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Condom labels cause concern

By Michael J. Wilczek
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Condom labeling has caused some students to be confused over the safety of condoms found in campus vending machines.

Students seeing dates as early as 1988 on condoms from vending machines had believed they were expired. The dates were actually for manufacturers, not expiration.

Students in the dormitories brought the problem to the attention of Jeff Beaty, a former floor representative and University Housing resident.

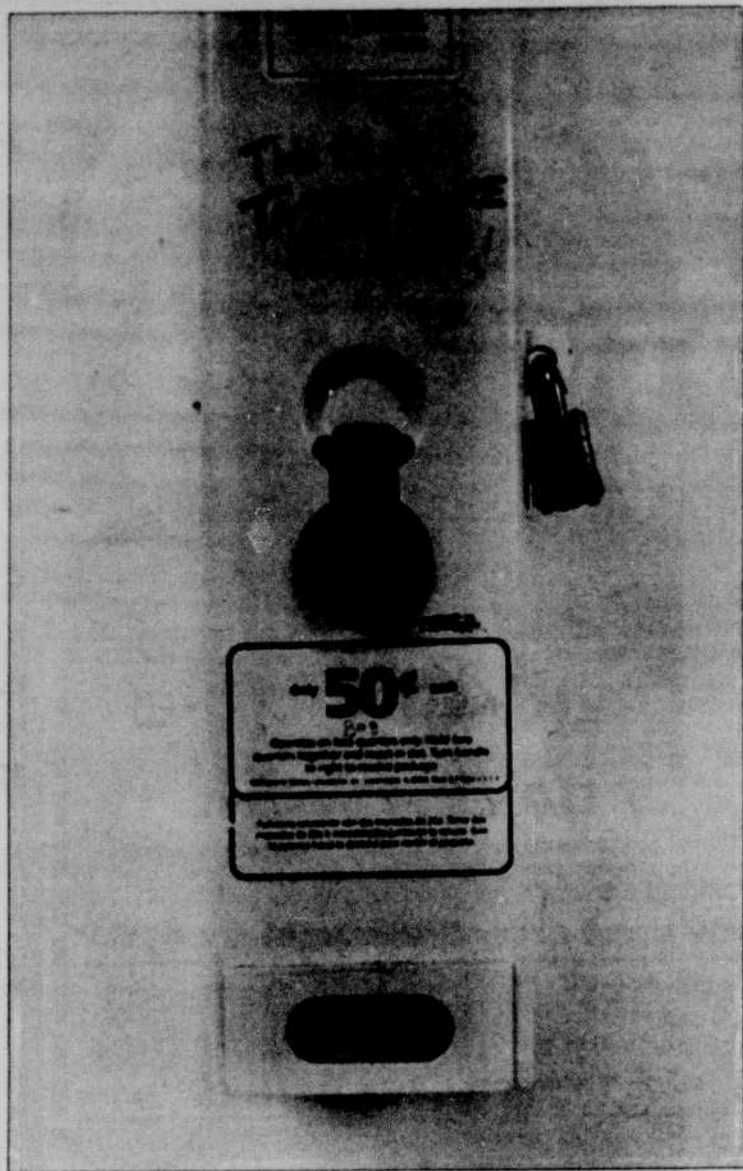
"Considering the danger of AIDS," Beaty said, "I was shocked that they (the University) would promote condoms and safe sex while having out-of-date condoms available to students."

Students have cause for confusion: Condom labeling is not uniform. Some condoms carry expiration dates, and others may give dates of manufacture.

Only condoms coated with the spermicide Nonoxynol-9 are required by the Food and Drug Administration to carry an expiration date because the spermicide breaks down after three years.

The FDA requires condom manufacturers only to give a lot number for condoms not using the spermicide. However, most producers mark packaging with a manufacturing date so consumers know how long a condom has been sitting on the shelf.

Because condoms with the

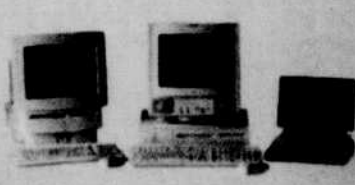


Labels on condoms in vending machines are confusing students.


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