

# Condom giveaway good idea for teens

AIDS has gotten too big in New York to leave the solution to the federal government any longer, so the state is taking the problem into its own hands.

Brooklyn and Manhattan high schools began handing out condoms to students last week to combat the spread of AIDS. The giveaways will be phased into all the state's public schools by 1992.

New York City has more AIDS cases than any other U.S. city, claiming 20 percent of the nation's cases in the 13- to 21-year-old age group.

The handout faced the predictable parental and Roman Catholic Church condemnations, but the program rightfully prevailed.

The biggest problem, said these groups, was that condom extravaganza would encourage and condone teen sex.

Of course, we all know most of those teenagers wouldn't have dreamed of having sex until the schools approved of it via the giveaway.

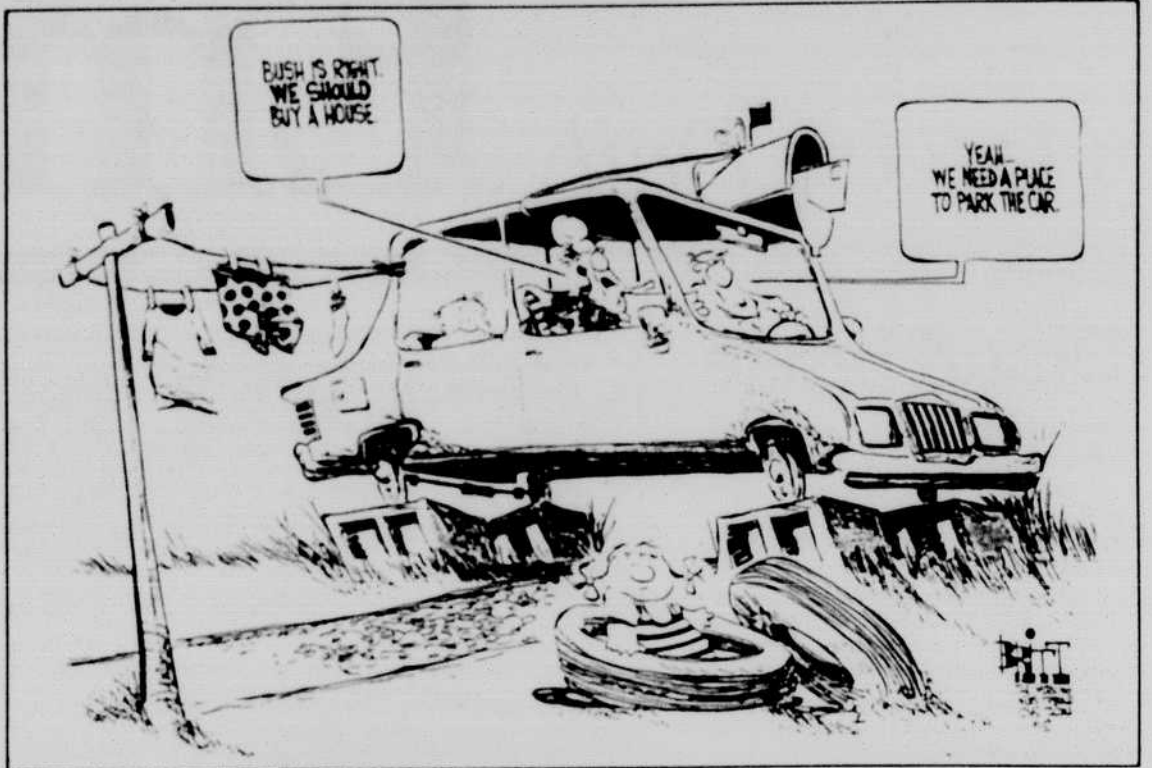
The truth is, most teens who received condoms were probably already having sex. Now it will be safe sex.

These objecting groups need to face the reality of today's American teen-ager: Like it or not, many teens are having sex. Accepting this fact does not mean one condones it. Acceptance just equips one to do something to improve the situation.

Giving condoms out is a way to deal effectively with the very real problem of AIDS. By handing the protection out, the schools aren't condoning indiscriminate sex, but encouraging safe sex.

Yes, AIDS is scary as hell, and yes, abstinence (the mode of protection the objecting groups encourage) is the only sure way of avoiding it. But another reality is that most people never think it will happen to them and will not practice abstinence.

The kids are already driving. Now give them a lesson in defensive driving before it's too late. The condom giveaway is a great idea.



## LETTERS

### Scared

Concerning the letters that appeared lately in the *Emerald* about the comparison between the ROTC and project Saferide: Project Saferide has claimed that they will hire men, but not as drivers.

Rebekah Ledwith, (*ODE*, Nov. 20), says that "while a woman may feel uncomfortable in the presence of a man in what should be a safe situation, remember she is often not simply uncomfortable, but 'scared.'" She goes on to say a woman's fear "is based on the valid concern that she may be attacked at any time without warning."

This kind of thinking fits in perfectly with the whole philosophy of Project Saferide, namely, that women should fear every man, and look upon them as a potential attacker.

It fosters the idea that no man can be trusted, and women are only safe with women. This kind of bigoted, prejudicial thinking should be discarded to further end all discrimination.

