## The Daily Tar Heel

# **State & National**

# Report: Race Plays Role in SATs ASU Professor Entertains Peers,

## BY KRISTINA CASTO Staff Write

Racial differences in the quality of education accounts for a significant scholastic aptitude test score gap between blacks and whites, according to

a recent report. Released Jan. 31 by the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education, the report found a national racial disparity of 199 points in SAT scores.

The study compared the black-white scoring gap in each state and then compared the individual gaps to a national average.

Despite a 47-point gain among black students who took the SAT over the last 13 years in North Carolina, the study reported a continued 194-point disparity in the state.

New Hampshire reported the smallest racial gap at 14 points while the District of Columbia reported the largest racial gap at 409 points.

Henry Johnson, the associate superintendent of instructional and accountability services in the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, did not agree that educational racial bias alone accounted for the test score gap. "I don't think that is necessarily true

that the color of the person sitting beside

you makes a whole lot of difference on how you do on the test," Johnson said. "What makes the difference is being

exposed to a rigorous curriculum, have ing a support system in place, and the student putting forth the effort to be successful " cessful.

Johnson said he was convinced that parity would eventually be reached

But his optimism was not universal. Robert Slater, managing editor of the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education and author of the study, said there was little hope in solving the racial gap.

"There (has been) virtually no progress whatsoever in the last 25 years," Slater said. "There is no indica-tion there will be a closing of the gap." He pointed to the complexities

involved in solving the problems of the educational system.

Immediate concerns about decreasing school resources and unqualified teachers are only the tip of the iceberg, Slater said.

Educational biases reflected in the score gap are rooted in systemic social

and economic inequality, he said. "There is no quick fix," Slater said. "If I had the answer, I would be the presi-

dent of the United States." Jon Sanders, director of publication at the Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, admitted that the origin of the black-white score gap was hard to pinpoint.

Sanders said socioeconomic dispari-ty, as well the racial bias of the SAT and in the delivery of education, could all be factors in the SAT performance gap. Many officials, including Sanders,

have advocated voucher programs to offer students the option of attending a private school free of charge. The argued that the programs would improve the quality of schools by creating more competition and would offer re opportunities to low-income students.

"If nothing else, (the gap) speaks for the need of vouchers and more experimental education."

While researchers and policymakers debated the causes of racial disparity in testing, all agreed on the tragedy of lost opportunity.

Slater said, "Unless this trend can be reversed, a whole generation of black youth from inner-city school districts in our largest states will be doomed to the disadvantages incurred by those who do not have a college education."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

# **Students with Weather Forecasts**

## **By JENNIFER HAGIN** Staff Writer

Rather than just listen to their professor lecture on computers, students can also depend on him to help decide if they should carry an umbrella or snow

shoes to class. Ray Russell, chairman of the computer science department at Appalachian State University, has a popular Internet page devoted to Boone's weather. Russell said the site grossed up to 14,000 hits a week. The National Weather Service page also has links to his site links to his site.

But Russell's fame is not limited to the Internet. Boone radio station WECR recently discovered the Web page and made him their new morning weather personality.

Russell said he gave the weather report on the station bright and early every weekday morning at 7:10 a.m.

"Anyone with a good science back-ground could do it," Russell said.

Russell said he attributed the success of the site to a combination of humor and accuracy. He said political jokes and contests offering prizes from local stores

contributed to his popularity. "I try to jazz it up a little bit," he said. Russell's weather fascination is not a fleeting habit. He said a Nashville weatherman he idolized as a young boy ignited his interest. He said he educated bimesif he reading rations hock or a the himself by reading various books on the subject.

Russell said his interest lay dormant until about five years ago when he real-ized how much weather information was available on the Internet.

Last Christmas, Russell's wife, Rhonda, bought him a weather station. Russell said he connected the station to his computer, allowing updates every 90 minutes

The backyard device is usually accurate, but Russell's ego takes a hit when his equipment fails him. Cindy Norris, an ASU computer sci-

nce professor, said Russell's weather hobby occasionally harmed his pride. "One time he completely miscalcu-

lated and came in looking sheepish," she said. "The students love to harass him."

Not only students and colleagues check the site, Russell said, explaining that some students' parents also logged on.

"I get e-mails from parents that say they never hear from their kids unless they need money," Russell said. "So they check the site to see at least what the

e weather is like here." Predicting the weather has also cap-Chapel Hill student. Brad Barrett, a junior business major, said he regularly tracks the weather and even dreams about it. Barrett's friend Adam Cline, a, senior religious studies major, said his was devoted to the weather.

