

Men dominate computer world, study says

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — In this age of sexual equality women are still at a disadvantage in the field of computer technology because they have less access to the instruments and traditionally avoid mathematics, recent studies show.

In papers presented before American Psychological Association meetings in California recently, researchers noted that girls are not as interested in computers at home and at school, but even when they are interested they have fewer chances to use them.

It also was brought out that racial minorities have less access

to computer training than do whites, and children of low income families are similarly disadvantaged when compared to those from middle and upper income families.

About 30 million jobs will be directly computer-related by 1990, according to a study by Control Data Corporation, but far fewer girls and women are learning to use computers than boys and men.

The findings term the avoidance of math and technology by women and girls "culturally programmed," and indicated that females will be locked out of jobs, and certainly out of advancement, in the future.

Women's disadvantage related to math; may be 'culturally programmed' to avoid hard courses

They suggested that a situation could wipe out the gains made by women during the past 10 to 20 years in business and industry, including equal pay for equal work.

A University of California, Berkeley, study in 1976 showed women were only 1 percent of the nation's engineering work force. By 1980, they were 3 percent and had earned 10 percent of the engineering bachelor's degrees.

A schools program which ori-

ginated at the Lawrence Hall of Science at Berkeley, called "Equals," was given credit for the higher number of women in technological fields.

The problem isn't just access, according to psychologist Irene Muira at Stanford University. It is attitude, culture, history, tradition and widespread misunderstanding among women themselves, and among their parents.

Moreover, a Berkeley study found that although both males

and females could see the computer taking over a major portion of their lives, females tended to focus on the amount of housework it might do, and males on its potential for finances, data processing and jobs.

In a six-state survey commissioned by Control Data, math, science and computer courses were found to be male-dominated. In St. Paul, Minn., boys represented 88 percent of

the students in some computer courses in high schools.

In an Illinois sampling the average enrollment in high schools math and science courses was 63 percent male and 37 percent female statewide.

Other recent research at the grade school level shows that from kindergarten up, males make up the overwhelming majority in computer courses, clubs and camps. And the ratio of boys to girls increases the more difficult the courses become.

A spokeswoman for the computer firm said the reasons seem to be cultural rather than genetic, but some researchers aren't

quite sure that's so. Studies neither prove nor disprove the point.

"There's a big argument whether there's a biological or neurological cause," Irene Muira said. "We're not sure of 'right brain' orientation but we're still only talking about slight differences."

Recent studies have shown that the right side of the brain controls attitudes in the arts, music, and the more abstract concepts, and the left side of the brain has more to do with structured concepts such as language and mathematics.

Strength of the dollar helping world stocks

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ST. LOUIS — An investment analyst says the strength of the dollar overseas and new business governments around the globe have propelled stock markets from Frankfurt to Sydney to new highs.

The improved U.S. economy, still the world's largest financial engine despite the recent recession, is helping to boost stocks traded around the world, particularly in Europe, the analyst said.

Paul K. Koerner, editor and publisher of the newsletter Worldwide Investment Notes, said the strong dollar overseas has led to increased spending by Americans in European stock markets.

Recent favorable business climates in West Germany, Sweden, Belgium and, to an extent, even socialist France have benefited investors as well as companies, Koerner said in a recent interview.

"A dozen stock markets have out-performed the United States in this period," Koerner said. "A little bit of capitalism goes a long way."

The now-soaring overseas stock markets historically had been undervalued, he said. But the Frankfurt market recently hit a 23-year high. The Sydney Exchange late last summer turned in its best trading ever.

Many European governments "that forgot about basic economic facts for awhile" have tired of the state-run economies that developed after World War II, Koerner said. A tilt toward free enterprise has made many European companies more attractive to American investors, he said.

"It means, at least in Europe, there is a retreat from socialism," Koerner said. "More and more people are realizing that socialism doesn't work. They're seeing that it breaks the backbone of the country."

"You have a country like the

Soviet Union where the workers say, what the hell, screw it."

Koerner said much of the media in the United States have ignored the high-flying stock markets in Europe and elsewhere.

"The fact that the world markets are booming should be front page news," he said.

The huge U.S. government deficit, however, represents a possible change in foreign markets, Koerner said.

"Particularly in Europe, there is this general feeling that the dollar has been strong too long," he said.

Japan's economy remains almost in a class by itself, the analyst said. The Tokyo exchange is a center of financial activity among Far East countries that export metals and consumer goods to the United States.

Japan has surpassed Canada in foreign investments from the United States, Koerner said.

Golden Globes presented Saturday

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HOLLYWOOD — Actors Tom Courtenay and Robert Duvall tied for best dramatic actor and Shirley MacLaine won for best dramatic actress, with her film "Terms of Endearment" taking top honors in the 1984 Golden Globes Awards.

The awards by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association are considered a measure of sentiment for the coveted Academy Awards. Thirteen movies and 11 television shows were honored at the 41st annual banquet Saturday night.

"Terms of Endearment," took a total of four honors. Besides MacLaine winning best dramatic actress and the film's award for best movie, James Brooks took an award for best screenplay and Jack Nicholson won for best supporting actor.

MacLaine, who played Debra Winger's neurotic mother, said, "I sure deserve it. Thanks to the foreign press for being so brilliantly discerning."

Courtenay won for his portrayal of the frenetic back-stage hero of "The Dresser," and Duvall for his portrayal of a washed-up country singer in "Tender Mercies."

Michael Caine and Julie Walters, who co-starred in "Educat-

ing Rita," were honored as best actor and best actress in a musical or comedy motion picture.

Cher, better known as a pop-singer, picked up the best supporting actress award for "Silkwood."

"I've been doing this for two years and this is the first time I've ever won anything," she said. "Two months ago no one ever considered me an actress."

"Yentl," Barbra Streisand's production about a woman who disguises herself as a man to study Jewish law, was named best musical or comedy motion picture, and Streisand also won for best director.

"Fanny and Alexander," was named best foreign film. Giorgio Moroder won for best original score for the movie, "Flashdance," and his "Flashdance — What a Feeling," won for best original song.

"The Thornbirds" was named the best mini-series or motion picture made for television, and Richard Chamberlain was named best actor in that category with Richard Kiley best supporting actor.

Jane Wyman took the award for best actress in a television drama for her performance in "Falcon Crest," and Barbara Stanwyck won for best supporting actress in "The Thornbirds."

Honors also went to "Dallas" for best television drama, "Fame" for best musical or comedy television series, and Joanna Cassidy won best actress in that category for "Buffalo Bill. In the same category, Jack Ritter won best actor for "Three's Company."

The award for best actress in a mini-series went to Ann-Margret for "Who Will Love My Children?" and John Forsythe was named best actor for "Dynasty."

The awards were to be televised in syndication Sunday night.

The Golden Globes have been controversial in the past but still attract many celebrities. They are a prelude to the more important Academy Awards, and they come during the midst of the voting for the Oscars.

Presenters for this year's show at the Beverly Hilton were Ed Asner, Maud Adams, Gene Hackman, Ann Baxter, Melissa Gilbert, Diane Lane, and Chris Atkins.

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