

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

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Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXI, Number 81, 13 February 1987 — Free for all Furnald offers free protection for a day
[ARTICLE+ILLUSTRATION]

Free for all

Furnald offers free protection for a day

By Catherine Prendergast

The managers of Furnald grocery do not want you to go outside today without your rubbers.

In fact, the students who run the grocery are so adamant that their peers do not go without protection today that they will be distributing free condoms all day to any student, faculty or staff member, male or female, with a valid CUID.

This is all part of a serious effort to educate sexually active University affiliates about the importance of using condoms.

The joint effort between Furnald Grocery, the Health Education Department, and the Well-Women Health Advocates is part of a national campaign advocating the use of condoms to prevent unwanted pregnancies and the spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted disease.

The effort, during national Condom Awareness Week, is also geared to educating people about the advantages of using condoms instead of other forms of birth control.

The University Health Service

will be picking up the tab for the free condoms.

“There are really a lot of things you can do to prevent unwanted pregnancies,” said Ann Williams, Director of the Health Education department. “When you don’t know the sexual history of your partner, a condom should always be used,” she also said.

Furnald Grocery manager Jim McKnight said the store is more than willing to help in educating the public about safer sex. Condoms, as well as spermicidal jelly, sold at one quarter the price of other stores, have been made available there for years, McKnight added.

Now, for Valentine’s Day, in addition to Condom Awareness Week, Furnald has been decorated with hearts and posters displaying the theme: “Be mine—safely.” Condom fact sheets with statistical and instructional information are also available at the door.

“Our ability to deal with student needs regarding such problems as unwanted pregnancy, AIDS and the like, really makes us or break us,” McKnight stressed.

The Well-Women Health Advocates have been active in the campaign for safe sex, not just during this week, but throughout the year.

The group advises students through the Women’s Health Services about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases, their symptoms, prevention and ramifications.

The advocates offer one-on-one peer counseling as well as promote general awareness through public discussion groups. Furnald Grocery employee Laura Brown, a visiting student from Smith College, and a member of the Well-Women’s Health Advocates said, “Not many of us give much thought to our reproductive health at this age, yet, some years along the line, we may wish that we had.”



FREE AT LAST: Fumald Grocery will distribute these and other brands today in honor of Condom Awareness Week. SPECTATOR/DEBORAH AUTOR