

Student acts as executive editor of national magazine

Eric Dawson
Features Editor

Those who have been to a local newsstand recently may have recognized one of Guilford's familiar faces on the cover of a national magazine.

Jodie Hargus, a first year student, worked as an executive editor for the December issue of *Sassy* magazine, and, rather serendipitously, wound up on the cover of the same issue.

Sassy, a progressive magazine for teenagers, provides a more in-depth alternative to the majority of the other magazines of its genre.

"*Sassy* just isn't about how to get a boyfriend or put on make-up," Hargus said, explaining that the magazine has been known for dealing with issues ranging from homosexuality to premarital sex.

As a result of these controversial topics, *Sassy's* first attempt failed. The moral majority accused the magazine of "talking dirty" to children, and as a result its advertisers pulled out and the magazine collapsed.

Hargus has her own thoughts on this turn of events in the magazine's history: "It's not talking dirty when 13-year-old girls are getting pregnant. . . if you think that inciting thought is evil, then something's wrong."

Since the magazine's brief demise, *Sassy* acquired a new publisher. With a promise of "playing by the rules," the magazine has now regained much of its popular status.

In spite of the magazine's freedom, Hargus laments the fact that the people with the money are in actual control of the magazine. Topics such as abortion and homosexuality are not discussed, because they are considered too controversial, and Hargus encountered frustration when such issues she considered important were deemed "too harsh" by the magazine's publishers.

Hargus, a potential biology and English major, would like to go to medical school, but she is also interested in journalism. In addition to the work she did on her high school newspaper, her brief but active experience with *Sassy* has provided her with what she feels is a strong base for future journalistic work.

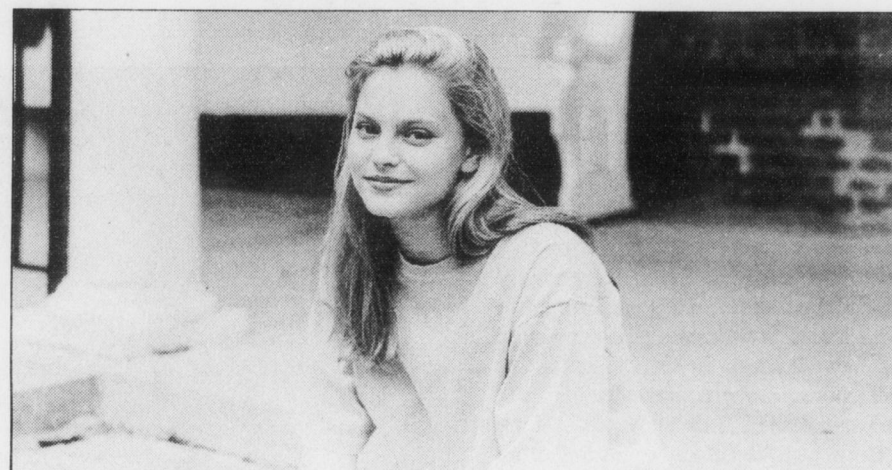


photo by Scott Shaffer

Freshman Jodie Hargus appears on the December cover of *Sassy* magazine.

Hargus got her chance with *Sassy* when she read that the magazine was planning a reader-produced issue. She submitted a few articles she had written (on private versus public schools and cheerleaders being seen as sex objects), along with a self-edited version of an already published article.

Hargus applied to be a writer, and though she also applied for the position of executive editor, she doubted her chances.

"I didn't think I'd get it," she said about the executive editorship, and added modestly that she had doubted her chances for any position.

Before Hargus knew what was happening, however, she was on a paid flight to New York, where she stayed three weeks in a Park Avenue hotel. She lived with a group of other, similarly selected students, who though considered the "radicals" of their schools, found themselves bonded by their common humanitarian and environmental concerns.

Sexism, the topic of Hargus' article in this month's issue of *Sassy*, was one of these concerns. Her original piece was considered too abrasive by the publisher, who told Hargus to remember the audience and that a lot of girls would be turned off by articles on feminism.

"I wasn't going to sell out," said Hargus, who took a train to New York a few weekends ago to see personally to the problems with the article.

Hargus does not see herself as a radical, but, rather, considers her message one of common sense. "Sexism

is such a major part of our current paradigm we can't even see it," she said. "Feminism is liberating men, too. . . pushing us all towards a more egalitarian society."

As for the magazine's cover, Hargus was asked to do some shoots, and though she originally wanted to have many-colored hands on the cover (representing racial unity), the final decision was to keep the cover with Hargus and the two models.

After the three weeks in New York, Hargus' impression of journalism and journalists was reinforced. "Journalism is stressful," she said. "And journalists have such fragile egos."

In spite of the stress, Hargus remains interested in journalism and writing, and she continues to hold fast to her strong but simple belief, "You can only be a victim for so long until you start working for change."

Time. Money.

Our variable hours can help you make the most of both.

Because American Express is expanding in Greensboro, we're currently looking for individuals experienced in customer service/collections to fill the positions of Credit Authorizer and Credit Analyst. Using your sound credit judgement, you will offer our customers quality service while analyzing charge requests. Your responsibilities will include handling special calls, collecting past due accounts, learning how new strategies impact the department and company, and understanding Federal, State and local credit granting regulations.

To qualify, you should have at least one year's experience in the credit/collections field or in customer service. You must also be excellent in decision-making and problem-solving with the ability to work at a fast pace in a volume-driven environment. Your hours will vary, and will include holiday and weekend shifts.

For more information, please call 1-800-966-8532, ext. 020-XAA. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES
An American Express company

IT PAYS TO WORK AT
AMERICAN EXPRESS

Happy
Thanksgiving!
Enter to WIN

A Panasonic
Cassette Player
(No Purchase Necessary)
Drawing to be held 2:00
pm Wed., Nov. 27
in the BOOKSTORE



The Guilford
College Bookstore
Founders Hall

Free Travel, Cash, & Excellent Business Experience!! Openings available for individuals or student organizations to promote the country's most successful SPRING BREAK tours. Call Inter-Campus Programs 1-800-327-6013