

MULTIPLE CHOICE



MICHAEL KIENTZ—PICTURE GROUP

Site seers: Mayan excavation

Digging It in Belize

It wasn't as much fun as Daytona Beach, but four University of Wisconsin students opted for a different kind of break this year when they worked at the excavation of an ancient Mayan city. The site, known as Chacben Kax, was discovered last year by Wisconsin anthropology graduate student J. Jefferson MacKinnon in the tiny Central American republic of Belize.

During their six weeks with the project, the amateur diggers worked long, strenuous days, rising at 6:30 a.m. and traveling nearly one and a half hours by canoe and truck to the ruins. While working on the dig, they had to fend off a host of uninvited guests, including tarantulas and scorpions. "Bug bites become the prime topic of conversation,"

says MacKinnon, 43. Of course, there was snorkeling on a nearby beach as compensation. But most important to anthropology undergraduate Emily May was an "overwhelming" sense of discovery: "You knew that it was the first time in hundreds of years that people had been standing there."

Scholarly Swap Meet

Once V. R. (Swede) Roskam traded a horse for somebody's college education. He has also swapped a nuclear magnetic resonator, file cabinets and cans of paint for his scholarly cause. Roskam's Educational Assistance Limited in Wheaton, Ill., persuades corporations to donate surplus items to colleges in exchange for a tax write-off and some good public relations. In

return, the colleges offer deserving students scholarship credits that equal the value of the gift. Since its start in 1983, EAL has raised \$2 million in scholarship credit from 60 firms, sending 400 students to 140 small colleges.

Roskam, 57, attended Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., when his well-to-do neighbors in Waterloo, Iowa, paid his way. Now on leave from his job as a vice president of Oil-Dri Corp., he returns the favor by finding "empty seats" at small liberal-arts colleges. They tell Roskam about students who need more help than the college can give, and he works out the rest. North Park College in Chicago, for example, has given nearly 50 scholarships in exchange for 217 telephones, 400 bags of soil conditioner for the football field and other goods. But these aren't white-elephant sales. "We always try to take things we would have had to buy," says comptroller Mark LaBarbera.

Bartering up: Trading surplus equipment for scholarships

ILLUSTRATION BY PETER DÖSEVE



A Bad Kind of Sex Equality

There's disturbing proof that college women are achieving equality with men in at least one area: many of them have become problem drinkers. According to a continuing nationwide study led by Ruth Engs, associate professor of applied health science at Indiana University, 80 percent of college women drink. (Compared with 87 percent of college men.) Between 1977 and 1985, the number of college women who drank heavily (six or more drinks at one sitting at least once a week) rose from 4 to 14 percent. Though they are better off than college men, of whom 33 percent are classified as heavy drinkers, women picked up some rotten habits—24 percent missed class last year because of a hangover.

Such statistics helped persuade the Association of Junior Leagues to launch Woman to Woman, a national alcohol-awareness campaign, on dozens of campuses next fall. Part of the message it will deliver through sorority seminars, pamphlets and posters will be that young women don't realize that they—or their friends—have a problem. "Women rarely 'act out' when they're drinking," says Keven Bellows, the project's director. "They don't put toilets on the top of the fraternity house." Yet women may suffer even more than men from alcohol abuse. Because women's bodies have a lower proportion of water, alcohol enters the blood in more concentrated form, and they tend to get drunker than men on the same amount. Habitual drinking increases a woman's chances of infertility, miscarriages and stillbirths, as well as breast cancer and liver disease. And daughters of alcoholics need to be especially careful, since up to half of all women raised in alcoholic families become—or marry—alcoholics.