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Sexual awareness on the steps at Low

By Kristi Lemm

Students can save themselves a trip to the vending machine this week by visiting the Safer Sex Awareness Week table on College Walk to pick up free condoms and safe sex information.

A table will be set up every day this week between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on College Walk, where students may obtain free condoms, latex dental dams, and information about safer sex. Buttons proclaiming "Safer Sex is Contagious" and "Men...use condoms or beat it" will also be sold for \$1 each.

Ian Tattenbaum, CC '90, and Joanna Samuels, BC '92, who were working at the table on Monday, said that Columbia students need to be more aware of the dangers of unsafe sexual practices. Both said that sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) are "rampant" on the Columbia campus.

People interested in birth control often use condoms, but people do not often use condoms to avoid the spread of STD's, according to Tattenbaum. Samuels said that Columbia students need to be especially concerned about STD's because New York City has a high concentration

of people who carry the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) virus.

Sponsored by University Health Services' Office of Health Education, the Columbia Gay Health Advocacy Project, and the Columbia AIDS Peer Educators, Safe Sex Awareness Week and National Condom Week, both being held this week, will promote a safer, healthier attitude toward sex among members of the Columbia Community, according to group members.

On Tuesday evening at 8:00, a workshop directed toward straight and bisexual women will be held in the Health Education Office in Furnald. On Wednesday at 8:00 p.m., a workshop entitled "Hot, Horny and Healthy," directed toward gay and bisexual men will be held in the same office. Phi Epsilon Pi will host a "Sensual Safer Sex" workshop directed toward straight men and women on Thursday at 8 p.m.

Many students walked by the table without taking any of the free products and literature. Tattenbaum said this is mainly because students are embarrassed to deal openly with sexual issues.

Emily Baldwin, CC '90, asked students who passed by the table to take information if they wished, but stressed, "we're not trying to force anything on anybody."