

## Students justified in condom provision

It got the ball rolling, but it's still only half way across the field.

Five South Eugene High School students gave out condoms earlier this week in an effort to call attention to their request for condom dispensers at school.

Planethood Party, a group of student government candidates, handed out 1,500 condoms in all — a legal no no according to Eugene School District law. Principal Don Jackson was not a happy camper.

Jackson, who supports the students' push for safe sex via condom use, says they went about it all wrong.

Well, yes and no.

The students' somewhat extreme bid for condoms may have been a necessary catalyst in the situation. Now that they've got everyone's attention, the issue will have to be addressed. It may not have gotten such quick action before.

That's the "no" part.

The students missed the mark by not taking the measure all the way. In addition to handing out a safe sex tool like condoms, something designed to increase student's knowledge of the subject would've made the Party's message much more effective.

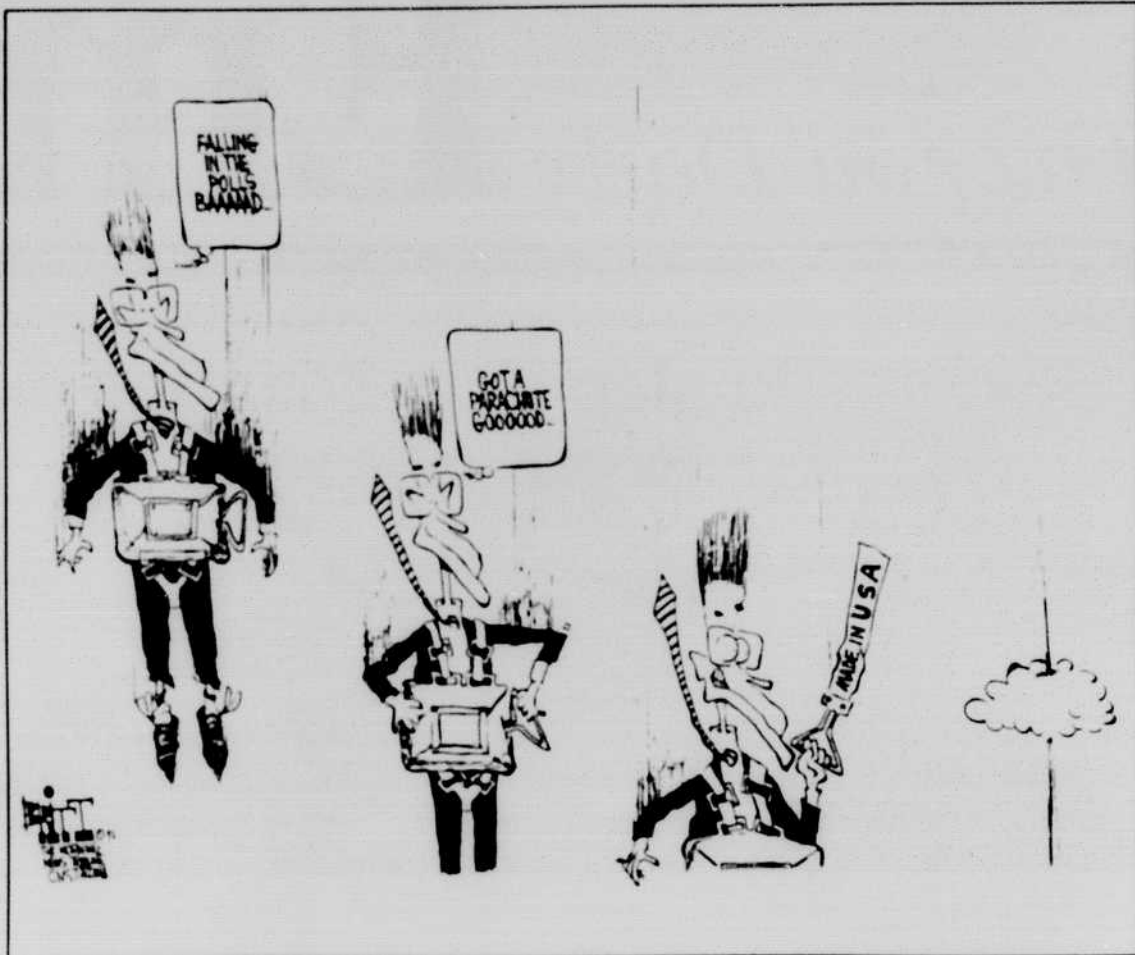
The handout is a good sign, coming in answer to the school newspaper's survey findings that 90 percent of the student body would like to see a dispensing program at school.

