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Make an informed choice

An open letter to anyone interested in posing for Playboy's Big 12 issue. And maybe to its readers as well.

To all women who would pose for the up-coming Women of the Big 12 issue of *Playboy* Magazine: It is your choice, of course, to appear in this magazine.

We can't presume to know all of the thoughts that will go into your decision making process.

Maybe you are proud of your body. You want the attention. Or the money. You're only young and beautiful for a short time. You think it could help your dream of getting into show business or modeling. We're not going to begrudge you of your ability to make an educated decision.

But we'd like to you to consider a few issues before you decide to become Iowa State's pinup mascot.

The women who appear in *Playboy* will be reduced to a face and a body. They will be judged by the size of their breasts and their thighs. These models will become objects of sexual desire.

If you pose, you are not a person. The men who see your picture won't care what your dream job would be. They don't care how hard you worked on your class project. They could care a less about your opinions on issues of racism or politics or anything that is important to you.

Consider what *Playboy* stands for and represents. *Playboy* and magazines like it engineer and subconsciously cultivate the ideal image of women and of beauty.

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Consider the status of women in our society today. America ranks right at the top for incidents of bulimia and anorexia. While you might not be personally responsible, do you want to be a part of the industry, even to a small degree, perpetuating of this stereotype, of an ideal of beauty that a minority of women can ever hope to attain, while almost all are expected to?

Finally consider the personal consequences of your actions. These pictures will never go away. Whether you want to be known as teacher, coach, doctor, engineer, boss, CEO, mom, school board president or city mayor, you always face the threat of being known as a *Playboy* model.

Please consider why you want to pose... and decide for yourself whether the few hundred dollars you get paid will be worth the many possible consequences.