

Nation's SAT scores up, down

Scores stay flat 3rd year despite wave of reforms

(CPS)--In spite of a huge wave of school reforms aimed at helping students do better on standardized tests, Scholastic Aptitude Test scores have stayed flat for the third straight year, the College Board announced Sept. 20.

Nationally, this year's freshmen had average verbal scores of 428, down two points from the year before, and average math scores of 476, the same as in 1987.

"There's no medal for Amer-

ica in this year," said former U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett. "I said in April that 'the absolute level in which our improvements are taking place is unacceptably low.' Today it's a bit lower and still not acceptable. Come on team, back into training."

scores.

"A lot of the dialogue of the Reagan administration sparked efforts to improve education," she said. "The states responded to that dialogue, but improvements take time. We'll see some real innovative successes."

Still others don't see much room for interpretation in the scores.

John Katsman, president of Princeton Review, a New York firm that coaches standardized test takers, has fervently criticized the SAT for what he says is a bias against women and minorities. The SAT, he says, doesn't test actual knowledge, just students' ability to take standardized tests.

"It's a lousy test that doesn't measure aptitude, written by a bunch of guys from New Jersey," Katsman said.

Peterson publishes massive new study

Contemporary Black American Playwrights and Other Plays, a 625-page study of about 700 black playwrights since 1950, has been released by Greenwood Press. Called "original and quite important" by James V. Hatch, a professor at the City College of New York and an authority on black playwrights, the book was written by Bernard L. Peterson Jr., ECSU Profes-

Minority SAT scores outpace national norm

(CPS)--Minority students' average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Scores rose faster than those of "majority" students this year, the College Board said September 20.

"The math scores of all ethnic groups rose this year," College Board President Donald Stewart said in announcing the results of SAT's taken by college-bound high school seniors during the 1987-88 school year, "while the verbal averages for most of the ethnic groups stayed the same or went up."

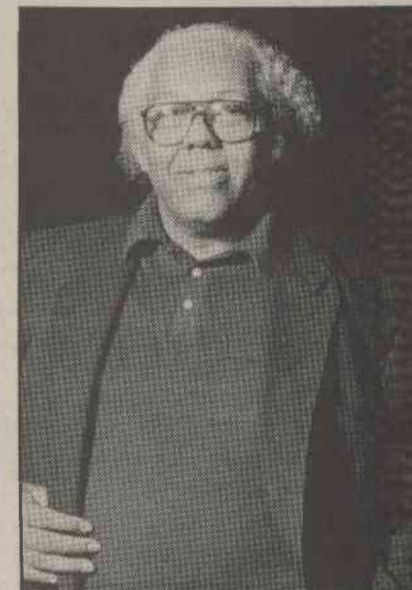
On the math tests, Asian-American students' averages rose three points to 408. American Indians averaged 393, Mexican Americans 382, Puerto Ricans 355 and black students 353. The nationwide math SAT average was 428.

On the verbal tests, black students recorded the biggest gain: seven points to an average 384.

Asian-American students averaged 522, American Indians 435, Mexican Americans 428, and Puerto Ricans 402. The average for all the students who took the verbal portion of the SAT was 476.

While critics have long argued that the SAT and other standardized tests are "culturally biased"--claiming they more accurately measure how thoroughly students have adopted middle class values than how much aptitude for learning they have--Stewart noted ethnic groups' scores have enjoyed "substantial increases" since 1978.

"I am very pleased by the steady progress shown on the SAT in the past decade by ethnic minorities," he said, "but the fact is that the averages of most ethnic groups still lag behind the national mean."



ECSU's Bernard Peterson.

Students air concerns

Water, cont. from page 1.

case basis, if they felt the water crisis would impair the teaching and learning environment."

Although ECSU students expressed many concerns about the University's lack of "a no classes" water policy, and a back up water system, other schools in the UNC-system also lack a formal policy concerning problems with water.

"There is no formal policy that I know of here for class excuses and cancellations because of water problems," said Jim Mergner, Director of UNC-Chapel Hill's Utilities Operation. "In situations such as this we would deal with each problem individually."

As the count down to water passed into its second day at ECSU, students struggled to cope.

