

# THIRTY YEARS OF CAMPUS PULCHRITUDE: Eager Coeds Line Up for Playboy Photographers

by Gordon Gill - January 2007

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### A. An Enduring Magazine Feature

Throughout the thirty-year period 1977 to 2006--and the end is nowhere in sight!--Playboy Magazine (appealing primarily to men, but also to a fair number of women) has invited female college students to pose for pictorial layouts. Commonly scheduled for publication at the beginning of the collegiate football season, such features focus upon schools in a different athletic conference each year. Significantly, the excitement routinely generated by these pictorials helps heighten student and alumni fervor for upcoming games.

My research reveals that engaging, self-confident women have consistently exhibited a high level of interest in posing for the magazine. Indeed, such enthusiasm was obvious awhile back when a bevy of them--selected for a "Girls of Washington" pictorial--adoringly gathered around the grandfatherly photographer in the city's Amtrak station where he had apparently just alighted from a train.

There is one sad aspect about the college-coed series, however. In view of Playboy's need to cover all athletic conferences over the course of time--thus obliging the magazine to limit repeat visits to once a decade or so--women enrolling as freshmen soon after its photographer has come to their campus will likely never have an opportunity to pose before graduating.

### B. Kinds of Settings Chosen for Poses

Photo settings are commonly chosen in locations where students gather, on campus and off. Accordingly, the women are portrayed in such places as Greek-letter housing accommodations, work-out facilities, and athletic field/bleacher sites. They are photographed alone or in groups of two or more.

Moreover, alfresco-minded women appear as nymphs in the wood; animal aficionados ride horses in bucolic pastures. Others are shown relaxing on the open deck of a boat, or lounging in a patio hammock. Unsurprisingly, a number of shots are taken at a beach, swimming pool, or hot tub.

Additionally, fun-loving girls engage in old-fashioned pillow fights; a piano player flashes her

smile at the camera; others perform mundane chores like preparing meals in the kitchen and washing cars in the driveway or clothes in dormitory laundry rooms. Further scenes depict clusters of women unwinding from their studies while perched on barstools, or taking on their boyfriends at a lively game of pool.

And most of these women are naked, or close to it.

### C. Description of Poses

An examination of the magazine issues in this collegiate series shows that--except for some large group shots--virtually all of the women pictured readily identify themselves by name. A count reveals 1,329 names, representing 131 schools, during the thirty-year period. (A statistically insignificant number of women appeared in two photographs.) The table below shows a percentage breakdown indicating the basic poses employed:

1. Entire torso bared: breasts, pubic area, and buttocks (Body chain/belt across tummy disregarded)	36%
2. One or both breasts bared, but not pubic area or buttocks	29%
3. Pubic area and/or buttocks bared, but not breasts (Derriere with thong strap in cleft not considered bare)	4%
4. Nipple(s) and/or pubic hair seen through sheer fabric	3%
5. No exposure of breasts, pubic area, or buttocks	28%
TOTAL -	100%

### D. Assorted Noteworthy Presentations

While the magazine's editors consistently choose appealing poses for inclusion in the pictorials, some of their selections seem particularly memorable because of, e.g., intimate activity portrayed or distinctive body art:

1. Topless lounging on fraternity roof, with males

Missouri, 9/82; Arizona, 10/99

2. Nude coed in shower, hugging nude male from rear

Michigan State, 9/84

3. Bare-breasted roommates playing cards, male(s) present

Missouri, 10/96; Indiana, 5/06

4. Bisexual twosome: embracing or cuddling, with bare breast of one pushed against the bare breast of another--may or may not include kissing

Penn State, 10/03; Arizona & Arizona State, 10/05; Indiana, 5/06; Colorado, 10/06

5. Playful three-girl bevy in blissful ecstasy, a bare breast of each in firm contact with the naked body of another

Georgia, 5/06

6. Self-pleasuring: fingers pressing on vulva

Illinois & Iowa, 9/77; UCLA, 9/78; U of Penn, 9/79; Mississippi State, 9/81; Mississippi, 10/89

7. Nipple ring

Georgia, 10/01; Colorado, 10/02; Illinois & Iowa, 10/03; Florida State, 10/04; Arizona State, 10/05; Ohio U, 5/06; Texas Tech, 10/06

8. Labia ring or stud

Kansas, 10/02; Washington State, 10/05; San Diego State, 5/06

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Any persons who may be discomfited by the foregoing tabulations, or of the text that follows, are most probably out of tune with what is happening in the world today.

