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Survey of College Freshmen Finds Rise in Volunteerism

Students Becoming More Conservative, Self-Confident

從美國大學生態度的轉變看他們的新人生觀：「趨於積極自信、認同道德與傳統價值觀、樂善好施、具公德心、熱心參與社區服務活動、性觀念趨於謹慎與較保守、重視數理課程與外語學習。」這項由洛杉磯加州大學高等教育研究所對五百所二十五萬名大一新生的調查和統計，驚奇地發現美國一九七四到一九九六年間，大學生轉變中的新人生觀。這種二十年來的正面社會現象，也包括參加義工與義務勞動等。年輕人較過去努力、用功。他們求結果，但同時更重視過程。美國大學生的新人生觀，也許可作為國內現代大學生的借鏡。（李振清）

By Rene Sanchez
Washington Post Staff Writer

The nation's largest annual survey of college freshmen portrays a class that is more civic-minded, more self-confident and more supportive of a range of conservative social values than students have been in decades.

The survey, an important gauge of attitudes and aspirations among college freshmen since it began in the 1960s, reveals many striking trends this year: Record numbers of the freshmen are doing volunteer work, interest in law or business careers has hit a new low, and students seem to think more highly of themselves than ever. A record percentage of students also reported being frequently "bored in class."

On social issues, the survey shows that student support for keeping abortion legal has declined for the fourth consecutive year. And the percentage of students endorsing casual sexual relationships has dwindled to a new low.

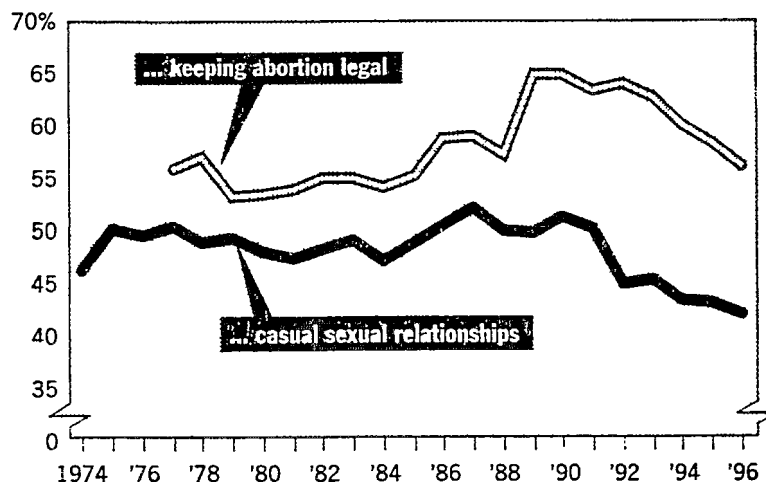
More than 250,000 freshmen at nearly 500 universities nationwide took part in the survey, which is being released today by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute. The results are based on responses that freshmen gave to hundreds of questions on their interests, issues in American society, and their plans for the future.

In recent years, college analysts have expressed dismay with the growing apathy that students have shown in the survey about government and politics. That remained low again this year; only about 30 percent said they considered keeping up with current events "very important." But it did not decline, as it has for most of this decade.

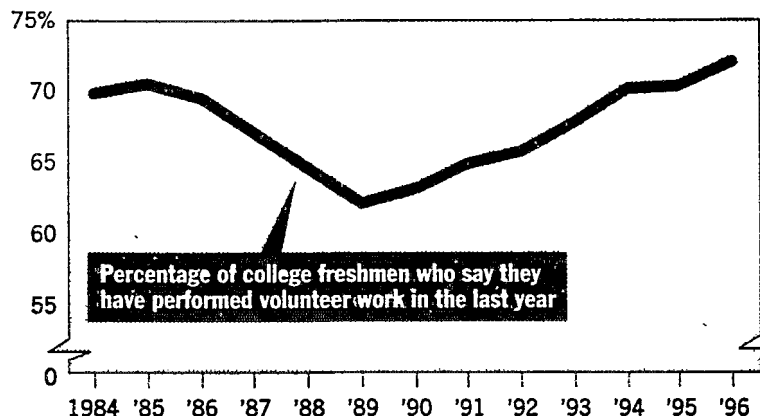
SEX AND ABORTION

RESULTS FROM AN ANNUAL SURVEY OF MORE THAN 250,000 COLLEGE FRESHMEN AT NEARLY 500 UNIVERSITIES NATIONWIDE

Percentage of freshmen who support ...



VOLUNTEERISM



SOURCE: Higher Education Research Institute, University of California at Los Angeles

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