

Post 9/19/95

Newt Gingrich, Buttoned Up for Playboy

Playboy thought it had nabbed House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** for its January interview. "People quite close to the speaker, key staff people, were really excited" about Gingrich having a forum, said Gaithersburg writer **Brian J. Karem** yesterday. Then Gingrich press secretary **Tony Blankley** got involved and spoiled the fun—ruling that all that female flesh blurs family values.

"There are a lot of serious journals that reach millions of Americans that don't have beautiful women as foldouts, and I think we will start with those journals,"

Blankley said yesterday. (Does that mean Gingrich would be interviewed by a serious skin mag as long as the naked nymphets were homely?)

Playboy interview editor **Bruce Kluger** said he's disappointed: "We still consider ourselves the best Q-and-A in journalism."

Karem, whose Q-and-A with **G. Gordon Liddy** appears in the November issue, said he's a bit confused: "Considering the verbiage that Mr. Gingrich has put down on paper himself," said Karem, referring to an early version of "1945," the speaker's novel, "I'm not sure exactly what it is that bothers him most about Playboy."