E. A Recent Change in Appearance

Over the years, the college women have adopted poses which they believe best express their femininity and persona. Of late, the emerging popular trend of shaving the *mons veneris* has become evident in the magazine. Thus, no longer uniformly buried in a mass of hair, clits and labia tend nowadays to be more discernible than in the past.

In this connection, readers may be interested in the following excerpts from an article by columnist Natasha Singer that appeared on page E3 of *The New York Times* for September 1, 2005:

Amy Ruecki, a 24-year-old graduate student ... has [had] laser treatment to remove all the hair from her pubic area.... "Most guys I have dated prefer the totally bare look, and I hardly have any girlfriends who have any hair down there, either." ... Karyn Grossman, a dermatologist in Santa Monica, Calif., and New York City [says] "the trend is toward having it all gone." ... Nancy Etcoff a psychologist at Harvard Medical School [explains] "Women today are emulating porn stars.... Eliminating pubic hair may soon join shaving the legs and underarms as a ubiquitous grooming practice." ... Shanacy Kashani, 27, ... said that she and her boyfriend are enjoying sex more now that she's had the treatment.... "Once when I was at a pool party with friends, we all dyed our pubic hair pink," Ms. Kashani said. "But now I've decided to [keep] almost all of it off."

F. College Students' Comfort With Nudity

An insightful article in *Cosmopolitan* magazine--June 2001 issue--observes that college students (Brown and Yale are specified, but there are other campuses as well) are inviting good friends of both genders to social parties where non-sexual nudity prevails. The students look upon group nakedness affirmatively as a means of demystifying normal body parts and their functions.

Such a phenomenon may be emerging now because, with rising educational levels, more young adults are better equipped to think for themselves. That is to say, many are rejecting--for lack of apparent justification--the notion handed down from past generations that, outside of marriage, seeing bare bodies of the opposite sex is vulgar and sinful.

A number of attendees proudly told the magazine they find the gatherings a beneficial catalyst for their emotional growth. One enthusiastic woman said the first of many such parties she has attended "was a pivotal point in my acceptance of my body [when another] girl complimented me, and I went home and started looking in the mirror.... I have an athletic build [and] look curvaceous and strong when I'm naked." Describing the reactions of a different party guest, the article reported "a pretty girl with long blonde hair jumps up and down, her breasts bobbing with her. 'I love this!' she cries to no one in particular."

### G. Why Women Like To Pose Nude

My guess (as a male) is that women generally concur with views held through the ages by respected art world figures who, in recognition of the exquisiteness of the unadorned human form, have sought to preserve its splendor. Indeed, enlightened women today (i.e., the ones who reject the unjustifiable reproaches of religious fundamentalists, etc.) may feel an inner need to be a part of that process. Moreover, after responding to overtures of health professionals who wisely tout the physical benefits derivable from nurturing one's body, women likely wish to revel in their positive accomplishments and demonstrate that they can celebrate their femaleness while flourishing academically through their intellect.

But rather than rely upon my conjectures and speculations, let us now hear directly from a sampling of women themselves.

