

The Year of Loving Dangerously



ROBERT R. McELROY—NEWSWEEK

Not using condoms is like playing Russian roulette: Many fear the devices reduce sexual pleasure

The Plague of the '80s. The Deadly Epidemic. At 22, Columbia senior Susan Cohen has read enough about AIDS to be concerned. "I think so many people—men and women—are going to be dying in 10 or 15 years, people I know, that it scares me a lot," she says. In fact, Cohen is so worried that she recently decided to give blood—"so they could test it and see if I was infected." (She was not.) But although Cohen says she does not believe in casual sex, neither does she believe in using condoms—the most reliable way to stop the spread of the disease during sexual activity. Says she: "I don't think people are going to use all these sterile methods. It hurts the whole point of sex."