

Graduation rates may become public

By STACI COX
Assistant Managing Editor

A bill that would require colleges and universities to release the graduation rates of scholarship athletes has been introduced to the U.S. Senate, and a study of those graduation rates show they are worse than originally thought.

"The study showed that 35 basketball programs in this country have graduation rates below 20 percent, and that's not good enough," said Tommy Brennan, a spokesman for Sen. Edward Kennedy's education staff.

Kennedy, D-Mass., is sponsoring the Student-Athlete Right to Know Act with Bill Bradley, D-N.J., a former basketball player with the University of Cincinnati and the New York Knicks.

If passed, the bill would require all colleges and universities that receive federal funding to give the graduation rates of all scholarship athletes to the NCAA, which would report the findings to the U.S. secretary of education. Schools that fail to comply would lose federal funds.

"I think it's a positive move," said John Blanchard, UNC athletic associate academic counselor. "It's important to high school students interested in participating in college athletics to know what the track records for graduation are."

The bill was introduced in May, but concerns were raised that collection and tabulation of the data would cost universities too much time and money.

Kennedy requested that the General Accounting Office (GAO), an investigative branch of Congress, conduct a survey to determine the economic plausibility of the bill and determine the graduation rates of basketball and football teams at Division A schools.

"It turned out collection of data was not much of an issue ... more than half of the schools already do it, even though most of them choose not to make the results public," said Ned Griffith, a public affairs specialist at the GAO.

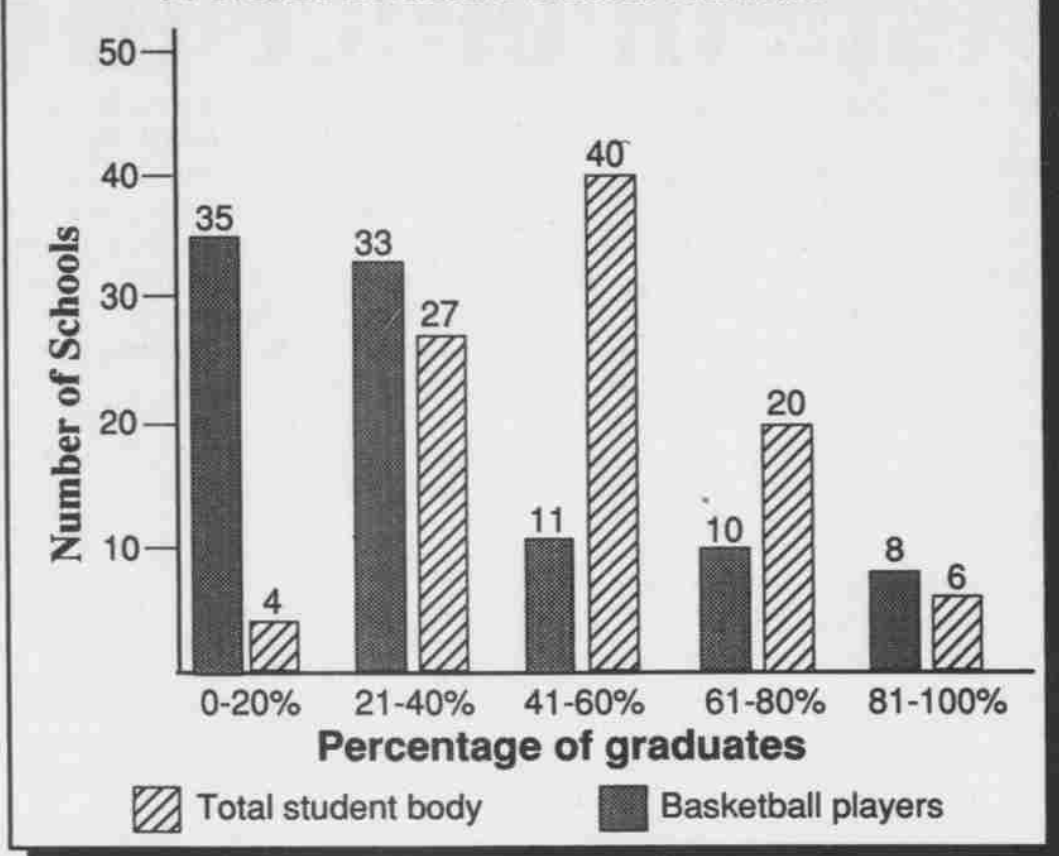
While the results of the first half of the study were positive, the athlete graduation rates were poor. The report compared the basketball graduation rate of 97 men's basketball and 103 football programs to that of the entire student body for each school over a five-year period.

