

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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[ARTICLE+ILLUSTRATION]

Condom machines coming to campus laundry rooms

By Jean Lee

They're almost here, the perennial promise of all student council campaign platforms—condom machines.

The Columbia College Student Council has signed a \$1,485 contract with Climax Vending Company for nine machines to be installed in the laundry rooms of John Jay, Hartley, Schapiro, Carman, Furnald, Ruggles, River, Wien, and McBain residence halls, according to At-Large Representative David Frost, CC '91.

The machines, offering Lifestyle condoms at 25 cents each—half the price of condoms sold at Health Services, most

drug stores, and bars—should be installed by March, according to Frost.

Student demand for machines has never been high because condoms are available at local drug stores, according to Director of University Health Services Richard Carlson.

Love's Drugs, at Broadway and 112th Street, recently began remaining open 24 hours, making things easy for the late night prophylactic purchaser. But Frost and Class of 1992 President Randa Zakhary promised to install condom vendors while campaigning last year for their council positions.

Following the elections, Frost and Zakhary talked to several different companies and chose to contract with Climax Vending, Zakhary said. After meeting with Frost, Carlson said he then offered to fund the project.

"Condoms should be available where people are. They should be easy to obtain," Carlson said.

Initially, 70 percent of the profits from the machines will go to repaying Health Services. The remainder will fund student activities or go towards AIDS research, according to Frost and Zakhary.

"Our main purpose is to prevent AIDS and pregnancy," Zakhary said. "People laughed at first about having machines in the laundry room, but hopefully students will realize the importance of them. They'll help prevent certain misfortunes."

Frost added, "Whether we like it or not, there are a lot of diseases running around campus."

"This is a real step to making this a safer

campus for everyone," he said.

Most students said they are glad the machines are being installed.

"I think it's an excellent idea that's taken much too long," said Rachel Stoll, CC '92.

Ron Davidson, SEAS '92, said the machines would encourage students to have sex at other times when they otherwise might not have.

"Though I think having the machines nearby will promote safer sex, they might also encourage it," Davidson said.

Zakhary denied that machines in the laundry rooms would promote sex.

"When we come to college we have already established our character," she said.

While Frost said the machines will be placed in laundry rooms because they are accessible and private areas, Cleo Kung, CC '91, said they are not accessible enough.

"I think they should be in the bathroom because in the heat of the moment, are you going to drag yourself to the laundry room?" Kung asked.



SPECTATOR/LISA PRICE

CONDOMANIA: Mother always said wear clean underwear and don't forget your rubbers. Now students have a one-stop spot to follow mom's advice.