"We haven't had any water for almost two days," said Ingrid Wright, who lives in Mitchell-Lewis dormitory. "I have missed three classes because the bathrooms are so unsanitary."

"I am very upset about the water problem, but I have managed to deal with it," said La Tanya Turner, who lives in Bias Hall. "My major problem is having to walk to Tony's Pizza to use the bathroom. Hopefully, we'll have water by the end of

the day (Tuesday). We came to school for an education, not aggravation."

"Certain problems are not foreseeable," said Hezekiah Cooper, Acting Director of ECSU's Physical Plant. "These things happen. We are doing everything we can to fix the problem quickly."

Despite official attempts to assure the Viking family of a speedy recovery of water, many students found it difficult to maintain optimism.

"I have missed classes because of the problem," said Symera Hall resident, Timmothy McCray. "I was always taught to step out into the public with a sense of cleanliness."

Three, two, one...

On Wednesday, October 5, water was restored to the campus. "Our men worked all day Monday, Tuesday and on through Tuesday night to get the water main fixed," said McLean. "As we are still trying to get all the water lines back together."

Afterwards, Danny Thomas, a resident of the new complex, was willing to forgive and forget, concerning the water cut off.

"I felt like it's nobody's fault," said Thomas. "The pipes just burst. It was an act of nature, and it's over now."

Nicholas Allen, Craig Avondo, Rene Knight and Alisa Robinson contributed to this story.

ECSU's new folklore center to study psychic events

ECSU now has a Black Folklore Research Center, dedicated to gathering and preserving unique, extrasensory experiences, especially among blacks.

Parapsychology Foundation in Parapsychology, the center is focusing on a study to gather and preserve folklore of North Eastern North Carolina. Five ECSU students are presently interviewing

people who report ghost stories, extrasensory perception, clairvoyance, out-of-body experiences, mystical experiences, dreams which mirror future events, and near-death experiences.

A major purpose of the grant is to train students in social science research and computer skills. The five students who serve on the present research team will learn computer skills required to record the information gained from their interviews.

The study will focus particularly on unusual black experience since little research has been conducted in this area. Occult folklore constitutes a unique aspect of the black cultural heritage.

The five ECSU students conducting the present research are Dwayne Lawrence, Fay Spivey, Stacey Eley, Delois White, and Karen Abdullah.

During the week of September 12-17, the team distributed questionnaires to 20 randomly selected classrooms, polling students about unusual experiences. The team also continued interviewing people who have reported paranormal experiences.

National surveys indicate that a large percentage of Americans have had paranormal experiences. Over half of the respondents in one survey reported ESP experiences and approximately one third reported "contact" with a person who had died.

Dr. James McClenon, Director of the ECSU project, is the author of *Deviant Science: The Case of Parapsychology*, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Anyone interested in participating in this project should contact Dr. McClenon in the Department of Social Sciences.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

ECSU to adopt 'alphabet' system

Effective the spring semester, 1989, ECSU will institute a new official registration process designed to allow students to register according to the alphabet system and designated time schedule (beginning with the alphabet of your last name). You will not be allowed to register before your designated time. ECSU will observe the designated time schedule listed below for students register-

ing in Williams Hall. Last name (alphabet) A-F, 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.; G-M, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon; N-R, 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.; S-Z, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. From 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. is open registration. Open registration is a period of time when new students, returning non-preregistered students, and students who missed their designated time may register for classes and/or pay tuition and fees.

Bio students attend summer institutes

Several students from ECSU's Department of Biology took part in educational programs this past summer.

Felicia Griffin and Johnny Reid attended eight weeks of lectures and symposia at the 1988 Dental Admissions Preparatory Program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry. Griffin and Reid attended lectures on starting and managing a dental practice, periodontics, oral surgery, orthodon-

tics, and dental research. Martha Britt and Tonya Little worked as research assistants at a marine laboratory in Morehead City, North Carolina. As part of their work samples of shellfish were collected and used to study the lasting effects of Red Tide.

Biology majors also participated in numerous hospital assignments and other health-related positions and programs, according to Dr. Curtis Turnage, chairman of the Biology department.

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