts to justify her job as "the nation's dirtiest texter" to her parents.

"My mom will send texts to the site — I recognize the 313 (area code) — and she'll send something like 'Lauren, this is your mom. Please put nicer texts on that site.'"

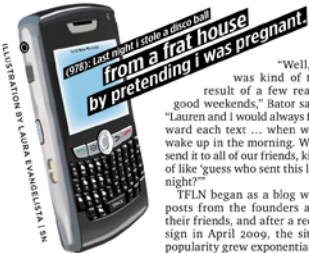
Telecommunication, information studies and media junior Richelle Wilbrod said dirtiness aside, she was proud of fellow Spartans for creating such a funny site.

"I have a file on my computer and I save all of my favorite ones," she said.

### Text from next year

The duo began including advertising on the site in mid-May, but Bator said current rev-

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"Well, it was kind of the result of a few really good weekends," Bator said. "Lauren and I would always forward each text ... when we wake up in the morning. We'd send it to all of our friends, kind of like 'guess who sent this last night?'"

TFLN began as a blog with posts from the founders and their friends, and after a redesign in April 2009, the site's popularity grew exponentially,

### EAST LANSING

## City officials look to technology to open dialogue with E.L. residents

By Kate Jacobson  
THE STATE NEWS

East Lansing residents might soon be able to participate in city meetings without leaving the comfort of their homes.

The Cable, Internet and Technology Commission presented a report to City Council on Tuesday that discussed the future of telecommunications in the city. The commission proposed an idea that would allow residents to watch

city meetings live on the Internet and communicate with city officials during meetings via Twitter.

"If you're going to be successful in communicating, you have to deliver your message in a way that your people are going to receive it," said Councilmember Kevin Beard, the council liaison to the commission.

The potential changes would not affect the airing of meetings on public access

"If you're going to be successful in communicating, you have to deliver your message in a way that your people are going to receive it."

Kevin Beard, East Lansing City Council member

television.

The commission discussed the creation of a panel that would explore effective communication methods in the city using technology. The panel

would meet in October to discuss potential ideas, including live streaming, to implement in East Lansing.

If the live stream idea is utilized, city officials plan to use

Ustream, a free online streaming Web site, to broadcast meetings.

"If the possibility exists that we could use video streaming, we have a very affordable mechanism to open this up that more of our boards and commissions can be viewed by our citizens," Beard said.

With Ustream, viewers at home would be able to add commentary through Twitter while watching the live stream. The comments would be nearly

instantaneous, creating more public interaction during meetings, Beard said.

Council members and commissioners could respond immediately to public comment by addressing the tweets from residents.

"I think it's another channel for discourse," Commissioner Craig Westfall said. "It's another way to communicate to your elected officials, especially on

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