

HELP! MY MOUTH IS ON FIRE!

Mankato State U., Minn. — And now this, from the People Who Cause Themselves Great Pain for School Spirit desk....

Short Takes

Things heated up at Mankato State U.'s homecoming celebration as it hosted its first jalapeño pepper eating contest. Students took the hot seat to test their taste buds and see who could consume the most peppers. Curt Peters, a junior, cried out in pain after only two bites: "My face has that funky feeling. I wish my mother had taught me to eat spicy food." After 10 minutes and only three potent peppers devoured, Peters was named the victor. He took home a prize basket filled with spicy fare, including Tabasco sauce, bell peppers, a 32-ounce can of jalapeños and a certificate for an all-expenses-paid date with Rita Moreno. Just kidding.

CELEBRITY SIGHTING

Cornell U. — Have you touched Carl Sagan? If you have, *The Cornell Review* wants to hear about it. Students who have physically touched Sagan were asked to submit a 500-word essay describing the experience.

David Curran, contributing editor to *The Review*, says the essay contest is not just a joke. He says high-profile professors like Sagan demonstrate a growing gap between students and faculty. Often universities "buy" a professor for the name — like Calvin Klein or Jordache — and worry about "fitting" him or her into the university later.

Between tapings of *Full House* and *America's Funniest Home Videos*, Carl Sagan probably does have a busier schedule than most professors. Or is that Bob Saget?

HALF THE MAN HE USED TO BE

Michigan State U. — When Michigan State U. *State News* reporter Laurie Kraus set up an interview with John Wayne Bobbitt, she had no idea she'd catch a glimpse of the world's most famous penis. *State News* photographer Darrell Taunt persuaded Bobbitt to pose nude holding his new pornographic video, *John Wayne Bobbitt, Uncut*, in front of his reconnected member. Kraus was not allowed in the photo area, but after the picture was snapped, Bobbitt — gentleman that he is — offered her a peek. He unzipped his pants and displayed his package for Kraus and *State News* entertainment editor Kevin Doak. The temptation to make some sort of witty pun here is just awful, believe us.

\$800 Pyramid Sham

The great Pharaohs of Egypt probably would not have approved of the pyramid building that's going on at West Virginia U., where students looking for a fast buck think they've found the way to strike it rich.

The name of the game is Pyramid, and the rules sound deceptively simple. You give the "president" of the Pyramid \$100 to become a "member" of the club.

As a member, it's your duty to sign up other members. Friends, relatives, pets, strangers — anyone will do. As you sign two people up, collect their \$100 and give it to the president, you move up the Pyramid.

Once you recruit a total of eight members for your Pyramid, you become presi-

dent of a new Pyramid. When your Pyramid workers are finished recruiting, you become \$800 richer and retire.

Although it took ancient Egyptians years to build the great pyramids, WVU students say it takes them only about a week.

But it's not carved in stone that all players will be winners. Although they risk becoming slaves to their bank statements if they can't get any more recruits, players also take a bigger risk, because the Pyramid isn't just a game — it's money laundering and racketeering, and playing it could land you up to 20 years in jail, according to the West Virginia State Attorney's office.

Even though the game has been outlawed in 46 states, including West Virginia, college students like junior King Tut* are still taking the risk.

"I'm not worried about getting caught," Tut says. "I'm just worried about getting my money. The cops here have better things to do than bust some kids for making a little money."

Tut is playing the Pyramid for the second time. He started off on the bottom rung of the Pyramid after giving \$100 to his recruiter. That \$100 has put \$600 in his pocket. And he's hoping for more.

"I made it to president in two days," he says. "That was a quick \$600. Now I started playing my second Pyramid, and I'm

moving up fast. That'll be a quick \$1,400."

There's no real strategy to the game; players just have to assure potential players they can make a quick

buck, too, Tut says. "It's not hard to get people to join. You just have to bullshit with them. Once you get them in, you're closer to making money."

