

Real, Substantial Gain

Black Students SAT Scores Climbing

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports

While the average SAT scores of Wake County School System class of 1990 showed a one-point decline, Superintendent Bob Wentz said he was pleased with the school system performance and black students who were showing real, substantial gain. White students maintained their scores from the previous year.

While cautioning that one-year fluctuations in test scores do not always signal a trend, Wentz was very pleased, saying, "We are encouraged to

see the significant progress of our black students on the SAT. It is obvious from the scores that we are making a headway."

Johnny Farmer, retired principal in the system, said, "Progress is now moving in the right direction. Blacks are more serious about their work, but more work is still needed. There is an old statement that is in evidence to this: 'You get from the table what you bring to it.'"

William Hurdle, retired principal and teacher in the Wake County system, said, "It is now proven that

blacks have the ability to truly learn. Now teachers are giving that extra drive. I have always had the opinion of black kids. Motivation is the key to success."

In addition, SAT scores for Wake County students in the top two-fifths of their class were higher than national scores of comparable groups.

The average total score for Wake County's class of 1990 was 895—54 points above the state average of 841 and just five points below the national average of 900.

Wake's average math score was 472 (reflecting a gain of one point), and the average verbal score was 423 (showing a decline of two points).

Approximately 73 percent of the eligible Wake County students opted to take the SAT while nationally only 40 percent took the exam.

Statewide, 55 percent of the students chose to take the SAT.

For Wake County black students, the average scores increased by 10 points from 1989. Their average total was 736, reflecting an average math score of 382 (up one point) and an

average verbal score of 354 (up nine points).

The score of Wake County white students did not change from the previous year. Their average total score was 930—488 in math and 442 in verbal.

It would be easy for any school system to increase the total average score by discouraging groups of lower-scoring students from taking the test, Dr. Wentz said.

"That does not happen in Wake County, and it appears the gains for black students were real and substan-

tial." Wentz attributed black progress in part to a greater emphasis on writing at the high-school level.

Superintendent Wentz also indicated that the gap between Wake County scores and the national average is closing while maintaining its high participation rate.

In 1989 Wake County scores were seven points lower than the national average; in 1990 Wake scores were just five points below the national average.

Connie Howard Faces Challenge In Move To Pittsburg TV Market

Positive Model For Community

BY CASH MICHAELS

Contributing Writer

"Under her leadership, we really took this news operation to the mountaintop," said the familiar face, with that distinctive voice known to hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians.

"I am extremely proud of her. I will miss her as a colleague, but most of all as a friend." High praise indeed from the man recognized as North Carolina's premier television journalist, WRAL-TV 5's Charlie Gaddy. And such praise does not come cheap, which is why after nine long years, Connie Howard is leaving WRAL-TV News with a boatload of respect.

Despite the stress and strain of a day-to-day television news operation, Ms. Howard paid her dues several times over with every challenge she faced, finally becoming WRAL's first African-American news director in January 1988. She leaves the station this week for Pittsburgh, Pa., to become the assistant news director of WPXI-TV, the NBC network affiliate in the nation's 17th largest television market. A big move, and another tremendous challenge.

"I'd like to think that I'm not leaving anything behind, that I'm taking all of this with me in my heart," said the 35-year-old Otisville, N.Y. native. "I walk through and I see the faces of people that I've lived with for the past



CONNIE HOWARD

10 years, people I shared, funny moments with... and it wells up and I quickly go on to something else," she said.

Ms. Howard virtually grew up at WRAL-TV. After serving as a general assignment reporter for TV news stations in Rochester, N.Y., and Des Moines, Iowa, Ms. Howard joined WRAL as a reporter in 1981. "I took a look at my work, and I thought, 'Okay, I'm not good enough to go on to an NBC, ABC, CBS,' but I felt I had

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Police Search

Rare Jewelry, Antiques Stolen

Property Valued At \$22,000

Police are investigating a break-in that occurred at a residence on Anderson Drive. A rare collection of jewelry and antique weapons was reported stolen in the break-in.

