

Striking a pose

Student Playboy models face range of reactions

By Michael Whitlow
THE BATTALION

With the fall season comes the release of Playboy magazine's annual college issue—a long-time favorite of subscribers and casual buyers. This year's edition is getting attention in Texas for its "Women of the Big 12" pictorial. The section features girls from every school in the Big 12 athletic conference, including Texas A&M University.

Mary Beth Decker, a senior journalism major, was one of two A&M students to pose for the issue and said the experience has been entirely positive for her. "I've read the magazine for 2 or 3 years, and I thought it would be really cool to do," Decker said. "I had a blast. The shoot took about 3 hours, but they made it really comfortable; we did the shoot at The Tap here in College Station, and everyone was really professional."

Some might wonder how appearing in Playboy would affect someone at such a conservative school as A&M, but Decker said she hasn't encountered any difficulties.

"Some of my friends from Austin asked me if I'd had any problems here, but everyone I know was really happy for me," Decker said. "No one's treated me any different, my family is a little more challenged."

Decker said she plans to move to New York City after graduation to pursue a career in film.

"I've been involved in the theater since I was 6—it's always been my passion," Decker said. "If I don't end up acting I may end up writing for a magazine, but it would have to be real off-the-wall, like Maxim or Rolling Stone."

Penny Drake, one of the issue's models from the University of Texas, shared a similar experience.

"My decision to pose was just a fluke," said Drake, a senior photojournalism major. "I

saw the ad the day of the audition and went."

Drake said while her friends have been supportive, she has yet to speak to her family about the matter.

"Since the issue has come out I haven't even heard from them," Drake said. "I'm assuming they know about it, but I'm 25, and I'm married, so it was ultimately my decision."

At a recent autograph signing for the UT models, Drake said everything went smoothly, but other schools have not experienced the same laid-back atmosphere.

"At the Oklahoma signing one of the girls' mother showed up to

online press release at Baylor University, members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity posed in a photo with several female students wearing bikinis. The fraternity was suspended and will not be allowed to recruit pledges this school year. The students who posed in the picture were required to write a paper and do community service. One female student who posed nude in a separate photo was suspended.

Eileen Hulme, Baylor University's vice president for Student Affairs, said this was a violation of the code of conduct in the Student Handbook, which states "personal misconduct either on or off campus by anyone connected with Baylor detracts from the Christian witness Baylor strives to present to the world and hinders full accomplishment of the mission of the university."

In a prepared statement, Hulme says that "aside from the fact Playboy magazine exploits women, the publication clearly is in business to sell sexuality and does so in a manner inconsistent with the Christian principles to which Baylor seeks to adhere. The object of this feature in the magazine was to showcase students at the Big 12 institutions, thereby bringing into their presentation the Baylor name and image. We could not allow that to happen without consequences."

"Some of my friends from Austin asked me if I'd had any problems here, but everyone I know was really happy for me."

— Mary Beth Decker
my title goes here

the signing," Drake said. "When the girl said she was getting paid \$200 to be there, her mother told her she'd give her \$250 to walk out, so the girl did."

Decker had her own outlook on posing.

"I don't understand why there should be any controversy," Decker said. "If I were 21 and not in college I don't think anyone would care; people seem more afraid of an educated woman being nude. People just need to relax and not take life so seriously."

Apparently, not everyone would agree. According to an



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas

- Annual Exams
- Birth Control
- Breast Exams
- Emergency Contraception
- Pregnancy Tests
- Treatment of Infections



1.800.230.PLAN www.pphouston.org
Bryan clinic: 4112 E. 29th St., Bryan, TX 77802

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 979.823.1022

AG Fit

USAFIT
change your life

All Ability Levels
Marathon

MARATHON/HALF MARATHON TRAINING PROGRAM

Ask anyone who has done it, there is nothing like finishing a marathon. You'll be fit, happy, and mentally strong. And you can do it all in 25 weeks.

USA FIT has a thirteen-year track record of helping people of all ability levels live up to their mental and physical potential. Our 25 week program costs only \$90 (\$60 for returning members), and participants receive day-by-day training schedules, weekend ability-grouped runs, supportive and inspirational coaching, informational seminars, an exclusive AG FIT T-shirt, a training log, and much more. Our coaching staff are CPR certified, have a combined total of 50 marathons between them as well as 7 degrees in exercise science (4 of which are graduate degrees).