If you want to play the Pyramid and make money, you've got to recruit hard, sophomore Pharaoh Fawcett says. When players become lax about recruiting new members, the Pyramid crumbles.

"I put in \$100 and made \$500 in a couple days," he says. "I should have gotten \$800, but the guys underneath didn't do any work. Those guys are the ones that really got screwed out of money."

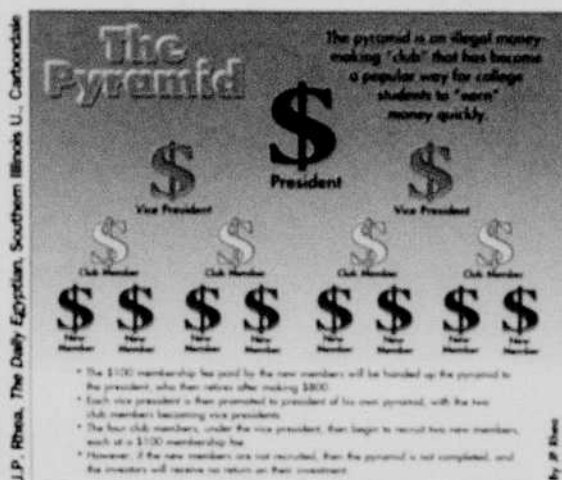
Recruiting is the toughest part of the game, Fawcett says, and every member has a "duty to recruit." If you bring in new members, then you can make money. "I recruited 13 people. It wasn't hard. It's profitable if you do your job.... The money will keep rolling and rolling in."

When the recruiting slows, the dark side of the Pyramid takes over. Junior D. Mummy should know — he put \$100 into the Pyramid, but he hasn't seen the treasures of the game yet. And he doesn't think he'll ever see his money again.

"I thought it was a quick buck," Mummy says. "It's not really as simple as people think. But I really can't be mad. That's what happens when you make a stupid move."

*Names in this article have been changed.

■ Stacy Kennell, *Daily Athenaeum*, West Virginia U.



Rebel Yale

How would you like to watch a male strip show, rent X-rated videos and buy vibrators from a sex shop — all in the name of research?

Jessica Kaufman and Annie Paul found it a bit embarrassing at first. But they soon got over those red-faced moments.

Yale U. seniors and roommates, Kaufman and Paul are the new editors of *The Yale Woman*. And for their first issue last spring,

they refocused the aims of the two-year-old publication and reinvented the magazine's feminist perspective.

"We wanted it to be an open forum for female thought and opinion on campus," says 21-year-old Kaufman, who is majoring in art and American studies.

As contributors to the magazine their freshman — uh, freshman — year, they found the content of *The Yale Woman* boring and unsatisfying.

So the theme of their first issue? Sex and

the Yale Woman.

Paul, a 22-year-old American studies major, says she and Kaufman wanted to produce "something

provocative" that would make it clear that the magazine had been rejuvenated.

What exactly were students swallowing when they snatched up the 5,000 copies? How about an informal, anything-goes rap session with seven women of varied sexual experience who discussed their perspectives on sex and sexuality at Yale? Or two "sexplorers" — that's "editors" in *The Yale Woman* lingo — investigating the porn shops of New Haven, Conn. Or a personal account of one woman's first experience with masturbation.

Kaufman and Paul target primarily the female audience at Yale, but even the men couldn't resist the temptation of flipping through the pages. Perhaps it was the magazine's nine black-and-white "artistic nude" photos, taken by — or was that of? — Kaufman herself.

The second issue of *The Yale Woman* is being published in conjunction with an art exhibit and poetry reading; the magazine is basically a catalogue of those works.



You have to wonder what their moms will say.

What else do the editors have up their sleeves? Psychoanalysis and the Yale woman, female friendships and women and the priesthood are just a few ideas on the agenda. They also plan to sit down with a group of men and transcribe the men's conversations for a male version of the first issue's rap session.

They've come a long way, but don't you dare call them baby.

■ Tommy Sangchompuphen, Yale U.