

State students beat national ACT/SAT scores

High test scores may not ensure college success

By Corey Russman
Staff Reporter

Nebraska high school students taking the ACT scored above the national average for the third straight year, but that doesn't guarantee they will perform better in college, a UNL official said.

Nebraska's average of 21.2 was above the national average of 20.6 on the American College Test, said Lisa Schmidt, director of high school and college relations at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The average ACT score for UNL's incoming freshmen during the 1991-92 school year was 22.4.

But Schmidt said ACT scores didn't predict success in college. Instead, the scores reflect how many college preparatory courses a student took in high school, she said.

Students who take more college preparatory courses are going to have higher ACT scores, Schmidt said.

In that sense, students who have

higher ACT scores may be better prepared for college, she said. By taking college preparatory classes, she said, students have the base of knowledge they need to get started on the right foot in college. But the rest of their success is up to them, Schmidt said.

Nebraska, along with the rest of the Midwest, tends to have higher ACT scores because of the quality of its schools and students, Schmidt said. In the Midwest, there is a strong emphasis on education, she said.

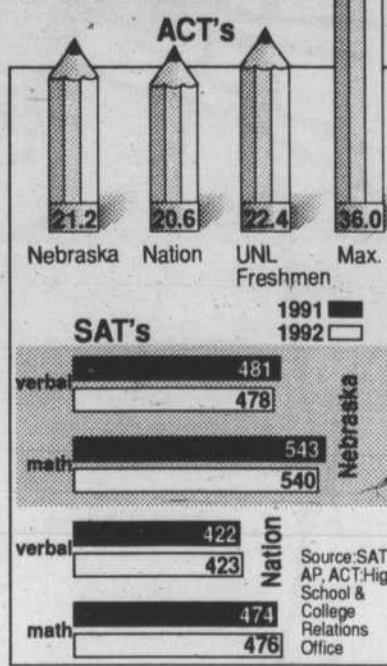
States such as Nebraska also have higher scores because of their low populations, Schmidt said. States with low populations don't seem to have a mass of students at the bottom of the scoring scale, she said.

The ACT is based on a 36-point scale and tests students in the areas of English, math, reading and science reasoning.

UNL admission standards now require students to obtain at least a 20 on the ACT, graduate in the top half of their class or complete a set of core courses. Most people requesting admission to UNL are able to get a 20 on their ACT, Schmidt said.

If the proposed changes in admission standards are passed at UNL, she said, students will be required to take

Standardized testing in Nebraska vs. nation



more core courses before entering the university. Schmidt said that taking more core courses would help students improve their test scores.

But, she said, "being successful in college is the goal, not getting good ACT scores."

Declining scores actually may be a positive sign

By Sarah Scalet
Staff Reporter

Declining SAT scores in Nebraska will not have a big impact and actually may be a good sign, a UNL official said.

The decrease in SAT scores probably means more high school students are taking it, said Lisa Schmidt, director of high school and college relations at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

This means more students are considering college, Schmidt said, which would make the decline in test scores indirectly positive.

Although scores on the Scholastic

Aptitude Test are rising nationwide, Nebraska students continue to score higher than national averages, she said, because Nebraska high school's graduate good students.

Verbal scores in Nebraska fell from 481 in 1991 to 478 in 1992, and math scores fell from 543 to 540, according to The Associated Press.

The national average for verbal scores rose from 422 in 1991 to 423 in 1992. Math scores rose from 474 to 476.

