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Teacher suspended over extra credit

LONGVIEW, Wash. (AP) — A high school teacher who gave his students extra credit for buying condoms has been suspended, but also praised.

"I honor this teacher," hearing examiner Frederick Rasmussen said Tuesday in upholding the Longview School District's two-week unpaid suspension of Larry Wagle. But he added, "You're guilty of insubordination and it was your choice."

Wagle proposed the extra credit after his ninth-grade world history class discussed a newspaper article about condom shoplifting by teens too shy to buy them.

After getting permission from parents, interested students had to buy a condom from a store clerk of the opposite sex, take a witness and get a receipt. Three students took part. Several angry parents called to complain.

Wagle argued that many American teens are in danger of getting AIDS because they're too embarrassed to buy condoms.

"We are something like accessories to manslaughter when we do not educate about condom use," he said during the hearing. "Condoms are essential in the modern world."

District lawyer John Binns said the suspension was "an extraordinarily mild" response for insubordination. Wagle also violated state guidelines on AIDS instruction. Condoms are not distributed in the district's schools.

Wagle, frequently at odds with school administrators, represented himself at the hearing, padding across the room in his socks and stroking his flowing white beard. He said the issues were academic freedom and AIDS prevention.

"If parents had a chance to say no to the assignment, what's the beef?" he said.

Clark Geer, AIDS coordinator for the Cowlitz County Health District, was called as a witness by Wagle and said the county has one of the state's highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases.

"I think it is commendable for a teacher to put himself on the line for condoms. I think it's amazing and may save lives," he said.

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MEETINGS

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group will meet Sunday at 3 p.m. at the People's Utility District Building, 33733 Seavey Loop Road. For more information, call 686-0310.

MISCELLANEOUS

Singapore Student Association will have elections today at 4:15 p.m. in Room 180 Straub. For more information, call 342-7433.

Mount June 6.2 Mile Hike will be Saturday. Sign-up at the Germanic Club bulletin board across from Room 202 Friendly. For more information, call 346-4059.

Ecology Colloquium will feature Doug Schemeske's presentation "Evolution of a Flower Color Polymorphism in the Desert Annual Linanthus Parryae: Was Wright Right?" today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 112 Willamette.

Amnesty International will present "Building Human Rights Communities: Focus on Guatemala" Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Koinonia Center. For more information, call 346-4356.

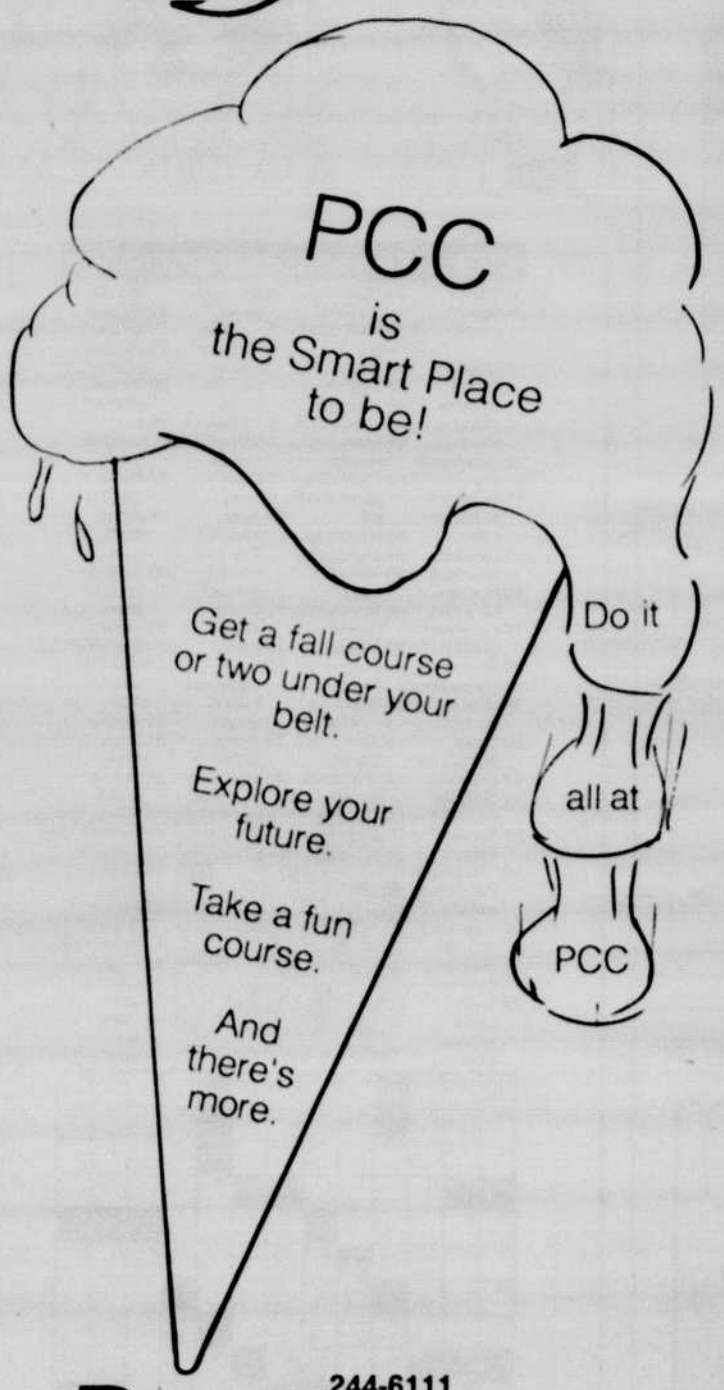
Amnesty International will have a Guatemalan political and cultural presentation and dinner Saturday at 7 p.m. at 2274 Onyx St. For more information, call 346-4356.

Departments of East Asian Languages and Literatures will sponsor Huang Meizhen's presentation "Contemporary Developments in Research in Shanghai" today from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 810 PLC. For more information, call 346-1521.

Muslim Student Organization will sponsor an information table about Islam with books and pamphlets today from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the EMU Lobby. For more information, call 346-3798.

Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, Suite 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. The news editor does not have a time machine. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for grammar and style. Et Als run on a space-available basis.

Summer Scoop.


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