

# SAT undergoes changes, will better test critical thinking

The Associated Press

PRINCETON, N.J. — The venerable SAT is getting its first major overhaul in two decades. It will allow use of calculators and better test critical thinking skills.

But critics say the revisions to the assessment test are only cosmetic and don't address what they see as an underlying bias against women and minorities. "It's an attempt to make the SAT look like it will measure higher-order thinking skills," said Cynthia Schuman, head of the National Center for Fair and Open Testing. "You really can't measure higher-order thinking skills in questions answered in one minute or less, or when students can't show their work or do anything except choose from preselected possibilities."

The Scholastic Aptitude Test first appeared in 1926. It is used by most U.S. colleges to evaluate potential students. It consists of two sections, one measuring verbal abilities and one measuring mathematical skills. Each section is worth 200 to 800 points.

High school students will first see the new version March 19. More than 1 million high school students a year take the SAT.

Officials from the Princeton-based Educational Testing Service, which administers the test, say its the first major overhaul to the SAT since 1974.

The verbal section will contain fewer reading passages, but the passages will be longer. The test also will include a pair of passages on similar subjects, which students will be asked to compare.

Students who have memorized long lists of ob-

scure words will have less chances to display knowledge. Unlike its predecessor, the new test won't contain a section on antonyms.

Instead, the SAT will have more partial sentences that students will have to complete.

In the mathematical section, the biggest change will be that students can bring along calculators.

Unlike the old test, the new version will have math questions without multiple-choice answers. Students will be required to calculate their own response.

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## Hutchison readies for ethics trial in Fort Worth

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — As U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison prepares for trial Monday on ethics charges, politics in Texas has escalated from a contact sport to all-out war.

"Texas is highly competitive between the two parties," Gen. Christian of Austin, a longtime Democratic political consultant, says Sunday.

"They (Democrats and Republicans) seize advantage at every opportunity to cut each other down. This trial is now the focal point of an inter-party war," he said.

At stake are the highest positions in Texas government, which carries significance on the national level because of the state's size and influence.

This year, Democrats want to recapture the Senate seat won by Hutchison, and Republicans are seeking to unseat Democratic Sen. Ann Richards.

The outcome of Hutchison's trial could affect both races in the November general election, Christian said. Hutchison and Richards are little-known opposition in their party primaries March 8.

"It could turn into quite a political event in the fall," Christian says. "When the Republicans and Democrats square off they will try to use the trial or take advantage of it no matter how it turns out."

He added, "The public has probably lost sight of what her trial is all about because of this intense political warfare."

Jury selection is scheduled to start Monday in Mrs. Hutchison's case. Attorneys on both sides say the trial itself could last from one to two months.

Hutchison, 50, faces three charges of official misconduct, and a charge each of tampering with government records and tampering with physical evidence. All are felony charges except for one, which is a misdemeanor count of official misconduct.

The charges allege that she used her previous position as state treasurer, a post she held from January 1991 to June 1993, for personal or political gain. She used state funds, state employees and state computers to run a political operation, and then destroyed records as part of a cover-up, according to the indictments.

Just eight months after winning a landslide election to become the first woman senator from Texas, Hutchison, if convicted on all charges, faces the prospect of a 20-year prison sentence.

Hutchison has denied any wrongdoing. She and the state Republican Party have claimed the charges are politically motivated.

Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle, a Democrat, says the charge is frequently made by officeholders in both parties who are scrutinized by his office.

## Scientists use baboons to test AIDS vaccines

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Baboons have been infected with a hybrid man-monkey AIDS virus in a move that could make testing experimental vaccines easier, scientists say.

Two baboons at Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research were infected by researchers with SHIV, a simian-human immunodeficiency virus developed at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

Efforts to develop an AIDS vaccine has been blocked by the lack of a plentiful animal model. Chimpanzees, the closest primate to man capable of becoming infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. But those animals are rare, intelligent and protected.

Baboons are the second primate species to become infected with SHIV. Two years ago, Harvard researchers successfully infected cynomolgus monkeys with the virus.

"They are still testing vaccines in chimps, but not at any great scale because there are not many chimps," said Jonathan Allen, a virologist at Southwest Foundation.

"So right now, large human clinical trials to look for vaccines AIDS are on hold," he said.

The first chimpanzee was first successfully infected with the AIDS virus at the Southwest Foundation in 1984. The foundation also has one of the world's largest baboon colonies with 2,000 animals.

"This foundation in general has had pretty good collaborations with the past with a lot of different vaccine companies, who have done a lot of testing (here) in the chimp models," said Allen.

To produce the genetically engineered SHIV, the outer protein envelope of HIV is grafted onto the core of a strain of simian immunodeficiency virus, an AIDS-like virus that infects non-human primates.

Allen said that, because most AIDS vaccines under development are designed to attack the outer envelope of HIV, scientists should be able to test their effectiveness against SHIV.

Researchers in Japan have developed a similar hybrid simian-human virus.

San Antonio foundation officials said the two baboons have remained infected for 36 weeks and are not expected to develop AIDS-like symptoms.

Many vaccine researchers may prefer to use baboons over cynomolgus monkeys because they are larger, more closely related to humans and more plentiful, Allen said.

## Scam

Continued from Page 1

Wittman said the man told him to wait 90 to 120 days for the magazines to arrive, which Wittman thought was rather long.

"After 90 days, you can't cancel a credit card transaction," he said. "You can't cancel a credit card transaction," he said. "You can't cancel a credit card transaction," he said. "You can't cancel a credit card transaction," he said.

Witt said often these salespeople tell students to make checks to vendors or companies that are no longer in business.

"To find these guys is just impossible," he said. "To find these guys is just impossible," he said. "To find these guys is just impossible," he said. "To find these guys is just impossible," he said.

Witt said that if the salespeople are found to be con-artists, they would be out-of-state, the district attorney would not extradite them for \$30 or so, most students would not pursue legal action.

"This is how they make their money," he said. "If you want a magazine, deal directly with the publisher." Palomedeo said he felt victimized. Despite the new 24-hour lock policy in non-air halls such as Law, the man still got in.

Witt said there is often no way a student can tell whether the man is legitimate or not.

"The bad thing is people are swayed by the people and their lies," he said. "Often students say, 'I'll buy one to get rid of them, that's how they make their money.'"

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