

Posing With Honors

MOST PARENTS DREAM THAT their child will attend an Ivy League university. Ah, the prestige. The contacts. The chance to pose for *Playboy* magazine?

To show that brains and beauty often do go together, *Playboy* devoted its October issue to The Women of the Ivy League. Magazine reps canvassed Harvard, Yale and the like looking for fresh-faced "collegiettes" to pose — and they found plenty.

Playboy interviewed hundreds of women but chose only 36 to appear. "On the day I went, 50 to 70 girls showed up," says Kelli Keller, a Harvard junior. Keller was photographed nude, but each woman was given the choice of posing *au naturel*, topless or even fully clothed. "I'm not ashamed of my body," she says. "If people have a problem with it, then it's their problem. They don't have to buy the magazine."

At least two groups did have a problem with it. A passel of naked women Yalies greeted *Playboy* personnel by streaking. Their demonstration was intended to protest the Ivy League issue, but the plan seemed to backfire. *Playboy* opened the 10-page layout with a two-page streaker spread.

"A little controversy makes our job easier," says Jim Larson, *Playboy's* managing photo editor. "It makes news and helps make our presence known."

An autograph session with the Cornell U. posers drew another such protest in early September. About a dozen women picketed

the session, accusing *Playboy* of encouraging violence toward women. Meanwhile, dozens of Cornell men stood nearby awaiting their personalized copies.

Danielle Helm, a Princeton senior, found opinions mixed on her decision to pose. "There were some [negative] articles in the school paper, and some people felt it was degrading to women," she says. "But most people I talked to were supportive."

Columbia U. junior Pamela Shaw had an atypical motive for



Women of the Ivy Leaf.

posing. "I'm 32 years old," she says. "It's a bit of a kick to still be considered cute enough for *Playboy*."

Unlike some protesters, Shaw doesn't see a contradiction in attending a prestigious university and posing for a men's magazine. "It's not an either-or proposition," she says. "You can be serious and intellectual and still be sensual and beautiful."

Dan Avery, U. of Maryland/Illustration by Miles Hilstad, Colorado State U.



Guest Expert: The Alien

On Playboy: "This manuscript you call *Playboy* has been studied by our scientists and medical beings. As you should be aware, we do not wear clothing."

The Buzz

• Richie Parker, the former New York City prep basketball star convicted of sexual abuse last year, is attending classes at Mesa Community College, Ariz., but is not playing hoops. Parker was recruited by Seton Hall U., the U. of Utah and George Washington U. but was shunned by all three after his conviction.

• Anita Hill has hung up her beach towel and gone back to the classroom at the U. of Oklahoma. After a one-year unpaid leave from OU, Hill is now teaching two law courses. She spent her time off living in Laguna Beach, Calif., where she wrote two books.

• The female fight for Citadel access rages on. Nancy Mellette, a 17-year-old North Carolina military boarding school senior, has picked up where Shannon Faulkner left off.

Mellette's brother is a cadet at the Citadel, and her father is a graduate. An exceptional athlete, Mellette is seeking to enter the Citadel next fall.

• It's not basic training, but 590 students are beginning their college semester at a run-down Army base that is slowly being turned into a new university. Busy construction workers outnumber students, and room numbers are spray painted on the sides of buildings to point the students of California State U., Monterey Bay, in the right direction.

• A small, soft-spoken 87-year-old woman has captured the attention of the academic world with a gift that won't soon be forgotten. Oseola McCarty surprised officials at the U. of Southern Mississippi with a gift of \$150,000 to be used as a scholarship for black students. This philanthropic gesture itself isn't the amazing part of the story. The surprise is that McCarty managed to save this money from her job doing laundry for the past 75 years.



Welcome to my Waterworld.

Fish Outta Water



MAYBE IT ALL STARTED IN THAT PET SHOP where Dan Spinogatti worked for five years. He liked breeding tropical fish and even experimented with different ways to keep his fish tank water clean.

At any rate, the Paiute Indians of northern Nevada are glad that this U. of Nevada, Reno, grad student helped them clean up water polluted by the tribe's fish hatchery.

Spinogatti spent this past year monitoring an artificial wetland that he built with the help of the tribe. He calls his plastic-lined pond a huge fish filter.

The self-cleaning pond works like this: A big plastic lining is placed under the horseshoe-shaped pond, and about 3 feet of soil is backfilled over the plastic to keep the water from soaking into the soil. Add a few water plants and voila! The algae grows all by itself, and the plants consume the pollution.

"The algae blossom like crazy," Spinogatti says. "Magically, it treats the water." OK, he's a scientist. He doesn't mean magically.

Once the treated water gets to nearby rivers — well, that makes life a whole lot nicer for the in-stream biota, he says.

Biota?

"Fish, bugs, critters — stuff people get excited about," he explains.

Although Spinogatti doesn't consider himself a hard-core tree hugger, he says there should be a balance between environmental and industrial concerns.

"People need to do things smartly," he says. His plastic "wetland," for example, is good for the environment, but it's also a cheap and easy remedy for low levels of polluted storm runoff water from cities and farms.

And just how much water does this water lover drink?

"Actually, I don't get off on just water, unless I'm working out," Spinogatti says.

Spinogatti's experiment in fish filtering will earn him a master's degree in December.

"This whole fish thing has kind of come full circle," he says.

At least he's not fishing for compliments.

Story and photo by Deidre Pike, U. of Nevada, Reno