It shows today's kids are thinking about such issues, proof that the messages are getting through. Good to see, since problems ranging from AIDS to teen-aged pregnancy are growing in this country.

Hard as it may be for many parents to face, teen-aged sex is a reality. Understandably, this is a hard fact for parents to face. Ridiculously, however, it's primarily this group who objects to something like the student hand out, believing that the action only condones sex.

What it actually does is make it safe; condoms along with information about safe sex could literally save the child they want so much to protect. It's in their best interest, along with their children's and the entire community, to support this type of program for these kids.

For the students who would participate in sex anyway, (which is most), tools and knowledge could be the best option offered them.



## LETTERS

### Dirty dollars

Regarding "Analysts" (ODE, Jan. 22):

Bush must be pretty desperate to have to call on Barbara's good image for help. Aside from her good sense of humor (which she must need!) and reading to children, she has done little. Her sympathy for Iraqi babies ended when they were supposedly thrown out of incubators. But now? She does not even answer her mail on the plight of thousands of sick and dying Iraqi children.

Speaking of helpmates: I am appalled to find out on *Frontline* our elections have been fueled by millions of dirty dollars from the Rev. Moon. How low can Bush sink? We have to be on careful guard because this time, he'll stop at nothing to continue his imperial reign.

Hilde Cherry  
Eugene

### Lionize

Concerning the *Emerald's* article about Michael P. Ryan after his suicide, I feel that you unjustly lionized him. The article tried to make Ryan out to be a human being or a humanitarian.

Who are you trying to fool? The woman whom he raped is more human than this man would ever be. Where is their side to this? If there is any human side to this whole affair, it would come from the people of whom Ryan took advantage.

Anthony Wilson  
English

### Salt

To Myles Brand:

It wasn't too long ago that we were honored with a nice lunch and a speech from you telling us of "hard times." Tightening out belts, etc. It was all very nice, but please don't tell us about hard times.

With you and your wife both earning a fair amount, no children, a lovely house furnished by the University, is it true

your home is being remodeled? At whose expense? How much?

To suggest a raise for you, sir, is like rubbing salt into a wound; an open wound.

After the ordeal about the money used to transport the city officials' wives, is it true you received a raise that very day? Please explain, as we are a family, remember? We are all accountable to each other.

I must take time off soon because of health reasons. Without pay, that means I will be without health insurance for a year. It is very difficult for me right now as our health benefits used to be paid for. I have tried endlessly to expand my office hours to eight per day with no success.

Physically, it could have taken a lot of pressure off of me to know I could afford to survive. I spent over \$6,000 on medical bills myself this year, out of a grand total of \$14,000. I still have to pay the state \$122.

I'm glad you're very successful. I just wish you wouldn't speak out of both sides of your mouth. I don't care if you share with us, just walk in our shoes.

Vicki Travis  
Staff

### Favor

I would like to ask a small favor of the University community. There are a few words which I have had the misfortune of hearing people utter around campus.

The words are "pistol," "cheddar," "prognosis," and "Dakota." I do not like these words and would appreciate it if people would not publicly use them.

I feel that by suppressing these words (and possibly imposing fines on those who insist on saying them), we can steal their power and perhaps make people forget all about them. I feel this would make the University community a better forum for the free and

non-scary exchange of ideas. Thanks for the help.

Bryce Ingram  
Student

### Amazon

I would like to respond to Mark Serhus' (ODE, Jan. 27) commentary on Amazon housing by first doing a little self-interested whining, then offering a challenge to the University Housing Board to consider if in fact Amazon is to be rebuilt.

First, we are not talking about a few dollars rent increase if Amazon is rebuilt, but somewhere in the neighborhood of a \$300 increase. This is out of range of most of the single parents and GTFs who call Amazon home. I don't mind a sheet metal shower in exchange for low rent, as I only intend to be here three or four years, and think of this as camping out, because if I were paying more for a nicer place, I would not be in school.

As for the results of the survey circulated around Amazon, East Campus, and Westmoreland, I am not surprised. As a dedicated Amazon resident, I would probably vote to tear down Westmoreland. Of course, my self interest bumps hard against the reality that Amazon was intended as temporary in the days God was young, and that sooner or later, some students would be inconvenienced by change.

As a resident of Amazon and a taxpayer, I too am concerned about the bond money, and would like to see it thoughtfully spent in ways most beneficial for the student population. To this end, I would propose the formation of a student job pool, which would distribute some of that money back to the students in the form of wages paid in exchange for doing construction on these units, thus utilizing skill of many older, returning students who find the present support network a little thin. How about it?

Lee Green  
Student

## 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.

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