

wanting it all

BY MATT LABASH, *Daily Lobo*, U. OF NEW MEXICO

Some women are just sexy. But then some women aren't Demi Moore. And they don't have the kind of sexy that gets lascivious pubescents caught in public library burglar beams for filching *Vanity Fair* photo spreads, the kind that inspires pregnant women to throw lingerie parties in their last trimester, the kind that makes young couples fondle each other around potter's wheels in ceramics classes.

The raspy-voiced actress has emerged unscathed from the mid-'80s brat pack wreckage, leaving behind the rest of the club like Judd, who sits at home waiting for phone calls and airbrushing nose hairs out of his 8 by 10s, and Emilio, who's taking dance lessons from some hot choreographer. Andrew's done better, relegated to buddy-cadaver comedies where the stiff gets better lines, but Rob's still looking to top his 1988 performance in *Hey, That's My Daughter*, filmed in an Atlanta motel room.

But Demi Moore has blossomed. After a few sidesteps since her *Ghostly* shot up the hierarchical entertainment ladder, she has inched her way to the five-star side of the movie-rating scale. And with two career-defining performances in the can, she won't be there long, which is way more than her *St. Elmo's* peers can say.

"We'll have to see what happens, but I think the way my career has gone, with each thing I do, people get a deeper glimpse into what I might be capable of," she says.

This month marks the release of Rob Reiner's eagerly anticipated *A Few Good Men*, based on Aaron Sorkin's successful Broadway play. Moore co-stars with Tom Cruise and Jack Nicholson in what critics have predicted to be an Oscar windfall.

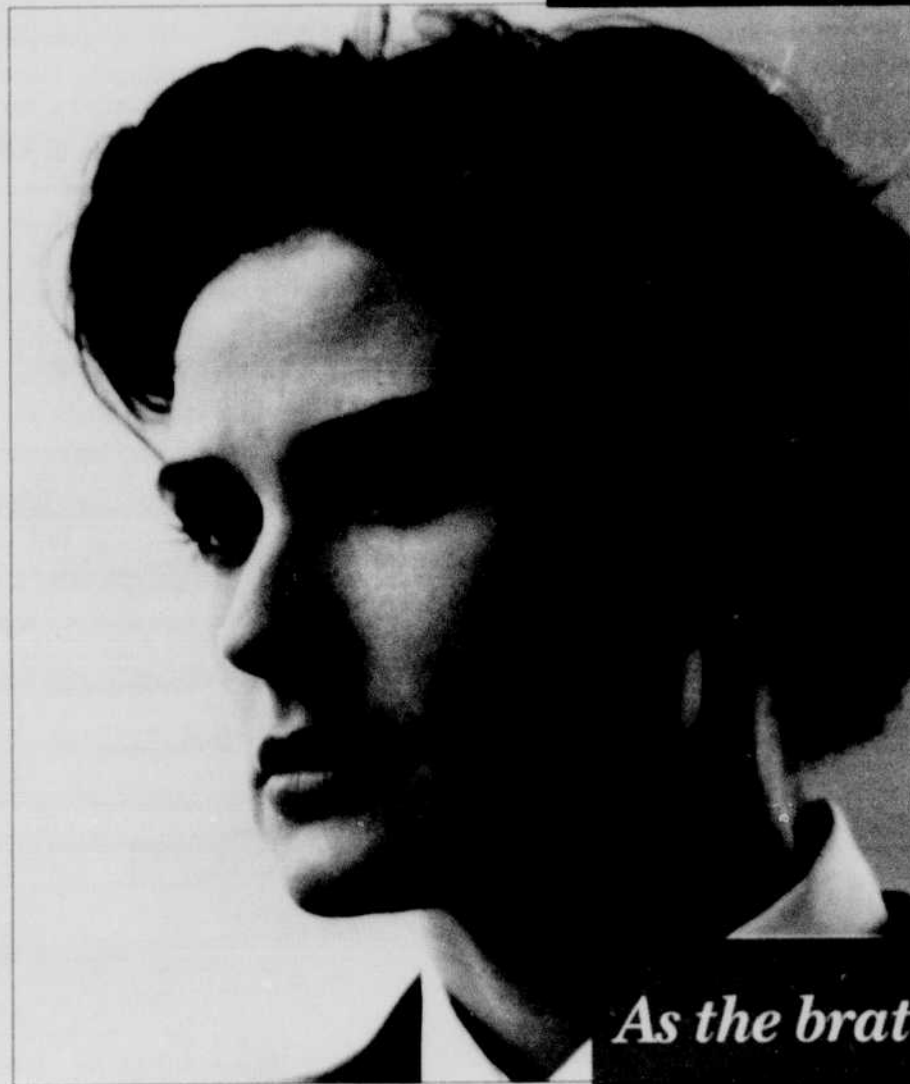
The story has Cruise playing a glib Navy lawyer, selected because his penchant for plea bargaining will help the military avoid an embarrassing trial in a Marine murder case. Moore is a fiery lieutenant commander on his defense team who questions his commitment and his sell-out passivity. She says this is one of few women's roles that maintains its integrity.