Lt. W.L. Baker of the Raleigh Police Investigative Division said the William K. Land family had been away for several days and had returned home during the weekend. A relative had been checking the house in the 2000 block of Anderson Drive periodically, but sometime after Aug. 22, someone pried open a window.

Jewelry and weapons that were taken valued at \$22,000, the police lieutenant stated. The stolen weapons included two pairs of double-barreled shotguns valued at \$15,000.

In other news: The number of persons sent to prison for narcotics and drug offenses in fiscal year 1989-90 increased 37 percent over 1988-89.

The increase in drug admissions is one of the findings in two statistical abstracts prepared by the department's Office of Management Information and Research. Each abstract, one for the Division of Prisons and the other for the Division of Adult Probation and Parole, is developed quarterly for budgeting and planning activities.

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THE BINGO GAME—This game, played by many in Shopping Center and may be the first in this predominantly African-American community. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

In Search Of The Truth Behind

The Mysteries Of Bingo Parlors

BY LANITA LOWERY

Contributing Writer

For some of us the word "bingo" conjures up memories of a game played in third grade with little green plastic chips and having a new box of crayons as the prize. However, for

many others (as I've learned recently) bingo is a very serious adult game, with some big prizes and I don't mean a 64-count box of Crayolas.

My journey to find out about the mysteries of bingo began at the newest bingo establishment in Raleigh. In the Wakefield Village Shopping Center on Sunnybrook Road, between the City Chic Hair Studio and a Revco Drug Store, there is a sign that simply reads "Bingo."

I learned very early that bingo is the sport of nightowls, or at least evening owls. At 2 p.m., the place was deserted. The big neon bingo sign that generally, when fed with electricity, would flash red into the night, was a smoky white and was almost invisible in the afternoon light.

Through the window I could see stuffed animals hanging on the wall. One was a California Raisin in a tuxedo. Now this was a classy place.

I realized on the spot that bingo is no spectator sport and that I should come back after 6 p.m. and throw

myself into it. This was going to be great.

I enlisted the help of a friend and, armed only with our cloudy memories of third-grade bingo, we headed to the Wakefield Village Shopping Center. We were hitting the big time.

I had envisioned bingo as a grand social event. Little old ladies would be swapping recipes and knitting, only pausing occasionally to cover a number with a little green chip. There would, of course, be tea served there and someone very much like Kentucky Fried Chicken's the Colonel would be calling out the numbers.

As we walked through the parking lot, I noticed that the neon bingo sign did flash red into the evening. That was about the only thing I would be right about.

Once inside the place, we were hit with complete silence. No one bothered to look up at us as we awkwardly maneuvered through the rows of metal folding chairs, occa-

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Looking At Alternatives

Job Corp: Plan For New Opportunities

BY LANITA LOWERY

Contributing Writer

There is a free program that offers young people the opportunity to receive a high-school diploma and be trained in one of 125 different training areas. This same program offers free room and board. Travel expenses are taken care of and there is free medical and dental care. And, on top of all of this, students are paid salary. What is the name of this program that sounds too good to be true? It is the Job Corps.

Meals On Wheels Aiding Elderly Across Country

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports

The Meals on Wheels program does more than deliver food to the shut-in or senior citizens unable to go outside the home. With seven nutrition centers throughout Wake County, they also provide nutritious meals to people in comfortable settings such as the Tucker Street Nutrition Center.

The program is run by Ms. Becky Pleasants, the only paid staff person with the Meals on Wheels program, and the nutrition site director. With more than 20 years' experience in nutrition food service, Ms. Pleasants coordinates a daily food service program that serves more than 80 senior citizens each day at the largest gathering place for the elderly, the Tucker Street site. She coordinates a staff of two others who are paid by the Triangle J Council.

