Should condoms be available on campus?

BY DAN ENNS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you walk into the Lobby Shop you will find the essentials for everyday living at Holy Cross - toothpaste, soap, ... Vaseline. What you will not find are condoms because the Catholic Church generally prohibits natural birth control and, furthermore, does not condone pre-marital sex. Significant rates of sexually transmitted infections, and abortion among college-age people and Holy Cross' move toward diversifying the campus are reasons that Holy Cross should make condoms available, whether it be at the Lobby Shop or Health Services.

Students at Holy Cross have sex and it is irresponsible of the college to recognize that this is going on without providing them with the proper means of birth control and STD prevention. When you walk into Health Services you see pamphlets describing abstinence, male and female condoms, and what a man can do when she becomes pregnant. However, no literature is available outlining contraceptive options or how to prevent STDs. Through these pregnancy manuals the college acknowledges that women are getting pregnant at Holy Cross, but there is no explicit acknowledgement of how women are getting pregnant – I assure you it is not the work. Furthermore, signs around campus advertise an Abortion Support group run by the Chaplain's Office. Why do we have to let it get to the point of abortion? On second thought, that is a great idea, let's talk about sex once all the damage is done, after people get sick or have abortions. The silence surrounding sex on this campus makes one wonder how many students might be carrying an STD without knowing it or how many HC students have been facing the burden of pregnancy. Some possible answers might be found in turning to data concerning American college students.

Statistics show that college students exhibit high rates of pregnancy and STD infections. In the United States, 12% of college women have unexpected pregnancies, while one in four new sexually active people will have contracted an STD annually, 3.75 million of them are teenagers. If we look at the United States, 12% of college women have unexpected pregnancies, while one in four new sexually active people will have contracted an STD annually, 3.75 million of them are teenagers. The most prominent proposal has been to make condoms available in the Lobby Shop, where they would be no more than a five minute walk away for anyone on Campus. In light of Holy Cross' Jesuit Catholic identity, an outsider might question why the college would sell an item used exclusively for promiscuous sex. Some have argued that the mere "virtue" of preventing disease by making condoms available is enough to justify a resignation of the principles of Catholic sexual ethics. Even if we do not concern ourselves with any moral qualms, the entire argument for selling condoms in the Lobby Shop to make them available needs up being more, since condoms are widely available elsewhere — one need look no further than the Texaco at the bottom of the hill to find a ready supply. But perhaps the motivations of those who advocate the sale of condoms on campus goes beyond making it more convenient to have a Friday night fling. In reality, the far more significant reason for promoting condoms in the Lobby Shop is that it would signal a symbolic and active departure from the moral principles associated with the Catholic identity of the college. By selling condoms, the college enables an activity, and embraces a culture which is degrading and depersonalizing to the human person, and is in direct contrast to any enlightened perspective on the meaning of human sex.

Some have made the surprising argument that standing in solidarity with one's decision to lead a promiscuous lifestyle is somehow part and parcel to the noble endeavor to respect the rights and identity of everyone, regardless of their race, gender, socioeconomic background, or state in life. This argument is not only preposterous, it is insulting. The color of one's skin is part of one person's decision; the decision to engage in promiscuity is just that, a decision. Diversity, when properly understood and embraced, acknowledges that we recognize that people of many different backgrounds can come together and work toward a common goal. Any group, community, or society that does not have commonly held principles and ways of interacting with each other has not reached a state of diversity, but rather a state of anarchy. We have in the past few years had moments where we as a college community have had to reaffirm our common principles and values. When homosexual students were the target of violent threats and in Your Face

SHOULD CONDOMS BE AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS?

"Beer and condoms come hand in hand. If you ask me, I think, on this campus, more people use condoms than they drink on weekends." -Jeff Exl '02

"I don't believe in unnatural contraception, but, hey, are the probes fun, huh?" -Jon Levinchuk '03

"Health Services should be able to offer counseling on sexual health decisions, including contraception, which is not currently available." -Susan Schuman '01

"Yes, there are people on this campus just shouldn't reproduce." -Katie Bryan '01

"Yes, I need them." -Tyl Dobrowsky '03

In Your Face

Saders Take Sides: should condoms be sold on campus?

BY NICHOLAS BRIOTOCO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is a reality in our current culture that many people choose to be sexually active, often during or before their college years. Concurrent with this reality is the marked spread of STDs, including HIV. Many people have argued that rather than working to reduce sexual promiscuity, in keeping with the values and principles of sexual ethics, we should merely accept promiscuity as a fact of life, and provide condoms to minimize the risks of STDs and pregnancies. The most prominent proposal has been to make condoms available in the Lobby Shop, where they would be no more than a five minute walk away for anyone on Campus. In light of Holy Cross' Jesuit Catholic identity, an outsider might question why the college would sell an item used exclusively for promiscuous sex. Some have argued that the mere "virtue" of preventing disease by making condoms available is enough to justify a resignation of the principles of Catholic sexual ethics. Even if we do not concern ourselves with any moral qualms, the entire argument for selling condoms in the Lobby Shop to make them available needs up being more, since condoms are widely available elsewhere — one need look no further than the Texaco at the bottom of the hill to find a ready supply. But perhaps the motivations of those who advocate the sale of condoms on campus goes beyond making it more convenient to have a Friday night fling. In reality, the far more significant reason for promoting condoms in the Lobby Shop is that it would signal a symbolic and active departure from the moral principles associated with the Catholic identity of the college. By selling condoms, the college enables an activity, and embraces a culture which is degrading and depersonalizing to the human person, and is in direct contrast to any enlightened perspective on the meaning of human sex.

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