"Most people will be greatly surprised because the character's focus is never deviated. The movie doesn't compromise the characters by creating a romance when that's not what it's about."

Moore emphasizes that her character isn't just an equal time decorative piece between Cruise and Nicholson. "My character pushes Tom's character to do the right thing — to see things and not just pass the buck and go for the quick fix. I am, in a sense, the moral voice," she says.

Her other film, out early next summer, is Adrian Lyne's *Indecent Proposal*, co-starring Robert Redford and Woody Harrelson. Although she's auditioned for every movie Lyne's made, Moore never was fortunate enough to land a part cooking household pets for Michael Douglas or emptying condiments jars with Mickey Rourke. But she adopted a new strategy to beat out a host of top-flight actresses for this coveted role. "I came in through the back door and faked it," she says.

Moore and Harrelson play a young couple approached by an affluent gambler (Redford) who offers them \$1 million in return for one night of sex with Harrelson's better half. Moore says this project gave her the opportunity to play out a fantasy with complex moral ramifications.



"Would you do it, what would happen and what would that do to you?" she asks. "It's an intriguing concept because it questions all of those fears that people have in their own relationships and the boundaries that you cross."

Crossing boundaries, though, hasn't been a problem for Moore, especially in the last year when she set standards for pre-natal nudity. The infamous *Vanity Fair* covers and accompanying photographs (the first set being very nude and very pregnant, the second set being painted body suits and birthday suits — a rock-hard vision of post-partum sensuality) tested most of the taboos on store newsstands.

"I wasn't out to make any kind of particular feminist statement; it was just how I felt as a woman," she says. "I embraced myself, and it's obvious that I like to have a lot of fun and do something that's a little more edgy."

"The first cover was about me as a woman and how I felt about myself, my body, the world and how I related to it. The second cover I wanted to be the same. It all comes down to my feeling of strength and power as a woman and not being afraid."

Moore says her husband, Bruce Willis, isn't jealous that the male masses have a working knowledge of his wife's anatomy. With the second cover, she says, "you have to take it slightly tongue-in-cheek." But she wasn't laughing about the companion-piece profile, which focused on her well-documented legion of faithful assistants and characterized her as a domineering celebrity control-freak.

Moore calls it an unfair portrayal. "The only way it seems that [the writer] could accept that I was smart and successful and ambitious was to make me a bitch. To let her into my home and into my life is a very special thing. Believe me, I won't ever do it again."

But generally Moore's life isn't all turbulence and controversy.

Describing herself as "wonderfully happy," she says, "my idea of a great life is obviously a life with structure, but I want to be unlimited. I want to do everything, and when I say I want it all, that's what I mean."

**As the brat pack's
sole survivor, Demi
Moore has turned
brains and sex into
box-office bucks**