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The October 2002 issue of *Marie Claire* magazine included an article addressing the experiences of four women who treasure images of their naked bodies created by skilled artisans using assorted craft mediums (oil painting, sculpture, photography, and charcoal sketch):

1. A 30-year-old personal trainer exclaimed, "Posing nude for a stranger ... pushed my journey of self-acceptance to new heights.... The finished painting is gorgeous.... I'm surprised by how much I like the way my body looks--it's healthy."
2. A 31-year-old sales executive had been an art student in college, where she "spent one day each week drawing nudes. I was impressed by the way the models' bodies--with all their flaws--were slowly transformed into beautiful drawings. By posing nude [for a sculpture], I too could become a work of art.... I can't wait to show the [finished piece] to my fiancé; he's looking forward to displaying it in his office."
3. A 25-year-old fashion designer reported that upon being sought out "to pose nude for a black and white photographer, I said yes immediately.... I love the photograph! It's kind of strange to see myself naked in a photo instead of in the mirror, but I look pretty. How could I dislike it?"
4. A 29-year-old television producer "jumped at the chance to pose nude for a sketch artist.... When I saw the finished drawing, I was really proud of ... such a beautiful work of art, and I'm happy with the way my body looks.... The experience was so positive, I might even model nude for other artists in the future.... I can't wait to show [the result] to my friends."

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And it is not just American women who fancy having nude pictures of themselves published. According to *Adweek* (a business news journal), the Japanese magazine *An An* received--pursuant to a solicitation of its subscribers--nude photos of 1,600 women. Of these, 19 appeared in its October 2, 1993, issue. (This mainstream publication has a 93 percent female readership, with 70 percent between the ages of 19 and 28; more than 82 percent are married; and more than half are employed by Japanese corporations. Its advertisers include such reputable firms as banks; insurance companies; correspondence schools; and manufacturers of cosmetics, autos, medicines, and apparel.) The magazine noted that women cited the following explanations for their eagerness to pose:

1. Creating a memento of their youth
2. A chance to be photographed nude by Kishin Shinoyama (the Japanese equivalent of Annie Liebovitz)
3. To be seen in the nude by other readers
4. Gaining self-confidence
5. Experiencing the challenge of competition

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An investigative reporter for the *Washington Star* newspaper (no longer printed) analyzed the willingness of average women to have nude pictures taken of themselves--often by boyfriends or husbands--for submission to national magazines. The reporter related that, "The women are not paid for these pictures. The only reward they get is having their nude pictures appear...." Troubled that the magazines might be "pulling a hoax on the public by using professional models in their amateur sections," he was permitted by one such publication to select a submission at random and call the telephone number accompanying the photograph. Accordingly, he dialed Debbie T., a Dayton, Ohio, woman. "After convincing her that my motivation was an honorable one, I asked her some questions."

Reporter: "How old are you?"  
Debbie: "Nineteen."  
Reporter: "Aren't you embarrassed?"  
Debbie: "No."  
Reporter: "But strange men all over the world are looking at you in that position you posed in."  
Debbie: "That's cool."  
[Debbie sounds pretty cool, herself!]

#### H. Professional Tips for Nude Photography

An article on page 47 of *Popular Photography* for October 1991--titled "How To Pose Nudes"--presents practical ideas enabling boyfriends (or lesbian girlfriends) to maximize the effectiveness of their picture-taking of female nudes. An accomplished photographer quoted in the article identifies four basic categories of pose: standing, seated, kneeling, or reclining. Printed on the same page are illustrations of six sample poses of various kinds; it is difficult to describe them solely in words, so readers are encouraged to find this article and see for themselves.

Further, a free website--[www.bodyinmind.com](http://www.bodyinmind.com)--offers hundreds of nude female photographs (with continuing updates) exhibiting a wide variety of poses.

## I. Famous Fathers, Etc., of Girls Featured in the Series

**Gabrielle D'Alemberte**, a 21-year-old University of Iowa student who posed for the October 1991 issue wearing brief, unbuttoned cutoffs and with her breasts prominently bared, is the daughter of Talbot D'Alemberte. The father has been a law professor at Florida State, member of the Florida legislature, partner in a Miami law firm, and president of the American Bar Association. **Cindy Cooper**, senior at Ohio State University and daughter of its football coach, John Cooper, also appears amidst other bare-breasted girls on the opening page of the same issue.

