

# For first time in two years, number of black, Hispanic students applying to UC has increased

By Lori Aratani  
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

For the first time in two years, the number of black and Hispanic high school students applying for freshman admission to the University of California has increased, UC officials announced Wednesday.

Applications from the two groups, which historically have had low enrollments at UC, rose despite the scrapping of race-based affirmative action policies. Many UC officials had feared the end of affirmative action for undergraduates this year would scare off minority applicants.

Overall, applications for the freshman class of 1998 increased by 8 percent -- the largest one-year jump in a decade.

But the real test of what the end of race-based admissions will mean for the UC system, will come in March, when students begin receiving their acceptance letters. And a clear picture of the make up of next year's freshman class will have to wait until May, when students who have been accepted decide whether or not to enroll at UC.

"Certainly these numbers indicate

that a large number of under represented minorities do consider the university hospitable enough to apply to," said Dennis Galligani, UC vice president for student academic services. "Whether that puts to rest all of the questions around that issue, I'd be reluctant to go that far."

Greg O'Meara, a guidance counselor at San Jose's Del Mar High School said he's not surprised by the increased number of students applying to UC campuses, because the number of students applying for college in general has increased steadily over the years. "I think there's a growing awareness among students -- especially in Silicon Valley -- that future employment requires a college education," he said. "Local businesses we work with are really stressing that to our students."

Galligani cited several reasons for the increase in applications: the growth in the high school population, the rise in the number of eligible high school seniors and stepped -- up recruitment and outreach programs.

Last fall, UC President Richard Atkinson also sent letters to 13,000 students, urging them to apply. Some lived in areas where application rates

have been low. Others were members of groups that historically have enrolled in small numbers.

Nearly 59,000 high school seniors applied to the University of California system. UC officials said there were declines in the number of white and Asian-American applicants but said that may be due in part to the large number of students who declined to state their ethnicity. White and Asian-American applicants decreased 10.1 percent in 1998, while Asian-American applicants decreased by 1.8 percent.

Unlike previous years, optional questions on ethnic, racial and gender identity were separated from information used to make admissions decisions. Between 1997 and 1998, the number of students who declined to state their ethnic background tripled -- from 2,286 to 7,085. Galligani theorized that because race is no longer a factor in student admissions, students did not feel the need to identify themselves.

UC officials were clearly pleased by the increase in applicants.

"These significant increases in applications at every campus are testament to UC's high quality and strong appeal, not only to high school stu-

dents in California but also to students across the nation and foreign countries," Atkinson said.

Leading the increase were Chicano-Mexican-American students, whose applications increased by 10.1 percent to 5,239. Black student applications went up by 3.1 percent to 1,965.

At the same time, applications from students with South and Central American backgrounds decreased by 3.1 percent this year.

For any student UC is a great bargain said 17-year-old Pearl Yu, a senior at Mission San Jose High. There was never a doubt she'd apply to a UC campus. In fact, she applied to seven of the eight campuses.

"It's natural to apply to the UCs," she said. "They're public institutions, which means they're cheaper than private colleges."

UC Riverside posted the largest gain in applications with an 18.4 percent increase. It was followed by UC Santa Barbara at 14.4 percent; UC Irvine at 12.3 percent increase; UC Santa Cruz at 11.6 percent; UC San Diego at 11.4 percent; UCLA at 11.3 percent increase; UC Berkeley at 10.1 percent; and UC Davis at 4.1 percent.

## Big Mac on campus causes sizzling row in Malaysia

By Reme Ahmad  
Reuters

KUALA LUMPUR — A plan to open a McDonald's restaurant on the campus of Malaysia's oldest university has whipped up a fiery debate in the nation's capital.

Supporters of the plan say McDonald's will offer clean surroundings and fast service at its restaurant near the entrance of Universiti Malaya's Kuala Lumpur campus.

Critics charge that the venerated institution, known as UM, has sold out to commercialism and Western neo-colonialism.

The debate was sparked by a letter to a newspaper signed by J.P. Dulles of Tunbridge Wells, a holidaying English academic who once served in Malaysia.

