

Men prone to lung disease

BALTIMORE — A Johns Hopkins University study says males are more susceptible to chronic lung disease than females. Cigarette smoking was found to be by far the most important factor associated with a person's risk of developing the disease that partially obstructs lung capability.

But the study showed the lung capability of male non-smokers was similar to females who were heavy smokers. Female non-smokers had the best results, while male smokers had the worst.

Harold Menkes, director of environmental physiology at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, said it appears females lag 10 to 20 years behind males in development of obstructive lung disease.

The situation, however, differs as far as lung cancer is concerned. Wilmot Ball, associate professor of medicine, said the female appears to be as susceptible to lung cancer from smoking as the male.

The project also found, contrary to previous studies, that alcohol consumption alone does not appear to increase a person's risk of developing obstructive lung disease.

Another surprising finding was that people who drink at least three cups of coffee a day had more lung dysfunction than those who do not drink coffee when all other factors such as age, smoking and sex were discounted.

And yet, said Menkes, those who drank tea did not show significant differences in lung disease from those who did not drink tea.

Menkes said the findings did not show that a specific factor causes lung disease, but merely identified an association for more study. He said he and co-workers have not yet looked into the reason why males appear to respond to cigarette smoke differently than females, but it was unlikely differences in smoking habits were responsible.

"The chronic forms of lung disease result from an interaction of many factors, including both genetic and environmental," Menkes said. "The end result in an individual depends on how they interact in him."

The study, reported in the American Review of Respiratory Disease and discussed at a seminar last week, also found that people low on the socio-economic ladder have more lung problems than those of a higher status.

Your assignment — cardboard furniture

By LAURA RUTHERFORD
Campus Reporter

After the unpacking is done, most people wonder how to get rid of the cardboard boxes piled ceiling high. Engineering students at Texas A&M University have proved there is a useful purpose for these eyesores: cardboard chairs.

Dr. Richard B. Griffin said the original assignment for his engineering analysis students was to make a chair out of an 8½-by-10-inch piece of cardboard, the kind found on the back of a spiral notebook. The students weren't allowed to use glue, tape or staples; the chairs had to be

with the little models."

Griffin said some of the chairs could support three men. A student who weighed 240 pounds, tested each large chair by sitting on it.

The designs ranged from a small stool with cardboard rolled into cylinders for legs to a chair made out of a refrigerator box and shaped like a winged-back plantation chair.

Cardboard furniture is not a new idea, Griffin said. Some pieces are sold in many stores, but some of his student's are lighter and more efficient. He said his students achieved maximum results using a minimum amount of material.



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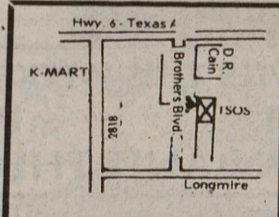
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Lawyers claim discrimination

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department, accused by a group of black, Hispanic, Asian-American and American Indian attorneys of discrimination, may have to investigate itself.

Eight leaders of a group known as the Racial and Ethnic Minority Attorneys Caucus filed a formal administrative complaint last week after two years of informal talks failed to bring a settlement with department officials.

A summary of the complaint charges the department's six major legal divisions discriminate against minority attorneys in hiring, training and promotion.

It said the department has failed to recruit more minorities — about 8 percent of lawyers in the six divisions are minorities — or to proportionately promote those in the department.

The complaint also alleges minority lawyers have been denied equal access to formal and informal training and that non-minority attorneys get the best cases. It charges a "double standard" is used to evaluate job performances by minorities, with non-minority lawyers granted awards disproportionately.

Dennis Scrivens, the department's acting Equal Employment Opportunity Officer for Offices, Boards and Divisions, said he had

received the complaint, and he will discuss certain language in the complaint with caucus leaders.

William Robie, deputy associate attorney general, would say only that the complaint is unprecedented.

If the complaint is accepted, the department has 75 days to investigate it and negotiate a settlement, or the caucus may request formal hearings.

A source in the caucus said an informal complaint from black and Hispanic attorneys was first filed May 1, 1979. Indian and American Asian attorneys joined the complaint within a few days.

But no agreement was reached in informal talks with former Attorney General Griffin Bell and Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, both of whom have pressed their own affirmative action efforts.

The new complaint alleges discrimination against ethnic and racial minorities in the six divisions that, as of last June, had 1,710 lawyers, of whom 135 were minorities.

The divisions named include antitrust, which had 16 members of minority groups among its 411 lawyers; civil, 23 of 304; criminal, 19 of 407; tax, 23 of 262; lands and natural resources, 10 of 153; and civil rights, which had the highest percentage of minorities with 34 among its 174 attorneys.

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