

Toy icon Barbie next month celebrates 50 years of making history

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ANGELI WRIGHT / THE STATE NEWS

The State News

ON THE RISE

Growing condom sales stand out in economy lacking stamina

By Brittany Shammus
THE STATE NEWS

Despite the recession, one product is creating economic stimulation. Condom sales in the U.S. wrapped up the last quarter of 2008 with a 5 percent increase, and full-year sales were the highest in three years, according to a report compiled by The Nielsen Company. Sales in January of this year were 6 percent higher than the same month last year.

The Nielsen Company said a representative wasn't available to comment about the report, but representatives from

Durex and LifeStyles condom brands agreed the sales boost reflects an increase in the number of people using protection.

"While we cannot pinpoint exactly why condom sales have seen an increase during these difficult economic times, it is likely the combination of a variety of factors," Carol Carrozza, vice president of marketing for LifeStyles, wrote in an e-mailed statement.

"Shelling out a couple of bucks for a pack of condoms is definitely cheaper than the cost of raising a child. And when you consider the number of committed couples who were laid off at the same time... I'm sure they can only spend so much time job hunting on the Internet before hitting the sheets again."

Durex spokeswoman Jennifer Grizzle said couples are practicing abstinence in one regard — spending money.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JASON CHIOU AND LIZ KERSJES

AGREEMENT

MSU, SPARROW FORMALIZE PARTNERSHIP

By Jacob Carpenter
THE STATE NEWS

Lansing's Sparrow Hospital formally became MSU's primary medical partner Monday, a move hospital and university officials say will improve area health care, research opportunities and recruitment.

MSU and Sparrow have



Simon

worked together for several decades, but the two institutions were never joined by a written partnership.

MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon and Sparrow's president and CEO Dennis Swan signed off on an agreement.

The agreement includes formation of a joint committee of MSU and Sparrow representatives that will develop goals for the partnership and oversee their execution. The committee will have equal representation from MSU and Sparrow.

"Its power is in its framework and its power is in the commitment to work together not just when a project comes up, but every day together," Simon said. "This forces people to sit down on a regular basis and have the conversations necessary to maximize quality and the array of health care in the community."

MSU's three health colleges — the College of Human Medicine, College of Nursing and College of Osteopathic Medicine — have worked with Sparrow Hospital under about 75 individual contracts and other side agreements. A review board comprised of representatives from both organizations is expected to streamline the contract process for potential research projects.

College of Nursing Dean Mary Mundt said specific research projects will be identified once the review board is formed.

"Hopefully, we'll have a series of initiatives, four or five things that we're doing with Sparrow that we can say to students, 'You can be part of this more hospital-based research or be a part of more innovative teaching centers,'" Mundt said.

It will be our faculty coming together with their people to really put a priority and focus

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BRING YOUR BEADS

Area bars say a down economy shouldn't impact their Mardi Gras crowds, page 3A.



Mostly cloudy
High 32° | Low 23°
Three-day forecast, Page 2A

LEGISLATION

Bill could repeal law requiring voter card, license to match

By Allison Bush
THE STATE NEWS

A new bill could make voting easier for out-of-state MSU students.

State Rep. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor, introduced a bill to Michigan's House of Representatives last week that would repeal Rogers' Law, which requires Michigan voters to have the address listed on their driver's license match the address on their voter registration card.

Rogers' Law can be a barrier to students who wish to vote on issues that would affect East Lansing but have an address in another community listed as their primary address, Warren said.

"For a student, so much of financial aid coverage is based on the fact that you, as a dependent, have the same mailing address as your parents," she said. "If you were to change your voter regis-

tration to your campus address, it automatically flips your driver's license to the same thing."

Warren said some students who have lost their medical coverage because they attempted to vote on campus while maintaining another permanent address.

But Sylvia Warner, spokeswoman for U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Brighton, said Rogers' Law alleviated complicated voter registration lists. Before the law was introduced in 1999, there were two separate databases for individuals' voting address and the permanent address listed on their driver's license.

The law does not prevent students from voting absentee, she said.

"Our military people who are overseas also vote by absentee," Warner said. "You would think it would be a lot harder for them than students right here in the states, and they still do that."

Legislators have introduced a bill to repeal Rogers' Law every two years since it was introduced, Warner said.

Warren introduced the same bill in 2008. The bill passed through Michigan's House, but stalled in the Senate, she said.

"It didn't go anywhere last year so we have to be realistic, but we're very hopeful," she said. One of the reasons MSU's YouVote Initiative began was because Rogers' Law confused many students about voting policies during the 2006 election, said John Dowell, professor of WRA 135 and a charter member of the initiative.

He said YouVote reminds students when their voting options are to help avoid the confusion. Several out-of-state MSU students said that they did not feel the effects of Rogers' Law during the November election.

English junior Paul Henderson, who is from Appleton, Maine, said he did not have any problems casting his vote in Clinton County.

"I didn't vote absentee, and everything's still fine," he said. "I

Rogers' Law

What it does: Requires all Michigan voters have the same address on their driver's licenses and voter registration.

When it was enacted: U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Brighton, first introduced the bill in 1998 when he was a member of the Michigan Senate. It passed in the House and Senate the following year.

Who it affects: College students living away from their hometown — especially out-of-state students, who made up 8 percent of MSU's students in 2007.

How it affects: Students must vote absentee if they do not want to change the address on their driver's license.

Who opposes it: State Rep. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor, introduced a bill to Michigan's House of Representatives to reinstate the right to have both a driver's license address and voter registration address.

SOURCES: OFFICE OF U.S. REP. MIKE ROGERS, OFFICE OF STATE REP. REBEKAH WARREN, MSU

wasn't questioned on my Maine I.D. ... and I haven't gotten any calls about you needing to make this an official order."

Apparel and textile design junior Julie Adamski, who is originally from Chicago, said she chose to vote absentee in Illinois' election and avoided any potential problems had she attempted to vote in East Lansing.

Adamski said many out-of-

state students might not be concerned about Rogers' Law if they feel more affected by issues in their hometown, because they would be more inclined to vote absentee there instead of East Lansing.

"I live in big city, so obviously there's a lot more going on there than in a smaller city," she said. "I plan to keep voting in Chicago."