**Kelly Johnson-Arbor**, 20-year-old junior at Harvard University, appeared in the October 1995 issue wearing flimsy panties and a white, see-through bra clearly revealing her nipples and areolae. Her mother, Shirley Johnson, was once a news anchor at Chicago television station WGN.

**April Zeigler**, a University of Georgia student photographed for the October 2001 issue sporting an immodest string bikini, is a cousin to star center Dusty Zeigler of the NFL New York Giants.

## J. Pertinent News Articles Appearing in Major Papers

The press has been active in reporting on the annual--sometimes semiannual--college issue. There follow below analyses of typical poses, accompanied by a choice selection of excerpts (including numerous delightful quotes by the girls themselves) from pertinent newspaper articles. The obvious self-confidence exuded, enthralling charm radiated, and wholesome outlook projected, make these the kind of girls most males would gladly bring home to mother.

### 1. September 1977 Issue

**Anna Kirchner**, a 20-year-old University of Minnesota junior who posed bare-breasted in the out-of-doors, confidently told a reporter, "It was nothing I'm ashamed of. I certainly wouldn't hesitate to do it again." Similarly, **Dawn LaMotte**, a 22-year-old senior at the school, responded to criticism that she was abetting exploitation of women by languorously stretching out on a grassy lawn while clad in brief shorts: "I do what I enjoy.... If [emphasizing my attributes] bothers them, that's their problem, not mine."

----*Minneapolis Star*; September 28, 1977

### 2. September 1978 Issue

University of California-Berkeley student **Ali Duerr** sits naked on the edge of a bathtub. While long tresses cover most of her breasts, an expanse of pubic hair comes into view as she positions her legs to maintain balance. She forthrightly stated, relative to her then-upcoming appearance, "Personally, I have nothing against [posing nude]...." Her boyfriend has "been really, really supportive of it [and my] friends have been really excited for me."

----*San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle*; July 30, 1978

### 3. September 1983 Issue

**Kerry McClurg**, a 19-year-old University of Maryland student, is naked except for sweatpants slipping down toward her knees. She happily announced that her boyfriend, parents, and boss at the video store where she works part time "think it's terrific." The photo session reminded her of the time another boyfriend took nude pictures of her: "It makes you feel pretty and very special." Similarly, **Cara Lee Macdonald**, a 20-year-old University of Virginia student who poses naked in a meadow--her dark pubic hair in vivid contrast with golden straw in the background--ventured, "It's sorta like a chance to realize a fantasy.... [M]y mother was a model, so she was especially proud." Her father and two brothers "see me naked all the time.... It's no big deal."

----*Washington Post*; August 2, 1983

**Ms. Macdonald** casually remarked that when she's old, gray, and toothless, "I'll be glad I didn't let that chance pass me by."

----*Baltimore Sun*; August 3, 1983

### 4. October 1985 Issue

**Kendra Lee**, a 19-year-old Oregon State University sophomore, sits on a window sill, naked except for a shirt draped around her neck. She confided that her moods range from "seductive" to "all-American girl." Her classmate **Tanna Paige**, shown topless with male students in a fraternity bathroom, voiced no concern with the portrayal of her bare breasts, but murmured that the camera angle tended to make her face "pudgy."

----*Seattle Times*; September 8, 1985

### 5. October 1988 Issue

University of Texas student **Tina Bockrath** poses bare-breasted in a horse stable. In a later interview, she freely acknowledged that, "I'm not embarrassed at all. The pictures are done in very good taste."

----*Austin American-Statesman*; April 8, 1990

### 6. April 1989 Issue

**Kimberly Adamonis**, a 22-year-old Providence College senior, relaxes on a bed with her pajama top and bottom gaping open to reveal her breasts and pubic hair. She thoughtfully observed, "I don't think the human body is anything to be ashamed of...." **Dina Marks**, a 21-year-old Syracuse University senior, commented perceptively to the photographer as he snapped her for a test shot while semi-nude: "People are so uptight and they shouldn't be."

