

The Behrend Beacon

Playboy baring its ugly side

by Lenore Skenazy New York Daily News

Playboy: a magazine published by a prune in pajamas who actually believes those blond twins think he's hot.

That's pretty much what I thought of the venerable porn publication until last week. Then came the Enron offer: Any woman laid off by the corrupt corporation was invited to apply for the "exciting opportunity" to pose for a pictorial.

Wear a lot, earn a little. Wear a little, earn a lot.

On Monday, Playgirl launched a similar salvo, soliciting Men of Enron hunks, and this just seemed like a great publicity stunt. Got us all giggling. A guy taking off his clothes is goofy.

But a desperate woman taking her clothes off is a much sadder, older story. In fact, it's pretty much the oldest story of the world's oldest profession. Which is what makes Playboy's offer so gross.

"What kind of scavenger scum would say, 'Oh, gee, I've got a great idea! Let's get the women who have just lost their jobs and life savings and give them a chance to pose naked?'" rails my friend Laura. "To me, that's picking on a group of vulnerable people who just happen to have breasts."

In the past, Playboy's pictorials didn't focus on the downtrodden. They featured college students - the Women of the Ivy League, for instance - or the women of sundry piquant professions: the Women of Wall Street, of Washington, even the Women of the IRS.

What did all these ladies have in



Hugh Hefner shows off a future Playboy Bunny.



We can all agree...It was the shoes that made Hugh famous.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PLAYBOY

common? Power. Those Ivy League lasses will one day run America. The women of Washington already do. And the chicks at the IRS can reduce any man to tears.

Guys got a kick out of seeing these ladies naked because it turned the tables: Intimidating women were now submissive. The man was on top.

Which is fine. That's the nature of pornography: Men fantasizing about willing women. And if these power babes stripped for fun or pocket money or plain

old naughtiness, that was their choice.

But the women of Enron are the opposite of powerful. They are out of work. Many have children to feed. Some may feel they have only one thing left to sell.

And Playboy's buying. "When one door closes, another one opens!" is how Gary Cole, Playboy's photography editor, describes the Enron offer. But what door, exactly, is opening?

The door to a great new job that just happens to require nudity before an au-

dience of horny men? Sounds more like the end of the line.

"We're not forcing them to do anything," insists Playboy Enterprises' spokesman Bill Farley. True. And neither are the guys who come to starving villages, offering cash for the cutest girls.

But there's a word for those men, just like there's a word for the folks at Playboy: Pimp.

HOROSCOPES

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 6 - "Show me the money!" That's what you'll be saying. Go straight to the bottom line. April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - You're gaining respect by voicing your well-reasoned philosophy.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 - Take it slow and easy a little while longer. Do more planning.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - Confer with friends to complete a tricky assignment. One of you should have the perfect scheme.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - If you practiced over the weekend, you're well prepared. If you didn't, you may not perform as well as you know you could.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - Be trustworthy and practical now, and you'll get more responsibility soon.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct 22) - Today is a 7 - You're anxious to act, but something is holding you back. Is it unjustified anxiety, or good sense? Probably the latter. There's something to be said for being sure you can pay the bills before incurring them.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 7 - Make a solid connection with someone you know you can trust. After that's done, it'll be easy to discuss a delicate subject, like who's going to pay for what. You'll both feel better once that's done.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - You're still in a take-charge frame of mind. The most disgusting tasks on your list will be easy.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is an 8 - There's a glow left over from this weekend. Enjoy it as you ease into your soon-to-be busy schedule.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 6 - After getting off to a slow start, you may start to wake up tonight.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is an 8 - A preconceived notion topples as you gain knowledge and experience. Something you thought was too difficult gets easy. But the reverse could happen, too, so don't get cocky.

Through the Looking Glass

the weekly column that asks if there is intelligent life out there

by Mike Pingree KRT Campus

HE DID SEEM OUT-OF-SORTS LATELY

A 47-year-old Colorado man has been convicted of assault for spitting carrots at a deputy sheriff, but his legal troubles are not over.

He still faces separate trials on the following charges: threatening a bond commissioner, threatening a Burger King employee and trying to kill his girlfriend with a sword.

WE'LL REALLY MISS THEM ... UH, HER

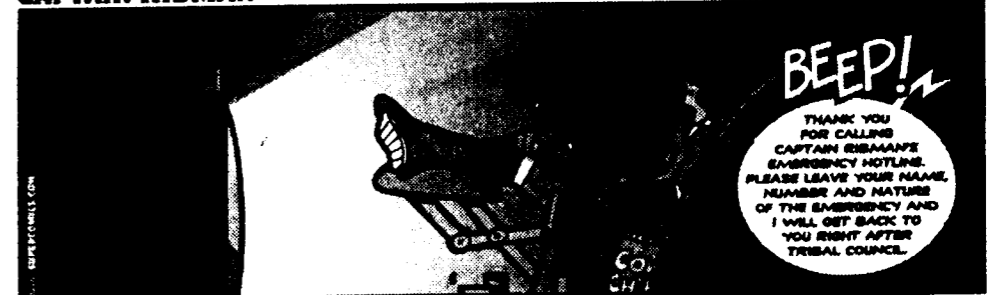
Lolo Ferrari, France's most famous porn star, died two years ago of what police in Marseille said at the time were natural causes. They have since revised the cause of death for the lovely Lolo, who boasted 71-inch breasts. Suffocation. It's not what you may think. Her husband has been arrested for her murder.

LOOKS LIKE A CASE FOR THE SANDMAN

Silvia Umile, a fortune teller in Las Heras, Argentina, accused a local woman of sneaking into her dreams at night and stealing her powers to predict winning lottery numbers. Authorities have thus far declined to file charges.

CAPTAIN RIBMAN in Tele-Visions

by Sprengelmeyer & Davis



PAUL

BY BILLY O'KEEFE www.mrribby.com



Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

Recipes for You! Milkshakes section with ingredients and instructions.

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling comic strip and promotional text.