

## Condom machines at Clackamas Community College: Pro-Con

### Machines on campus good common sense

We live in a world of right and wrong. There are no in between.

Two weeks ago Clackamas Community College took one of its first steps into the nineties. This step is the installation of condom machines in the restrooms of the Community Center.

With the threat of several sexually transmitted diseases, namely Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the condom machines are necessary.

In a recent committee report on AIDS, it was decided that abstinence was no answer to the question of a cure for the deadly disease.

Furthermore, officials say that by the year 2000 more people will die of AIDS each year than will die from automobile accidents.

The best cure for any disease is prevention. The use of a condom during a sexual encounter is one of only two sure ways of not contracting AIDS. The other is not using needles that have already been used when taking intravenous drugs.

Abstinence is no answer, simply because it is impossible to expect people to abstain. That fact is both reasonable and

true. Anyone who believes that, should advocate, making condoms available to the public. At Clackamas Community College, installing them in restrooms is the only logical result.

Prevention of AIDS is not the only logical reason to install condoms on the Clackamas campus. Another consequence that sexually active people should be prepared for is the possibility of an unwanted pregnancy.

Making condoms available to students is a duty that all fine collegiate institutions should be responsible to do. Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham and Lane Community College in Eugene are just two of the many schools who don't take that responsibility lightly.

It's not as if they were on a desk directly in front of the counseling center or next to the deli sandwiches in Norm's Cafe. The condoms are at an out of the way place; a place that is not frequently busy, therefore the purchase of a condom is not an embarrassment to the purchaser.

AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases along with unwanted pregnancies can be hardships. The best way to combat that is with the use of a condom. In this world of right and wrong that we live in, the existence of condom machines on Clackamas Community College is right.

### CCC not appropriate place for condoms

AIDS is a legitimate fear for many Americans, but where does the border lie between fear and paranoia? It is unlikely that the students or staff at Clackamas fall in the high risk group of people likely to contract AIDS. This is one of many reasons that installing condom machines in the bathrooms here on campus is inappropriate.

The media is to blame for causing a paranoid attitude in Americans who should have little fear of catching the dreaded virus. It seems like everywhere we go we are bombarded with messages telling us how to avoid the disease. Responsible people should not need condom machines on campus to remind them of the risk, and if you are not a responsible person then what are you doing in college?

An institution like Clackamas is simply not the place for condom machines. Condoms are available at any drugstore,

mall, many bars and sometimes even in gas stations. The administration here seems to be giving the student body a curious message: It's okay to be promiscuous, even to have sex on campus as long as you don't spread any social diseases.

If we are going to put condom machines on campus then we might as well start selling sterilized syringes so intravenous drug abusers don't get AIDS either. Drug users can always say that they are being discriminated against because only condoms are sold here. Once the machines are installed at Clackamas where will it stop? I can just imagine using the restroom at church and finding a condom machine on the wall.

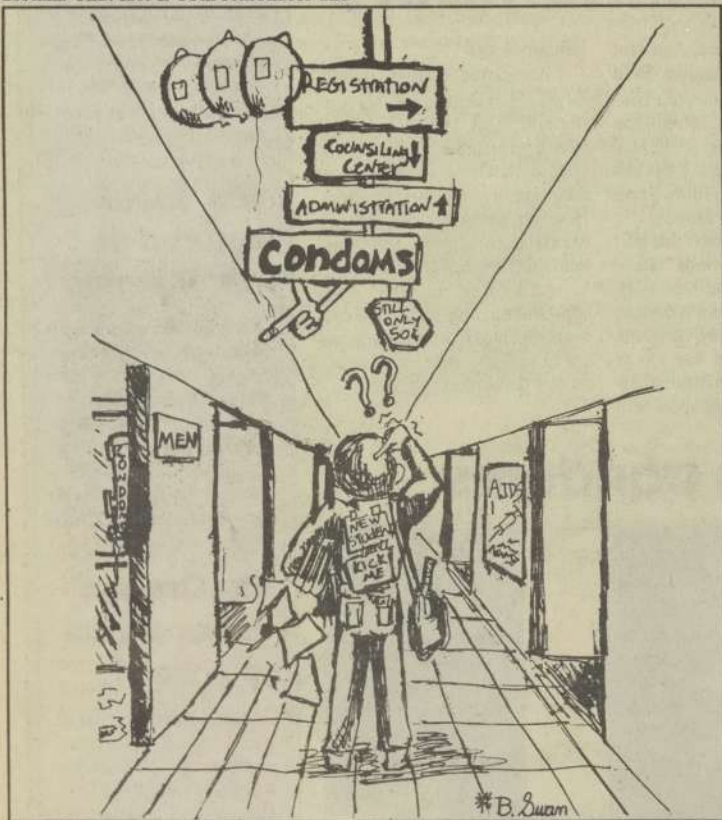
When the American people overwhelmingly elected President Bush it signalled the desire of many to return to old fashioned moralistic ideals, which include having safe sex with just one partner, and preferably not at school. I find the existence of condom machines on campus to be in extremely poor taste. This is not the place for them.

#### PRO

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a*	13.24	18.11	-4.34	-13.80	9.82	-33.43	34.26	11.81	48.55	-0.40	-0.60	-0.75	-1.06	-1.19	-1.07	
b*	15.07	18.72	-22.29	22.85	-24.49	-0.35	59.60	-46.07	18.51	1.13	0.23	0.21	0.43	0.28	0.19	
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