"My trip to Malaysia was only marred by one particularly galling incident: This was my first visit to Universiti Malaya, which should now be perhaps renamed University McDonald's!", he wrote in the New Straits Times in mid-January.

"It is a well-known fact that the political leadership of this country has been at the forefront of criticizing the West for its attempts at 'cultural imperialism'. Am I to conclude that this prodigious fight has been lost on the green fields of UM?" he asked.

Newspaper editors jumped in.

"It is interesting that some people who were vocal in fighting against imperialism and neo-colonialism not long ago, have now given the permission to allow a symbol of colonialism to destroy UM," Johan Jaaffar, group editor of Utusan Malaysia,

wrote in a column. Utusan is the country's largest selling newspaper.

Universiti Malaya defended the move, saying the fast-food chain went through proper tender procedures to win the bid.

UM public relations officer V.T. Ratnam said a survey among its 4,000 staff and 20,000 students had found they welcomed the idea of Big Mac on the menu.

"Students say it is convenient. And it is clean and fast," Ratnam told Reuters.

Ratnam said the university had probably come under criticism for locating the restaurant near its entrance and putting up a large sign announcing the opening of the outlet.

Perhaps to pacify its critics, UM has decided to have other food stalls around the McDonald's restaurant.

McDonald's Malaysia's corporate communications manager, Robitahani Zainal, said the restaurant chain had outlets in universities and colleges around the world, including Thailand and Singapore.

The fast-food giant has 110 outlets in Malaysia excluding the one at UM, although it still trails rival chain Kentucky Fried Chicken which has over 200 restaurants.

McDonald's Malaysia is 49 percent controlled by U.S.-based McDonald's Corp and 51 percent by Malaysians, of which 26 percent is held by businessman Vincent Tan, a close associate of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

The remaining 25 percent of the Malaysian stake is held by McDonald's Malaysia's managing director, Mohamed Shah Abdul Kadir.

## Japan sports outcry over second student gang rape

By Janet Snyder  
Reuters

TOKYO -- Japanese sports has been rocked by a new gang rape involving top university athletes that has led to the resignation of the speed skating coach for the country's Winter Olympic team.

Fall out from the scandal set off a feminist outcry and smeared the reputation of Japan's glamorous university athletes who receive the adulation of American college sports stars.

In the latest sex attack report, authorities said on Thursday night five ice hockey players from Tokyo's Nippon Sport Science University raped a young woman after a party at one student's home last May.

The attack was revealed two days after police arrested five members of Teikyo University rugby team on

charges of raping a 19-year-old office worker at a karaoke bar last November.

The two incidents stood out in a country which idolizes student athletes, and in a society which up to now has mainly kept a code of silence on sexual violence against women.

Rape cases rarely are reported in Japan because feminists say the stigma attached to the victim is too great.

"A woman who reports a rape gets treated like something dirty, like it's her fault," said Wako University professor Yuko Kageyama. "It deters women from taking their cases to police."

Police said the hockey players were arrested in July, but freed after a lawyer prevailed on the victim to drop charges.

Kyodo news agency said the play-

## Campus News: From Around The Nation

by College Press Exchange

### Students Following Chelsea To Stanford

PALO ALTO, Calif. — Chelsea Clinton may have started something.

Stanford University has received a record number of freshman applications for the upcoming fall semester. The admissions office received 18,714 applications — 11 percent more than last year, when Clinton applied to the university, school officials said.

Only 1,610 students will be accepted.

Campus officials say Clinton may have played a role in the increase — but prefer to tout the university's faculty, which includes 14 Nobel Prize winners.

"When you have a famous student like Chelsea who chose wisely to come to Stanford, a lot of people have taken notice of us who might not have before," Bob Kinnally, dean of undergraduate admissions, told the San Francisco Chronicle.

### Babar Fan Makes Contribution To Kent State

KENT, Ohio — The late John L. Boonshaft was a solitary man estranged from family whose constant companions were two dogs he adored and more than 3,600 collectibles surrounding the popular children's series, Babar the elephant king.

