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national

Battalion/Page 14
October 15, 1982

Minorities gain on SAT

United Press International
NEW YORK — Minority students — especially blacks — made bigger gains than whites in SAT scores for 1982, boosting overall averages so much a 19-year decline in test results was reversed, the College Board says.

The gap between minorities and whites is narrowing at a fairly steady pace and has been for six years, said Board President George H. Hanford Wednesday, despite the fact blacks have lagged behind whites in verbal and math scores by around 100 points for years.

Average SAT scores for 1982 squeaked up three points, halting a decline that started in

1963. About 1 million college-bound students take the \$9.95 aptitude tests annually.

For most minority groups, the improvement from 1981 to 1982 was larger than the three-point gain overall and it was largest for blacks. Blacks' verbal scores rose nine points; mathematical, four.

By comparison, whites' average scores gained two points in verbal and stayed the same in math, the College Board said.

Between 1976 and 1982 when scores for whites declined from 451 to 444 on the verbal section and from 493 to 483 on the math section, scores for most minority groups rose.

For blacks, the verbal scores rose from 332 to 341; for Mexican-Americans, from 371 to 377. For Orientals, verbal scores dipped from 414 to 398; for Puerto Ricans, they went from 364 to 360.

On math, blacks went up an average of 354 to 356; Mexican-Americans, from 410 to 416; American Indians, from 420 to 424; Puerto Ricans, from 401 to 403.

"The increase in average scores for the nation's college-bound seniors was due significantly to improvements in minority-group scores," the Board said.

Hanford said the trend to higher average minority scores does not alter the overall disparity between their scores and those of whites.

"The overall disparity in scores reflects an educational deficit the nation must overcome," he said.

Experts blamed the disparity on a lack of equal education opportunities for blacks and other minorities and Hanford said differences in scores between minority groups and whites are still significant.

The tests are scored from 200 to 800. Scores in upper ranges are required for admission to the most prestigious colleges.

Companies bid \$2 billion

Arctic oil leases offered

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — The offering of oil-rich leases in the icy Arctic Ocean to increase domestic oil production could be a first step to answering consumers' demands for affordable energy, Interior Secretary James Watt says.

Twenty-eight U.S. oil companies qualified to bid Wednesday on 338 oil-rich tracts in the

Diapir Field in the Beaufort Sea, 37 miles off Alaska's northern coast.

Watt said the offering of leases in the field, which was estimated to contain 4.7 billion barrels of petroleum, was a victory for consumers.

"This is the largest scale frontier sale the Reagan administration has approved," he said Wednesday. "We must open up

the outer continental shelf to meet consumer needs. This was a tremendously successful sale for the consumers of America."

Oil industry executives predicted bids on the tracts could total up to \$2 billion. Oil companies offered high bids totalling more than \$2 billion for the tracts. The highest single bid was more than \$227 million.

Watt said in addition to producing more economic energy for consumers in the United States, a decrease in reliance on oil produced in OPEC countries would protect American shores from the danger of oil spills from foreign tankers.

"The safest way to bring energy to consumers is producing it ourselves. The (foreign) tankers spill much more oil," said Watt, who was in Louisiana to address an American Automobile Association convention.

"The big danger to Florida beaches, Louisiana beaches and Texas beaches is importing foreign crude from OPEC nations.

Records show tanker spills are greater than Outer Continental Shelf spills."

Congressional projections on the success of the Alaskan sale discounted the willingness of oil producers to pay for new energy sources, Watt said. The tracts lie in an area of the Arctic Ocean where drilling costs are inflated and operations are dangerous because of ice and harsh weather.

Bidding in the Arctic Ocean has been traditionally lower than in other areas because of the enormous cost of drilling in the frozen seas. Watt estimated each well could cost between \$40 million and \$60 million to drill.

"The companies are willing and able," he said. "The (sale) shows the companies are willing to put their money up front."

The Congressional Budget Office estimated the sale would garner the \$500 million for the government.

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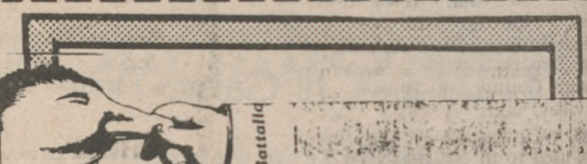
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