

Drop in test scores renews interest in remedial aid

By STEPHEN HARRIS
Staff Writer

Remedial assistance is offered to UNC students in one regular and several optional programs, but students interested in enrolling in the improvement programs must initiate their involvement.

A report for the UNC Board of Governors released charges last week that UNC and some other schools in the University system make little or no effort to provide remedial help.

One official responded to the report by stating the school does not need an extensive remedial program "with the type of student we have at UNC."

However, recent indications that Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores have been declining nationwide have spawned new interest in the improvement programs.

Similar to national figures, SAT scores among entering UNC freshmen have slipped down over the last 10 years.

In 1966 the average SAT score of an entering UNC freshman was 1152, according to the freshman profile, published by UNC Undergraduate Admissions. From 1966, the average score steadily dropped each year (except 1972) to a low of 1080 in 1975. The average last year was 1090. The 1977 average is just over 1080.

Remedial programs at UNC may acquire new significance with the recent proposal by school officials to increase minority enrollment at predominantly white schools by 32 per cent over the next five years.

The only regular course which now can be considered "remedial" is English W, which began

this fall. English W is required of all entering freshmen who made 400 or below on the SAT verbal section. Students take English W before they can take English 1.

The English department planned to offer only 10 English W courses this fall, but had to add six more sections as the freshman class arrived.

"The English department has committed itself to this course," said Connie C. Eble, who helped construct English W. "It is an expensive course because of the personnel teaching it. We feel our professional reputations depend on teaching this course well to students."

Four associate English professors and two department instructors are among the English W teachers this fall. Most English 1 and 2 courses are taught by graduate students.

"After several years of having some students failing English 1," Eble said, "the English department decided to put in another (freshman English) course. We are looking at this course positively. We have a hand-picked staff. We want it to achieve."

Students from North Carolina dominate the English W courses, according to Eble. But otherwise, "It is a very nice mixture," she said. "And their writing is not as bad as we were led to believe."

A second English remedial program is English C, the writing laboratory. It is a tutorial program which helps students with writing deficiencies.

Gayle St. John heads the program. She teaches freshmen from English 1 and 2 classes mostly, but has contact with all types of students.

English C is required only to remove a composition condition (CC) from a student's

transcript. A CC is placed on a transcript by an undergraduate professor who believes a student's writing skills are inadequate. Sessions with St. John are required before a CC can be taken off a transcript.

Any professor can give a CC, and no student can graduate with a CC on his record.

"I find this extremely effective," St. John said. "And I do not know of a program of this type elsewhere. Here you have professors searching out students who need help. Professors all over campus are involved."

Six students were given CCs last semester. Students usually meet with St. John once a week, and a sample of a student's work is discussed.

The chemistry department offers Chemistry 10 to students who have trouble with the regular

freshman chemistry course, Chemistry 11 (often considered one of UNC's hardest freshmen courses) are sent by their instructors to Chemistry 10, which begins after the 12th Chemistry 11 lecture.

The University's major remedial program is the Reading Program, located in Phillips Annex. The reading lab is an optional program which often helps students with remedial problems.

This fall, the reading lab will be expanding its programs, according to Henry Powell, head of the program. The expansion is intended to provide more individual attention by the staff to students with remedial problems. The lab's hours will be extended to 8 p.m. two days a week.

Merkel announces candidacy

The first announced candidate for the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen elections this fall is James E. Merkel.

Merkel, 45, a department head with IBM at the Research Triangle, officially opened his campaign Friday.

He said he opposes the town's present level of funding of the bus system. "I don't think the taxpayers of the town should subsidize the bus system for the University," he said. "The University ought to be deeply involved financially in the bus system."

He said he feels Southern Bell's installation rates were unfair, but he added the town could not offer any solution to the problem.

Merkel said he opposed the seven-cent tax hike

the board imposed this year. He said he favors providing more parking downtown, seeking a quick solution to the town's water and sewer problems, and approving new development in the town.

Merkel said he has no immediate solutions to Chapel Hill's water crisis, but he said he favors filling Jordan Lake.

