

WHAT GUYS SAY

"They [condoms] make guys numb."

"Condoms are artificial, but they are needed."

"Sex isn't as free as it was."

"Putting on a condom isn't all so bad-if it's approached right."

Free Willie

If you put it on, if you put it on

by Grace Kimpinski

Let's be frank. It is a well known fact that many men hate the thought of wearing a condom. Not only do they cost money, but they are also bothersome, uncomfortable, numbing and messy. Seriously, who wants to ruin an intense moment by taking time out to put on a condom? I can see it now: "Please excuse me while I put on my layer of prophylactic."

Believe it or not, most men now-a-days really do not mind wearing a condom. They may make things awkward, but it only takes a minute to be safe.

Men today are becoming more cautious than they were in the past. There are many risks one takes while engaging in the unmentionable act... SEX. Not only is the danger of pregnancy a concern, but there are many STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) people have to watch out for as well.

I took a few hours out of my day wandering around campus asking men what they thought about condoms (HI guys, hope you are having a great lunch), and to my surprise, they didn't think they were all so bad.

The men I spoke with think that safety means a lot when it comes to engaging in sex. Shocking, isn't it ladies? Not only is the thought of impregnating someone scary, but disease is even scarier. The reality of life is that no one can be completely sure of who their partner has been with. Nobody knows what sort of disease another might have. So is fifteen bucks all so much to spend on life? I think not.

One concern which was expressed throughout the conversations was "Why should all the pressure be put on the men?"

Ladies, not only do the men have to wear the condoms, but by the sounds of it, most of them have to pay for the condoms, too. Is that right?

Most men really do not mind. Who wants to have a woman walk up to them with a condom in their hand saying, "I went shopping today, I hope it fits." Men, for the most part, are not embarrassed to do the purchasing themselves. Not only will they get what fits, but a little ego boost comes along with it. The thought of having someone know they will be "getting it on" does wonders for some men's pride.

But what about the woman wearing the condom? Yes, there is such a thing as women's condoms; however, no Island pharmacies questioned said that they stock these new condoms. Obviously, for the time being they are out of the question. What about the future? When P.E.I. actually catches up to the rest of the world, will women try these things out?

Yes. The majority of the women I spoke with were willing to give women's condoms a try. They feel that it isn't and should not be just the man's responsibility. As one woman stated "...a baby I can live with, but AIDS will kill me." So what if the condoms are extremely ugly; who really thinks about that while engaging in sex? Seriously, they might not be all that bad; and who knows, guys? Give it a few years, and you might not have to wear such a confining piece of rubber!

WHAT GIRLS SAY

"They [women's condoms] might be an exciting change."

"You can't rely on guys, so I buy the condoms."

"It's the nineties, women have to be careful."

"I like putting the condom on my partner, it's erotic."