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OPINION

editorials, letters, commentary and perspective

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Rubber Revelations

Condoms can enhance sexual enjoyment in many ways for students of every major

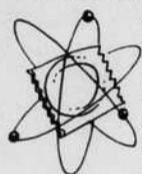
Valentine's Day is the start of National Condom Week, when you're likely to get a lot of insistent reminders of the dangers of sex — the risk of HIV, herpes and other sexually transmitted infections; the possibility of unwanted pregnancy; you'll end up in Hell — you know the drill.

No question, it's a tough world out there. But you can take responsibility and make your own decisions. Without just adding to the list of "don't's," here's some more helpful information from the experts at Planned Parenthood, your "protection connection."

Condoms can not only help you avoid anxiety but can enhance sexual enjoyment in other ways — helping improve partner communication, increase intimacy, enhance sexual pleasures and strengthen relationships.

And sex can be a whole lot more fun when you know that your risk of pregnancy and disease is substantially reduced. That's what a little latex can do for you. What could be more romantic for Valentine's Day?

In fact, whatever your point of view, whatever your interests and whatever your area of study this semester, condoms make sense. Think about fitting them into just about any course catalog you can imagine.



PARTICLE PHYSICS:

Avoid an unexpected quantum event. You don't need to understand charmed quarks or supercolliders to know about the path of sperm on their way upstream. Condoms stop those little guys right in their tracks.

COMMENTARY

Robin Irish

INFORMATION SCIENCE:

User-friendly interface, terrific virus protection and a fire wall against an unauthorized break-in. Plus, great compatibility, after all, condoms work on all hard drives.



COMMUNICATIONS: If you can't handle condom negotiation with your partner, how can you ever pass that broadcast journalism seminar? Embarrassed to ask for condoms at the drugstore? Get over it!

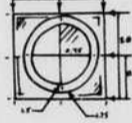
ENGINEERING:

Low-tech design, reliable under stress, a masterpiece of applied mechanics. And forget about that myth that "condoms don't work." Used correctly, condoms offer extremely effective protection — the best there is. That is, if you've decided to put engineering principles (friction, torque, leverage, fluid mechanics etc.) into practice.



ARCHITECTURE:

Elegant form, clean geometric lines, efficient functionality. Whatever the size or shape of your architectural substructure, latex is the material of choice for a durable, weather-resistant skin.



CHEMISTRY:

Latex is amazing stuff. The surface of a latex condom is free of holes when inspected under a scanning electron microscope at 30,000 magnification power. (But sex shouldn't be a lab experiment. Use water-based lubricants only because oils break down latex and reduce condom integrity by 80 percent.)



FINE ARTS:

Nice colors and textures, too. And they can help you and your partner make beautiful music together.



BUSINESS: Condoms let you close the deal. And they're publicly traded stock that pays big dividends. For less than half a buck, you and your partner can stay healthy, avoid pregnancy and enjoy sex with peace of mind. Is there a better investment?



This Valentine's Day, have fun, be romantic and enjoy being intimate with someone you care about. One more thing: Don't forget your rubbers when you go out to play. (Hey, your parents did have good advice after all.)

Robin Irish is a Board Member of Planned Parenthood and a guest columnist for the Emerald. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Overheard

"I certainly don't condone that type of behavior. But evidently this is what some people want. We have nude dancing here in town, too."

Jeffrey Bean, mayor of Fitchburg, MA, on the upcoming Marilyn Manson concert there.

"It was a little surreal, but it feels good to be validated, to be acknowledged. For a while, I was one of the scapegoats for the whole slacker/Generation X thing."

Grammy-nominated rocker Beck, in Entertainment Weekly.

"We just might get lucky and catch this son-of-a-bitch. Ruin him for '76. It's going to be fun."

Then-President Richard Nixon, referring to surveillance of Sen. Ted Kennedy in a Sep. 7, 1972 meeting, according to White House recordings.

"I tried to do what I thought was the right thing."

63-year-old Sylvia Stayton, after being arrested for placing change in two strangers' overdue parking meters in Cincinnati, OH.