In another campaign development, Chapel Hill Alderman Gerry Cohen has scheduled a press conference at 2 p.m. today to officially announce his candidacy for reelection to the board.

Cohen's press conference will be in the Municipal Building. He is expected to run for a second term on the board.

Continued from page 1

Inconsistent methods found in faculty hiring

Schools and departments at UNC use different methods for hiring faculty members, and many do not operate under explicit written criteria in hiring, promoting and granting tenure, a recent survey shows.

The findings, released last week, are from a survey conducted in February by the UNC committee on the Status of Women on hiring procedures in all UNC departments and schools. The survey was a follow-up of resolutions adopted by the committee in December 1975.

The survey found that all schools and departments list and publicize positions nationally

and use either research or faculty-personnel committees in all but small departments when recruiting for positions of more than one year's duration.

The survey also disclosed, however, that schools and departments were divided in the use of written criteria for hiring, promoting and granting tenure.

The survey contained four questions concerning the resolutions that were passed 14 months earlier. The resolutions passed by the committee in 1975 urged that departments: list and publicize their openings nationally; use search or faculty committees to evaluate prospects under explicit

written criteria; and formulate explicit promotional and reappointment procedures.

Joan Scott, chairperson of the Committee on the Status of Women since July 1, was not on the committee when the survey was conducted. She said, however, that the results contained some "interesting information."

Judging from some of the complaints she has received from different departments, she said some departments evidently have changed their policies since the survey was made.

— MARK ANDREWS

Nazi gunman kills 1, injures 3 in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (UPI) — A young white man, armed with a high-powered rifle and wearing a Nazi armband, opened fire on about 200 blacks attending a church picnic Monday afternoon, killing one person and wounding three others before shooting himself to death.

Lt. Col. Owen of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff Department said the assailant stopped a blue-gray Volkswagen on a roadway near the church about 4:30 p.m., and then walked to right-centerfield on a

baseball diamond where he fired about 12 shots in quick succession at a group playing baseball.

The identity of the assailant, described as being in his early 20s, was not available. Police said officers were sent to talk to his parents, who live in Charlotte.

The dead church member was identified as Roosevelt Davis, 29, of Charlotte. A spokesperson at Presbyterian Hospital said he died of a gunshot wound in the chest.

Jo Ann Terry, 28, of Charlotte underwent

surgery at the hospital and was described in "very critical" condition with a gunshot wound in the abdomen. Treated and released at Presbyterian for a gunshot wound in the leg was Larry Eugene Smith, 15, of Charlotte.

The fourth victim, Joseph Walker Jr., 29, of Charlotte was taken to Memorial Hospital in Charlotte where he received treatment for a gunshot wound in the foot.

Police originally reported that six persons had been wounded in the shooting, but later revised that figure.

The incident occurred in southwest Mecklenburg County at the New Jonesville AME Zion Church on Providence Road, about 10 miles outside Charlotte in a small, predominantly black enclave. The area is surrounded by the homes of whites.

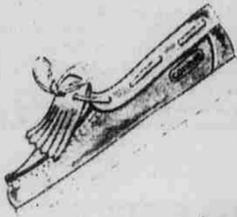
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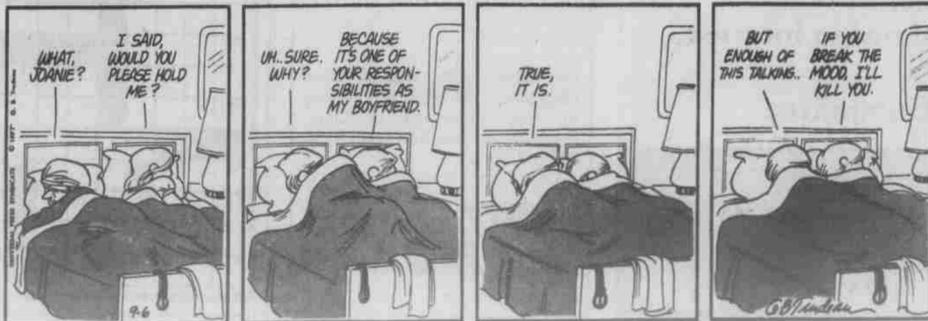
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