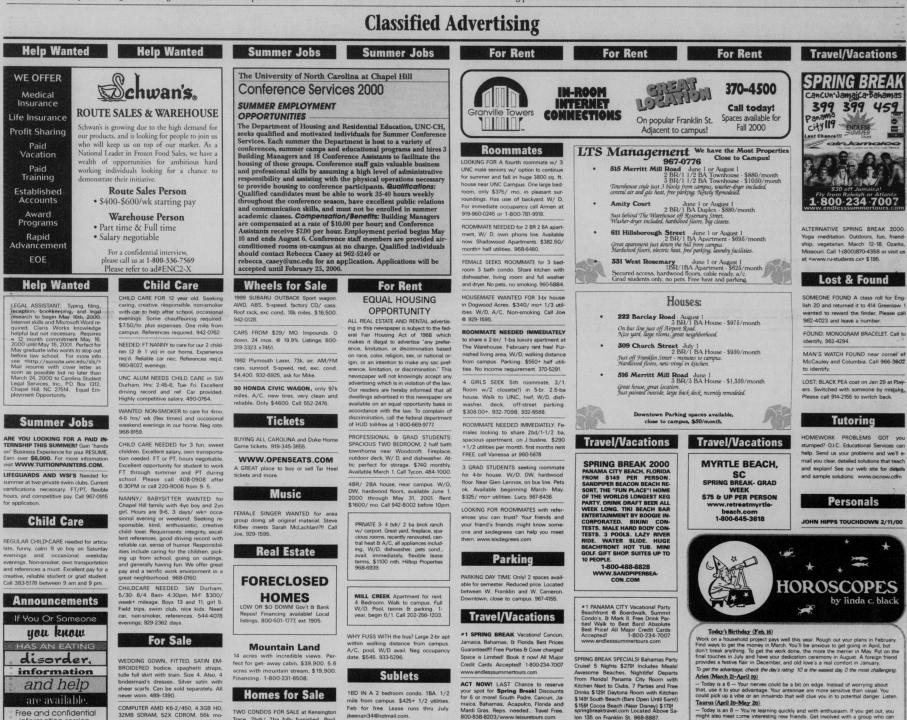
"He's got at least a couple hundred weather Web sites bookmarked in his computer," said Cline. "He checks them two to three times a day."

Barrett said he became interested in the weather during Hurricane Charlie when he was 10 years old. When Hurricane Andrew pounded Florida, Barrett said he made his grandmother tape The Weather Channel coverage.

Barrett said his passion was based on weather's unique nature. "It's changeable, it's beautiful, it's pre-

dicting the unpredictable."

The State & National Editor can be, reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.



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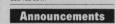
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# ning quickly and with enthusiasm. If you get out, you sting new friends. Get involved with a group who can wn creativity. Don't just sit there go D0 something!

Inspire you to unsetter your own clearing over your consistency over your own clearing (May 24-June 21) — Today is a 6 — More education could lead to an increase in your income. That's a theme you'll hear over and over again. That's because for you, it's always true. And now, it's even more true than ever before. Don't get stuck in a dead-end job Take a class. Read a book.

Take a class. near a book Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 – A few th need to buy things at the s the way, the sconer you c Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is a 5 – People wil igs need to be cleaned up around your place. You still bre, too. The sooner you get all those little things out of get creative again.

 Today is a 5 - People w you yell at, all in good fun harassment litigation if you
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) a tendency to be wimpy today. Take care. A person take offense. You could find yourself on the ugly side of careful. Be nice, as if it really mattered, which it does!

- Today is an 8 - Do you ule with your friends and i thing down on your list ex have time slotted for fun? Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) you have the next few days planned out? Discuss your sche and family and make a few improvements. You've got every-st except for one thing, and it's the most important. Do you

- Today is a 5 - You are the other person outranks lucrative. In other words, I Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) expected to act a certain way. There's no point in arguing you. This is not going to be easy, but it could be quite look sharp. You can relax later.

Indep is on 8 – You have a grand trine in water signs today. That means your infution should be excellent. You may have a technical problem to deal with at home, however. Well, if it get handled. You may not know how, but somebody do Get them to helio.
Satitatriai (DKW) 22-Dec. 21)
Today is a 6 – You are cautious about allocating your resources. You may not ing now You you'd like to patherap on educational materials, and that's 0. Bo without food, buy books.
Caricican (Die: 22-Jan. 3))
Today is a 8 – You any noblem swith finances. Joans. Investments to sup problem swithout finances. Joans. Investments or base and money you're having any problem swith finances.

- rower is an o - rou should think about partnerships, legal matters and money. I you're having any problems with finances, loans, investments or taxes, get expert halp. You may know a lot, but you can't be expected to know everything! Aquarity (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

help. You may know a lot, but you can't be expected to know everything! Aquartia (Jas. 20-7eb. 8). — Today is a 5 – The sum's in your sign, and the moon's in Cancer. This means you're strong, but you also must be greated. If you're so smart, you should be able to figure out what's going on. You'll never get there by taking or explaining. Litteri, instead. **Ploca (Pis. 2) Phatech. 20** — Today is an 8 – The phase is about to change in your favor. Better get ready. Clear the colverbas of the your workberch and data off your hopes and desam. You don't have to colverbas out your workberch and data off your hopes and desam. You don't have to Linda explains what's going on in greater detail at (2000) \$50-9000, for \$90 cents per minute. To leave a message, call (188) \$522 = 9533 for free. © 2000 Tribune Media Services. Inc.

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