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HIGH LIFE

GRIMSLEY HIGH SCHOOL



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New, revised SAT prepared for spring debut

By Ethan Pell

In the fall of 1990, the College Board announced that it was about to change the SAT. This announcement came after three years of intense research and evaluation. This extensive review of the purpose, content, and format of College Board admissions tests was triggered by changes in education, advances in learning and curriculum theory. Also, new approaches to test design, and a desire to see if the tests might be made more useful to students, schools, and colleges have been added.

SAT-1 or Scholastic Assessment Test (the new name) will continue to test students' verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities. However, the SAT-1 will include longer reading passages that measure critical reading skills and knowledge of vocabulary in context. It will continue to ask questions about sentences and analogies, but drop questions about antonyms.

Critical reading questions will make up at least half of the new verbal test, and more

than three-fourths of verbal testing time will be spent on reading passages and questions. Such questions will assess a student's ability to interpret, synthesize, analyze, and evaluate a test.

These changes should bring the verbal test into closer alignment with current professional thinking about how reading ability develops and how it is to be assessed.

The SAT-1 test of mathematical reasoning will continue to focus on the domains of arithmetic, algebra and geometry, and will emphasize mathematical understanding and problem solving rather than occupational skills. The new test will include more data interpretation and applied mathematics questions oriented to problem solving in practical, real-life situations.

Some questions will ask students to produce their own answers rather than select answers from printed choices. Although none of the questions will require calculators to solve, students will be permitted to use calculators which will be a change that reflects the recommendation of mathema-

ticians, teachers, and students. Some think the breaks are too short. Sophomore David Lindley says, "I believe that the breaks in between the second and fourth sections are not long enough and there should be more of them."

The entire SAT-1 will be the same length as the current SAT -three hours- with the "The old SAT takes entirely too long."

-Laurel Hansen, senior

thirty minutes currently devoted to the TSWE divided between math and verbal. The TSWE will be dropped.

The SAT-1 will be administered for the first time in March 1994. There will be three math sections. The first is a straight forward, thirty minute section of twenty-five multiple choice questions presented in order of difficulty just like the current SAT. The second section is also a thirty minute section of twenty-five questions but with a new twist. There will be fifteen quantitative comparison, the last ten questions in

this section are now student produced responses or "grid-in" questions. The third section will be only fifteen minutes long and there are ten questions, all multiple choice. The verbal part of the new SAT will have three sections, two thirty minute sections of thirty and thirty-five questions respectively and one fifteen minute section of thirteen questions which are all devoted to critical thinking. "I think that the SAT (old version) takes entirely too long, given that only four of the six sections tested are used to compute your score," senior Laurel Hansen said.

Overall, there are fewer questions with the same amount of time on the new test. The Educational Testing Service, the people who write the SAT questions, tell us that the new tests are more reasoning oriented but they really don't document how or why. While some format changes have been made, the skills they test really haven't changed.

Although the new SAT offers many changes it still is the same test.

Honor Society welcomes fall Torchlight inductees

By Rebecca Green

"Character, scholarship, leadership, and service are cardinal qualities worthy of encouragement in all schools."

This is a quote from the National Honor Society Charter. Torchlight, Grimsley's chapter of the National Honor Society, honors students who possess such qualities here at Grimsley. Torchlight is the oldest chapter in North Carolina. The NHS charter issued to Greensboro High School on November 1, 1922, is the seventy-third in the country. Considering that there are now more than 20,300 chapters of NHS, the low charter number has great meaning.

Students apply for the Society in the

spring of their junior year or the fall of their senior year. A committee of teachers and administrators reviews the applications and selects those students who have the qualities stated in the charter.

On November 17, twenty-one seniors were inducted into the Society. The induction ceremony was led by the officers who spoke on knowledge, character, scholarship, service and leadership. The inductees took the NHS oath and enjoyed a reception with their parents. Heather Brown said, "I think being inducted into National Honor Society is a big honor and makes me proud of my success over the past four years." Congratulations to the fall inductees!



Grimsley members of Senior Girl Scout Troop 227 make history by building the Gold House. See article, page 2.

NAFTA becomes reality for America

By Susan Barham

On November 17, the House of Representatives passed the North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA only involves the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Its purpose is to eliminate most, if not all, tariffs (border taxes) on products being shipped from one of these three countries to another. For example, if the U.S. ships a product to Mexico, then Mexico cannot charge a tax.

There are both pros and cons to NAFTA.

Without tariffs, more U.S. products will be sold in Mexico which means more American jobs. However, U.S. corporations may move their plants to Mexico, for cheaper labor costs, and then ship their products back to the U.S., which means fewer American jobs. Economists predict unskilled jobs used in labor intensive industry (greater number of people than machines) will be moved to Mexico. Jobs requiring skilled labor and high technology will remain in the U.S. and export their products.

1993 NHS Fall Inductees

Heather Brown	Brian Mascia	Myra Scott
Jordanna Chalnack	Joe McCullough	Ashlyn Smith
Matt Curlee	Daniel Newman	Josh Steadman
Heather Gonsalves	Bryan Page	Kathryn Taylor
Laurel Hansen	Michael Parsons	Stephanie Weikel
Alicia Kaplan	Chan Reiser	Eddie Yu
Jaya Kasibhatla	Heather Schafer	Tushar Zaver