Subject: Girls of Princeton Cover
Date: Fri, 12 Apr 2002
From: Ari Samsky
To: Adam Nemett, Alex Rosenfeld, Clay Bavor

Dudemeisters,
First of all, let me say that I am not wild about the girls of Princeton cover idea. I'm sure that it will be funny and controversial and will make the Nass more visible, but I have to say that a large section of the Princeton community (including me) will find it misogynist and puerile. I don't think that this is any reason not to run the article, though, and I'm not in any way trying to convince you not to. In fact, I hope that the article is really, really funny. I have no real problem with offensive articles that are very funny and well written, and knowing Adam and Alex I expect that it will be.

Sounds good?
Ari

Subject: Re: Girls of Princeton Cover
Date: Fri, 12 Apr 2002
From: Alex Rosenfeld
To: Ari Samsky, Adam Nemett, Clay Bavor

I don't necessarily agree that it's misogynist, though that's a whole other debate, but I'll certainly admit to it being puerile. But you guys know my philosophy on the Nass, which closely parallels a brilliant skit done in the early days of the State. It's low-brow, high-brow. The best of both worlds, so to speak. The eradication of pretension in the whole. A good part of the Nass is puerile. When Professor Fleming criticizes us for an excess of masturbation and scatological humor he is, well, right. His mistake, though, is failing to see that we're also a lot more than that, too, and if it can be argued, which I believe it can, that there is actually, in its better moments, something of value, with meaning, in these moments of humor. There is more genius, I would say, in some of Jay Katsir's best work, then in all of the Troubadour put together.

Alex

Subject: Re: The Solution to Our Worries [A reaction to a suggestion that we balance the article with Man-Sluts]
Date: Sat, 13 Apr
From: Alex Rosenfeld <arosenfe@Princeton.EDU>
To: Ari Samsky, Adam Nemett, Clay Bavor

Adam, you know my feelings about this. Keep it simple, down to the original plan. At the same time, I think you're right. If we somehow included guys in this, we'd probably have a fourth as much feedback. I've been aware of this all along. The truth is, I just don't give a shit about the feedback. It's meaningless to me. If people get pissed off, great, that means more of the campus is going to read the paper. I've said it before and I'll say it again, I'm not out to appease people with this. I realize this sounds asshole-ish, but this article was my idea, and I really want to hold it to a particular standard and vision that I've been working on for awhile now. Not to mention that I don't have the time, effort, and interest in doing the extra work that comes about with covering the ten sexiest guys. I also think it will be very difficult, visually, in terms of content, and so on, balancing out the two pieces. And foremost, perhaps, I am very wary as to who I would want working on this project. No, I would not want to give this to any of the girls on the staff, with the exception of maybe Brianna. So basically, here is my proposal, or compromise, or whatever. Adam, if you are really that worried about the reaction to this cover story, and would like to balance it out with a ten sexiest guys piece, then by all means do it, but I only want to include it if you yourself are putting it
together, perhaps working on it with one of the other guys already involved in this projected, perhaps Jay, or Brianna, as mentioned, or Ari. Make it no longer than a page. Make it humorous. That’s just about all I have to say on this. Finally, I’ve allude put a lot of time and planning into this cover piece, and it’s getting really annoying having to allay people’s fears every other day. I’m beginning to care less and less about what the Dave Hittson’s and Kristina’s and Russ Goldman’s have to say about our article. This issue is going to unbelievable, trust me. I went to a club hockey party tonight and the team probably spent two hours talking and arguing about what girls should be included. Sooner or later, we’ve got to reach the point where we start wavering about this, put ourselves on the line, and just go for it.

Alex

Subject: Re: The Solution to Our Worries
Date: Sat, 13 Apr 2002
From: Ari Samsky
To: Alex Rosenfeld, Clay Bavor, Adam Nemett

The problem with this, Alex, is that there are other people working at the paper, and they DO give a shit about the feedback. Any article that we publish reflects on every single member of the staff. Certainly it reflects more strongly on the writer, but readers are not going to be picky when it comes to registering their disgust/anger/etc. I realize that you had a vision for this article, but this is not YOUR paper, its OUR paper, and we have an interest in defending its reputation, and in defending ourselves. People are not going to come after Alex Rosenfeld and Adam Nemett, they're going to come after the Nass as a whole.

