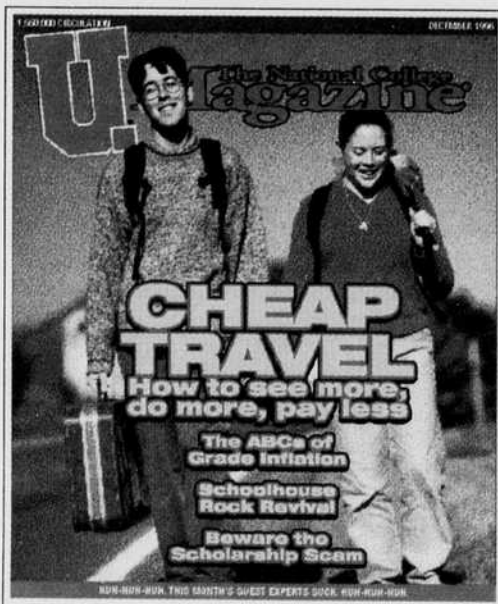


U. VIEWS



GLAAD you wrote

I wholeheartedly agree with your article on gay student interests on college campuses ["Straight But Not Narrow," Nov. 1996]. It is important the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community finds a place to feel comfortable.

*Julie Driscoll, senior,
Denison U., Ohio*

Thank you for addressing the climate on campus for those with alternative sexual identities. One component of sexual identity that the article doesn't recognize is the transgender community — individuals whose gender identification is incongruent to that of their biological sex. On campuses across the nation, transgender men and women experience just as much homophobia (or, more specifically, transphobia) as gays, lesbians

and bisexuals in part because they challenge the Western gender system.

*Nicole Taylor, senior, co-chair,
University Bi and Transgender Community,
U. of Minnesota, Minneapolis*

Your sidebar on gay-friendly schools ["Now for the Bad News," Nov. 1996] listed Washington State U. as "stuck in the Dark Ages" but made no mention that there was also a "coming out/gay pride" week in October. In addition, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Allies program is a recognized student association here at WSU. As for the furor over our mascot, I'm sure if Butch the

cougar marched in an anti-abortion rally, an equal number of people would be upset.

*Ryan Ford, freshman,
Washington State U.*

Southern pride

As the son of a southern Virginia farmer, I was enraged when some moron said in your poll ["U. Polls," Nov. 1996] that he only eats meat because vegetables promote agriculture, which promotes Southern living, which promotes stupidity. Earth to dumb-ass! Back off the crack pipe! Where does he think he'd be today if the farmers went on strike? No cotton for clothes, no vegetables, no feed to fatten the animals, no tobacco for cigarettes, no trees to make paper — the end of humanity.

*Shep Hudson, sophomore,
Virginia Tech*

U. Polls

If you won the lottery, would you quit school?
Yes: 76%
No: 24%

Have you taken an HIV test?

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Leaving power

Regarding the freshman retention story ["Staying Power," Dec. 1996]: I think a large part of the problem with young people leaving college is that too many people go only because they think that's what they're supposed to do. If people would think for themselves instead of blindly following the mandates of society, they might save themselves some money and time. Experiencing the working world for a few years after high school was one of the best experiences I ever had. When I finally went to school, I truly wanted to go for myself.

Mike Hurst, senior, U. of Cincinnati

Dream on...

Thanks for the poll on students' holiday wishes ["Holiday Gift Wish List," Dec. 1996]. But there is one glaring omission: someone to write all of my papers and take all of my exams. I've got 35 pages worth of term paper waiting to be written in the next four days, and what am I doing? Reading your rag! Thanks for a worthwhile procrastination tool.

*Beth Mayer, grad student,
U. of Dayton, Ohio*

Fill in the blanks

I'm writing about "If You're Pissed, Press One" [Quickies, Dec. 1996]. Can y_u re_d this s_ntence? Sure. Anyone can. It's a psychological phenomenon; the human mind fills in the blanks. So what's the point of using "f—king"? What purpose do the blanks serve? Pick a side of the fence: If you're going to censor, then censor. Maybe a nice "word censored to keep our asses out of trouble" flag in place of the offending word. If you're not going to censor, don't. After all, everybody needs a good "f/word censored to keep our asses out of trouble" once in a while.

*Jeff Wilder, freshman,
U. of Kentucky College of Law*

Should gay marriages be legal?

Yes: 76%
No: 24%

We're all made the same, and it shouldn't make a difference whether you prefer to date someone of the same sex or opposite sex. When this country was founded, it was founded under the goals of freedom and equality for everyone — not just straight people. *Evan Lyons, freshman, Murray State U., Ky.* • Gay marriages should not be legal because the Bible says homosexuality is wrong. If you're gay, I don't even think you should tell anyone. *Aisha Gibens, freshman, Indiana State U.* • Yes, otherwise people have a bad image of the gay lifestyle. By making gay marriages legal, it would force people to have stronger commitments and would gain them more respect. *Melissa First, sophomore, State U. of New York, Albany* • Yes, I feel that marriage should be between any two people with a strong commitment. *Ryan Taxless, sophomore, Penn State U.* • Of course gays and lesbians should be able to marry each other. They're just as normal as anyone else. *Jason Roberts, senior, State U. of New York, Oswego*

Athletes — should they be given special treatment?

Yes: 29%
No: 71%

It's hard to fit your athletic schedule with your academic schedule. It's necessary that we get some special treatment, like advance scheduling for classes, but I don't think we should get extraneous things, like cars. *Name withheld, junior, U. of Georgia* • No, they should be at the university for their skills in the classroom. It's not fair that someone should get into school above me just because they can play a better game of tennis. *Jenny Humowiecki, sophomore, Illinois Wesleyan U.* • No, athletes should look at their role as a 40-hour-a-week job. I work 40 hours a week, and I don't get special treatment. *Alex Jackovich, grad student, U. of Nevada, Las Vegas* • I'm not an athlete, but I see how much money they bring into the university, and it's stupid that they don't see any of it. It's like asking them to work overtime every week. They should be paid for every hour they practice, and they should get part of the revenue they bring in. *Lilian, grad student, Louisiana State U.*

Attn: Guys

Much like the cultural anthropologist who spends months coexisting with a strange foreign tribe, I have spent the past eight months living with female roommates and working with an all-female staff. In that time, I've learned their ways, discovered their secrets and, I believe, been accepted into their culture. Fellow guys, allow me to share some of my findings.

One: Women discuss sex and bodily functions in far more detail than you can imagine. You know how your girlfriend implores you not to talk about your sex life with your friends? That's because she does it with hers and assumes you do the same.

Two: Women are much more varied in their attractions than you think. There are no hard and fast rules as to what type of guy women will like. Frequently, they're downright inexplicable. A Tom Cruise type will walk in. "Bad haircut," say the women in unison. Then Steve Buscemi-on-a-good-day strolls past, and it's "Hot! Hot!"

Three: After meeting a guy, women not only discuss him, but they are very harsh critics. "He's too short." "His eyebrows are too thick." "Too eager." "His joke was dumb." Are you insecure about something? Trust me — they know. They've discussed it. They've voted on its importance.

Finally, confidence is everything, but arrogance is a buzz kill. Legitimate confidence (you will be tested!) will overcome most shortcomings, but if you cross that fine line into stuck-up land, you can plan on sleeping alone.

Good luck, fellow adventurers, and be careful — it's a jungle out there.

By James Hibberd, Assistant Editor

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