

N.C. SAT scores rise as nation's decline

By DEAN LOWMAN
Staff Writer

Scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test have declined for the 17th consecutive year nationally but are slowly on the rise in North Carolina, according to recent figures released by the College Board.

The SAT exam measures mathematical and verbal abilities on a scale of 200 to 800 and is administered by the board to college-bound high school students.

The national scores have declined from a peak of 478 verbal and 502 math in 1962-1963 to 423 verbal and 467 math in 1979-1980, a decline of 90 points combined.

The drop has caused a great deal of concern among educators, administrators and parents who say they wonder whether the scores reflect a decline in the quality of the nation's educational systems as well.

Bruce Eckland, a professor in the sociology department, recently served on an advisory panel organized to study possible causes for the decline in scores.

The panel concluded that numerous factors contributed to the continuing decline.

Among the causes listed were the adding of more elective courses to high school curriculums, particularly in English; the apparent drop of students enrolled in basic English courses; the tolerance of increased absenteeism; and grade inflation, Eckland said.

Automatic promotion to the next grade level, a reduction of homework, a lowering of the reading levels of textbooks and the advent of television also have contributed to the decline, Eckland said.

He said television caused more of a child's learning to develop through viewing and listening than through the traditional modes of reading and writing.

However, the panel concluded that increases in school desegregation and forced busing probably did not affect the scores substantially during the 1970s because the measures only occurred in limited areas of the country.

Other educators have said the decline was caused, in part, by the increasing number of persons from poor socioeconomic backgrounds taking the test, particularly in the 1960s.

"The tests put emphasis on reading and translating it into clear, concise, written English," said Richard Cashwell, director of Undergraduate Admissions.

"We don't consider the SAT very much in deciding who is admitted to the University," Cashwell said. "We feel what a student studies in high school and his class rank are a lot better indicators of how he'll do in college," he said.

In contrast to the rest of the country, scores in North Carolina have risen over the past three years from an average of 390 verbal and 424 math in 1977-1978 to 393 verbal and 429 math in 1979-1980.

"We've had more emphasis on language and math and on exceptional children," said A. Craig Phillips, state superintendent of schools. "The kids who started out in our basic reading program are now in high school, and it shows," he said.

The basic reading program was started in 1969 for kindergarten students and extended in 1976 to include elementary grades.

Saunders part of talk show

Student Body President Bob Saunders will discuss the proposed Southern Bell rate increase on "Open Line," a weekly news program that will air 8 p.m. Sunday on WXYC (89.3-FM), UNC's student radio station.

Linda Brown, a staff for *The Daily Tar Heel* and editor of *Black Ink*, and WXYC staff member Tom Young also will question Saunders about Chapel Hill's plans for a new noise ordinance, UNC's food service and the recently released College Curriculum Report.

Phone lines will be open during the 40-minute program and listeners may call in questions and ideas.

Carter survey

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Carter told the crowd he would continue to pursue a policy of peace and that "the best weapon is the one that is never fired. The best soldier is the one who never has to give his life in combat."

After Carter finished his speech, several state officials joined him on the podium in signing a proclamation making March 19, 1981 National Agriculture Day.

The Carter motorcade then went to a reception at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons for a \$500-a-couple fund-raising dinner. Carter again stressed the importance of the election, which he said "may be the most important decision of your lives."

Office of Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education

Gary Barnes, assistant vice president for planning for the General Administration, said the office had not begun working with the report.

"We have a tremendous backlog of work because of preparing for litigation with (the Department of Education)," Barnes said. "This survey is not of high priority right now. That's not to say that it will be forgotten, either."

Barnes said it may be three months before more is done with the survey.

He said the administration also is using information gathered from the UNC system's 1977 and 1978 admissions records in its federal administrative court case dealing with the UNC system's desegregation plans. That information is gathered from accepted applicants, not just people who actually enrolled.

Barnes would not release exact figures because of their role in litigation, but he said they showed that while the percentage of blacks who were accepted and enrolled in the UNC system dropped slightly, actual black enrollment was up.

"More blacks are beginning to submit applications than would have a few years ago," he said.

The 1979 survey also said black females had the highest educational aspirations, while blacks in general have higher educational goals than whites.

Almost 77 percent of the black females said they planned to study for at least a Master's degree, compared with 65.5 percent of black males.

The University's strong academic reputation was the major reason students chose to enroll at the Chapel Hill campus, the report said.

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News In Brief

Hearing set in drug case

A probable cause hearing for 16 people arrested Sept. 24 on drug charges has been scheduled for Oct. 15 at the Hillsborough County Court house. N.C. District Judge Stanley Peele will preside at the hearing.

