

Particle Men

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO LIKE A little brain with your brawn — Karen Hopkin brings you the 1996 "Studmuffins of Science" calendar.

"This was pretty much a scheme to meet guys at first," admits Hopkin, a science journalist and part-time producer for National Public Radio's *Science Friday*. But it turned into a mini-crusade to convince people that scientists aren't necessarily socially retarded nerds with pocket protectors, she says.

"The public thinks scientists are all bow tie-wearing geeks," Hopkin says. "Now people can see that some of them are regular guys."

The calendar comes complete with color pictures and tidbits of info on studs like Peter Franks, an assistant professor of biophysics and oceanography at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California. "Dr. November" attributes his studliness to good genes, and his favorite organism is the *Pfiesteria piscicida*.

Although the studs are dealing with their newfound fame, most of them admit that they've taken some ribbing from their not-so-buff-'n'-

studly colleagues.

Franks says his colleagues tease him about the calendar. "I think that they're just jealous because they didn't get to be in it," he says.

Rocky Kold, a professor of astronomy and astrophysics at the U. of Chicago, laid down his telescope and posed for the calendar for the sake of the school.

"A few years back, we were voted dead last in party schools," Kold says. "Maybe this will help the school's reputation a bit."

Scientifically speaking, being a stud isn't easy work. Brian Scottoline, a.k.a. "Dr. January," does more than grace the cover of the calendar. He's an MD/Ph.D. student in biochemistry at Stanford U. and a competitive swimmer. He averages 30,000 meters a week in the pool in addition to 80



Hey, baby. Can I offer you a pocket protector?

hours a week in the lab.

But working on the mental section of their impressive bods is what these studs do best. Brian Cole, an assistant professor of physics and research at Columbia U., is working on a long-term career in particle and nuclear physics.

"I don't think that I'd ever become a professional studmuffin," Cole says. "I might, however, if the pay was good."

The calendar is now available to the drooling — er, viewing — public in university bookstores.

*Melissa Lenos, U. of Akron/
Photo courtesy of the "Studmuffins of Science" 1996 Calendar*

1992. Now Fortune 500 companies and government agencies are requesting the recipe for turning waste into profit.

But the big winners are the students. They actively participate in running, developing and marketing the program, and student projects are often incorporated into policy.

"I'm currently helping to improve recycling in a set of residence halls off campus," says Olympia Frascione, a freshman at CU. "We recently did a survey of 200 students on the amount of recycling they do and the convenience of recycling."

"Before the award, students were aware of CU Recycling, but they didn't realize what a big project it is. The award has helped them see the scope of the project and the opportunities for them to get involved."

The student-run operation collects more than 1,000 tons of garbage a year — nearly 40 percent of the entire waste generated on the campus of 25,000.

Seems student awareness has turned a one-man plight into a full-fledged fight — against waste.

Jim Moscou, U. of Colorado

Pop, Pop, Physics



WHILE MOST STUDENTS WERE SITTING AT home studying for midterms last semester, SuChin Pak was in the swamps of Louisiana searching for alligators.

But she wasn't playing hooky — she was actually working. Pak is the host of *Newton's Apple*, a national TV show that airs on PBS and is geared toward making science fun for teens.

"The point is to find science in everyday life all over the world," says the U. of California, Berkeley junior.

Not only has she traveled to several states, her next big trip is to — get this — Tahiti.

"They were going to send me to Switzerland, but they decided on Tahiti instead. Poor me," Pak says. "I'll be doing stories on tattoos, celestial navigation and some other topics that aren't definite yet."

Pak says she was discovered by an ABC producer who asked

her to host a local talk show for teens in the San Francisco Bay area. She later auditioned for the part on *Newton's Apple* — and got it.

Pak's experiences as one of the show's five hosts have gone beyond searching for alligators to include water skiing — she's still recovering from a sprained ankle — and being used as a human slingshot.

"They don't tell me that I'm going to be the sports person — it's not that deliberate. But I'm usually the one ice surfing and doing the sports stuff."

Pak says her hectic lifestyle means missing a lot of classes because all of the studio taping is in Minnesota. But she doesn't really feel she's losing out too much on being a student.

"It's such a great trade-off," she says. "Sometimes I get lost in the mundane routine. Then I go: 'I'm 20. I travel all over the world. It's fun, it's easy, and I get paid to do it.'"

And when she's having a rough day on location, she says to herself, "Wait a minute — I'm out here learning why geese fly in V formations."

*Debra D'Agostino,
Syracuse U.*



The world is her oyster.

Waste Not, Want Not

JACK DEBELL WAS JUST TRYING TO GRADUATE WHEN he helped start the U. of Colorado recycling program in the mid-'70s.

"The program was just part of my major — environmental conservation," DeBell says. "It was an independent major, too. There weren't too many conservation programs back then."

Nineteen years later, DeBell is still running his brainchild. And the world has finally taken notice.

In September, CU received the 1995 National Recycling Coalition award for Campus Recycler of the Year, beating nearly 1,500 other university entries. The award sent CU — and DeBell — to the top of the recycling heap.

With innovative techniques and enthusiastic students, CU Recycling Services opened an on-campus recycling facility in



In the dumps, but not down.

The Buzz

• U. of Colorado junior Luke Gold wants to create the first scholarship specifically for HIV-positive students. "There is a strong misconception that these people don't have a life to live anymore," says Gold, who is planning a series of fund-raisers. To donate, write the Positive Future Fund, c/o CU Foundation Inc., Box 1140, Boulder, CO 80306.

• Many universities have substance-free housing, where students abstain from drugs and alcohol. Rutgers U. has gone a step further. It offers two dorms specifically for recovering addicts. A similar program at the U. of Maryland was suspended this year because it didn't have the resources to handle students' relapses.

• Fired up about the Citadel and the Virginia Military Institute being forced to accept women, Citadel alumnus Lucien B. Lane wants to break a barrier himself. He plans to apply to Spelman College, an all-women's college near where he lives in Georgia, and sue if he's not admitted.