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Children who join gangs feel safer, MSU research finds
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GOT PROTECTION? STUDY FINDS PULLING OUT EFFECTIVE

By Marissa Cumbers
THE STATE NEWS

The pushy guy you hooked up with after 52-pitcher night might have had real evidence when he slurred, "It's OK, baby, I'll just pull out."

The pull-out method, often considered for those "better-than-nothing" situations, competes with condoms in effectiveness, according to a study published in the June issue of Contraception magazine. The study found that pulling out, also known as the withdrawal method, has a 4 percent error rate of pregnancy during the course of a year in perfect use, while condoms have a 2 percent error rate in perfect use.

According to the study, perfect use does not take into account user error, and typi-

cal use provides a more realistic estimation of effectiveness. In typical use, the withdrawal method has an 18 percent error rate of pregnancy and condoms have a 17 percent error rate.

Kelly Blanchard, president of this Reproductive Health, which conducts research women's health, was one of the study's researchers and said the study stemmed from other research suggesting withdrawal might be a more frequently used type of contraception than previously believed.

"There are often a lot of myths out there about a lot of different contraception methods," Blanchard said. "This proves in cir-

cumstances where you may not have access to another method, then withdrawal is certainly something to consider and definitely better than nothing."

In a 2008 survey of more than 1,600 MSU students by the National College Health Assessment, 5.2 percent said they used the withdrawal method the last time they had vaginal intercourse and 21 percent said they used this method at least once. Darrell Yelder, a criminal justice junior, admitted to having tried the meth-

od but emphasized it should be used by people in committed relationships.

"The pull-out method is wonderful," Yelder said. "It works all the time if you are in a relationship and dating that person exclusively."

Although the study said pulling out rivals the effectiveness of condoms, Dennis Martell, coordinator of Olin Health Center education, said holding fire

isn't something men should practice just yet. Martell said timing of a man's ejaculation is unpredictable and attempting to control ejaculation is unnatural.

"The withdrawal method has all kinds of problems, including that most men don't know when they reach ejaculatory

inevitability," Martell said. "It is not the natural inclination for men to stop and withdraw during coitus, vaginal intercourse."

With the withdrawal method, user error is much more likely, Martell said.

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STATE NEWS FILE PHOTO

KEEPING THINGS

Cooking



Brazil native and current Lansing resident Omero lung scoops brown sugar onto a freshly poured pile of apple slices Sunday morning at Patriarche Park during the Pancakes in the Park event put on by the East Lansing Rotary Club. Lung, who spent the morning wearing an apron that read, "When you're as great as I am it's hard to be humble," has been cooking the sausage and apples for the Pancakes in the Park event since its inception. **For more on this story, turn to page 6.**

SEAN COOK | THE STATE NEWS

CRIME

LOCAL COLD CASE TAKES NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

By Brittany Shammass
THE STATE NEWS

Almost 16 years after a woman was found dead in an East Lansing apartment complex, her unsolved homicide case will take national spotlight today as the featured case on the homepage of the "America's Most Wanted" Web site.

According to State News reports at the time, East Lansing resident Mary Jean D'Agostino, 30, was found naked from the waist down with a cloth shoved in her mouth at about 2 a.m. Aug. 29, 1993, in the hallway of a 787 Burcham Drive apartment building. She had lived there at one point but had moved out before she was killed. An autopsy report revealed she was strangled.

An investigation by the East Lansing Police Department was inconclusive and no suspect was found, East Lansing police Capt. Kim Johnson said.

"(The case) is still on our radar," he said. "It has stuck with the department — the fact someone was killed and we don't have any idea who did it."

D'Agostino spent the night of Aug. 28, 1993, dancing and having a few drinks at a club and left alone between 1 and 1:15 a.m. Aug. 29, the "America's Most Wanted" Web site said.

Less than an hour before D'Agostino's body was found, a resident of the apartment building heard a female shout, "OK, go ahead and kill me!" the Web site said.

The State News reported at the time that friends said D'Agostino, despite being a good person, was "troubled" and had a criminal history. Self-inflicted burns covered 60 percent of her body, leaving her incapable of bending her arms fully. The State News reported.

Police hope the feature of the case on the "America's Most Wanted" Web site might steer investigation toward a suspect, Johnson said. Viewers can call a tip line at 1-800-CRIME-TV with information, which is

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UNIVERSITY

Team selects new dean of Comm. Arts and Sciences

By Kayla Habermehl
THE STATE NEWS

An associate dean from MSU was recommended by a search committee last week to be the next dean of the College of Communication Arts and Sciences.

Pamela Whitten, MSU associate dean for research and graduate studies and professor in the Department of Telecommunication, Information Studies and Media, said she was "simultaneously delighted and honored" to be recommended for the position.

"First and foremost, CAS is

really already a great college and is home to five departments that are doing exciting things," she said. "We're in position to ramp up, particularly with our focus to create more innovative and exciting opportunities for graduates and undergraduates."

The College of Communication Arts and Sciences includes the following: the Department of Telecommunication, Information

Studies and Media; Advertising, Public Relations and Retailing; the Department of Communication; the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders; and the School of Journalism.

In order to be appointed, Whitten must be confirmed by the MSU Board of Trustees. The board's next meeting is June 19 and the trustees are expected to decide then, Provost Kim Wilcox said.

A nationwide search began last fall after former Communication Arts and Sciences Dean Charles Salmon left to work in Israel for two years.

Charles Steinfield, chair of the Department of Telecommunication, Information Studies and Media, was the chair of the 13-person search committee. The committee had representatives from the different units within the college as well as both an undergraduate and graduate student.

"The search committee looked at a wide range of factors and qualifications in terms of experience and evidence that someone would have the qualities we look for in a dean," Steinfield said. "Anyone we invited to campus we thought met our search criteria."

Six candidates visited MSU — the last step in the interview process, Steinfield said.

Whitten was chosen because of her charisma and understanding of the college, Wilcox said.

"(There were) a few things — one is her energy and her ability to cast a vision for the college that I think is going to be energizing for the college in the coming years," he said. "Her familiarity with the campus was a plus, but she has an awful lot of strengths beyond that."

If confirmed, Whitten's first day

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Whitten