

Report: Race Plays Role in SATs

By KRISTINA CASTO
Staff Writer

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, having a support system in place, and the student putting forth the effort to be successful."

Johnson said he was convinced that score 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 indication 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 president 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 disparity, as well as 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. They argued that the programs would improve the quality of schools by creating more competition and would offer more 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.

ASU Professor Entertains Peers, 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.

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 background 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 himself by reading various books on the subject.

Russell said his interest lay dormant until about five years ago when he realized 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 science professor, said Russell's weather hobby occasionally harmed his pride.

"One time he completely miscalculated 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 weather is like here."

Predicting the weather has also captured the interest of at least one UNC-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 friend 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 predicting the unpredictable."

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

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Route Sales Person
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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Conference Services 2000
SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
The Department of Housing and Residential Education, UNC-CH, seeks qualified and motivated individuals for Summer Conference Services. Each summer the Department is host to a variety of conferences, summer camps and educational programs and hires 3 Building Managers and 18 Conference Assistants to facilitate the housing of these groups. Conference staff gain valuable business and professional skills by assuming a high level of administrative responsibility and assisting with the physical operations necessary to provide housing to conference participants. **Qualifications:** Qualified candidates must be able to work 35-40 hours weekly throughout the conference season, have excellent public relations and communication skills, and must not be enrolled in summer academic classes. **Compensation/Benefits:** Building Managers are compensated at a rate of \$10.00 per hour; and Conference Assistants receive \$7.00 per hour. Employment period begins May 10 and ends August 6. Conference staff members are provided air-conditioned rooms on-campus at no charge. **Qualified individuals should contact Rebecca Casey at 962-5240 or rebecca_casey@unc.edu for an application. Applications will be accepted until February 25, 2000.**

Help Wanted

LEGAL ASSISTANT: Typing, filing, reception, bookkeeping, and legal research to begin May 16th, 2000. Internet skills and Microsoft Word required. Claris Works knowledge helpful but not necessary. Requires a 12 month commitment May 16, 2000 until May 15, 2001. Perfect for MA graduate who wants to stop out before law school. For more info see <http://nausaite.unc.edu/sls/> Mail resume with cover letter as soon as possible but no later than March 24, 2000 to Carolina Student Legal Services, Inc., P.O. Box 1312, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Equal Employment Opportunity.

Child Care

CHILD CARE FOR 12 year old. Seeking caring, creative, responsible, non-smoker with car to help after school, occasional evenings. Some chauffeuring required. \$750/hr. plus expenses. One mile from campus. References required. 942-0762
NEEDED FT NANNY to care for our 2 children (2 & 1 yo) in our home. Experience req'd. Reliable car rec. References req'd. 960-8027, evenings.
UNC ALUM NEEDS CHILD CARE in SW Durham. Hrs: 2-4:56 p.m., Tue-Fri. Excellent driving record and rec. Car provided. Highly competitive salary. 490-0764.

Wheels for Sale

1999 SUBARU OUTBACK Sport wagon. AWD, ABS, 5-speed, factory CD/cass. Roof rack, exc. cond. 18k miles. \$16,500. 942-0128.
CARS FROM \$29/ MO. Impounds 0.0 down. 24 mos. @ 19.9%. Listings: 800-319-3323 x7451.
1992 Plymouth Laser, 73k air, AM/FM/cass, sunroof, 5-speed, red, exc. cond. \$4,400. 932-6925. ask for Mike.
90 HONDA CIVIC WAGON, only 97k miles. A/C, new tires, very clean and reliable. Only \$4600. Call 552-2476.

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LIFEGUARDS AND WSIS Needed for summer at two private swim clubs. Current certifications necessary: FT/PT, flexible hours, and competitive pay. Call 967-0915 for application.

Child Care

REGULAR CHILD-CARE needed for articulate, funny, child-9 yo boy on Saturday evenings and occasional weekday evenings. Non-smoker, own transportation and references a must. Excellent pay for a creative, reliable student or grad student. Call 383-5178 between 9 am and 9 pm.
CHILD CARE NEEDED for 3 fun, sweet children. Excellent salary, own transportation needed. FT or PT, hours negotiable. Excellent opportunity for student to work FT through summer and PT during school. Please call 408-0908 after 6:30PM or call 220-9006 from 9-5.
NANNY/ BABYSITTER WANTED for Chapel Hill family with 4yo boy and 2yo girl. Hours are 9-6, 3 days/wk occasional evening or weekend. Seeking responsible, kind, enthusiastic, creative child-care lover. Requirements: integrity, excellent references, good driving record with reliable car, sense of humor. Responsibilities include caring for the children, picking up from school, going on outings, and generally having fun. We offer great pay and a terrific work environment in a great neighborhood. 968-0160.

Tickets

BUYING ALL CAROLINA and Duke Home Game tickets. 919-345-3655.
WWW.OPENSEAS.COM
A GREAT place to buy or sell Tar Heel tickets and more.

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Music

FEMALE SINGER WANTED for area group doing all original material. Steve Kilbey meets Sarah McLachlan?! Call Joe, 929-1595.

Announcements

If You Or Someone you know HAS AN EATING disorder, information and help are available.
Free and confidential information session. Anonymous assessment.
Thurs., Feb. 17th from 3-5pm
Center for Healthy Student Behaviors
(located at the Student Recreation Center)
Please Call 962-9355 for more information and/or to attend.

Announcements

For Sale
WEDDING GOWN, FITTED, SATIN EMBROIDERED bodice, spaghetti straps, tulle full skirt with train. Size 4. Also, 4 bridesmaid's dresses. Silver satin with sheer scarfs. Can be sold separately. All never worn. 489-1390.
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Mountain Land
14 acres with incredible views. Perfect for get-away cabin, \$39,900. 5.6 acres with mountain stream, \$19,900. Financing. 1-800-231-6508.
Homes for Sale
TWO CONDOS FOR SALE at Kensington Trace. 2br/2ba fully furnished. Pool, bbq/tennis, clubhouse, 10mins to UNC. On busline. Walking distance to grocery, banks, food, theaters. \$84,000 each. Call Amish 932-5199
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MILLCREEK 4br, 2ba. Now taking reservations for the coming school year. Pool, tennis, full-sized W/D, remodeled condos. Walking distance to campus. Call 226-2537
1-BR'S FROM \$632 AND 2-BR'S FROM \$705! Sunstone has an incredible offer for you. Limited availability for immediate occupancy. Waitlist now in progress. Call Jessica or Jodi @ 942-0481 to reserve your new home today.
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4BR/4BA CONDO. University Commons. Fully furnished, W/D, J.crew, deck. 2BR available mid-May-Aug. 4BR available August for year lease. 852-0510.

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Spacious Modern 6 BEDROOM, 5 BATH TOWNHOUSE

on bus line, convenient to UNC. Living room with ceiling fan, dining room, large kitchen with dishwasher, full-sized W/D, central heating and air conditioning, ample parking, storage. \$350-375/ bedroom. Leases May-May or Aug-Aug. 933-0983, 516-6369

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ROOM WITH KITCHEN FACILITIES, air conditioning, private entrance, in attractive Chapel Hill house, in exchange for part-time assistance to professional with injury in rehabilitation program. Opportunity for additional paid compensation. Hours adaptable to academic/work schedule. Call 933-1166.

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Rooms

ROOMMATE NEEDED. PRIVATE bedroom, walk-in closet, shared kitchen, living room, bath. Near hospitals and campus. (910) 653-4719.

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TWO ROOMS FOR rent in nice house in Carboro. N/S, no drugs. 968-4218, leave message.

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