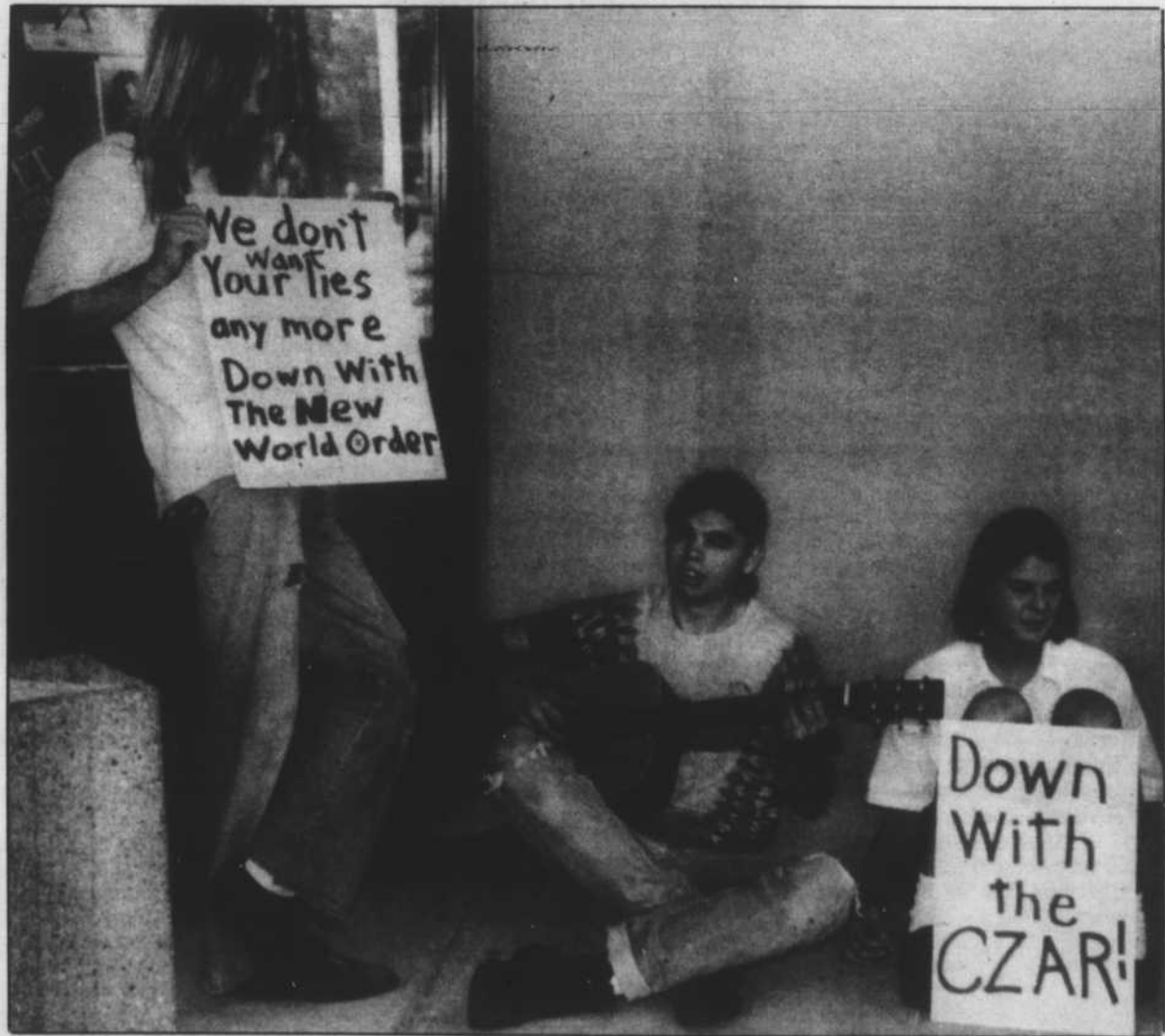
The highest possible score for each section is 800.

Schmidt said the drops probably did not represent a trend, partially because most Nebraska high school students took the American College Test, or ACT, instead of the SAT.

If a proposal to tighten admission standards at UNL was passed, scores would increase, she said. The stricter admissions standards would require UNL applicants to take more college preparatory courses.

POLICE REPORT

- Beginning midnight Wednesday** braska Union, S117.
- 5:00 p.m.** — Man thrown from horse, East Campus rodeo grounds, transported to Lincoln General Hospital, 2300 S. 16th St.
- 7:19 a.m.** — False fire alarm, Mabel Lee Hall.
- 1:53 p.m.** — Two-vehicle, non-injury accident, 19th and U streets.
- 4:11 p.m.** — Bicycle stolen, Nebraska Union, S117.
- 11:47 p.m.** — Window broken, Harper Residence Hall food service, S90.



A group of about eight Lincoln residents and students protests a speech by former Drug Czar William Bennett at the Lied Center for Performing Arts Thursday.

Protesters challenge Bennett

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Staff Reporter

About eight people supporting the legalization of drugs protested William Bennett's speech Thursday at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

The protesters said they opposed Bennett's advocacy of strict measures to prosecute drug users. Bennett served as "drug czar" in the Bush administration between 1989 and 1990.

Chas Baylor, a Lincoln resident and University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate, said the war on drugs was

being used by the government to deny people their rights.

"I think the drug war is an excuse to impose a police state on the country, and they are taking away our civil rights with it," he said.

Shawn Russell, a Lincoln resident, played the guitar and said marijuana use was not wrong.

"I think marijuana should be legalized," Russell said. "It's basically just a big scare tactic that it isn't."

"(Marijuana) is something created by this planet — whether it's by your god or mine.

"It's there for a purpose, and the

U.S. government putting limits on what you can do with mother earth is wrong," Russell said.

Bennett said in his speech that the legalization of drugs was "absolutely wrong."

"I know (marijuana) is not cocaine, and it's not heroin," Bennett said. "I also know about half of the people who use marijuana move on to more serious drugs."

Bennett said drug use was not a victimless crime, contrary to the claims of legalization advocates.

"This thing has real social consequences," he said.

that Baldwin suffered from mental illness.

Nebraska's athletic department had paid for Baldwin's counseling and treatment from January until the shooting.

Fouraker said the athletic department had paid \$29,103 for Baldwin's treatment since January — a figure he said probably would be final.

Mary Vodicka, a spokeswoman for

St. Joseph Medical Center in Omaha, said Baldwin was not covered by a health insurance plan and the source of payment for the thousands of dollars in medical bills was unclear.

Vodicka said she did not know what Baldwin's total medical expenses would be but added that the hospital would submit bills to the City of Omaha in hopes of receiving payment for at least part of the cost.

Fouraker

Continued from Page 1

Last January, he was charged with first-degree assault and assault of a police officer. The charges were dismissed when intense psychological evaluation at St. Joseph's Center for Mental Health in Omaha revealed

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