

The State News

Weekend

COURT

TERRORISM CHARGE ON EX-STUDENT DROPPED

By Kate Jacobson
THE STATE NEWS

A terrorism charge against a former MSU student was dropped Thursday because it is not "in the interest of justice" to pursue the case, Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunning III said.

Zachariah Aslam, 18, was arrested Oct. 20, 2009, and faced up to 20 years in prison on a single charge of making a terrorist threat or false report of terrorism.

Police never specified what threats were made, but friends of Aslam told The State News he was suicidal and talked about jumping off the Chemistry Building with explosives. Friends said the explosives would have been intended to kill Aslam, not to harm others.

The charge was dropped one day after MSU police concluded its investigation into the case.

Aslam's attorney, Jeff Chip, said the charges were dropped because of a lack of evidence against Aslam.

"There was no terrorist situation," Chip said. "But the atmosphere is so paranoid now, people overreact."

Dunning said Aslam called a Minnesota-based crisis line in October and made comments to an operator that prompted her to call MSU police.

"The person that he spoke to on this crisis line in Minnesota-

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NEWS BRIEF

HOLLIS: NEW LOGO TO DEBUT IN APRIL

A new Spartan logo will be part of a comprehensive brand and identity project, MSU Athletics Director Mark

Hollis said in a statement Thursday.

The logo first appeared on the U.S. Patent and Trademark

Office Web site.

"The Spartan logo, posted on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Web site, is a single element of a comprehensive brand and identity project that will be unveiled in April by Michigan State athletics," Hollis said in the statement. "As in all branding, the power of a single symbol cannot be appreciated or measured outside the context of the total presentation."

Love or hate the new look? Go to stateneews.com to voice your opinion.

KATE JACOBSON

Editor's note: The above picture is a tracing of an image obtained from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Web site. No files large enough to be reproduced in The State News were available.

VOLUNTEER STATE



Biological science senior David Poirier poses with his Teach For America Build-A-Bear on Thursday in his apartment. Poirier received the complimentary bear after being accepted into Teach For America and assigned to a middle school in St. Louis, where Build-A-Bear Workshop Inc. is located.

KAT PETERS-EN/THE STATE NEWS

Recent MSU grads turn to volunteer opportunities to build experience, impact others

By Brittany Shammas
THE STATE NEWS

It was 6 p.m. and David Poirier was waiting for an e-mail. He saw the subject line, dropped the phone and had to search for it before he could call his mom to tell her the good news. He had been accepted into Teach for America.

"I was so excited," Poirier said. "Honestly, I didn't really know if I'd get in."

Poirier was one of 240 MSU students who sent an application to Teach for America this year, marking an increase of about 73 percent from the 139 applications received from MSU last year.

The boom in applications is not confined to Teach for America or MSU. It reflects a growing trend noted by service organizations including the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps. The Peace Corps saw an 18 percent increase in applications, from 13,011 in 2008 to 15,386 in 2009. AmeriCorps saw an increase of at least 10 percent, from 91,399 in 2008 to 246,842 in 2009.

"(At MSU), I think it's more See SERVICE on page 2A



For an interactive graphic featuring Spartan volunteers, visit stateneews.com/multimedia.

BASKETBALL



LAUREN WOOD/THE STATE NEWS

Senior forward Alisha Jefferson looks to the basket, hoping to get past Purdue guard Sam Ostarelo, right, in the game Thursday night at Breslin Center.

Spartans tromp Boilermakers

By Matt Bishop
THE STATE NEWS

MSU head coach Suzy Merchant had been looking for her uphill climb to be doers instead of talkers.

She got just that in Thursday's game against Purdue. Senior center Alyssa DeHaan, senior forward Alisha Jefferson and junior guard Britney Thomas combined for 41 of MSU's 72 points as the Spartans bounced back from a three-game losing streak to rout Purdue, 72-54, at Breslin Center.

"I think (the team) played with a little more of an edge to them," Merchant said. "I thought we had a little more toughness to us defensively, especially. We tweaked some things that I thought got us off to a good start and got our transition game going. I thought that was big."

Thomas made the difference for MSU. After going scoreless and taking one shot in the first half, she exploded in the second half, going 4-of-6 from the field, including 2-of-3 from long range. She finished the night with 16 points, six rebounds

More online --

To see more photos from Thursday's game, visit stateneews.com/gallery.

and five assists. "The game's simple and she kept it simple tonight," Merchant said. "She took shots that were open and she was ready for them and it was really great to see her do that. We need her to continue to be a force."

Thomas' 16 points were two short of her career high. "It just makes the game more fun," Thomas said. "It's teammates believing in me and trusting me to shoot. Every time I'm open, they're telling me to shoot and I'm ready to shoot now."

The Spartans came out with the fire, intensity and, more importantly, the offensive presence missing in previous games.

They also accomplished Thursday what they had trouble doing during the three-game losing streak — find multiple scorers.

Six players scored as the Spartans opened an early 18-9 lead. Then Jefferson took over. She scored 11 straight points for MSU as the Spartans went

into the half with a 30-24 lead. Jefferson came off the bench for the second straight game and finished with 14 points and eight rebounds.

"I just remember coming in the game just extra pumped, giving extra energy off the bench," Jefferson said. "My teammates found me when I was open and I created and I've been working hard in practice to try to be a productive leader on the floor."

MSU opened the second half on an 8-0 run to take a 38-24 lead, but the Boilermakers would crawl back and close the gap to 41-39 with 14:01 remaining, forcing Merchant to call timeout.

Instead of folding, the Spartans came out of the huddle on fire offensively, going on a 17-0 run that buried the Boilermakers and put away the game.

"When I called the timeout, I didn't get a sense of 'here we go again,'" Merchant said. "I don't know why. I should have, probably, but I didn't. I really believe that this team is resilient."

"I saw people stepping up and wanting the ball and making plays, shooting the ball with confidence and rebounding it with confidence," Merchant said.