----*Providence Journal*; February 28, 1989

### 7. April 1990 Issue

Georgia Tech student **Laura Phillips** is seen with one breast protruding from a camisole, while warming her bare buttocks in front of a fireplace. In a subsequent interview, she cheerfully noted, "It was something fun to do on the side."

----*Atlanta Journal and Constitution*; March 7, 1991

#### 8. October 1990 Issue

**Kristina Keasby**, a 21-year-old dance major at the University of California-Irvine, is seen limbering up. Her breasts below the nipples are supported by a strap around her mid-section; one leg is raised high, clearly revealing her pubic area reflected in a wall mirror. Expressing satisfaction with her pictorial, she proclaimed, "I'm really happy with it. It shows more of my personality, who I am."

----*Orange County Register*; September 12, 1990

#### 9. April 1992 Issue

University of Colorado student **Dee Oliver** is seen hiking along a riverbank, adorned with boots and loose jacket; her breasts and pubic area are evident. She astutely observed (as recalled by an impressed reporter a decade later) that healthy body attitudes and academic achievement are not mutually exclusive: "Just because you're nude doesn't mean you're stupid."

----*Denver Post*; January 8, 2002

#### 10. October 1993 Issue

At a time when feminist agitators were disparaging nude photography as constituting (to them) degradation of women, 22-year-old Stanford University senior **Justine Mattera** boldly asserted that such critics were "getting carried away," whereupon she proceeded to pose bare-breasted on the deck of a yacht.

----*San Francisco Chronicle*; May 14, 1993

#### 11. October 1995 Issue

**Kelli Keller**, a 20-year-old junior at Harvard University, poses at downtown Boston Harbor. Her shirtwaist is open to expose one breast; abundant pubic hair is readily visible. She firmly defended her action as, "I think what I do with my body is a personal decision."

----*Boston Globe*; September 13, 1995

#### 12. October 1996 Issue

When sorority sisters opined that a member who had posed nude might reflect adversely upon their group [one wonders whether there just might be a bit of envy here], **Kristie Bryan** of the University of Oklahoma--photographed while sprawled naked on a bed--responded matter-of-factly, "I don't consider what I did wrong at all."

----*Tulsa World*; August 26, 1996

#### 13. October 1997 Issue

University of Wisconsin junior **Tya Lichtie** poses in an ultra-brief bedroom outfit with both of her nipples and a wisp of pubic hair showing. Pronouncing herself "very pleased" with the photo and deeming the magazine staffers "very professional", she expressed thanks to "her friends and family for supporting her decision to do the Playboy shoot."

----*Madison Capital Times*; September 4, 1997

#### 14. October 1999 Issue

Haley Cope (depicted in the magazine as **Natasha Paris**, a name she selected because of feeling frolicsome at the photo shoot and fancying a porn-sounding appellation), a senior and acclaimed competitive swimmer at the University of California-Berkeley, was photographed naked while emerging from a bathtub. In a later interview, she candidly explained her decision to pose as, "I enjoyed it. It was fun. My family approved. I didn't feel exploited. I felt like it was tastefully done."

----*San Francisco Chronicle*; March 3, 2001

#### 15. October 2000 Issue

**Vanessa Rains**, a 20-year-old student at the University of South Florida, poses on Edgemont Key with her swimsuit bottom removed (showing us her buttocks); the top is pulled away (revealing her right breast, with the nipple in silhouette). Praising the soothing demeanor of the photographer, she confessed, "I was more comfortable with him than I am with my gynecologist."

----*Tampa Tribune*; August 29, 2000

University of South Florida junior **Sidra McCain** sunbathes naked on an air mattress. She exulted, "For me, the body is beautiful."

