Research to illuminate rays' origins

RAYS from page 1

a completed cosmic ray experiment in Utah.

This month Snow and Claes also were interviewed by National Public Radio during the Aug. 3 broadcast of the show "All Things Considered."

Part of the national interest in the project stems from the fact that once the 24-inch-by-24-inch plastic detectors are mounted on rooftops and connected via the Internet, the program will have the largest geographic cosmic ray network in existence.

In the long term, Claes and Snow anticipate the project will see its results published in scientific journals. They also see an opportunity for students to present material at international cosmic ray research confer-

"It's exciting to connect so many students with a long term experiment in frontier research," Snow said.

Reading, science skills in decline | Liquor commission

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - America's schoolchildren are doing a little better in mathematics than they were a decade ago, but for many of them reading and science skills have declined slightly since 1992.

The government's 1999 National Assessment of Education Progress also shows a widening gap in the test performance of white and black elementary school students on reading, math and science. And black 17year-olds on average are still four years behind whites in their read-

Sure to become fodder for Al Gore and George W. Bush, both self-described "education" candidates, the Education Department report paints a mixed picture of improving and falling test scores and narrowing and widening

The Clinton administration quickly pointed to "consistent and steady gains" in math scores in the report. Bush, meanwhile, said the report documents that student achievement stagnated during President Clinton's term in office.

"I will be committed to making sure that we do not repeat the mediocrity of the 1990s," Bush said. "The achievement gap between minority and white students is still too wide."

There is information both campaigns can use to trumpet their competing education agen-das, said Amy Wilkins, a policy analyst with Education Trust, a Washington-based research

This is an easy one for the Bush people," she said. "In the '90s we flatlined. He can say look at the flatness. He'll say look what I did in

"For Gore, it's harder," she said. "This corresponds to his time as vice president."

Gore's campaign staff did not immediately respond to a request for his reaction to the report. But Education Secretary

Richard Riley took up the cudgel. "There is good news here, too," he said, citing the improve-

ment in math scores and better reading skills among 9-year-olds since 1994. "We know how to improve our schools. ... We need those who count themselves as 'congressional leaders' to get on

Though teaching and testing schoolchildren is largely a state

"There is no good news here. We know how to improve our schools."

> **Richard Riley Education Secretary**

function, the federal government started the National Assessment of Educational Progress more than 30 years ago to measure the nation as a whole.

The tests first were given to a sample of 9-, 13- and 17-year-olds - key age levels in a child's school career. The main subjects tested are reading, math and science though now the program includes tests in art, civics, writing and music. Roughly 48,000 students were tested last year.

Because each state is free to design and use its own tests, any comparison of one state with another is impossible based on

But test administrators said the survey still remained the nation's best measure of how elementary, middle school and highschool-age students have learned the core subjects of reading math and science.

takes Cheetahs case

CHEETAHS from page 1

The commissioners said they thought, by referring the matter to the liquor commission, they were fulfilling a request made early in the hearing by DLH lawyer K.C. Engdahl to move the hearing before an impartial third party.

Your non-decision could jeopardize my client's appeal rights," Engdahl said. By holding the hearing at all, he said the commission had "subverted" his client's rights.

The Lancaster County Commission's quasi-judicial revocation hearing had all the trappings of a courtroom except a judge.

Both attorneys objected to

some lines of questioning or evidence being presented. Their objections were noted, and then the witnesses answered anyway, or the evidence was accepted.

At the start of his case, Hartman's lawyer questioned the county board's ability to conduct a fair hearing and rule impartially.

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"I just don't know if you can be fair (judges) when you have already decided to prosecute," Engdahl said comparing it to the county attorney ruling on a case he just presented.

During the hearing Johnson focused on the evidence of violations gathered by the Sheriff's

Sheriff Terry Wagner said that the Cheetahs dancers were nude before Aug. 9 and in violation of the resolution, but after the ninth they were clothed.

In Hartman's defense, Engdahl focused on DLH's earlier efforts to remove Cheetahs from its liquor license, and the county's apparent ignorance of the resolution they were enforcing. Engdahl also questioned whether the reso-lution was enforceable. Engdahl asked whether this

resolution was ever exercised against BJ's Hideaway, a strip bar which operated for years on North 48th Street. No one who testified could remember this resolution being enforced against BJ's.

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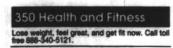
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