Men's basketball programs had the worst showing, with 30 of the 97 schools having a graduation rate of 5 percent or less. Football teams graduate a higher percentage of players overall, but the majority of football programs graduate less than 40 percent of their scholarship players.

"You must remember that football teams are much larger, and one failure is a great deal more compromising to basketball teams," said Jay Eglin, assistant director for higher education issues at the GAO. "And graduation rates by themselves are not the only

Graduation Rates 1982-87

97 NCAA Division 1 schools contacted



important thing. When you take into account that a number of schools only graduate 20 percent of the entire student body, a lot of the team percentages don't look as bad."

The GAO figures further reinforced sponsor commitment for the bill, Brennan said.

"The NCAA has not acted to rectify any of this, so this bill is trying to let potential athletes know what their prospects of graduation are and what the priorities of the university in question are," he said.

The Senate will probably vote on the bill sometime next month.

City Police Roundup

In Chapel Hill:

• Police said a Pittsboro man was charged Tuesday with two counts of safecracking and two counts of breaking and entering and larceny.

Michael Farrar, 29, of Pittsboro was charged with breaking and entering in connection with a July 26 break in at the Henderson Street Bar and an Aug. 29 break in at Tijuana Fats Restaurant. Farrar was also charged with illegally entering the safes at both locations.

• Chapel Hill police have charged two University students with driving while impaired following auto accidents this week.

Police charged Rebecca Lynn Wooten, 20, with driving while impaired after she was involved in an accident Wednesday. Wooten was driving on West Franklin Street near Church Street at 1:50 a.m. when her car left the road and hit a light pole.

A person in the car was taken to North Carolina Memorial Hospital where she was treated for minor injuries and released. Damage to the car is estimated at \$6,000.

Police also charged David Suk-Bum Kang, 19, of Chapel Hill with driving while impaired after his car ran off Airport Road near Dixie Drive. No injuries were reported but damage to the car was estimated at \$6,000.

• A 16-year-old Chapel Hill Senior High School student was charged with

one count of larceny Wednesday in connection with a stolen bicycle.

Police discovered the student with a custom-made bicycle that had been reported stolen Tuesday from the Chancellor Square Apartments on Church Street.

• A Chapel Hill resident contacted police Monday and reported that tickets of Saturday's Rolling Stone concert were stolen from a local residence.

The person told police that six tickets valued at \$183 were taken from a Britt Court home.

Police have not determined how someone got into the house and they have no suspects at this time.

• Police charged a Chapel Hill man Monday with assault on a female in connection with a domestic dispute.

Police reports said Joseph D. Judd, 36, was charged after he attacked and threatened a female acquaintance. Judd was also served an arrest order for not appearing in Chapel Hill District Court on previous charges.

• A UNC student was charged with theft Monday for reportedly taking an air conditioner from a local hardware store.

According to police reports, Kenneth L. Johnson of Chapel Hill was charged after he took an air conditioner from the Lowes on East Franklin Street.

— compiled by Charles Brittain

Carrboro aldermen vote to revise downtown traffic plan

By JESSICA LANNING

Assistant City Editor

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted this week to delete major portions of the town's Comprehensive Downtown Traffic Circulation Plan following a wave of resident opposition.