There is also provision for the handicapped, with 12 handicapped who come to the nutrition center daily with the help of volunteers who bring them there and wait on them. By 1 p.m. each day, all those interested in (See ELDERLY, P. 2)

"This is a tremendous program that gives young people, some of them a first chance in life and it will give some of them a last chance in life. Of course, they get from it what they put in it. If a young person doesn't have a skill, or doesn't have his or her diploma or GED, this is an excellent opportunity to get it," says Nate Sanders, a recruiter for the Job Corps.

The Job Corps offers training in areas ranging from carpentry, plumbing and brick masonry to nurse's aide training, computer programming and the culinary arts.

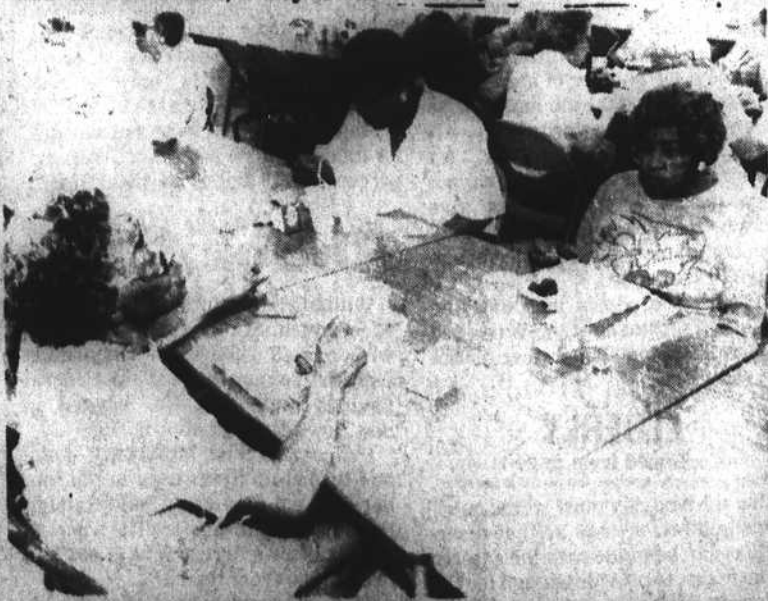
"We make every effort to accommodate our people when possible. We make every effort to train them in the area they want. If the training they want is not available, if they're will-

ing to go into an alternate area, then we'll go ahead and make arrangements with the understanding that they can transfer out of the center into where an opening exists in their training area," Sanders explains.

Students also have the option of doing off-center training.

"If there is someone who a two- or four-year off-campus program will better suit, then the Job Corps will pay for them to attend a college or university or technical institute or community college," says Sanders.

The Job Corps takes young people between the ages of 16 and 21. There is a maximum two-year stay. Students may stay past the age of 21, but they must enroll before their 22nd birthday.



HELPING THE ELDERLY—Meals on Wheels travels throughout Wake County providing nutritious meals to the elderly and is seen as one of the most important community services in the area. In photo are residents at Glenwood Towers in the cafeteria during a visit from Meals on Wheels. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

Dr. Headen Honored For Leadership

A full house of friends and acquaintances of Dr. Gregory T. Headen are expected to attend the gala appreciation dinner being planned in honor of Dr. Headen, provost/dean and tenured professor of pastoral theology, Shaw Divinity School. The dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15, in the Banquet Hall of the Student Union Building, Shaw University. Cost of the dinner is \$10 per person.

Dr. Headen, who has served the divinity school as dean of academic affairs, president, and more recently as provost/dean, recently resigned his positions at the school to accept a call to the pastorate at Jackson Chapel Baptist Church, Wilson, effective Sept. 1.

Dr. Talbert O. Shaw, president of Divinity School, said, "Dr. Headen has served the divinity school with distinction in several leadership capacities. This



DR. GREGORY T. HEADEN

special dinner is one way for colleagues and friends to show their appreciation."

Dr. Headen, who now resides at 4421 Leota Drive, Raleigh, grew up in Goldston, where his parents, Dorsett and Marian

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