Whether you are a couch potato, walker, casual jogger, short-distance runner or marathon veteran, AG FIT is an enjoyable, inspiring, and efficient way to get in the best shape of your life. Our 2002 season begins with sign-ups on Saturday, August 24, 31 and September 7 at 7:30AM at Aerofit on Carter Creek (4455 Carter Creek Parkway). Come dressed to run or walk with a check made out to USAFIT. For more info, visit our website at www.usafit.com.

REGISTER ONLINE AT: WWW.USAFIT.COM

Do you suffer from Constipation?

Constipation is one of the most common chronic digestive disorders in the United States, affecting 1 of every 5 individuals. If you suffer from constipation, you may qualify to participate in a clinical trial.

- Must be 18 to 74 years of age;
- Up to \$100 paid for time and travel.

Medical assessments, study-related diagnostic tests, and study-related products/treatments are provided to qualified participants at no charge.

DiscoverResearch Inc.

(979) 776-1417
(888) 438-9586 toll free

NEWS IN BRIEF

FBI searches for Baton Rouge serial killer

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — The serial killer is likely white, socially inept with women and between 25 and 35 years old. He seems like a nice guy, doesn't make much money and is strong enough to lift 175 pounds.

Authorities hope that profile will jog someone's memory as they investigate the slayings of three Baton Rouge women, whose deaths within the past year have been linked by DNA evidence.

FBI experts and local police who created the profile released details in segments Tuesday and Wednesday, along with images of footprints the killer left behind. Police say the prints indicate he probably spent lots of time watching women, including the three victims, and at some point tried to approach them.

"However, his level of sophistication in interacting with women, especially women who are above him in the social strata, is low," the profile reads.

He blends in with the community and seems to be a nice guy, but is impulsive and would have shown fits of anger and agitation when information about the murders was released, paying special attention to media coverage, police said.

The profile included the image of an athletic shoe print believed to belong to the killer, who wears a size 10 or 11.

Police wouldn't say whether he stalked the victims, but said he likely learned their behavior patterns by observing them or casually running into them, which would not have made the women suspicious.

"He may come across to some women as a nice guy who might have tried to get a little too close to them too soon, but otherwise is a non-threatening person," said police spokeswoman Cpl. Mary Ann Godawa.

Charlotte Pace, 22, was stabbed to death May 31. Pam Kinamore, 44, was abducted from her home July 12. Her throat was slit and her body dumped about 30 miles away from Baton Rouge. Gina Green, 41, was found strangled in her home Sept. 24, 2001.

Godawa said police had received more than 150 tips from the public since Tuesday, though Police Chief Pat Englade wouldn't comment on whether there were any suspects.

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!

Get your FREE T-SHIRT today!

Bank where you live, where you go to school and where you work. For the best in banking convenience, it's First American Bank - statewide banking for you.

Bank at any of our statewide locations!

- Now with over 80 locations to serve you
- No need to open and close accounts each semester
- Deposits can be made for you by your parents from home

Plus, you can enjoy:

- Free Checking
- Free Online Banking at www.fabtxas.com
- Check and ATM Card
- Student Loans*



Aggie Owned. Aggie Strong. Texas Proud.
*Lender #831366

Get a FREE maroon AGGIELAND T-SHIRT* when you become a First American Bank customer. Open your account today!



www.fabtxas.com

We reserve the right to substitute an item of equal or greater value. Accounts closed within 6 months will be charged \$10.00 if a free gift is received. To qualify for a free gift, a minimum opening deposit of \$100.00 is required. Limit of one free gift per new customer.

Member FDIC *While supplies last. Must have coupon present to claim your gift.



Thursday Night
Steak for Two Special

\$19.95

plus Live Local Texas Artist's

Happy Hour 4-8

plus \$1.50 Longnecks ALL NIGHT LONG!

520 Harvey Rd.
(979) 694-4618

Hours:
Mon-Thurs 11am-10pm Fri 11am-11pm
Sat 11am-11pm Sun 11am-9pm
Ad not required



BRYAN: 1111 Briarcrest Drive; 260-4300
1660 Briarcrest Drive; 260-4300
201 S. Texas Avenue; 260-4350
1001 W. Villa Maria; 260-4488

COLLEGE STATION: 701 Harvey Road; 260-4477
711 University Drive; 260-4333
2717 Texas Avenue South; 260-4360

CALDWELL: 114 S. Echols; 567-4615

Member FDIC