At a public hearing Tuesday, residents and business owners expressed disapproval of the Carrboro Transportation Advisory Board's (TAB) proposal to ease Carrboro's traffic woes. The plan has been a source of heated debate for two years.

The Board of Aldermen held the hearing to listen to concerns of Carrboro residents about TAB's recommendations to widen and extend roads in an effort to alleviate the traffic congestion in downtown Carrboro.

Following the residents' presenta-

tion, the board voted to delete many of the major portions of the TAB plan. Those deletions include any changes on Merritt Mill Road, the creation of one-way streets downtown and any extensions to Lloyd, Carr and Parker streets and Brewer Lane.

Residents' primary complaints with TAB's \$7.5 million wish list were the widening of Merritt Mill Road to the south of Franklin Street and the closing of that road to the north side; the one-way loop created with Main and Weaver streets; and the extension of Lloyd Street in north Carrboro.

Steve Oglesbee, a spokesman for TAB, said the group worked toward four goals:

- to provide efficient circulation of traffic to attract patrons to downtown;
- to increase parking and loading zones;

- to provide safe and attractive paths for pedestrians and bicyclists; and
- to allow a more efficient route through downtown for those unable to use the U.S. 15-501 bypass south of town or Interstate 40 north of town.

To reach these goals the board decided to improve existing roads, add another corridor running north and south by extending Lloyd Street and eliminate some of the signal phases so the traffic would move easier through town, Oglesbee said. "It is very important to us to alleviate the traffic problem by dispersing it."

The Rev. Carrington Carter from St. Paul's AME Church said he opposed the widening of Merritt Mill Road and the closing of road on the north side of Franklin Street.

Closing Merritt Mill Road would interfere with the activities of the church

because the new intersection would limit access to the church, he said.

"It's not broke and we don't think it needs fixin'," he said as about 40 people applauded.

Edwin Caldwell, a resident who also spoke on behalf of the church, said there were many elderly people who have lived on the southern part of Merritt Mill Road who would have difficulty relocating if the widening of that road affected their homes. "I don't want us to get so sophisticated that we solve our problems without thinking about people."

Lyle Lansdell, of 301 E. Poplar Ave., said she felt the one-way loop created by Main and Weaver streets would cause more traffic on her road because motorists would choose her street as a shorter route to north Carrboro to avoid using one-way streets and a lot of stoplights.

There are many children who play in the neighborhood and many couples who like to walk, ride their bicycles and walk their pets along the road, Lansdell

said. "I consider my neighborhood a community resource."

Terry Roberts, of 400 Pleasant Dr., said he was never notified of the hearing even though his house would be moved to make way for the expansions.

"We saw the posters, and that was the only way we found out about this meeting. There has been a communication problem."

Many others said they were not notified of the meeting. Mayor Eleanor Kinnaird said that letters were not sent out for expense reasons and that posters were used instead.

Jane Hamborsky, co-owner of Maggie's Muffins, said she did not believe many of the people coming through Carrboro were residents but rather people who were "cutting through" to get to the University.

Many people are going through the downtowns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill because it is quicker than using the 15-501/54 bypass, she said. Hamborsky suggested a survey to determine who was using downtown Carrboro as a

shorter route, and then decide how to alleviate traffic problems.

Businesses are not as successful on one-way roads, and a one-way loop will cause more problems, she said. "Either businesses will fall off or there will be problems on side streets with the added traffic."

Joe Parrish, of 412 Lloyd St., said extending his street to Estes Drive would make the street into a thoroughfare and increase the speed of the cars on that street.

Parrish said he thanked the city for paving the road several years ago and said the many elderly people who live there enjoy it.

"Some are gone and didn't get to enjoy it. The ones that are left, they want to enjoy it. If you build a thoroughfare, they can't enjoy it."

Before he left the microphone, Parrish asked the board one last time not to extend his road.

"We do our duty when you ask us to vote for you, so help us."