For more than 10 years, he wrote of his love for children — a love Babar came to represent — to Ann Meitzen Hildebrand, an English professor at Kent State University. Meitzen Hildebrand, a Babar scholar, also appreciated the series — first penned by Jean de Brunhoff in 1931 — that emphasizes civility, courtesy and family ties.

Their shared appreciation helped convince Boonshaft that his beloved collection, valued at more than \$200,000, would be in safe hands at Kent State. Kent's Special Collections hopes to have everything sorted and on public display this fall.

When he died in August at age 47, Boonshaft had amassed an amazing collection. There are 1,277 Babar books; 110 Babar toys, including a 3-foot-tall marionette valued at \$2,200; 70 records and cassettes; and 62 stuffed animals, including a dapper 6-foot-tall Babar dressed in a green suit once on display at the F.A.O. Schwartz store in New York City. Boonshaft kept everything at home in a climate-controlled room into which he would peek using a window he had carved into one wall.

Boonshaft's will paid for shipping

and handling costs and also included a \$25,000 endowment.

Meitzen Hildebrand told Knight Ridder/Tribune news service she regrets never having met Boonshaft in person. She said there are no pictures of him, and she's not sure how he died.

"I'm stunned and unhappy in a way that the collection came here without John," Meitzen Hildebrand told KRT. "I had envisioned that this would be a time for John to come out of his reclusiveness; (he) would come to Kent, and there would be a great clapping of hands."

### Racist Attitudes Run Deep Survey Shows

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — A sociologist at the University of Michigan who surveyed white students at three colleges said he found racial animosity and suspicion hiding behind a veneer of anti-racist attitudes.

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva said 451 students questioned at Michigan, the University of Florida and Portland State University in Oregon showed less tolerance for racial differences during personal interviews than they did on written questionnaires. In many cases, Bonilla-Silva told United Press International, students expressed written support for affirmative action and interracial marriage but later made comments containing "an arsenal of semantic maneuvers to conceal racial opinions."

For example, of the 90 percent who wrote they supported marriages between blacks and whites, only 30 percent held that view during personal interviews.

Bonilla-Silva said many students said, "I support interracial marriages, but I'm concerned about the children."

### Racist Letters Sent To Black Law Students

INDIANAPOLIS — Officials at Indiana-Purdue University are still looking for someone who sent racist letters to 26 first-year, black law school students.

The one-page letter, signed "Ray A. Sism," criticizes affirmative action and warns students that they're not wanted in the "White Man's law school." The letter also states that while the students may have been admitted, they won't necessarily graduate. A logo used by the law school's biweekly newsletter appears at the top of the offensive letter.

The law school is offering a \$1,000 reward to anyone with information that might lead them to the letter's author.

ers told their coach last September what happened, but he decided not to report it.

Coach Yoshihiko Nakajima told reporters he kept quiet because the players reached an out-of-court settlement with the woman, and because they showed contrition.

Now as I look back on it, I regret having gone too easy on them, Nakajima said.

When news of the rape, was splashed in newspapers on Thursday, university administrators held an emergency meeting and fired Nakajima and Kunio Tanaka, coach of the Japan Olympic Speed Skating team, who works at the university.

Tanaka announced that because of the scandal he was resigning his Olympic post.

A university spokesman said the school was considering expelling the players, and the hockey and skating teams were barred indefinitely from competition.

In a decision that briefly caused even more outrage, the university also initially announced that to further atone for its shame a woman ice hockey player was also being barred from competing in next month's Nagano Winter Olympics in Japan.

But the university later withdrew

the suspension.

"We were going to bar all skating section students from activities, but because it would be too disruptive, we decided to allow Yoko Kondo (the woman hockey player) to participate in the Olympics, the official told Reuters.

"We are sorry the university has caused a scandal such as this," university president Eiju Watai told a news conference.

Feminists said until now, society had looked the other way when student athletes got out of control.

They can get drunk, be loud, be barbaric, but people look at these guys as 'manly'," said radio commentator Ryoko Ozawa.

She said the rapes put the spotlight on a mind-set in male-dominated Japan that views rape as hardly a crime.

