

tion of both men and women. Sex appeal exists in all people, not just Hollywood starlets and pretty boys. How about a real cross-section of celebrities to consider next time?" The bulk of the celebrities we used have been selected by other magazines as "sexy types." An effort was made in the female category to represent women of the same age group as the likes of Sean Connery and Nick Nolte. Jane Fonda, Cybil Shephard and even the aging Kim Basinger didn't receive a single vote. Meryl Streep received one vote from a bisexual female.

Mel Gibson came out on top in the male category, topping schlockster Jean Claude Van Damme by a single vote. Trailing by another vote was Jack Nicholson derivative Christian Slater. There was a large gap down to Denzel Washington, Sting and Sean Connery. Only male celebrity not to receive a vote: Jerry Seinfeld. Guess nobody loves a clown. By popular demand: Partick Stewart plays Captain Jean-Luc Picard on television's *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. The fifty-plus, bald actor received three votes.

Cindy Crawford dominated in the female field, landing almost 40 percent of the votes. Closest competition were Bridget Fonda, Janet Jackson and Jodie Foster.

Offended?

Less than 10 percent of our respondents were offended by the poll, and only about half of them genuinely. Here's a few qualms:

"Too general"

"It's a pretty wimpy poll. You could have been more in-depth if you really wanted to assess sex in the nineties."

"There were two people kissing on the page. Ick."

"Because it is none of your business."

Another person responded, very cryptically, with the words "privacy" and "degrading," which we assume means he felt uncomfortable filling the thing out.

The female condom

Giving a whole new meaning to "feminine protection"

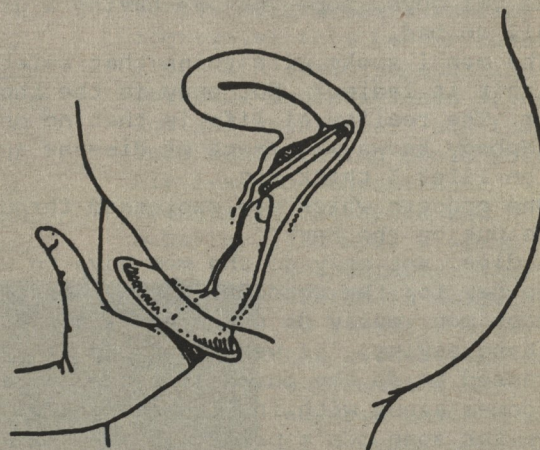
by C.A. Schneider

Finally, women can take control of their protection from disease and pregnancy. The female condom, an oddly shaped cylindrical baggie with flexible rings is now available (although not here on Prince Edward Island). The Reality female condom is a disposable seven inch long transparent polyurethane bag with a flexible ring inside the closed end and a wider ring at the open bottom. The smaller ring serves as an insertion mechanism and an anchor to hold the condom in place inside the vagina. The large outer ring remains outside the vagina where it provides broader coverage than the male condom because it covers both the woman's labia and the base of the penis. The female condom can be inserted prior to intercourse using fingers or a plastic inserter, or

it can be placed on the erect penis and inserted at the time of intercourse. Once in place, the female condom is softer and stronger than a latex male condom. Like the male condom, the female condom is a prelubricated, single-use product which does not require fitting or a prescription. The female condom is, however, more expensive than its latex counterparts, costing an estimated \$2.25 each. The extra cost, though, is worth the extra protection provided by the female condom. This condom provides better protection against AIDS, herpes, genital warts and chlamydia

because of the increased protective coverage of the outer ring, which prevents skin to skin contact during intercourse.

During the testing of the female condom it was shown that the H.I.V. virus did not penetrate the polyurethane barrier; and the probability of exposure to semen was 3% as compared with almost 12% with the male condom. Like all other forms of contraception, the female condom does take some practice to be inserted properly. 66% of the women



who tested the female condom reported that use became easier with experience. Also like many other forms of contraception, the major complaint about the female condom was the unattractive appearance of the condom protruding from the body, especially while the user is standing.

The female condom means that women can finally take control of their bodies. It also means that women have greater control over their sexual health by no longer having to rely on their partners for protection from S.T.D.s.