



TUITION NOT POCKET CHANGE ANYMORE

BOULDER, Colo. (CPS) - Employees at the bursar's office at the University of Colorado recently got a shock when a student pushed a wheelbarrow into the office filled to overflowing with quarters and pennies - \$1,134 to be exact.

The money? One year's tuition. The wheelbarrow driver was in a definite I'm-angry-and-I'm-not-going-to-take-it-anymore kind of mood. "It's just not pocket change anymore," read a sign taped to the side of the wheelbarrow.

The angry student was William Roberts, a senior who said the stunt was a symbolic gesture to inform the regents that tuition, which just rose 7 percent, is becoming a real problem for students.

Roberts said the money was wrapped in paper wrappers to allow for easy counting by the bursar's office employees.

NATIVE AMERICANS DESIRE RESPECT

by Timothy Jessie

Down in Atlanta, Georgia there have been recent claims of racism by some Native Americans who view the use of the "Tomahawk Chop" and war chants by fans of the Atlanta Braves baseball club as "demeaning" and "disrespectful" to them. However, the real issue is about a thing Native Americans have long been denied - respect.

The recent debacle in the 'Pride of the South', nevertheless, is only part of a more involved agenda on the part of Native American activists who seek to rid the sports world of team names they find offensive. In fact, the whole "Tomahawk Chop" incident appears to have been only another incident to hinder the Native American cause. There probably wouldn't have been an altercation as such in Atlanta had the Braves remained a pathetic and woeful team as they were for the past eight years. The activists want three teams (the Cleveland Indians -baseball, the Washington Redskins -football, and of course, the Atlanta Braves) to change their names.

Incidentally, there is at least one more professional team that has a Native American ascribed mascot-- the Chicago

TESTS MAY DISPEL CONCERNS ABOUT CULTURAL BIAS

By Amy Reynolds
(CPS) - Admissions counselors across the country are waiting to see whether the revised Scholastic Achievement Test will reflect students' abilities, especially those of ethnic minorities, more accurately.

The College Board, which administers the SAT, will publish the new version in 1994.

"We're eagerly awaiting it," said Joyce Smith, associate director of the National Association of College Admission Counselors. "Most of us want to know how the changes will affect the results."

SAT results have been the talk of academia since the release of the 1991 national average scores which dropped two points each to 422 in the verbal section and 474 in the math section.

In his release of that information, College Board president Donald Stewart said the scores reflected "a disturbing pattern of educational disparity."

That disparity mostly involves African-Americans and Hispanic minorities, who still fall short of scores achieved by Caucasians and Asian-Americans. Still, African-Americans and Mexican-Americans are the leading groups for steady increases in their scores.

"Every time you see a standardized test result from a black student, the average score will be lower than the majority's score," said Walter Jacobs, director of academic support services for the College Board, at a recent educational conference in Orlando, Fla. "Some people say this is just another example that the black man can't cut it. ... On the other hand, we see that blacks are the one group constantly progressing toward better scores."

Blackhawks (an Indian tribe) of the National Hockey League; They are not on the list and their absence is peculiar. Why have Native American activists only targeted professional teams when there are many colleges that use Indian tribes or references as their team monikers? Among these are St. John University (the Redmen), Florida State University (the Seminoles), and Pembroke State University (the Braves). That particular answer is not evident, but the possible reasoning behind the attacks on the professional teams is that those names were selected without consulting the source behind the images, the Native Americans themselves.

Delving even further, one can arrive at a more insightful reason for Native American activists' displeasure at professional sports. If we look at the incidents objectively, we can see that the Native Americans are in search of a

Educators hope the new test will help close some of the gap. The 1991 test averages showed the following:

- * Since 1976, African-Americans and Mexican-Americans have shown an overall point increase of 50 and 23 points respectively. But, their overall average score still falls about 200 and 130 points shy, respectively, of scores achieved by whites and Asians. Their total average scores are 930 and 940 respectively.

- * Scores achieved by whites overall have dropped 14 points since 1976. The overall average for all groups taken together - 896 - has dropped seven points.

- * Men still score higher than women (923 average vs. 861 average), especially in the mathematics section of the test.

- * Students who took more academic classes during their educational careers scored about 50 points higher than the national average in both the verbal and the math sections.

"Those who took physics, for example, had average verbal scores of 464 and average math scores of 538, considerably above the national average for each," said Robert Cameron, the board's senior research associate. "Those who took calculus had the highest math average, 599, and the highest verbal average, 502."

Cameron says the College Board is concerned about an apparent paradox - "We are seeing more years of study in academics and in college prep course and still the average scores are going down."

Much of the drop comes from the higher percentage of ethnic minorities taking the test - this year 28 percent of test-takers were ethnic minorities. Of that 28 percent, 8 percent reported that English was their second language and another 8 percent reported they were bilingual.

"As more of our society is being included in the test, the more likely you are to see scores decline," Cameron said.

That greater inclusion and the SAT's inability to reflect different cultures in its test question content has helped spark the exam's rewrite.

"There's always been some suspicion about the way the test questions are written," Smith said. "The College Board now has established a review board for minority education that looks at items for bias against women and ethnic groups."

That board has existed for many years and the content of questions has slowly changed to reflect more cultural diversity, Cameron said.

The new test will not only show more changes in content, but also changes in form.

In its first format change since 1975, the test will abandon its antonym, or opposite word, questions for beefed-up reading sections that will put more emphasis on higher-order reading skills, Cameron said. He calls it critical reading.

In the math section, the primary change will involve the addition of a section where students generate their own answers to problems rather than picking an answer from the traditional multiple choice format.

While College Board officials are working on the changes, they stand by their claim that the SAT, the primary test used in 22 East and West Coast states for college entrance, is an accurate reflection of a student's academic ability.

"The bottom line is that the College Board has always said their test scores are extremely accurate, but what we find is that admissions offices look at academic records first," Smith said. "Some kids test well and some panic and blow it."

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forgotten them or become indifferent and insensitive to their plight. Whatever the cause of this neglect, it has to stop. It is time Native Americans got the respect they so rightly deserve.

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