"There's a permissive view of sex in general — men can pretty much do what they like," Ozawa said.

While most observers doubt that radical feminism is growing in this conservative society, more young Japanese women are taking on their attackers.

"Japanese women now have more courage. Where they hid these things before, they are becoming very brave," said Kageyama.

## You're majoring in what?

By Sunni DiNicola  
CPS

Imagine telling your relatives at the next family reunion that you are majoring in crafts-arts entrepreneurship, antique auto restoration, adventure sports, or horses.

Yep, it's true. A handful of colleges around the country are breaking with the traditional mainstream curriculum. While these studies do not eliminate core courses like English and math, they do help those looking to turn a hobby into a career.

Teaching small business skills seems to be a vital part of most programs. Trinity College in Vermont might just squelch that "starving artist" image with their major in crafts-arts entrepreneurship. The interdisciplinary program teaches students how to make not only bowls, quilts and rocking chairs, but also some dough. It requires students to take art classes, four business classes, design a business plan and complete a semester-long internship.

In most cases, these programs were spawned from industry demands. Many of these professions are hurting for new employees and managers who not only have specialized talents, but understand the "big picture" and are versed in business and communication skills. Some also wanted to lure people back into trades that have faded.

To ensure he "can find a machinist under 60," comedian Jay Leno, an avid vintage car collector, endowed a scholarship at McPherson College's antique auto restoration program. In fact, it was another car buff that started the program in 1976 with a donation that included his \$250,000 car collection. The four-year college in Kansas, offers an associate's degree in restoration.

Students learn metal finishing, painting, machine work, engine rebuilding, trim and upholstery while also tackling courses in small business management. Actual restoration work is done on a wide assortment of cars from 1920 Model T Fords to 1965 Mustang convertibles. According to the school, the program differs from vocational programs in that not only is the craftsmanship vital, but so are skills like "pride in workmanship, problem solving, logical thinking and attention to detail."

Working closely with the industry through internships is key to the success of these programs. Students in Laramie County Community College's popular equine studies program intern with ranches, stable managers and equine breeders. They also help produce a professional horse show.

These offbeat programs can also be a stepping stone into a four-year program. At Garrett Community College

in Maryland, students earning a two-year degree in adventure sports often move on to get a bachelor's degree in exercise physiology, health, physical education and outdoor recreation. Others go on to become guides, rangers, sports program directors and managers in the outdoor retail industry.

The adventure sports program is not only mentally rigorous, but physically demanding as well. "I've done white water canoeing, ice climbing, ropes, rock climbing, skiing, snow boarding, winter camping, search and rescue and wilderness survival," says graduate Crystal Shaffer, who loved the program so much she has stayed on as program secretary.

At first, Shaffer just wanted to find an outdoor activity to share with her husband. "I picked a rock climbing class and I was absolutely petrified since I am afraid of heights!" says Shaffer, who successfully completed the class. "It became a catalyst for change in my life."

Shaffer says she relished the personal relationships with fellow students as they faced challenges together, such as in wilderness survival class. "We learned about survival skills — not like eating worms and stuff like that — it was more about your mental attitude and logical things you would do in a survival situation."

While most of these are skill one-of-a-kind programs, some pioneering majors eventually catch on. Mississippi State University says that in 1971 it became the first institution to offer a degree in landscape construction. Now that curriculum is the model used by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America in certifying college programs.

At the University of Arizona, Race Track studies worked its way into the Bachelor of Science program. Students majoring in Animal Science can specialize in either animal industry, pre-professional training or the race track industry. Students study the breeding, production, marketing and use of animals in agriculture, entertainment and companionship. They also learn equine genetics, nutrition and reproduction as well as the business aspects of racing and livestock management.

Again, industry demands prompted the addition of this program. "There were not a lot of higher ed people working in racing," says Doug Reed, program coordinator. The industry was changing and needed more savvy business strategies to keep up the popularity of the sport. The effects of new technologies, such as simulcasting (races being broadcast from one track to another) also created a demand for new skills. "I tell my students that is one thing they really have going for them; it's not like there are a lot of people out in the industry already with experience in this."