N.C. SAT scores slip to last place; state's teachers express concern

By CHUCK WILLIAMS

Staff Writer

North Carolina high school students dropped to last in the nation in average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores, prompting concern and alarm among state educators.

North Carolina's scores dropped five points to 836 this year, ranking the state 50th in the nation. The SAT is graded on a score range of 400 to 1,600 points.

The state had been making small gains every year for the last five years.

North Carolina replaced South Carolina at the bottom of the rankings. South Carolina has focused more heavily on student performance, which has been linked to the rise in rank.

State education officials have expressed concern about the last-place ranking. Bob Etheridge, state superintendent of public instruction, released a report Tuesday outlining a plan designed to improve the state's scores.

The College Board said a state-by-state ranking did not indicate a state's educational ranking because different percentages of students take the test in different states. But North Carolina still ranked behind many states such as Virginia, Indiana and South Carolina, which had almost identical percentages of students taking the test.

The SAT scores of UNC-Chapel Hill undergraduates have not necessarily reflected the statewide drop.

"I think one of the things you must understand is that the number of applications have gone up so we are seeing better and better SAT scores each year," said Herb Davis, associate director of admissions at UNC.

"The UNC General Administration has set forth in 1990 to have a specific set of courses to be admissible."

Getting students to take more chal-

lenging high school courses is also a good idea, Davis said.

State education officials agree there is a need to take another look at North Carolina's schools.

"Bob Etheridge has said the scores do give us reason to be concerned," said Kay Williams, consultant for media relations at the State Department of Public Instruction. "We need to look and see what can be changed in the secondary schools."

In his report, Etheridge said, "We trailed every state in the nation except South Carolina and the District of Columbia last year in average SAT scores. This year we are on the absolute bottom ... You reach a point when the only way to go is up, and North Carolina intends to do whatever is necessary to go up."

Etheridge released a five-point plan to improve the state's scores. He proposed the following:

- establishing a Task Force on Excellence in Secondary Education;
- having more accountability among schools by comparing their SAT scores;
- using the PSAT and other SAT coaching methods to better prepare students for the test;
- intensifying efforts to encourage students to take more rigorous high school courses; and
- using the recently passed Senate Bill 2 to allow local school systems to

improve student achievement.

The fifth point of the plan is similar to South Carolina's approach in improving schools and will give local districts more freedom in how they use state resources.

Officials have stressed that results of the program will not be seen immediately.

"Mr. Etheridge has said he won't be able to make any kind of projections until next year as to when we can expect improvement," Williams said.

N.C. students score well on standardized tests compared to other states until about the eighth grade, so the focus in school improvement will be on the high school level.

High school officials see course schedules and reading habits as a factor in the low scores.

"I think part of it is students not reading," said Linda Mahan, a guidance counselor at Needham Broughton High School in Raleigh.

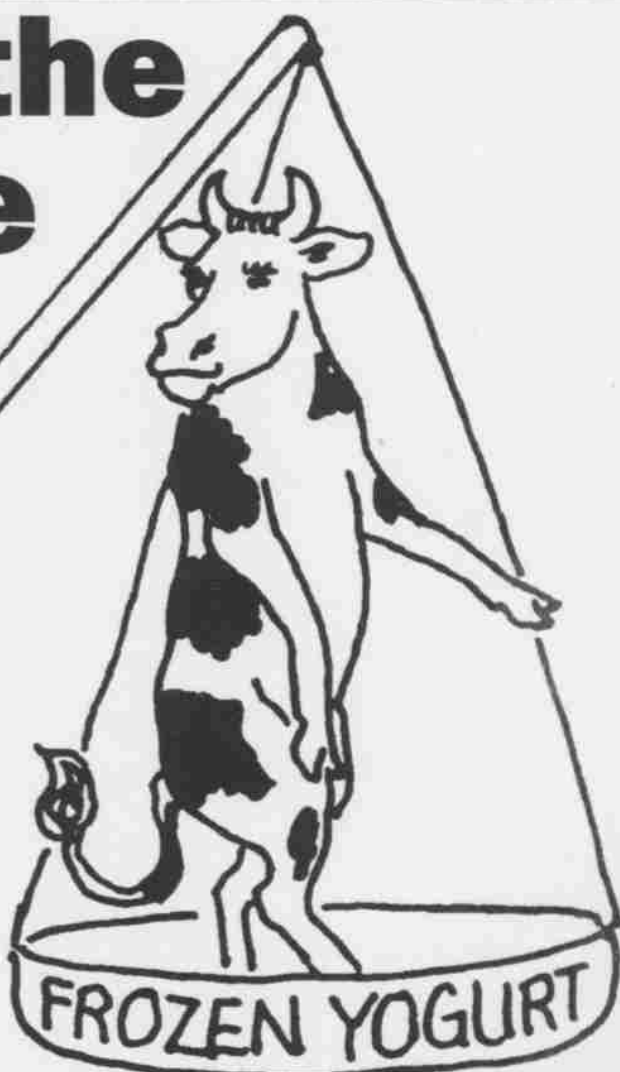
The PSAT, a test similar to the SAT given the sophomore year in high school, has also been shown to enhance SAT performance.

