

# Article offends yet another

To the Editors,

I would like to comment about a number of things that were in the article "Article offends homophobes", and the accompanying reprint of the article "A gay men's guide to erotic safer sex" from the MUN student newspaper that appeared in The Gazette February 28th.

First, the title of the article, "Article offends homophobes" does not show even a pretense of journalistic objectivity. Phobia is de-

fined in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as "an irrational fear or dread." Just because people are offended by a picture of a naked man performing fellatio on another naked man does not mean they have an irrational fear of homosexuals. Yet, anyone that was offended was branded homophobic.

Second, the "warning" on the "Gay men's guide." It read: "These guidelines contain explicit language. If you can't cope with reality, don't read on." This is insulting and condescending. It

suggests that I can't cope with reality because I don't want to read lines like "Ohh, I'm gonna cum now Raghu."

Which brings me to a third point. How does printing explicit sexual fantasies aid in the promotion of safe sex? I assume homosexual men know how to physically express their love for each other without reading it in a university student paper. If I'm correct, then what purpose do the fantasies serve?

Lastly, if a paper is going to print

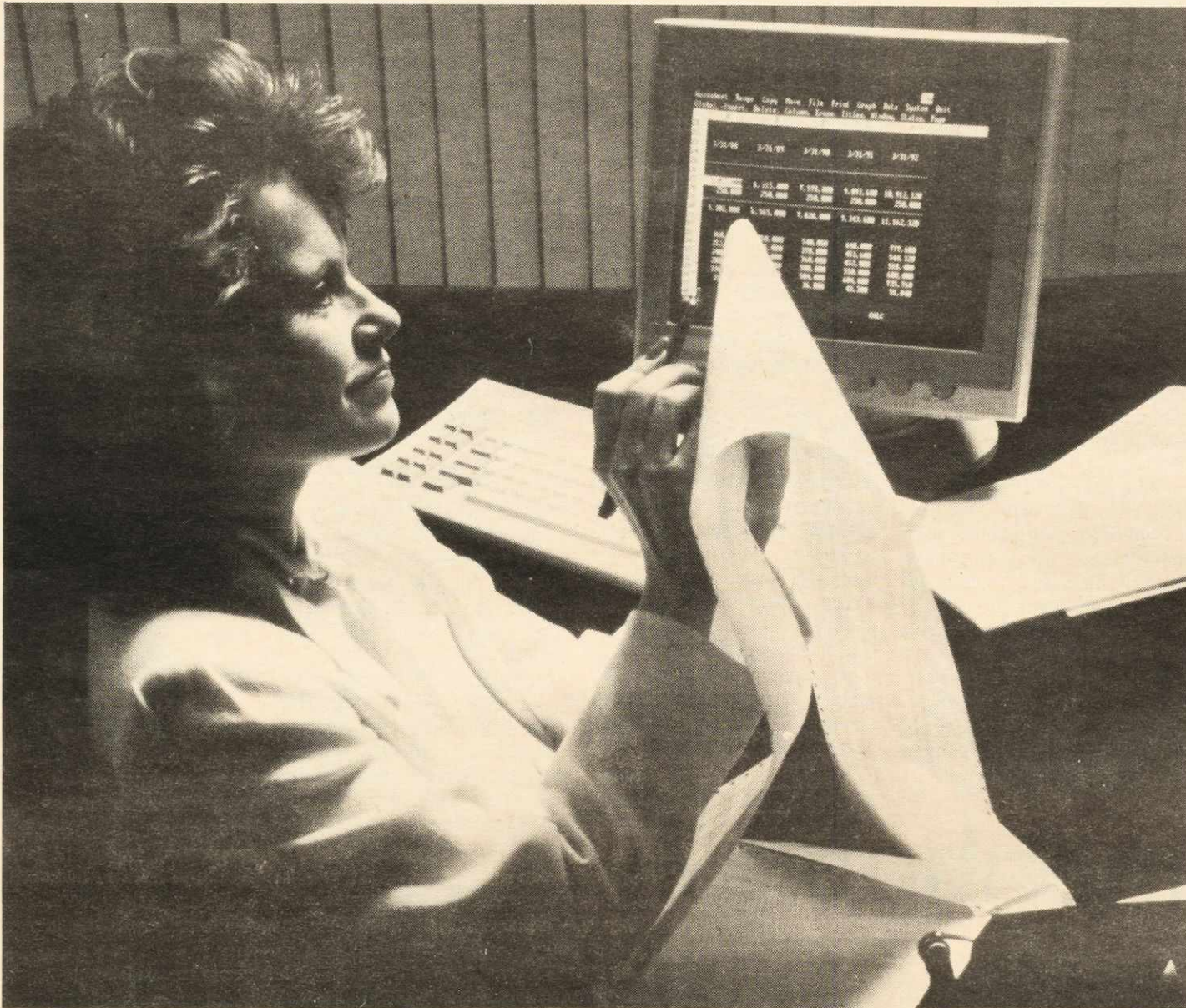
"Fellatio without a condom and swallowing cum is a low risk activity (with regards to HIV transmission)", then it should be backed up with medical fact, not followed by a "cocksucking" fantasy. (Apparently it is fine to use the term now). By the way, it seems to me that alcohol has no trouble finding its way into the bloodstream. Is HIV different? How? Printing factual answers to questions like that would truly educate, instead of simply sensationalizing.

Kent Brown



## Women and Development

by Deirdre McKay



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WIDE, an acronym for Women in Development and Environment, is an area of special emphasis in the Philippines Environment and Resource Management Project (ERMP). Conducted jointly by Dalhousie and the University of the Philippines at Los Banos (UPLB), the project has adopted an integrated approach to enable women to participate at all levels. With the goal of strengthening UPLB's capacity to contribute to environmental and resource management, women from both countries are active in community level decision making, training, public education, research, and administration.

As women's activities are often first hit by environmental mismanagement, it is important for the concerns of women to be voiced to policy makers so their interests in the environment may be protected. ERMP is committed to accessibility for women to ensure the results are relevant to the development of national and community level environmental policy.

*"Listening, considering, weighing decisions"*

At Dalhousie, Jennifer Leith is Assistant Team Leader for ERMP, part of a team lead by Project Director, Dr. Shirley Conover. Leith's background is in social forestry and forest policy. This project represents part of her continued commitment to women in developing nations: "It's important to be able to sleep at night and feel that you are contributing." Leith approaches her job in a "feminist" manner - "listening, considering, weighing decisions" - and facilitates women's participation in all levels of decision making. She encourages Dalhousie students with an interest in community based resource management to get involved in the project by applying for one of two ERMP Fellowship. The application deadline is March 30, 1991, and the awards will be offered in 1992 and 1993. For more information, contact the ERMP office at 494-3378.