Frankly(and this is a rare moment of total honesty), I thought the article was embarrassing, offensive, unoriginal, and dumb from the beginning (This doesn't mean that I didn't think it would be FUNNY, which I still do). That's why I was so delighted to hear the compromise suggestion, as I expressed in my earlier email. I guess the issue here is that the cover article reflects on all of us, and I would not be at all happy having the uncompromised cover associated with me. Lump me in with the Dave Hittsons and Kristina Witts if you will. I keep thinking of an analogy: what if one of our eds. was a neo-nazi, and wanted to write a cover spread on why the Jews were ruining America? Even if everyone else on the magazine washed their hands of it, didn't help with the layout or editing or anything, the reader still gets the impression that the magazine totally condones the viewpoint (disclaimer box be damned). I don't know exactly where I'm going with this, but I guess that I'm urging Alex to reconsider his never-mind-the-bollocks position. If this were a page 2, or any other article, I don't think this would be as big a deal, but the cover spread especially reflects on the whole magazine.

I'd be delighted to work on the man-sluts list.

Ari

Subject: Re: The Solution to Our Worries
Date: Sat, 13 Apr 2002
From: Adam Nemett
To: Ari Samsky, Alex Rosenfeld, Clay Bavor

I wholeheartedly agree with Ari. I'm not going to go into all the reasons why. I just do. And especially as one of the co-authors of this would-be article, I especially care about its content and character. the truth is, the man-sluts idea is simply funnier and fresher and more compelling and controversial than a run-of-the-mill hottest girls list. plus, it's actually saying something of importance. one of the reasons that I haven't been writing as much for the Nass as of late is because I feel that the majority of my independent writing has been of a fairly sophisticated sort, and I'm really enjoying that. It's hard for me to revert to Weekend Page-esque kind of humor and hope that people are still going to be impressed. I've already written about porn once--I don't really want to do it over and over again. I'd rather do something a little different. Like
man-sluts. And for gods sake, you're the last fucking person that should ever bitch about receiving too many emails for god knows whatever reason.

Adam

Subject: Re: The Solution to Our Worries
Date: Sat, 13 Apr 2002
From: Alex Rosenfeld
To: Ari Samsky, Clay Bavor, Adam Nemett

You bring up a good point, Ari. The thing is, I think the assumption that whatever we print in our pages is representative of the staff is a dangerous and untrue one, if only because this assumption is often distorted to say that what we print must be representative of the staff. We are, to a large extent, an open forum for ideas, and not printing a piece because staff members are offended by it is, as far as I'm concerned, a form of censorship that we are essentially imposing on ourselves. If a piece comes up that I find myself at odds with, that I perhaps find offensive, but that, at the same time, I feel has merit as far as our paper is concerned, my personal differences with the topic of the article is not going to dissuade me from running it.

Ari, you've basically exemplified this yourself. I appreciate your honest, you don't like the basis for the article, that's fair enough. Even more so, I appreciate the fact that you are still willing to run this article, even though you'd rather not. Anyway, as I've expressed again and again, I am ready to move past the bickering, wavering stage of all this. Let's settle on this and actually make something happen. Does the compromise sit alright with you guys? We do the ten hottest girls article, in the same issue we include a one page, humorous ten sluttiest guys peace written by Ari and Adam. Adam, as I've said before, I'm not doing this article unless you're doing it with me, so I still expect your full devotion and involvement on all this. Let me know, and we can move on from here...

Alex

Subject: Re: The Solution to Our Worries
Date: Sat, 13 Apr 2002
From: Clay Bavor
To: Alex Rosenfeld, Adam Nemett, Ari Samsky

Alex, I think Ari's original proposal is compromise enough. Splitting the issue 50/50 works; it is original, funny, and will likely generate interesting thought on campus. However, I believe that, in a lopsided issue, it might appear as if we're only using the sluttiest guys article to hedge our bets--weak, lame, and decidedly un-Nassau.

More important than people's reactions is the fact that the vote for a half and half issue among the editors in chief is 2 to 1. To me, that seals it. There is a majority among the editors, the staff supports that majority, and I think the majority's formula is the only tasteful, intelligent, worthwhile way of doing the issue.