The 16, including seven UNC students, were arrested on a total of 56 drug charges in connection with an undercover investigation conducted by the Chapel Hill Police Department, Carrboro Police Department, University Police and the State Bureau of Investigation.

Police confiscated drugs with an estimated street value of \$60,000 including methamphetamine, marijuana and hashish, during the arrests.

More than 5,000 register in county

More people registered to vote in Orange County on Oct. 6, the last day to do so, than any other single day, said Gerry Cohen, who works with voter registration for the Orange County Democratic Party.

Cohen said 1,061 voters registered this past Monday in Carrboro Town Hall and the Chapel Hill Municipal Building. He estimated that more than 5,000 people had registered to vote in Orange County since the process began in September. Of those, approximately 4,000 registered in Chapel Hill, the other 1,000 in Carrboro.

The registration held in Woollen Gym Sept. 15 and 22 brought in 536 new voters, he said. Cohen attributed the high turnout to the bus referendum, which will be voted on Nov. 4, the appearance of Independent presidential candidate John Anderson at the University, and the hours and sites of voter registration. Registrars were on campus two days, and residents could register at the town hall and the municipal building six days a week, rather than five.

Kissinger to release conversations

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has agreed to turn over to the government transcripts of his telephone conversations while he headed the State Department, U.S. officials disclosed Thursday.

However, under a compromise agreement with department lawyers, Kissinger will be able to keep under wraps notes that are considered personal.

Kissinger has considered the summaries of phone calls, his personal working papers. Without deciding that issue, the Supreme Court last March kept them out of the hands of journalists, historians and political scientists.

Polish exile wins Nobel Prize

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP)—The exiled Polish writer awarded the 1980 Nobel Prize for literature said Thursday his poems are a response to the tragic experiences of the 20th century.

Czeslaw Milosz, a professor of Slavic languages at the University of California at Berkeley, was awarded the coveted literary prize—this year worth a record \$212,000—by the Swedish Academy of Letters in Stockholm Thursday.

The strong-willed, 69-year-old instructor said he was delighted that the Nobel Prize was awarded to a writer in the "exotic Polish language," but was surprised that honor went to him.

changes

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determined unsafe in 1929 and by 1931 a new building had risen on the same site as the old Gothic structure. Former dormitories such as Battle-Vance-Pettigrew Hall and Steele Building were converted for administrative purposes.

"Person Hall used to be the old chapel of the University," said John Alcott, retired employee of the University art department. "Then (it housed) chemistry, medicine, art and now music."

Contrasting the modern Student Health Service, students in 1858 used a small two-room structure known as "The Retreat" as their infirmary. "The Retreat" was located on the site of Spencer Residence Hall for 36 years.

To expand the medical school, a dissecting hall was constructed around 1900 in an almost inaccessible section of campus, the present location of Venable Hall. This hall was abandoned in 1911 when Caldwell Hall was built for the medical school. Fans will be fans, and in the tradition of a Carolina victory, students burned the deserted dissecting hall to celebrate the defeat of Virginia in 1919.

Football and baseball games were held in Emerson Field and Stadium, in the area surrounding today's Pit.

Athletic activities have not always been centered in Woollen Gymnasium. Bynum Hall, that awesome home of the Cashier's Office, was known as Bynum Gymnasium for 33 years until the opening of Woollen Gymnasium in 1937.

An indoor pool was located in Bynum Gymnasium, but use of the pool was eventually stopped when it was declared unsanitary due to the lack of filters or circulatory pumps.

During the 1940s, Woollen Gymnasium was used for other things besides athletics. Because of plumbing shortages in campus buildings, it was not unusual to see a towel-clad student dash over to the gym for a shower, said William S. Powell in his book *The First State University*.

Professor Emeritus Walter Spearman was a UNC student during the 1920s and until his recent retirement taught at the University for 45 years. He said he had seen much of the rapid expansion on campus.

"It's harder for a new student on South Campus to feel an intimate part of the University," Spearman said. "Students tend to identify with their own personal student interests." But he said, "Students adjust to (the changes) quickly."

Other centers of student life have changed their locations many times in the history of UNC and students seemed to have adjusted well.

At one time the hub of Greek activity was centered around what is now the parking area near Swain Hall. Fraternity Row in the 1920s extended along the north and west borders of the campus.

There were 10 frame houses for the fraternities until 1919 when a fire destroyed three of them. In 1926, the fraternities exchanged these sites along Fraternity Row for the area today known as Fraternity Court.



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