

# New condom may give women more sexual freedom

by Kimberley McGee

Contraceptives have taken on a dual role. With life threatening diseases looming over the sexual horizon, birth control has taken a back seat to "safer sex". With that in mind, pharmaceutical companies are looking at the female condom as the answer to even safer sex and better birth control.

The female condom went before a Food and Drug Administration panel Jan. 31, and, if approved, will be the first contraceptive offered to women that will protect from sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy.

This device is a seven inch lubricated polyurethane pouch that lines the vagina by two flexible rings. The ring at the closed end of the pouch is inserted into the vagina and

placed like a diaphragm by pushing toward the cervix. The ring at the open end of the pouch remains outside the body, protecting the woman's labia from sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia, genital warts and the AIDS virus.

At present the condom-like device has not been approved by the FDA. However, a pharmaceutical company plans to market the female condom this fall. The Wisconsin Pharmacal Co. believes this device is a practical and marketable contraceptive which will safely guard against sexually transmitted diseases.

According to this company the chance of semen exposure with the female condom is only 3 percent while the male condom is 11.6 percent. The rates for breakage of male condoms are 1 to 14 percent while the

female condom is less than 1 percent. Vaginal infections are not as common as with other insertable contraceptive devices such as the diaphragm and the female condom is impermeable to the HIV antibody and hepatitis B.

These facts are attributed to the polyurethane plastic the female condom is made of compared to the latex male condom.

This device also protects men from contracting diseases by shielding him from vaginal secretions that may transmit disease.

Makers of the female condom are hailing it as "freedom" for women, giving them power to decide to use a condom rather than leaving it to the man's discretion.

## CONTRACEPTION from page 10

afterwards.

Without a doubt, the most widely used form of birth control is "the Pill." Introduced in the early '60s, it gave women a new freedom and more control over their sex lives.

The pill is a series of pills with one or two synthetic compounds similar to hormones which regulate the menstrual cycle. The pills block egg production by the ovaries. It has a 97 percent effectiveness rate, the highest of any single contraceptive.

The pill doesn't break up sexual spontaneity. It can make periods less painful and studies have shown it may lower a women's chances of getting pelvic inflammatory disease, ovarian cysts, ovarian and uterine cancer benign breast tumors and anemia.

Let it be known that if no birth control is used, a woman has a 90 percent chance of becoming pregnant. For more information, call the Student Health Center at 739-3370.

## AIDS from page 9

is one of the largest opportunistic infections that 60 to 70 percent of AIDS patients develop. This form of pneumonia damages the immune system to such an extent that the AIDS patient is much more susceptible to high incidence of other life threatening illnesses.

As of today there is no known cure for AIDS and scientists believe it will be years before a cure is in sight. There are 21,225 women in this country who have the HIV antibody and will eventually contract AIDS and that number is rising dramatically. Nothing more needs to be said, yet there is a lot more that needs to be done.

# Monogamy: is it possible?

by Ray Rodriguez

Most of us, at one time or another, have had the desire to find that "special someone." That someone with whom we hope to spend the rest of our lives. Some of us, just as quickly, dismiss this idea as not possible, archaic or boring. But is it?

Today, the rates of students engaging in sexual intercourse in college are staggering. Five out of six college students in undergraduate programs nationwide are involved in sexual relationships. Of these, most have multiple sexual partners over the course of their college years. Some, however, are choosing to find one partner with whom they share their sexuality, one person whom they decide is the only one to have

sexual intercourse with.

More and more people are getting into monogamous relationships. The reasons are as varied as the people, ranging from commitment, emotional attachment and responsibility to protection from disease and spiritual issues. But the bottom line is, monogamy lowers the risk for sexually transmitted diseases and builds strong relationships based on trust and intimacy.

Many may be thinking, "It sounds like those people who are in a monogamous relationships are missing something." In reality, most monogamous people are gaining something - security, peace of mind, trust and protection.

Rodriguez is health educator for the Student Health Center

# Do the Rebel thing



Read  
The Yell

## How long does litter last?