----*St. Petersburg Times*; August 31, 2000

Tulane University student **Laura Langdon** is seen having just descended a staircase. Her unbuttoned cardigan exposes both breasts; she is naked below the waist. Subsequent to the photo session, she graduated and is "in medical school at Emory University."

----*New Orleans Times-Picayune*; September 2, 2000

#### 16. October 2002 Issue

**Elizabeth Saindon**, a 22-year-old student at the University of Nebraska, appears bare-breasted with two other bare-breasted Nebraska coeds; all three are shown performing in a rock band. She admitted, "I've wanted to (pose for Playboy) ever since high school." While another comely Nebraska student, **Cooper Dawn**, 24, hides her feet from us in a pair of ankle socks--perhaps she is bashful about showing her toes--she looks perfectly comfortable in baring the whole rest of herself. She "can't wait to have little kids. They'll say, 'Ooh, look at Mommy.'"

----*Omaha World-Herald*; August 30, 2002

Oklahoma State University student **April Michelle Carlson** poses bare-breasted on a fraternity house lawn along with a contingent of its members. She proudly mused, "I think every girl would love to be in Playboy."

---*Tulsa World*; August 30, 2002

17. October 2003 Issue

**Ashley Cullen**, a 20-year-old University of Wisconsin junior photographed bare-breasted in a store while trying on clothes, said that she and her mother first "went to Victoria's Secret and bought underwear and bras for the [test] shoot." Nineteen-year-old Wisconsin sophomore **Angel Jade**, seen bare-breasted astride a motor scooter near campus, and (on another page) in a mixed throng of other bare-breasted women and fraternity men, was duly noted as being on the Dean's List.

----*Madison Capital Times*; September 5, 2003

18. October 2006 Issue

**Jessica Lorin**, a 25-year-old recent *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Colorado, stands on a porch, naked except for boots, cap, and scarf. She happily acknowledged that her "boyfriend said I just had to do this.... My family knows, and they're really supportive and respectful of my decision."

----*Denver Post*; September 10, 2006

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NOTE: You lawyers and future lawyers out there may be interested in the description of a woman's special organs appearing in the report of a legal proceeding, *Clark v. The People*, 79 N.E. 941 (1906) and cited approvingly in *State v. James*, 171 S.E.2d 468, 469 (1970):

The testimony in this case shows that the womb in a normal female lies above and back of the bladder and is connected with the bladder for about an inch just above the neck of the womb. The urethra is a duct leading out of the bladder, to empty it. The vagina is a canal leading to the womb, and is back of the urethra. It is about an inch from the outer edge of the private parts of the opening of the urethra and is about the same distance to the opening of the vagina. The urethra starts from the vagina, and leads to the bladder. The same lips are around the vagina and urethra. From the outer edge of the private parts to the neck of the womb is from three to four inches. From the outer edge of the private parts to where the bladder begins is about two inches.

The above probably was drafted by the great-grandfather of someone living today. A comparable passage written now would likely use "uterus" instead of "womb," and clarify that females have *two* pairs of genital lips (i.e., inner and outer).

Interestingly, there is no mention of the clitoris, although people a century ago may not have fully appreciated the valuable role this key anatomical structure plays in facilitating the female orgasm. Note that the writer revealed the purpose of a woman's urethra (which she activates for urination multiple times each day), but did not similarly explain the function of the vagina (used--on average--two or three occasions weekly for sex, a few days per month for menstruation, and maybe a couple of times in her life for non-Caesarean childbirth). Although the quoted court decision did not require a reference to her nearby anal opening, that orifice sometimes alternates--as we know--with the vagina and mouth in her intercourse protocol.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Gordon Gill--a graduate of the University of Maryland who resides with his gorgeous and sexy wife in Annandale, Virginia--has also written a research paper titled, *An Insight into the Fallacies of Christian Fundamentalism (With an Emphasis Upon Sexuality and Body Perception)*. It may be accessed at the following Web address:

[www.drleisure.com/biblicalsexandnudity.pdf](http://www.drleisure.com/biblicalsexandnudity.pdf)