Let us make the half and half compromise final, and stick to it.

-Clay

Subject: Re: The Solution to Our Worries
Date: Sat, 13 Apr 2002
From: Alex Rosenfeld
To: Clay Bavor, Ari Samsky, Adam Nemett
Clay, my concern is that it would be a stretch to expect these two articles to balance each other out. The hottest girls article is going to include interviews and photoshoots with ten girls, and may very well require up to four pages of the issue. To expect the same amount of material on the ten sluttiest guys is just unreasonable. At most, I'd imagine we'd be able to do a facebook picture and a brief, humorous write-up from the minimal material we have on these guys. That brings up another point, that, in terms of pissing off the individuals involved, I think the ten sluttiest guys is actually a riskier venture than what we're doing with the girls. At least the girls we include will be completely willing and into the idea of this. On the other hand, I can't see too many guys being all that enthused about being exposed or ridiculed for their sluttiness, and just including facebook pictures and random stories we've heard from various sources can put us in a very susceptible position, not just in terms of criticism, but in terms of legal action. I guess this is why I'm always so adamant about keeping these things simple and sticking to original plans. The more ideas you come up, the more complicated things get, and the less likely anything at all is going to end up being pulled off. Let me know what you guys think about this. My stance remains that we should keep this an all girls issue, though you're right, Clay, if I'm being out-voted, then we'll work for the compromise. However, I think it makes sense to limit the ten sluttiest guys article to a page, if only because the article will limit itself to a page due to the amount of material you can possibly come up with on the topic. I think our readers will acknowledge this, as well, and won't view this as some sort of cop-out, particularly, and I think this is the most important thing, if we make some mention of both lists on the cover, with maybe some sticker announcing the guys list or whatever. But, again, I really think we should just do the girls, if only because of the legality of things...

Alex

Subject: Re: Camera [Help!] [A response to a request for a camera from Alex]
Date: Sat, 13 Apr 2002
From: Kristina Witt
To: Alex Rosenfeld, Adam Nemett, Ari Samsky

if this is what I think it s for, and even if it s not, let me go ahead and take care of my opposition statement.

I already talked to Adam the other night about your hottest girls article. He kinda made me feel better by suggesting a "top ten male sluts" section, but upon further reflection, I'm still kind of uncomfortable with the whole venture.

And I'm sure you're expecting the typical outraged "don't objectify women, you misogynist pig!" response, so let me just make this personal. and I HATE being serious because it makes me feel all vulnerable and pathetic. so here's you opportunity to mock me and make me feel horrible:

Every single one of my close friends when I was growing up had an eating disorder. This is among a group of people some of which are NOT perfectionistic nor ivy league. The national average for eating disorders is 1 out of 4 college girls. The average here at Princeton is much higher. In general, I don't know a single girl who doesn't think she's fat. I'm serious. Not a single one. Just look around and see how many girls eat nothing but salad. well, maybe not at terrace given the high incidence of "alternative" eating habits and lifestyles. but anywhere else: think residential college dining halls. and because of the importance placed on feminine beauty, most girls have further body image issues to accompany the "fat" issue. (mine: my feet are too small, my face is too round, my boobs are STILL too big, I have no waist, my back is too chubby, etc etc, neuroses neuroses. I'm serious. and that's only the tip of the iceberg.)

Now, I'm not saying all this to suggest that your article will give people eating disorders. But I am saying that your article would encourage the superficial values and aesthetics that make girls feel like they can discount everything (or just their intellects) in pursuit of the perfect appearance.

And the girls that you pick for the article probably aren't unaware that they're cute, and they're probably not unintentionally cute either. It's easy to be a sex bomb, you just have to know what you're doing. Trust me on this one. I'm not claiming that I'm anything special, I have enough of my own obsessive insecurity, but please, I worked at Hooters. I know what look to strike, okay?
And regarding the top 10 girls: being rewarded for all their hard work or unfortunate obsessing just vindicates all the time wasted in front of the mirror and encourages further obsession.

