

Fewer women in science and math fields

by Ilana L. Fiorenza

Twice as many men than women graduated from UNLV's College of Science and Math in 1989. The 1990 figures are slightly more, but there is an obvious lack of women pursuing math and science fields. Why are math and the sciences such male-oriented fields in today's society?

Eighty percent of the College of Science and Math's teaching staff is male. Studies indicate that although women generally stay away from higher division math and science classes, when they take them they perform as well as men.

Sociology professor Marilee Mayberry attributes the lack of women in science and math primarily as an external sociological problem.

In our social world, girls look for role models after which to pattern themselves. They make "realistic assessments of what opportunities are ... available to them," Mayberry said. Girls see the majority of women working in certain occupations — jobs generally requiring verbal or social

skills.

"A sex-segmented labor market exists. Women and men, as they grow up, make realistic assessments of that sex-segmented market," Mayberry said. Then they gear their lives and educations toward the most viable option.

Joyce Nelson Leaf, director of the Educational Equity Resource Center on campus, said the situation is more psychological. She said that as children, girls are taught unlike boys. Because they're given different toys as well as encouragement in different areas from parents and teachers, girls "don't develop the problem solving, the logical thinking or the spatial reasoning skills that they need to be successful in classes like algebra, calculus and trigonometry."

Evidence of studies done by Myra and David Sadker indicate that instructors give attention to male students before female students. Generally, Leaf said, "girls are encouraged more in reading and boys are encouraged more in math and science."

"Women are only one of the

minority groups underrepresented in science and math," said Dr. Ernest Peck, dean of science and math. But he added that there is a wide disparity in the various fields.

"For instance, women are not a minority in biological sciences. However, in subjects like chemistry and physics (the more mathematically based fields) you find far fewer women. This is undoubtedly because of tradition and the way our culture works," Peck said.

Most agree that the lack of women in science and math is not due to some inherent inability in the female mind, but instead a cultural norm to which most people adhere.

"The myth of female underachievement has been exposed by many studies that have indicated that women's motivational behavior is not only equal, but often surpassed that of men," stated a 1989 sociological journal.

With growing numbers of women in the work force heading single families and with the predominantly male-oriented math and science occupations proving

to be more financially rewarding, women need to look at jobs involving higher degrees of math and science.

"There is a number of programs that ... outreach specifically to underrepresented groups" to attract them into science and math as well as the engineering program, Peck said.

Mayberry suggested that in order to make changes in the system of socialization, which maintains itself and keeps people in their regulated slots, society needs to "open up the labor market and do away with sex-segmentation, in addition to enacting processes through education that motivate women to get into those opening opportunities."

A condom means you're never sorry

by Tony Stefanelli

Last week one could have celebrated Valentine's Day with free condoms, handed out in the Moyer Student Union by sponsors of National Condom Week.

Although some may be offended by condom distribution, education about their use and functions might become a prerequisite for dating in the '90s. Thus, National Condom Week was sponsored by the Student Health Center, the Student Advisory Committee and the Lesbian and Gay Academic Union, from Feb. 11-21.

Ray Rodriguez, health educator for the Student Health Services, said that the main purpose for National Condom Week was to "educate people about the subject of condoms, sex and sexually transmitted diseases." This was accomplished through distribution of literature and condoms from a

booth in the student union. Seminars were offered earlier in the week entitled, "Safer Sex Program with Ray."

Rodriguez, who conducts the programs, said that he does not beat around the bush talking about subjects dealing with sex.

The program included audience members role-playing sexual behaviors, asking questions and discussing information about sexually transmitted diseases.

Rodriguez said he was in support of condom availability to high school students. He said he doesn't agree with the argument that offering children information about sex encourages them to engage in it.

"I was taught algebra in high school, but you don't see me using it now," Rodriguez said.

He said that information should be given to high school students so when they're confronted

with sex, they're able to deal with it in a mature and intelligent way.

"Children in junior high schools should be the main target group anyway, because most people with AIDS currently in the United States are in the 21- to 29-year-old age category. AIDS has an average ten-year incubation period," Rodriguez said. "Those presently carrying the virus most likely contracted it at the junior high and high school age."

Rodriguez said that the majority of faculty, administration and students were in support of the message and activities presented throughout National Condom Week.

Those sponsoring National Condom Week remembered, "When moonlight glows and nights are starry, a condom means you're never sorry."

Colleges turning to smoke-free campuses

by B.J. Hoepfner (CPS)

Drives to make U.S. campuses absolutely smoke-free picked up speed in recent weeks as one state considered forcing its campuses to stop investing in tobacco companies and another college banned smoking.

As of Feb. 1, students could no longer use—or even buy—tobacco products on the University of Pittsburgh campus.

