

# 'Condom' girl is not sorry

## Pope's message 'was stupid'

By DANIEL BOURCHIER

A TERRITORIAN who blew up a condom in front of the Pope is unrepentant about her protest.

Jessie Abraham, 27, was demonstrating against the Catholic Church's ban on contraception. She said Pope Benedict XVI needed a "reality check."

"I would rather sin than apologise," she said.

Ms Abraham staged her protest at the World Youth Day gathering in Sydney last week.

"We decided to create a safe-sex message for the pilgrims," she said. "The message was, 'condoms rock.'"

Ms Abraham, a Darwin-based women's rights activist and sexual health professional, said the protest was "about awareness not politics".

"I am not religious at all — I don't even understand religion. It was not a religious, political or nasty message.

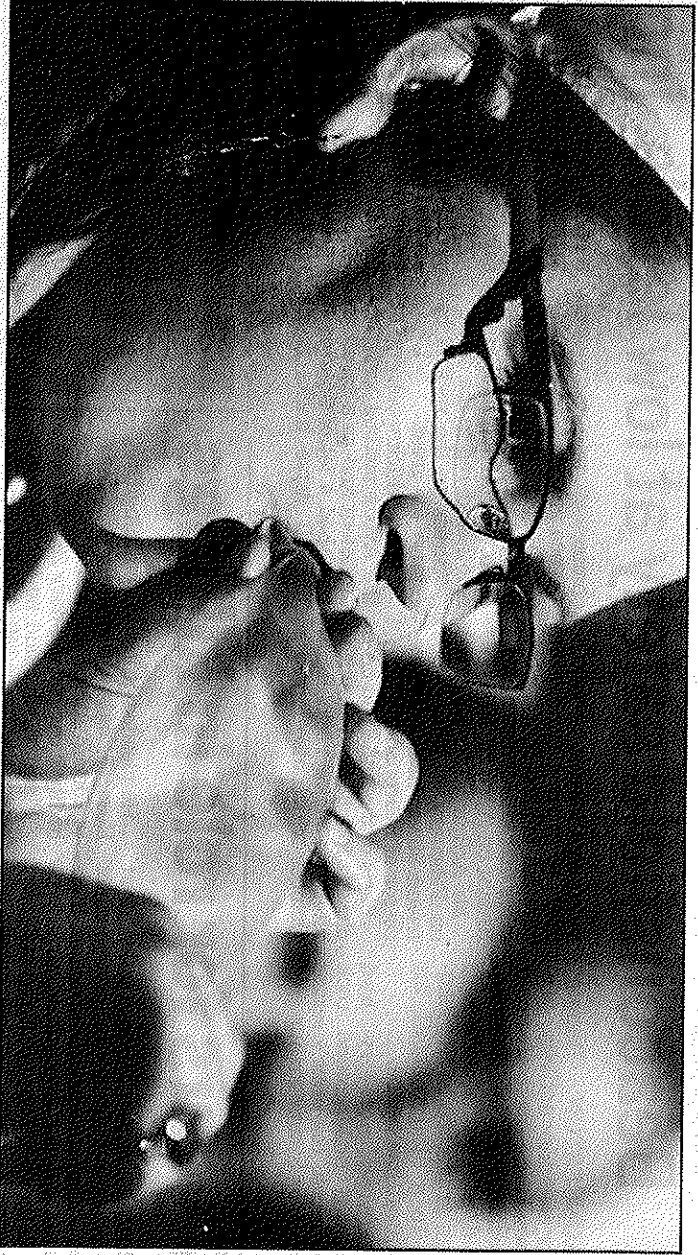
"Putting 300,000 youths in one place and saying 'don't use condoms' was stupid and it made me angry."

Ms Abraham said the anti-contraceptive papal message led to a spike in sales of the morning after pill during the Catholic celebration.

"People from 170 countries got together. They were passionate and lively — they were going to have sex," she said. Ms Abraham said she did not know what reaction to expect from the crowd.

"I didn't expect a good reaction — but it was a nice relief when the reaction was good," she said.

"People commented that they agreed with us."



TAKING A STAND: Jessie Abraham blows up a condom as she protests against the Pope's stance on contraception