And of course I wouldn’t feel this way if it weren’t for my own personal history and related issues. (body image insecurities galore since 6th grade. yeah, you’re getting a decade of bitterness, lucky you!) But I know for a fact that I’m not the only one. And it would be nice to spare some other people this insanity. You don’t want every girl to turn out like me, do you?? That means you would have no choice but to date nutcases like me <shudder>

So spare your dating lives, and please consider an alternative that doesn’t make women feel like crap. It’s not nice to make girls cry.

At least consider addressing gender issues more directly, which I don’t think a "male sluts" section would necessarily do. sure, it’s interesting that you can make those two categories for each gender, but if you don’t acknowledge how or why, you’re just leaving it up to the rest of us. That means your message can be misunderstood, and it means some girls might prefer to obsess over appearance rather than understand your "true" message.

Or make it "the 10 most beautiful people" which is just as derivative, but provokes slightly less resentment.

Please yall.

k

Subject: Re: Camera [Help!]
Date: Sat, 13 Apr 2002
From: Alex Rosenfeld
To: Kristina Witt, Adam Nemett, Ari Samsky

Kristina, I appreciate the e-mail and the honesty within. You're probably right about most of this. It's hard to ignore the studies that have indicated again and again that articles like these induce serious body image problems in girls. You're right, too, that most of these girls don't need to be reminded of how hot they are. But now it's my turn to be honest, and brutally honest, I admit. While these issues weigh in the back of my mind, the fact of the matter is that we don't run the Nassau Weekly to be a self-help guide. Yes, every once in awhile we run an article that perhaps serves to the social betterment of the campus, but we just as often run articles that arguably serve to its detriment, and in the end neither is our overriding objective. I feel like our job is to put out an issue every week with journalism that oscillates between quality and entertaining, and sometimes even hits upon both. This issue would obviously favor the latter. As Ari has said, it is puerile, arguably sexist, and unoriginal. Yet, at the same time, every single person on this campus will be talking about it, and it has already generated more discussion than any other issue we have done this year. Perhaps, come the beginning of next fall, you can take advantage of this discussion to write an article on the insensitivity of articles like these. That's fine, I think it's healthy to be self-critical as a publication once in a while. But, as it stands right now, I think it would be ridiculous to not run this issue because of a plea for compassion for undergraduate female's body issues. Not running this issue isn't going to get rid of the problem. Publications like these will continue to exist. The general social standards forced upon women will continue to exist. Finally, the underlying human behavior that is largely responsible for these social standards will continue to exist. Put in the most dumbed-down, testosterone-ish way possible, hot girls are hot, and this ain't gonna change. Or, at least, I'm not going to hold the Nassau Weekly responsible for rectifying the underlying social and human norms that contribute to these problems.

Alex

Subject: Re: Camera [Help!]
Date: Sat, 13 Apr 2002
From: Kristina Witt
To: Alex Rosenfeld, Adam Nemett, Ari Samsky

I’m going to take the night to let the steam stop coming out of my ears so I can write a reasonable response. In the meantime, this is what I was going to send you:

I’m not holding the NW responsible. I’m holding you, Alex Rosenfeld, responsible for the ideas that you promulgate. I don’t think you should have to hide behind a publication to say, "Yes. I have no problem being a dick." Which is exactly the angle you seem to be pursuing.

I have always held you to be a professional, sensitive, receptive human being in person. I am sorry if I have been wrong.

I hope you won’t mind me writing something for the same issue. Hopefully it will be quality AND entertaining.

k

Subject: Re: Camera [Help!]
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2002
From: Alex Rosenfeld
To: Kristina Witt, Adam Nemett, Ari Samsky

Of course, we're doing the piece, so hold Adam and I personally responsible. My response is pretty much the same. I don't see it as my responsibility, whether in the context of the Nassau Weekly or as a member of the Princeton community, to act as an advocate against negative body-images among girls or eating disorders or whatever. Yes, I think it's an unfortunate situation. Yes, I'll admit I'll feel a tinge of guilt running this article knowing that it certainly won't improve this situation on our campus. But, at the same time, my determination to do this cover piece outweighs this guilt. I'm not here to fight other people's battles, and it's not right of you to force your crusade on us.
Alex

Subject: Re: Camera [Help!]
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2002
From: Kristina Witt
To: Alex Rosenfeld, Adam Nemett, Ari Samsky, Louisa Alexander, Clay Bavor, Brian Deleeuw

Alex, I’m sorry that you think I’m an extremist on a "crusade" when I suggest that you are accountable for the effects of your actions.

