

Studies conflict over female cardiac care

DALLAS (AP) — Women with heart trouble are treated less aggressively than men because they often are too old or ill for risky procedures, not because of sex bias, suggest two studies released Monday.

However, two other studies came to opposite conclusions: Even when they are the same age and condition as male heart victims, women are less likely to receive the most up-to-date care.

Statistics clearly show women are treated less aggressively for heart problems. The question is why. And the conflicting results of the latest round of studies demonstrate the difficulty in sorting this out.

The subject received prominent attention at the annual meeting of the American College of Cardiology, which began Monday.

Among those who believe sex bias is a factor include Dr. Bernadine Healy, a cardiologist who heads the National Institutes

of Health. She has called it the "Yentl syndrome," a reference to Isaac Bashevis Singer's short story about a young woman who had to disguise herself as a man to study the Talmud.

Women are less likely than men to receive one of the most important heart tests — the angiogram. These X-ray movies, taken by releasing dye into the heart, are used to determine whether blockages in arteries need to be fixed. When serious

blockages are found, people often undergo angioplasty, which uses a balloon to clear the arteries, or coronary bypass operations. Women are less likely to receive either of these treatments.



Healy

However, people who are older or have severe heart disease or complications are also less likely to have these demanding tests and procedures.

All the studies asked whether factors of age and complications could explain the differences between men and women.

Women who suffer their first heart attack are typically 10 years older than men.

Included in the studies were Dr. Vivek K. Varma and colleagues from the University of Alabama, who reviewed the records of 1,012 men and women hospitalized with heart attacks. While the women received fewer procedures, the difference could be explained entirely by their greater age, more severe heart disease and complications such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

"We found no difference between men and women," Varma said.

State OKs West Texas site for nuclear waste dump

SIERRA BLANCA (AP) — A state lawmaker told West Texans he believes a low-level radioactive waste dump will be built near here, despite residents' opposition.

State Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, said Monday the only chance of stopping the dump is opposition from Mexico.

"This dump site is something that, chances are — if I was a betting man — is here," Gallego said.

The state has purchased a 16,000-acre ranch about five miles southeast of Sierra Blanca

to build a disposal site for low-level radioactive waste. The waste would come from nuclear power plants, hospitals and universities and some industries.

Sierra Blanca is about 100 miles east of El Paso.

The proposal has drawn opposition from those who want the site kept out. Residents have created a group dubbed "Save Sierra Blanca."

"I wish I could stand here in front of you and say I'm going to fix it, but it's not that easy," Gallego said. "Many of the battles have already been fought."

Laws make problems for state's bee killers

AUSTIN (AP) — The battle against "killer bees" will lose a major line of defense under new state requirements for those who destroy the insects, says a retired entomologist.

"We're expecting major problems with the bees in the next five to 10 years in Texas, and we're going to need all of the human resources we can muster to respond to bee problems and do it right," said John Thomas. He helped develop the state's response to the Africanized bee invasion while working at Texas A&M University.

The new law requires anyone who gets paid to kill bees to obtain a license and liability insurance, or risk a fine of up to \$5,000.

Police officers, firefighters and nurses also are prevented

from destroying Africanized bees under the law, the Austin American-Statesman reported Monday. Such public employees, along with some beekeepers, have been taking state training on how to help contain the insects.

The Africanized bees attack in swarms and have killed several people in Mexico, experts say. The bees also take over domestic hives and can ruin honey-making operations.

The changes in the Texas Pest Control Act were meant to control the misuse of insecticides and other chemicals by non-professionals, such as apartment managers.

Thomas says the law means that only professional exterminators will be allowed to fight the "killer bees."

Faculty Senate discusses journal costs

Professors express alarm at subscription price increases, possible A&M library cutbacks

By Sharon Gilmore
The Battalion

Members of the Faculty Senate said Monday they fear losing library journals as subscription costs increase — decreasing the quality of education at Texas A&M.

The Sterling C. Evans Library announced that subscription fees for academic journals increased 13 percent this year, but there is not enough money to cover the jump in prices.

Some departments will be hit harder by cutbacks, because journal costs vary according to their subjects, said Robert Newman, an associate professor of English.

The average journal costs about \$39, Newman said, but a chemistry journal can cost as much as \$460.

"When you're cutting back by 13 percent, you are cutting 15 liberal arts journals for every chemistry journal," Newman said. "I'm

alarmed by this."

Dr. E. Dean Gage, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said the University does not want to cut back on journals, but judgment and reason will be used when the time comes.

"We don't want any cuts to occur," Gage said.

The 13 percent increase in journal costs is a nationwide problem, he said.

At a recent library council meeting, Newman said it was decided the 13 percent cut would occur in journals of each department.

James Rosenheim, a professor of history, said he also is very concerned about the proposed journal cuts.

"I find it very alarming that the University can't come up with \$400,000 to meet the costs," he said. "The library is a fundamental commitment and I think this is time to show the fundamental commitment in real terms."

Gage also said major changes

were occurring with university budgets in Texas.

As a part of a new program, Gage said, all state agencies are now required to submit a strategic plan. He said education is a top priority in the State's agenda.

"Certainly the one we are dealing with and which is listed as

"When you're cutting back by 13 percent, you are cutting 15 liberal arts journals for every chemistry journal,"

—English professor Robert Newman

number one in the State's strategic process is the educational area," Gage said.

Predominance of goals include attainment of higher education with the changing demographics and needs of the state, he said.

Gage said changes in students

applying to A&M are just one of the educational changes he's seen.

"Our applications this year are up 20 percent over last year," Gage said. "Last year we had 785 applications."

"This year we have well over 14,000 for 6,300 freshman positions," he said.

In other business, the Faculty Senate expressed concern over "Free Speech" bill the State Senate passed four weeks ago. "The students have successfully passed a bill known as the 'venger bill' regarding political correctness," Larry Hickman, professor of philosophy and humanities said.

"I wonder if we are going to see that bill," he said.

He said he would like to see the venger, former student body president who introduced the bill, explain political correctness to the bill to the Faculty Senate sometime.

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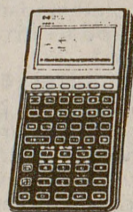
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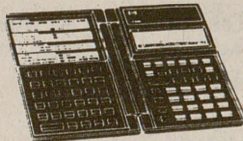
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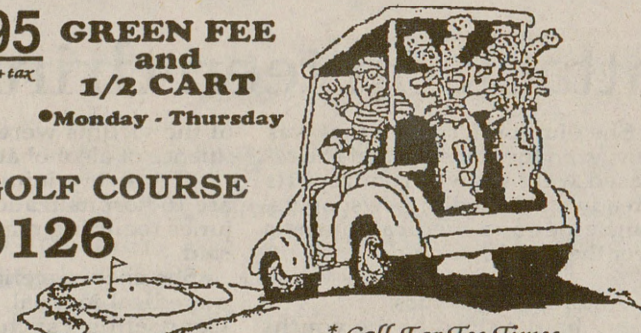
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