You've probably heard a lot of talk about "safe sex" and it may sound great!

Here are some medical facts about condoms and "safe sex." *You* decide...

■ Even with the use of condoms, *10 to 30 percent* of women become pregnant within one year, even though a woman is fertile *only* three to five days each month; *any* man and *any* woman can acquire Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), such as AIDS, *any day of the year.*

■ It only takes one act of sex to become pregnant, to get a sexually transmitted disease, or to die from AIDS...

Would you start your car if you knew there was a 30-percent chance the car would explode and you would die? What about a 10-percent chance?

■ The AIDS virus is 450 times smaller than a sperm and can go through semi-permeable substances such as condoms. C.M. Roland, Editor of *Rubber Chemistry and Technology,* notes, "The AIDS virus is only 0.1 micron in size...50 times smaller than the voids (holes) in rubber...the virus can readily pass through the condom...A reluctance to stake one's life on the ability of a condom to prevent HIV infection bespeaks wisdom, not discrimination." [*The Washington Times,* 4/92]

■ A recent analysis of HIV-transmission studies by Dr. Susan Weller indicates that condoms are only about 69-percent effective in preventing heterosexual transmission of the virus. [*OB.GYN. News,* 10/1/93]

■ The *Los Angeles Times* reported that "four of the nation's most popular condom brands permitted the AIDS virus to escape in lab tests, prompting researchers to warn users that they should *not* assume that...condoms work...in preventing the spread of the disease." [*Los Angeles Times,* 9/12/89]

■ Teens, and even some adults, have the idea that "it won't happen to me." Dr. Brian Scully, Professor of Clinical Medicine of Columbia University, wrote: "Condoms reduce, but in no way eliminate, the risk of transmission through sexual intercourse of the HIV virus, which causes AIDS. It is likely that a sexually active HIV-infected person who uses condoms will infect partners at some point whether after five, 10 or 100 acts of intercourse. It should be remembered that AIDS carries a 100-percent mortality [death] rate. To advise patients that they may be sexually active so long as they engage in so-called 'safe sex' is preposterous and irresponsible." [*The New York Times,* 1/93]

■ AIDS cases among teens and young adults increased 77 percent from 1990 to 1992; 9000 cases of AIDS have been reported among 13- to 24-year-olds with thousands more already infected with HIV. A report by the House Committee on Children, Youth and Families states that "millions more are at risk." [*USA Today,* 4/13/92]

■ Planned Parenthood, a major promoter of "safe sex," found in its own data that educating teens about sexuality and contraceptives does not increase contraceptive use; but, it does increase sexual activity. [*Family Planning Perspectives,* Jan/Feb 1990, vol. 22, p.21]

■ If 10- to 30-percent of women become pregnant during 36 to 60 days of the year because of condom failure, and if AIDS can be transmitted 365 days of the year, and if the AIDS virus is 450 times smaller than a sperm—these are scientifically proven facts—"someone isn't telling the truth about sex, disease, and safety." [Anne Marie Collopy, "The Safe Sex Lie," *ALL About Issues,* Spring, 1991]

■ The Jefferson County Medical Society published the following "Physician's View" article: "Since Magic Johnson's revelation that he has contracted the HIV virus infection, people are beginning to talk about AIDS and "safe sex" again. Magic Johnson said that if only he had practiced safe sex perhaps he would not have become infected with the HIV virus. The question must be asked: *"Is there really such a thing as safe sex?"*

"The issue of HIV infection and AIDS is confusing to most people. Are they the same? Can you have the HIV infection and not have AIDS?

"The Magic Johnson case will give us a chance to look at the course of the HIV infection. He will undoubtedly receive the best medical treatments available because of his celebrity status.

"We will look at his case with interest and perhaps view the continuum of this infection depending on his openness. In this one case, the public will see how long it takes for an HIV infection to become AIDS and then how long it takes to die from this awful disease. At present, HIV is invariably fatal.

"We should not totally focus on AIDS, though, as there are many other sexually transmitted diseases which, because of AIDS, have not been addressed. Syphilis, gonorrhea, herpes, venereal warts, lymphogranuloma venereum, chlamydia and trichomoniasis are just some of the other diseases that can be sexually transmitted. These diseases can range in their effects from a simple [vaginal] discharge or wart to causing infertility, infant blindness, infant brain damage, and death.

"Safe sex, defined by those who would like us to believe in it, is wearing a condom and asking the person you are about to have sex with if he or she is monogamous and free of disease. This, although providing a margin of safety, is no guarantee. The condom works by creating something of a viral barrier and by containing the greater part of the viral inoculum. Foams have a killing effect on some bacteria and viruses. However, condoms do leak, foams are not foolproof and, most important, humans are the ones who use them. When it comes to whether an individual is going to have sex, can you trust his or her answer to your question of monogamy in the relationship with you?

"Sex can be made safe, not by wearing a condom, or having a random list of questions to ask your partner, but by having it in the context of a longstanding