I didn’t really expect you to drop your article and take up some sort of humanist agenda, but I was hoping that you might be able to understand a different perspective and perhaps consider it when you pursue your writing. I tried to illustrate concrete reasons so that you could understand why some (or many) people might legitimately take issue with your article. I really am sorry that you couldn't see any real relevance in what I said.

As for your justification of the article, I cant argue with you. Hot women are hot. And boys will be boys and aardvarks will be aardvarks. Similarly, boys are not aardvarks, hot women are not (usually) boys, and aardvarks can be quite hot if you’re into that kind of thing. By this line of reasoning I understand that you have no choice but to stubbornly publish what you want to.

As Ed.in.C. you obviously have the ability to write what you want to for the most part, but it doesn’t seem quite fair that you should be able to disregard the preferences of many staff members, so please at least consider the following two suggestions:

1) As a generous gesture to the dissenting staff members, in publication could you distinguish your views from those of the Nass? like, could you make an authorial point not to incriminate the entire paper and staff when the views you express in the article will be yours as Alex Rosenfeld, and not as Ed in chief, NOT as the voice of the entire publication? I think that some might feel at least marginally more comfortable if you explicitly claim the views in the article as your own and spare the entire publication/staff responsibility. For instance, please PLEASE do not use the cover to tout "The Nassau Top
Ten" or some equivalent name that implicates the entire paper. I personally don't enjoy being associated with a paper that many view as the repository of misogynistic arrogance, but I obviously have hope for our little Nassau and want to see it grow up, get married, and settle down in a controversial, sexually-satisfied utopia.

2) Regarding the cover: why don't we name the issue, "The Battle of the Sexes"--similar to the way my cover was tempered to be "The Feminism Issue" at your suggestion. This way we can avoid another internal controversy over the content of the cover. And you would be able to make more extreme claims/pictures on the cover without my unrelenting whine--score!

please let me know what you think when you get the chance, Alex. Everybody else, how do you feel about the two point compromise? Adam, where are you?

the rest of this is just extraneous curiosity and observation: Alex, why are you so determined to go through with this article? is it the prospect of being controversial? of making a name for yourself? of meeting beautiful women?

it's easy to be controversial and piss people off. what's difficult to do is find the solution that is accessible to everyone. while I do tend to wish that you were more interested in finding the solution, I realize that it is entirely too much to ask. At the same time, I don't think that it's too much to ask that you acknowledge how your choices affect people you know. Just because "hot girls are hot" and "boys will be boys" doesn't mean that MEN have no choice but to act like little boys.

I realize that other people are bound to feel the same way you do about the boys will be boys stuff, so I genuinely hope that we can address the issues your article raises in a "Battle of the Sexes Issue". In fact, maybe this whole email debate could be edited to fit into it, eh? Journalistic opportunities everywhere!

k

Subject: Re: Camera [Help!]
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2002
From: Alex Rosenfeld
To: Kristina Witt, Adam Nemett, Ari Samsky, Louisa Alexander, Clay Bavor, Brian Deleeuw

It has nothing to do with being an extremist. I actually think your opinions are quite valid. It's rather your forcing of your moralistic viewpoint on Adam and me that I found offensive.

[Quotes Kristina: she explains that she feels that Alex ignored or dismissed her previous complaints.]

This is completely untrue. Quoted from my previous e-mails...

"You're probably right about most of this. It's hard to ignore the studies that have indicated again and again that articles like these induce serious body image problems in girls."

"Yes, I'll admit I'll feel a tinge of guilt running this article knowing that it certainly won't improve this situation on our campus."

And you've certainly had me thinking a lot about these issues over the past twenty-four hours. Just ask Dave Morris, who I talked for a near three straight hours with over our radio show today. In the end, while these issues concern me, I have no interest in picking up a humanist agenda, as you seem to have acknowledged. If you want to use the Nassau Weekly to make this world a better place, all the power to you, but don't assume everyone's approaching the paper with the same mindset. Some of us just want to entertain people and provide an energetic forum for writing and thinking, and are willing to do so even if this means running items that might serve to the detriment of certain sectors of our community.