Ron Williams  
Eugene

### It sucked

For those of you who read Lucas Gutman's review of *Cape Fear* (*ODE*, Nov. 22), I think you're entitled to a second opinion. The movie sucked.

Granted, it had a great cast and supposedly "brilliant" director. However, the film itself just didn't work. There is more suspense in a *Get Smart* rerun than there was in this film.

The score was repetitive and over-dramatic, the camera angles were pretentious, and the story was weakly developed.

I grieve for Robert DeNiro and am ashamed of Jessica Lange for partaking in this

shoddy work. However, I will not let this blemish of a movie diminish my regard for them, as I attribute the repugnancy of this film entirely to its director, Martin Scorsese.

Don't get sucked in by the large budget advertising! This movie is superficial, at best, and is not worth the three bucks to rent it on video (let alone see in a theater).

Karen Wesenberg  
Psychology

### Threatened

Concerning the Thursday, Nov. 21 issue of the *Emerald*, I felt threatened by Abe Hepner's outlash against the Saferide program provided by the ASUO.

Women have forever been discriminated against by men. Now some of these men are crying for their equal rights when in different situations. They are strongly opposed to it. If it weren't for a few select men who assault and rape women, this service wouldn't need to be provided.

I completely disagree that the Saferide program stereotypes all men as rapists. Nowhere, on any Saferide van, flyer, or advertisement does it say, "If you're afraid of being raped by a man, take Saferide home!"

This program is simply offered to provide a safe way to and from places for women in the evening hours. It's not some taxi shuttle that excludes men because of their sex. If Saferide were a service specifically for students who have drunk too much and need a safe ride home, then it would be more understandable for Hepner to claim discrimination.

Recently, there have been numerous accounts of women being attacked in the campus

community. The facts can't be denied. If a woman was walking down a dark street, it would be more probable for her to be attacked than if she was a man.

Until women are able to feel safe while walking the streets at night, I think Saferide is a worthwhile program as it presently exists.

Karie Kindred  
Student

### No joy

Yeah ... um ... just one question ...

Why does the University Bookstore have a Eurocentric holiday display that blindly proclaims a message of "Joy to the World?" Do they mean joy to the white world? (As all the characters in costumes from around the world are white.) Or do they really think that the whole world is white ... maybe it's just that among all of those beautiful colors available that they found it too much trouble to make a rich bronze skin for the Hawaiian, or other beautiful colors for the Mexican and Japanese persons as well.

I didn't notice an African person at all — maybe the artist realized that it would be going to far to put a white face under colorful African costume and then proclaim "Joy to the World."

Well, I don't want to ruin anyone's holidays, and it may seem supercritical to you, and where is the "good will" expressed by the artist ... or, you know, "lighten up" or something. However, this is an example of latent racism.

The world is not all white.

If the University Bookstore wants to wish "Joy to the World," let's talk about the real world.

Russelle Eyre  
Biochemistry

## LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

# Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3159 EUGENE OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

<b>Managing Editor</b>	<b>Editor in Chief</b>	Christopher Blair	<b>News Editor</b>	Chris Bounieff
<b>Editorial Editor</b>	Pat Malach	<b>Editorial Editor</b>	Don Peters	
<b>Graphics Editor</b>	Cathie Daniels	<b>Sports Editor</b>	Jake Berg	
<b>Entertainment Editor</b>	Jeff Paslay	<b>Night Editor</b>	Chris Bounieff	
	Layne Lakelish			

**Associate Editors**  
**Student Government/Activities:** Daralyn Trappe  
**Higher Education/Administration:** Carrie Dennett

**Reporters:** Tammy Batey, David Charbonneau, Karen Engels, Jayson Jacoby, Gerrit Koeppling, Kirsten Lucas, Hope Neilson, Tim Nelf, Coleen Pohlig  
**Copy Editors:** Christopher Chew, Dan Essler, Karen Engels, Fred Hagen, Paul Halvorson, Shaiza Miha, Kathy Sherlock, Kathy Sweeney

**Photographers:** Sean Poston, Andre Ranieri

**Advertising:** Jean Bradley, Scott Dana, Leslie Fial, Margy Grassmyer, Britain Kilburn, Tom Leach, Randon Riley, Catherine Royle, Mary Sanderson, Tara Surratt, Vicki Tobin, Sharon Vaz

**Classified:** Peggy McGinn, Manager Kevin Austerman, Alan Curtis, Sheila Lorenzo

**Business:** Kathy Carbone, Supervisor Judy Connolly

**Production:** Ingrid White, Production Coordinator Jennifer Archer, Sarah Clark, Jim Finch, Corine Frier, Kristine Granger, Jennifer Huey, Jim Mason, Dee McCobb, Stacy Mitchell, Matt Morin, Jennifer Roland, Jennifer Smith, Anne Stephenson, Jennifer Vaise, Todd Williams

**General Manager** Judy Riedl

**Advertising Director** Bryan R. Coppedge  
**Production Manager** Michele Ross

**Newsroom** 346-5511  
**Display Advertising** 346-3712

**Business Office** 346-5512  
**Classified Advertising** 346-4343