Two weeks earlier, California's top health official urged the state's biggest campuses to sell off their investments in tobacco companies.

In his Jan. 15 letter to Stanford University and to the universities of California and Southern California, state Health Services Dept. Director Dr. Kenneth Kizer said it made no sense for them to invest in tobacco companies while the state spends \$150 million on an anti-smoking campaign.

Most colleges and universities invest their donations and endowment funds in various kinds of stocks.

The profits from the investments help fund a variety of the

schools' programs.

During the 1980s, anti-apartheid activists succeeded in getting many campus money managers to sell off stocks, no matter how profitable they might be, in companies that did business in segregationist South Africa.

The same tactic now is being applied to smoking.

"We should not be profiting from tobacco addiction," said Brad Krevor, executive director of the Boston-based Tobacco Divestment Project.

Tobacco stock can be quite lucrative.

Philip Morris Companies, the country's largest tobacco interest, was the best-performing corporation on the 30-stock Dow Jones industrial average during the 1980s, rising 825 percent in the decade.

"If I were a fiduciary (the person in charge of investing a college's money), my concern would be to manage (funds) to achieve maximum returns," said George Knox, vice president for public affairs for Philip Morris.

In fact, money managers have a legal obligation — called a "fidu-

ciary responsibility" — to wring maximum profits out of their investments, and can actually be sued and punished if they disregard their duty.

Campus money managers might not be able to earn maximum returns if they mix politics into their investment decisions, Knox added.

"One does give up some profit when divesting their tobacco stocks," Krevor said. "But consider where these profits come from."

Harvard University and City University of New York both stopped allowing their endowments to be invested in tobacco companies last spring.

Moreover, representatives from Yale, Brown, Cornell, Rice and Johns Hopkins universities as well as the universities of Texas, Wisconsin and Hawaii are all working with the Divestment Project on campaigns to get their schools to divest, Krevor said.

The University of California has no stock holdings in any tobacco company, said spokesperson Rick Malaspina. Committees at Stanford have been considering divesting from tobacco since last

fall, a spokesperson there said. Stanford, for one, already has banned smoking from all buildings on its campus. Pittsburgh's new ban will include all university vehicles, residence halls, the medical complex, hospitals and labs, said spokesperson Lawrence Keller.

"There really hasn't been much of a student reaction. We don't know how strongly the law

will be enforced," said Pitt student Njugi Nginyo.

Other campuses that have enacted either partial or total bans on smoking or the sale of tobacco products include Tulane and Pennsylvania State universities, the universities of West Virginia, Arizona and Southwestern Louisiana, and Colorado's Metropolitan State College.

On this day in Black American History

Feb. 21: leaders.

Feb. 24: Daniel A. Payne, who became the sixth bishop of the A.M.E. Church was born on this date in 1811. He was Senior Bishop for 20 years and in 1863 he was instrumental in the purchase of Wilberforce University for A.M.E. Church.

Feb. 22: On this date, in 1864, George Cleveland Hall was born. He was a leading Chicago surgeon and served in various capacities at Provident Hospital from 1894-1930. He conducted surgical clinics and helped to establish infirmaries in several southern states.

Feb. 23: W.E.B. DuBois was born on this date in Great Barrington, Mass. This scholar and writer left a legacy of pride and inspiration as evidenced by his voluminous writings. He was the first black man to earn a Ph.D from Harvard and he strongly advocated the necessity of developing college-trained

Feb. 25: Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) won the world heavyweight boxing championship form Sonny Liston in Miami Beach, Fla. in 1964. Hiram R. Revels became the first black U.S. Senator in Mississippi's history on this date in 1870. Jordan C. Jackson was born in Fayette County, Ky. on this date in 1848. He was prominent in Republican politics and an alternate delegate to the National Republican Convention of 1876. He worked vigorously against enactment of the separate coach law of Kentucky.

American deaths from January 16 to February 16

Causes of Death	Total Deaths
Heart Disease	63,800
Cancer	39,100
Stroke	12,500
Accidents	7,940
Pulmonary disease	6,380
Pneumonia	5,820
Diabetes	3,100
Suicide	2,600
Liver disease	2,200
Kidney disease	1,800
Homicide	1,800
Blood disease	1,600
Iraqi War	50
Other causes	6,000

NUTRITION

Catch of the day

Fish is low-fat protein, a good source of vitamins and minerals. Shellfish has more cholesterol than fish: a serving of shrimp contains slightly less cholesterol than one egg yolk.

Item	3.5 oz. portion, cooked	% Calories from fat	Total Fat (g)	Cholesterol (mg)
Looney, northern	6	7	104	55
Cod	7	3	98	68
Trout, rainbow	22	3	194	68
Shrimp	30	6.3	190	48
Tuna, bluefin	30	7.4	188	48

SOURCE: Environmental Nutrition