[Quotes Kristina asking that he distinguish his viewpoints from the Nass as a whole.]

This is a very reasonable request. Adam and I were planning in our introduction to put forth the piece as being representative of the viewpoints of the two of us, of course, with the backing of a wide-range of males, as well as a few females, in the undergraduate student body. We have no intentions of making the article seem representative of the entire staff. We will similarly come up with some alternative title for the cover that does not implicate the entire staff. Along these lines, Dave Morris suggested today, during
our conversation, that any staff member who does not want their name associated with the paper for this issue should be, of course, granted this request.

I'd like the cover of the issue, including its picture and headline, to reflect the cover story. However, Adam and I would be willing to throw on a sticker or some other attention-grabbing item that would make readers aware that "other viewpoints," as well, will be expressed within the issue, whether in the form of Ari and Adam's proposed man-sluts article or a response piece written by you, Kristina. Also, along these lines, I'd like to possibly contribute a Fifth Column-ish piece to the issue that would perhaps offer an alternate commentary on the focus of the issue (and I don't really care if it is attributed to me or not).

> Alex, why are you so determined to go through with this article? Is it the prospect of being controversial? Of making a name for yourself? Of meeting beautiful women?

None and all of the above. In truth, though, I've had this idea in the back of my mind for quite awhile now. Which is nothing special, as Ari has pointed out, as this has been done thousands of times in major publications and college campuses and just about everything else. But I guess I never seriously pursued it because I was expecting, and obviously rightfully so, situations like these. What actually has me pursuing this so adamantly at this point is the reaction to the article I've gotten from the moment I've first mentioned it. As I've said before, this article has already generated more discussion than any article we've run this year, and it's not even close to being printed. Yes, there's a lot more to the Nassau Weekly than notoriety, and there are times when I'd rather run an article that maybe 5% of the campus would really understand and enjoy, but every once in awhile it's a hell of a feeling to know that you've got the entire campus reading and discussing and enjoying and arguing over something you helped to create. Simply put, it's the sheer size and momentum of this piece that is driving me at this point.

Sooner or later we've got to step up and accept human nature. If people can't handle a representation of the way things are, of the way people think, then that's their problem, not mine. Anyway, no use in getting into that argument. Hopefully we're moving towards a compromise.

Alex

Subject: Re: Camera [Help!]
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2002
From: Louisa Alexander
To: Alex Rosenfeld, Adam Nemett, Ari Samsky, Kristina Witt

I also take issue with the article for lots of reasons. I didn't want to send this out to the whole list for fear of being irritating and preachy and repetitive, so I thought I would just send it along to you guys. fully knowing that you're not going to change your mind about the article, I figured I would at least say that I disagree with it. call me a penis-hating feminist, call me an irritating (former) women's studies certificate bitch, call me whatever you want. here are my grievances:

first of all, saying "oh well, eating disorders and negative body-image problems exist, why not just promote them further?" doesn't cut it for me. this campus is already disgusting from the female perspective. why make it worse? I have to wonder (as Kristina already said) why you want to print this article. what's the point? entertainment value? I can't say that entertaining a few panting, horny men is worth promoting poor body image and eating disorders. have you SEEN 90% of the girls on this campus? if it's not anorexia, it's stairmaster-until-you-weigh-100lbs. they have problems. major problems. and you're just going to exacerbate them. it's just like the article I wrote last week (to talk about ME, ME, ME!): it's the little things, the little comments, that make the big shit hit the fan.

I also agree with Kristina on indicating somehow that your views are not the views of the Nass, itself. being controversial when there's a point -- now that I can see, and I'm willing to defend it. but being controversial because some girls on this campus happen to be hot? I don't really buy that.

ok, I will now leave you all alone and cry hysterically about my JP.
toodles,
Louisa

PS: this isn't a "certain sector" of our community. It's 50% of it. Just a thought.

One more thing. Then I will stop, I promise.

"If people can't handle a representation of the way things are, of the way people think, then that's their problem, not mine."

Wouldn't it be nice to change this instead of perpetuating it? Maybe I'm just a crazy progressive.

