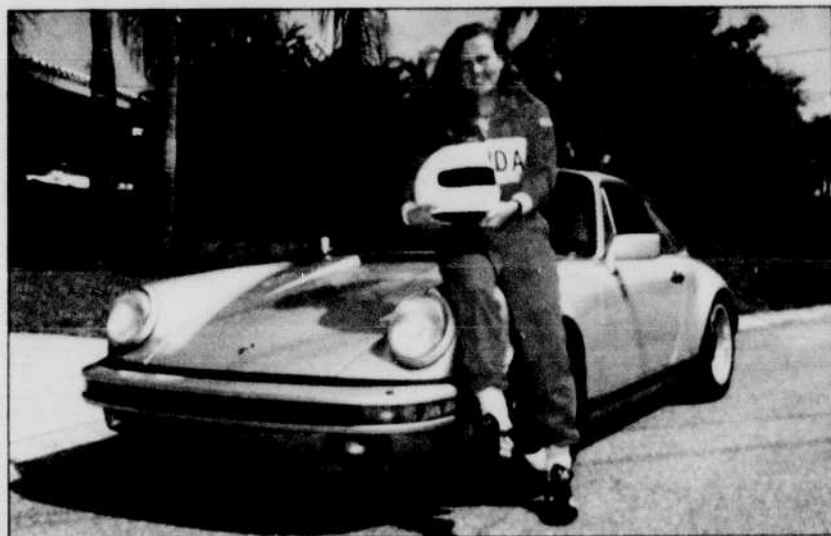


Stanford U. sophomore Kathryn Johnson feels the need for speed.



was the only driver not to spin out in a race simulation.

Johnson had made a statement.

"At first, they wouldn't ask me how to go through turns," she says. "They'd ask other guys in the class. 'So what's your line through this turn?'... Finally, after they saw that I could actually drive, they started to approach me and ask me things."

Johnson's experiences have fueled her ambition. And that ambition has driven her since age 11 when she first made a mark, although a small one, in the racing world.

Racing a go-cart, she won a plaque for being the fastest driver of the day. "It was an omen," she says. Johnson later skipped her senior prom to see the Indianapolis 500.

For now, she knows it will take time to rise to the top in the ultra-competitive field of auto racing, and at 18, she has plenty of that to spare.

Family friend Nigel Mansell raced Formula One competitions 13 years before winning the Formula One Championship, the highest honor in the auto racing world.

And Johnson's own ultimate dream is to win the Formula One title herself, regardless of what age she might be — or pretend to be. ■ Tyson Vaughan, *Stanford Daily*, Stanford U.

► A drop in the bucket — students bank on bodies

Like many college students, Eric was having trouble making ends meet.

Then the U. of California, Los Angeles, senior found a job that seemed ideal.

He doesn't answer phones, push papers or flip burgers. And he earns up to \$70 a week for less than an hour's work.

But if you ask Eric where he goes twice a week, he probably won't tell you he's a regular sperm donor.

Eric (not his real name) has been donating twice a week for more than a year. He is one of a number of college students earning top dollar by exploiting his natural resources.

"There's a lot of people who have odd ideas about it," he says. "But it's definitely benefiting the ladies who want kids and it's benefiting the guys who are earning money."

Karen Fox, lab manager for California Cryobank, says most sperm donors are college-age men who are healthy, in good shape and need extra money. The company operates sperm banks near the U. of California, Berkeley, and Stanford U. campuses. At the facility near Stanford, 35 of the 40 regular donors are college students.

The high number of student donors is a matter of simple economics, Fox says. "Recipients seem to want somebody with a college education," she says. "And when you're in school, you need money. This gives students some spending money."

A good sperm sample — one that has a high sperm count and survives the freezing process — can earn donors up to \$35. Donors go to a sperm bank, where pornographic videos and magazines are provided to facilitate ejaculation. After 10 reported pregnancies, donors are dropped from the program.

Eric says fathering children he never will know doesn't bother him.

"You don't think about that too much," he says. "Donors have no connection with the ladies. After awhile, it's just something you do."

Donating plasma is another way students sell themselves for quick cash.

When Ohio State U. senior Andy Beshuk needed money to fix his car's leaking radiator, he answered a newspaper advertisement for a plasma center that promised to pay \$60 for four donations.

"I was just hard up for money," Beshuk says. "It still wasn't enough to fix my car."

About one-third of the donors at PBI Plasma Center in Huntington, W. Va., come from nearby Marshall U., says Janet Dunkle, manager of the center.

"They're fun to have around," she says. "They're generally in good shape and they're younger."

Regular donors can make about \$130 each month at the center.

Regardless of the financial gain available, some doctors warn students against becoming overzealous donors. Going under the plasma-filtering needle more than once every two months can depress the immune system and increase the risk of bacterial infections, says Curtis Liu, a

doctor at the Lane Memorial Bloodbank in Eugene, Ore.

"It's like anything else, if you do things in moderation, they have no ill effect on your health." ■ Tim Neff, *Oregon Daily Emerald*, U. of Oregon

► Crowds don't get any tougher than this

Got some jokes for you: How does a blonde turn on the light after sex?... She opens the car door. What does a blonde use for ankle warmers?... Her underwear.

If you laughed, should you be ashamed of yourself? Doesn't the prevailing sensitivity on college campuses tell us it's not right to make fun of other people? Has joke-telling become politically incorrect?

Although campus comics say the art of telling potentially offensive jokes lives on, students today are cautious about where and to whom they'll tell certain puns.

"People still tell off-color jokes," says Jay Woodruff, a senior at Wake Forest U. in North Carolina. "They just watch what they say depending on who is around them."

The atmosphere of increased sensitivity to others forces many jokes to be told in smaller and closer-knit groups of students, says Lawrence Harmon, a senior at Furman U. in South Carolina. But jokes about minorities, homosexuals and women continue to be heard around campus.

In the wake of political correctness on campus, though, many students may be taking the edge off their jokes.

Robert Schmuhl, a professor of American studies at the U. of Notre Dame, says sensitivity to diverse groups on campus has caused greater awareness of the differences in jokes people will tell in certain situations.

"In private, if students think that they are not hurting anyone's feelings, they exchange jokes with more of a bite to them," he says. In public, jokers try to avoid the rough edges on humor that might invite conflict.

Though they may be offended by an off-color joke, students rarely speak up, says Schmuhl, who teaches a class on American humor.

But Harmon says those who are offended should realize students are just trying to have some fun. "Jokes are just jokes and you don't really think people believe them." ■ Matthew Hennie, *The Paladin*, Furman U.



► **WORTH A LAUGH...**
"I couldn't do a worse job raising my kid alone than the Reagans did with theirs."
— Murphy Brown, played by actress Candice Bergen