"It's a tragedy, but if the tragedy helps us learn from it, maybe some kind of benefit can result. Maybe there are areas we just shouldn't touch."

Ward Armstrong, director of the Oregon Forest Industries Council, in reference to recent logging-related landslides, in The Register-Guard on Feb. 9.

"I've always had a crush on him my whole life. Up till I was seven, it was Ted Koppel. Then one night, I put on the wrong channel. Ted has intellect, but Dave has intellect and humor."

Actress Drew Barrymore on "Late Show" host David Letterman, in US Magazine.

"You know when I'll get married? I'll get married when somebody like John Kennedy Jr. gets married."

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld, on CBS' "60 Minutes."

LETTERS

Be like Jerry

When UCLA hired Steve Lavin as its head coach relatively late in the season, Oregon coach Jerry Green congratulated him and offered him any assistance he might need in his new position.

Coach Green's sportsmanlike conduct is a great example of how people involved in sports as participants, coaches or fans should behave. Unfortunately, basketball fans at the University are not following his lead. At the end of the Jan. 30 home game, hostile Duck fans rushed the UCLA bench screaming, pointing and even grabbing UCLA warm-ups.

This may have been the most obvious example of rude behavior at games, but it was certainly not an isolated event. Aggressive behavior is escalating at games as fans constantly yell and rudely gesture toward opposing teams and their individual players.

These actions reflect on the entire student body, and, personally, I am embarrassed. Though the Ducks face similar behavior from opposing fans at some away games, that doesn't give us the right to act uncivilized. Wouldn't it be more effective to yell sup-

portive expressions to our team and fire up the Ducks rather than the opponent?

The Oregon program would benefit from Oregon fans following the classy example set by Jerry Green. The Ducks did a great job against UCLA. Let's not mar their performance by inappropriate behavior.

Kortni Kauffman
Business Administration

Understanding fans

As loyal fans of Duck basketball, we were somewhat disturbed by the claims made in various articles published in both the Emerald and the Register-Guard earlier this week concerning the racist behavior of University students at the men's basketball game held on Jan. 30 versus UCLA.

Contrary to popular belief, although we are Duck fans, we most decidedly are not racists. We were outside, in line, at 3 p.m. last Thursday for the UCLA game in order to get our favorite seats (court-side, underneath the South-end hoop). Sitting as close as we do to the players, we con-

sider it our duty as fans (read 'fanatics') to cheer for the Ducks and occasionally heckle the opposing players.

At no time during the game did we or anyone near us make any comments regarding race. The fact that some individual students may have decided to demonstrate their stupidity and ignorance by using racial slurs is not grounds for stereotyping all of the students in attendance as racists.

If Kris Johnson feels, as was reported by the Register-Guard, that he was treated unfairly by the crowd because of the color of his skin, then let us be the first to apologize to him on behalf of the entire student body.

Having said that, we sincerely hope that the recent publicity about Duck fans will not silence McArthur Court. A screaming, yelling student section in close proximity to the action is what makes our home court one of the most unique and formidable arenas in the nation.

If we chide Charles O'Bannon about his socks or Toby Bailey about his haircut to the point that these players lose their concentration or miss a crucial shot, then we have done our duty in helping

our team to victory. For their part, the UCLA players encouraged such banter from warm-ups all the way to the final buzzer in overtime.

On a final note, any game against UCLA is important whatever the rankings or records. An intense rivalry has been building between the two universities for sometime, and a victory over the talented UCLA team is an accomplishment everyone at the University should be proud of.

It is because of this rivalry that many students rushed the court at the end of the game, not the result of some desire to hurt UCLA players. If Duck fans acted in poor judgment by rushing the court, then so be it.

But we, like many of the fans present at the UCLA game, remember only too well the actions of the UCLA players the last time they celebrated a victory at Mac Court. Anyone who fails to recall what occurred at the end of that game should do some research, and they will soon realize why Duck fans are so hostile to Bruins.

James R. Driscoll
Naliko K. Markel
Business