"Wake County started last year requiring all sophomores to take the PSAT, which we provide funds for," Mahan said.

Wake County SAT scores rose this year, Mahan said.

Look for the expanded Editorial and Sports pages every Monday in The Daily Tar Heel!!!

Let us relay the gravity of the situation.

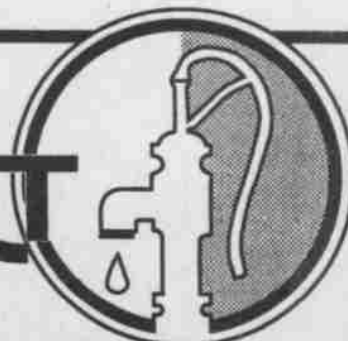


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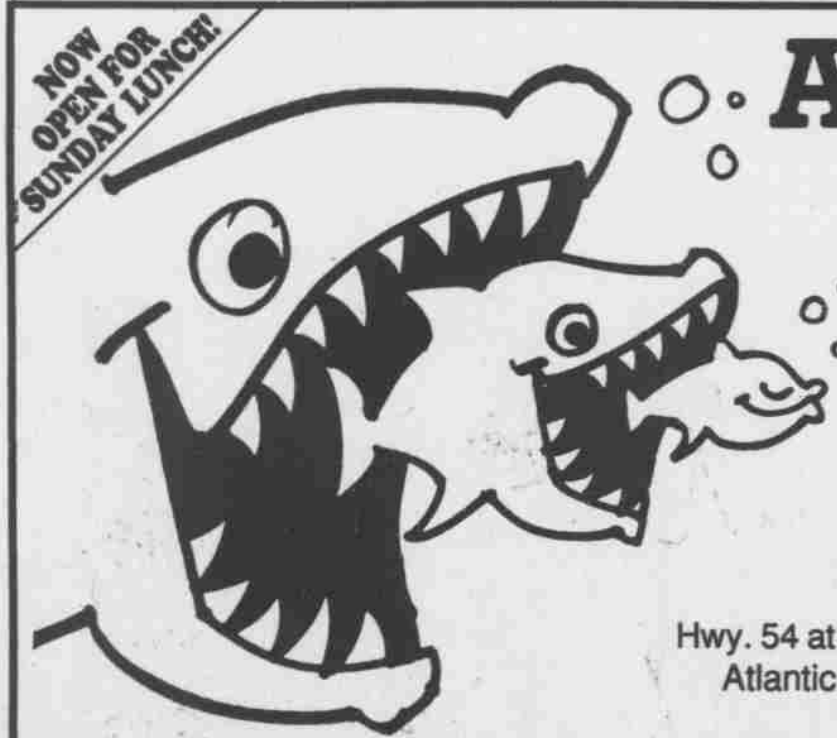
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