

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXI, Number 10, 16 September 1986 — Condom dispensers latest health service [ARTICLE]

Condom dispensers latest health service

By KATHERINE BOUMA

“The condom has made a comeback,” University Health Services Director Richard Carlson said yesterday, confirming reports that condom dispensers will be placed in three locations within the Health Service this week.

According to Carlson, since Health Services counsels students on birth control and preventive health care, and suggests such preventive methods as the condom, they would like to have the condoms on site.

“We know that condoms are available at drugstores, but we do the counseling here,” Carlson said.

Health Educator Anne Williams described the dispensers as “an outreach to students.” Although Williams said students did not specifically request that dispensers be put in, she did say the installation was “in response to issues that students raised.”

A dispenser will be placed in men’s and women’s bathrooms in the John Jay Health Services, in addition to the women’s bathroom in the Women’s Health Center.

Although the condoms will not be free, Carlson said they will be on sale

at "minimal cost," though he did not know the exact charge.

By making condoms more readily available, Columbia's Health Service "just came into the twentieth century," Williams said. Other schools such as the University of Massachusetts and the University of California at Berkeley already have such systems for providing students with condoms, she added.

The condom is not only important because it is one of the only forms of birth control that has no side effects but also because it can aid in preventing sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis and AIDS, Williams explained.

According to Carlson, condoms are especially important for students engaging in casual sex since they do aid in preventing some sexually transmitted diseases.

Although Carlson claimed he did not have figures on the incidence of such diseases at Columbia, he did say that the Health Service workers see at least one case of gonorrhea, syphilis, viral warts, hepatitis, or chlamydia every day. All can possibly be prevented by using condoms.