Subject: Re: Camera [Help!]
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2002
From: Alex Rosenfeld
To: Adam Nemett, Ari Samsky, Louisa Alexander, Kristina Witt

> first of all, saying "oh well, eating disorders and negative body-image
> problems exist, why not just promote them further?" doesn't cut it for me.

This is a enormous, endless debate, evidenced enough by the fact that Dave and I went on for a good three hours about this without really feeling any more satisfied with ourselves. First of all, we are not directly promoting eating disorders and negative body-images. In fact, the driving basis for our article is a positive one. We are acknowledging and celebrating girls who are physically attractive. It's as simple as that. The problem is introduced not by the article itself but by the irrational and destructive thinking that consumes way too many girls in our society, and, yes, especially our campus. These girls are unable to accept the fact that they are who they are, and eating disorders and whatever other drastic, unhealthy steps they take aren't going to change this. Not publishing this article, not publishing the thousands of other articles like these, tearing down all the ads and posters and stripmalls isn't going to change this, because it's still a reality these girls are going to have to face in everyday life. Again, whether you like it or not, our reliance on physical attraction is a reality of human nature, and, as far as I'm concerned, concealing this facet of human nature, pretending it doesn't exist, isn't going to do anyone any good.

Alex

Subject: Re: Camera [Help!]
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2002
From: Ari Samsky
To: Alex Rosenfeld, Kristina Witt, Adam Nemett, Louisa Alexander

I think Alex has a really good point here from a practical point of view. If rail-thin models disappear from the pages of the Nass, there'll still be hundreds more on OWL posters and Gap ads and everywhere else, and as long as we don't title the article: "Celebrating Anorexia: You Barf, girls!" we probably won't be making things noticeably worse.

From an ideological point of view, though, things are different. I had a history teacher in high school who always asked the ad absurdum (or something) test to get people to think about consequences. It was insulting then, and I'm sure that it's insulting now, but here goes. Basically, think about what would happen if EVERY SINGLE other person did what you were doing. If everyone littered all the time, then the country turns into a garbagey hellhole. If everyone prints photographs of unhealthy women as an ideal all the time, then almost all women are going to be unhealthy or un-ideal. Clearly, as I said above, one magazine article at some furious little low-budget campus weakly is going to fade away like a fart in a windstorm. But maybe we should still think if it's worth the momentary sacrifice in fun and attention to make a totally indistinguishable change in things. It's a difficult question, and one which I personally answer incorrectly almost all the time (i.e. smoking, throwing things on the floor, not ever volunteering). But I think it's good that we're all considering it.

I 'unno,
Subject: Re: Camera [Help!]
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2002
From: Alex Rosenfeld
To: Adam Nemett, Ari Samsky, Louisa Alexander, Kristina Witt

Until evolution has mercy on us, change is largely a pipe-dream. I think acceptance is the more important objective for our society, if only because it is perhaps attainable. You can get rid of all the magazines, all the billboards, all the television shows, and all the actresses. It won't make all that much of a difference. In the social setting of every day life, attractive girls are still going to get multiple times more attention from guys who are merely acting on their instinctive impulses, inevitably leaving less attractive girls with negative self-images and disorders galore. It's the way of the world, or, as Madonna put it on Erotica, I believe, "It's human nature." Refusing to acknowledge this reality isn't going to change anything. Scorning those who represent and perhaps even celebrate the positive aspects of this reality isn't going to change anything. The most that one can do is accept this reality and move on, as hard if not impossible as that is to do. Life sucks, don't think I don't feel this as much as the rest of you...

Alex

Subject: Re: Camera [Help!]
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2002
From: Louisa Alexander
To: Alex Rosenfeld, Adam Nemett, Ari Samsky, Kristina Witt

I agree with Ari...this is a pointless debate because none of us will change our mind. isn't that what you said?? I've been in a window-less office for 4 hours now, so I'm really not sure. but a few things to ponder:

"The problem is introduced not by the article itself but by the irrational and destructive thinking that consumes way too many girls in our society, and, yes, especially our campus."

yes, and where do you think this irrational thinking comes from? we're not all just lunatics -- these concepts of physical beauty actually come from somewhere. specifically, articles like this. yes, there are a gazillion other things out there that tell women they are sexual objects, beauty is all that matters, fat is bad, etc etc etc. so why do we have to add yet another one to the pile? I think it's really sad that, in order to reach more of the campus, we have to print this. that just sucks. why do we even WANT to reach that portion of the campus? if all they want is poop jokes and titties, why do we want to cater to them? I guess I should just move to Canada or something.

