## Spine-damaged man to become a father

The first reported pregnancy in the United States using sperm ob-tained by electrical stimulation was announced at the University of Mich-igan Medical Center. Known as electroejaculation, the procedure uses a rectal probe to in-

impulse. It was successfully used in a man who had been unable to father a child because of spinal injury,
"The majority of men who suffer spinal injury, and wirtually all men who have undergone corrective surgery for testicular cancer, become infertile because they can no longer

### 'Silent Observer' ignored — chamber

Use of the "Silent Observer" creward program has declined during the past year, the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce said last week.
Police in Pontiac and Waterford Township, along with the Oakland County Sherilf's Department, are using the program, but others have let it slip, the Pontiac-based chamber established to the program of week.
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Township, along with the Oakland
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sald.

Bill Kirkland, of the chamber's crime prevention committee, said the program has paid out \$75,000 in rewards and helped solve more than 200 major crimes to date. He gave a briefing on the program to 50 police chiefs and law enforcement officials late tweet.

ast week.
"Effective this year, all rewards have been doubled," Kirkland said.
"Up to a \$2,000 reward is offered for information leading to arrest and

Here is a rundown on how often area communities have used the Silent Observer program:

- Bloomfield Township 18.
  Farmington one.
  Oakland University one.
  Oakland County prosecutor —

- Onkland County Sheriff 24.
  Rochester three.
  Troy one.
  West Bloomfield two.

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THE PROJECT is funded by the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans of America Association, which has previded approximately \$70,000 over the last two years.

Researchers say that the technique offers new hope to thousands of neurologically impaired men who wish to father children.

Dr. Bennett led the team, which developed the technique for use in humans.

humans.

Bennett's patient is a 37-year-old man who has requested anonymity. He became a paraplegic from a spinal cord injury four years ago. Since then, he has been infertile.

However at the U-M Medical Center, his wife recently was successfully impregnated by artificial insemination using sperm obtained from her husband with electroejaculation, Bennett reported.

The technique artificially produces the impulse that would normally be transmitted by the brain to cause ejaculation, but which is interrupted

ejaculate," said Dr. Carol J. Bennett, an Instructor in the U-M Medical Centers urology division.

"But with the development of electrocjaculation, we no longer have to assume that these men must give up their hopes of fathering children."

"BUGS HAVE worked to restore the ability to ejaculate for some parawe to make the properties of the ability to eleculate cancer," Bennett said.

"DRUGS HAVE worked to restore the ability to ejaculate for some patients who have undergone surgery for testicular caneer," Bennett said. "And with a few, the ability to ejaculate returns by liself in time. But most of these patients remain inferite."

Bennett said the electroejaculation has potential to help many of the 8,000 men who suffer spinal cord injuries cach year in the United States. The wast majority of these men who suffer such injuries — about 6,000 — are between the ages of 15 and 29 years, the principal years of fatherhood.

Bennett's teom is studying the

years of fatherhood.
Bennett's team is studying the technique in 26 patients, 24 of whom became infertile after suffering a spinal injury. One patient is infertile because of removal of lymph nodes to treat testicular cancer, and the other has multiple selerosis.

"While those who undergo surgery have the option to freeze spem beforehand, our technique gives another alternative," Bennett sold.

"ELECTROEJACULATION also appears to be superior to vibromas-sage, a previously used technique that stimulates the penis with a vi-

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brator, in obtaining sperm. Electroe-jaculation produces a higher ejacula-tion rate and has less effect on blood pressure," she said.

pressure," she said.

U-M researchers adapted electroejaculation for humans from a technique that has been successfully used in animals.

Dr. Stephen W.J. Scager, professor of veteriary medicine at Texas A&M University and a leading researcher in the use of the technique with wild animals, its working closely with U-M scientists on the project.

Scager has used the technique for breeding animals in 2003 and to help propagate endangered species such as woives and pandas. Electroejaculation was used to produce an erection in dogs in 1863, Bennett said, In 1922, It was used in experiments to obtain sperm from guinea pigs, and in 1966, an electri-

cal probe was used to obtain sperm from a cat.

"THIS TECHNIQUE," "TIIIS TECHNIQUE," Bennett sald, "remains a mainstay in animal husbandry for collecting semen from cattle and other farm animals for analysis and artificial insemina-tion."

Other investigators on the study include Dr. Edward J. McGulre, head of the section of urology at the U-M Medical Center, and Dr. Jonathan W.T. Ayers, director of the U-M Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertillity Division of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Seager and McGuire have used this technique in experiments with monkeys and that research eventual-ly led to the current U-M study with humans.





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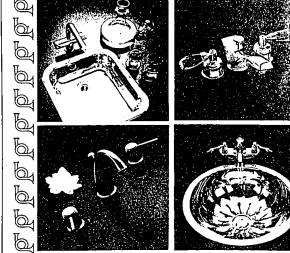
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