

Study: Computer users racially divided

WASHINGTON (AP) — White students in high school and college are far more likely than blacks to have computers, even after accounting for differences in income, according to a new study.

The study, published Friday in Science magazine, found white people in general are more likely to have a computer at home and to have used the Web recently.

The study indicated 73 percent of white students had a computer at their home, but only 33 percent of black students did. The gap remained even when researchers accounted for differences in income.

Among all ages, 44 percent of whites owned a computer, compared with 29 percent of blacks.

The study was based on telephone interviews of 5,813 people, in December 1996 and January 1997 by Nielsen Media Research.

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and the Parents of the Year Award.

With the large number of visitors, Dunnahoo said hotels in the Bryan-College Station area are booked. Mahesh Thakrar, general manager of the College Station Days Inn, said many parents make their reservations up to a year in advance for Parents' Week-end.

"Economically, it has a big effect," he said. "We do remain pretty busy during Parents' Week-end."

However, Dunnahoo advises participants not to be concerned by the crowds.

"Don't get discouraged by long lines," she said. "Enjoy all the activities and have fun."

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Minyard said students with commuter passes used the lot because the parking ticket was only \$10.

"Since the lots were not full and closer to classes, students would park and pay the ticket," Minyard said. "PTTS has changed the fining system and upped the fine to \$25. We do not like the fact that they have increased the fines there."

Williams said increasing the fine is a deterrent for future violations and PTTS plans to propose an increase for tickets given in other unauthorized areas. The increase would raise the \$10 ticket to \$25.

"It has been \$10 for as long as I can remember," Williams said. "We are going to campaign to raise that ticket to \$25 because people are less willing to pay that for a ticket. The majority of students follow the rules on campus. Most of the problems come from

a minority of students who violate the rules."

Williams said he plans on recommending that enhanced fines are applied to students who have received numerous citations.

Among additional parking changes, the new central campus garage built next to Sterling C. Evans library is scheduled to open for Summer 1998.

Williams said the new garage will improve parking on campus.

"The new garage will grant much-needed relief to the campus," Williams said. "It will help to have parking by the library. You can't [compare] asphalt to a parking garage."

The garage will have 621 spaces with a limited number of contract spaces for faculty and staff members. Visitors to the library may pay to park in the garage.

PTTS has already made several parking changes and is planning the following for coming months:

— PTTS will make parking accommodations for on-campus residents moving for the summer from May 11 to 15 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Movers will have parking access to Lubbock Street from Coke Street on Southside.

— Rudder Circle parking has been reduced to five minutes and changed to a designated loading and unloading zone. Students who park in the area for more than five minutes and are not utilizing the loading zone will be fined \$50.

— In a May 2 special election, College Station residents may vote on an ordinance to build a parking garage in the Northgate area. Students could pay to park in the garage, which would be built by the city.

— PA-50, located by Zachry, will be expanded to accommodate the traffic and parking on that side of campus.

— Construction at the A&M Foundation building, the former location

of the University Police

is scheduled for late April. An improved parking vice to provide automated transactions. Visitor parking costs \$0.75 per hour and 10 percent to Wehner.

— Thirty-minute parking has been changed at School. Non-faculty may use these spaces after late classes.

— Construction on practice fields is expected to be completed by the end of the summer to reopen this summer.

— The southern portion of the 48, located north of the station, has changed to bus parking.

— Handicapped parking spots will be easier to find next four to five years. New permits require a driver's license and identification of the owners of the vehicle.

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