"In fact, the driving basis for our article is a positive one. We are acknowledging and celebrating girls who are physically attractive. It's as simple as that."

right, and me writing an article celebrating the 10 most dinosauric wangs on campus would make all men, even the ones with teensy wangs, feel good about themselves. just pointing out the incredibly obvious fact that there are gargantuan penises out there makes every man, especially those with small wee wees, feel great, because enormous wangs are something to be celebrated.

telling 10 girls they are hot makes a lot more feel like shit. that's so pointless.

is it spring yet? I cant tell if it's time to come out of hibernation or not...

-Louisa

Subject: Ignoring Mr. Price
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2002
From: Kristina Witt
To: Alex Rosenfeld, Louisa Alexander, Adam Nemett, Ari Samsky
what does all that have to do with journalism? I understand this predictable philosophy for the jaded, but just because you have this particular view doesn’t mean that it should dictate what goes in the Nass. Now this is different from saying that this view shouldn’t be printed in the Nass, because it should be printed. maybe the real problem comes from failing to distinguish between editorial powers and writer rights. right now I think the two are getting confused.

Alex, you have an interesting perspective that should be represented, but it should be regarded as a unique view that can hardly override everyone else’s judgement in the editorial vision. I’m really impressed that you are so stubborn, but of course I can only say that because I am too.

I UTTERLY disagree with your philosophy, but that’s to be expected, and I will save the explanation for an article, not for this editorial debate.

In the meantime, let’s all chill out and see how things progress. please think about the “Battle of the Sexes” issue—the cover article would certainly still be represented on the cover, but it really might provide the most convenient way to agree to disagree.

k

Subject: listen up little man
Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2002
From: Kristina Witt
To: Alex, Adam, Ari, Louisa, Clay

(THE LAST EMAIL FROM ME, I promise)

Alex,

notice how the email subject title is unnecessarily cruel (inconsiderate to say the least) and arrogant. you might feel powerless and resentful if you couldn’t reply to it until next fall. and notice too that even if it was a genuinely issued statement (it’s not), it’s thoughtlessness can’t be excused as “honest,” because a writer didn’t have to subject you to it.

may this isn’t so different from your hot chicks article.

as a writer, one should of course be honest—isn’t that what makes good writing? but I think you are neglecting your job as an EdinChief if you don’t consider:
1) your audience: You don’t mind hurting “certain sectors”=most of the college demographic/your readership You asked the entire community to save the Nass and now you don’t take them all into account
2) how to deal with the rest of the staff in a more effective manner.
I tried to approach you at a personal level about your article. I wanted to avoid some stupid power struggle, but you were unwilling to compromise: you were willing to claim your article independently of your position at the Nass, but that’s the only concession you were willing to make, and apparently you were going to do it anyway. and suggesting that we drop our names from the last issue is hardly a solution. It should be patently inappropriate to tell us to piss off like that every time you want to unequivocally have your way.
Adam, I haven’t directed any ranting at you because I got the impression that you have a different, more nuanced motivation for your article and I really appreciated the fact that you were willing to make it a cooperative venture.

THE POINT OF THIS EMAIL:
Please be advised that I will shortly be informing various email lists about the article.

Alex, this may be exactly what you want—good. Im down with gender discussion. but if this upsets you, I should explain why I don’t think this move is entirely inappropriate. when I talked to Adam, he specifically endorsed spreading the word. but I also think that making this the last issue of the year makes victims of the people who object, because it effectively silences them. If you were genuine about your interest in sparking debate, these other views deserve to have their say.

On an informal note, let me briefly suggest that if you make people feel silenced and powerless, they are likely to embrace other modes of expression, including but not limited to tearing down posters. Like I suggested at the beginning of this email, you would probably feel hurt and powerless and frustrated if you
couldnt reply to this email until next fall, and you would probably search for some other way to express yourself. This constitutes the last of my objections. You must be my muse, Alex.

   good luck on the article, see you at the meeting

Kris the-Latina-tempered-despite-the-German-last-name Witt