

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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It's spring again and, as the saying goes, love is in the air. But it's not in the dorms, according to URH officials. Despite longstanding student support for the installation of condom machines in the dormitories, these administrators have yet to deliver.

Students are a promiscuous lot. But they are usually smart enough to use contraceptives. Yet walking ten blocks on a cold winter's night, or even a warm spring afternoon, can prove overly inconvenient. Not to mention the embarrassment some people feel asking the druggist for a pack of Trojans—especially when cashiers seem to take great delight in teasing them.

There are a few campus condom hot spots. Furnald Grocery sells contraceptives at a discount and there are machines in University Health Services bathrooms. But both are closed late at night. Some Barnard dorms also feature dispensers though they are seldom stocked.

These inconveniences may seem trivial. But in an era when AIDS and venereal diseases pose a real danger, condoms are no laughing matter. Columbia has already realized the seriousness of these problems by supporting the Gay Health Advocacy Project, peer health educators, and a committee on University AIDS policy. But none of these programs can have the impact of an intimate conversation in a darkened dorm room.

Condom machines should be placed in every dormitory. Contraception is the responsibility of both partners, but it deserves the support of the University. It's an idea whose time has come.