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ON CAMPUS INTERVIEWS FEBRUARY 26, 1991

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Ethnic studies attract more white students

DALLAS (AP) — Black studies courses in Texas and nationwide are attracting more whites than ever as students prepare themselves for the multi-ethnic workforce of the 1990s, professors say.

"We're not talking about a maddening throng, but there is an increasing number of white students who are saying, 'I need to broaden my perspective,'" said Jacqueline Wade, associate executive director of the National Council for Black Studies.

Some professors say the dominance of rap music, interest in the civil rights movement of the 1960s and the changing ethnicity of the workplace are the main reasons white students choose to study black history.

"My hope is that it's going to lead to a greater amount of tolerance, racial, ethnic and otherwise," said Edward Cox, who teaches black history at Rice University in Houston. "I think it's a healthy sign."

In Cox's class last semester, only two of his 24 students were black.

Researcher exposes medical study sexism

DALLAS (AP) — Scientific observers say sexism in the research community has hindered women's medical studies.

But despite recent work showing that women react differently to medication and that research subjects are mostly men, little has changed, female scientists say.

"Research is stimulated by what goes on in the marketplace," said Dr. Margo Denke, assistant professor of internal medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

In the U.S. health market, she said, "there's really quite a difference between our medical perception of men and women. I think women, when they have a problem, it's complaining. It's not really a problem."

The American Medical Association's Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs agreed.

"There is evidence that physicians are more likely to perceive women's maladies than men's as the result of emotionality," the council reported in December at an Orlando, Fla., winter meeting. It urged medical researchers to overcome such biases and to pursue more studies of women's health concerns.

A Texas psychiatrist went public with the inequities encountered by women, both as research subjects and as researchers in 1983, after her own work failed to generate interest from her male colleagues.

Dr. Jean Hamilton, who believed that manic-depressive women's symptoms grew worse before their menstrual periods, suggested that the relationship of hormonal changes to medication be studied.

Hamilton's boss at the National Institute of Mental Health was less than enthusiastic, she said. So she wrote about the sexism issue for a medical journal and then weathered the scorn of researchers.

"I took the beating that is expected for whistle-blowers," Hamilton, now an associate psychiatrist at UT Southwestern said.

"I was isolated. My work was belittled, even within NIMH," she said. "I had just been told that my work would not be supported any more at NIMH, and so my investigation was stopped in 1983."

A National Institutes of Health policy in 1986 encouraged the inclusion of women in clinical studies. The General Accounting Office study released last June, said NIH did not consistently follow policy until 1990.

And the health institute, the nation's largest source of biomedical research, has no plan to monitor how many studies included women, the GAO said.

Organizations ranging from the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to Women's Health and Mobilization, a New York City group, have begun in the last few months to demand an end to what they call a sex bias in medical research.

The groups are challenging the argument that women's biological changes make them too difficult to study.

"We haven't made a statement," Nancy Brinker, president of the Dallas-based Susan G. Komen Foundation said, which has more than \$2.6 million for cancer research. "Women tend to hang back. Women tend to be shy, glad to be there, but not to speak up, she said."

U.S. Rep. Pat Schroeder, D-Calif., a chairwoman of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, said the situation has not improved since then.

Tuesday

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