

INSIDE

Oh, boy

Premier Madison choir marks its 25th anniversary

See Daybreak/1C



Madison Boychoir founder Carrel Pray looks forward to the anniversary concert Friday.



Brewers lose to Toronto, 9-8

Story in Sports/1B

They loathe government

But Freeman weren't too proud to accept hefty agriculture subsidies

Story on Nation/3A

Bard upstaged

Students no longer required to fret their hour of Shakespeare at many schools

By Deb Riechmann
AP education writer

WASHINGTON — It may be the unkindest cut of all. English majors at Georgetown University no longer must take courses on two of three literary masters — Shakespeare, Chaucer and Milton. And Georgetown is not alone.

"The problem is national. Shakespeare and other classics are being replaced at many colleges by courses on sex and politics," says Jerry Martin, president of the National Alumni Forum.

Georgetown's decision is "absolutely deplorable," said UW-Madison English Professor Andrew Weiner.

At UW-Madison, undergraduate English majors are required to take one Shakespeare course and another course that focuses on literature before 1800. Weiner said Wisconsin has no plans to drop those requirements.

"You can't understand the later writers until you understand the

earlier ones," said Weiner, who teaches courses in Shakespeare and John Milton.

The National Alumni Forum, which says it has members on more than 200 campuses, led a "Saving Shakespeare" rally just off the Georgetown campus Tuesday to challenge a trend to drop Shakespeare and other great authors from college requirements.

"Stand up for Master Shakespeare," Mary Ann Jung, a student dressed as Queen Elizabeth, shouted as supporters waved fans bearing the Bard's face and the slogan "I'm a fan of Shakespeare."

University officials insist that Shakespeare hasn't been required at Georgetown for at least 20 years but that the university teaches nine Shakespeare courses a year, more than the average 2.6 courses offered at other universities of comparable size.

"Shakespeare is very much alive at Georgetown," said Alwyn Cassil, a spokeswoman for the university, which has 6,000 undergraduates.



Associated Press

Georgetown University student Mary Ann Jung, dressed as Queen Elizabeth I, leads students Tuesday to a protest on campus in Washington. Shakespearean actors, scholars and students oppose plans by Georgetown and other universities to drop Shakespeare from required classes.

Under the old requirements, viewed as too restrictive and failing to emphasize writing skills, English majors were required to take courses on two of three major authors — William Shakespeare, Geoffrey Chaucer or John Milton — and one American literature course.

Now they are required to take four courses from their chosen

concentration: literature and literary history, culture and performance or writing.

Nevertheless, nearly all English majors still take a course in Shakespeare and either Chaucer or Milton, said James Slevin, chairman of the English department.

— State Journal staff contributed to this report.

Abortion waiting bill signed into law

Planned Parenthood says it intends to sue

By Sharon Thelmer
Associated Press

To loud cheers and a few boos, Gov. Tommy Thompson signed a 24-hour abortion waiting period into law Tuesday — giving Wisconsin one of the strictest abortion laws in the nation and prompting Planned Parenthood to file suit.

"This is a serious operation... and people should have as much information as possible before they go in and have an abortion.



Thompson

It's that simple," Thompson said. He signed the bill, along with many others, before a crowd of about 200 at the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay.

The law, called the "Right to Know" bill by supporters and the "Right to Harass" bill by opponents, requires women to consult with a doctor in person at least 24 hours before getting an abortion, except in certain cases of rape and incest.

Shortly before the bill signing, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin held news conferences in Milwaukee and Madison to announce plans to file suit Wednesday against the state in federal court in Madison.

The suit will challenge the law's constitutionality and seek an injunction to stop it from taking effect, said Severa Austin, president of Planned Parenthood.

"It does not meet constitutional standards in right to privacy, right to be free of unwarranted government intrusion and right of bodily integrity," Austin said. "We think the bill essentially says women

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OPPORTUNITIES LOST



State Journal photo/CAROLYN PFLASTERER

While many students in the Madison School District go on to four-year colleges after they graduate, others prefer to attend Madison Area Technical College. Students Rob Timmerman, left, and Dave Thorne, far right, recently toured the MATC machine shop class of teacher Ron Morello, center.

The black/white disparity in preparation for college

By Phil McDade
Wisconsin State Journal

White Madison School District students are more likely to take college-entrance exams — and score better — than their African-American counterparts, district figures show.

District figures show the disparity is wide-ranging:

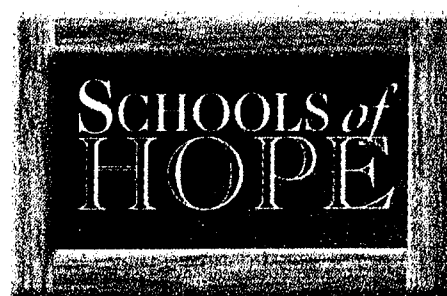
■ White students are far more likely than their African-American counterparts to take the ACT exam.

■ White students are more likely than African-American students to take courses that will prepare them for college.

■ White students who take the ACT are much more academically high-achieving than African-American students who

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■ At MATC, many high school graduates lack basic skills, teachers say/5D
■ Student diary/5D



SUNDAY — Achievement gap: What can be done to narrow it?

MONDAY — Student views: From top to bottom of the class.

TUESDAY — Career track: Are students learning the right things?

TODAY — Excellence's price: Madison's emphasis on college debated.

SUNDAY — Boosting achievement: Madison's new directions.

MONDAY — Surviving in society: How can Madison prepare students better?

TUESDAY — Citizens: Students' civic knowledge assessed.

NEXT WEDNESDAY — Setting an agenda: Ideas for improving student achievement.

Law to raise speed limit gets green light

By Michael C. Buelow
Associated Press

A bill to raise the maximum speed limit to 65 mph on Wisconsin freeways and some expressways was signed into law Tuesday by Gov. Tommy Thompson.

The speed limit on the Interstate will remain at 65 mph, and the speed limit on two-lane roads will remain 55 mph.

Mike Cass of the state Department of Transportation said the department has a tentative list of 325 miles of expressway and 200 miles of freeway that it is studying to see if speed limits should be raised.

53 north of Eau Claire, Highway 41 between Green Bay and Milwaukee and Highway 151 north and south of Madison, Cass said.

The new law responds to a change in federal law last December after President Clinton signed legislation repealing the national maximum speed limit of 55 mph on state roads.

The 55-mph speed limit was imposed in 1974 as an energy-saving measure in the wake of the Mideast oil embargo. In 1987, federal law allowed states to increase the speed limit to 65 mph on rural portions of the interstate.

The list includes portions of Highway

"It's a reasonable approach to let

speed limits go up on highways built for higher speeds," said Sen. Alan Lasee, R-De Pere, the Senate co-author of the bill.

"We need to do this because the federal government has gotten out of the speed limit business. We need to reaffirm what the speed limit is and increase it in other areas," said Rep. David Brandemuehl, R-Fennimore, the Assembly co-author of the bill.

Brandemuehl and other supporters favor the law because it maintains a uniform speed limit for cars and trucks, sets a single limit for both day and night driving and retains the current 55 mph speed limit for most urban expressways.

Gasoline prices under scrutiny

Justice Department, Congress asking questions

By Michael J. Sniffen
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders promised a vote by Memorial Day to roll back gasoline taxes as the Justice Department opened an investigation Tuesday into the causes of the recent surge in prices at the pump.

In a contest to win votes by lowering prices, Republicans have called for a repeal of the 4.3-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax increase that Clinton won in 1993 as part of a deficit-reduction package. Senate Majority Bob Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Congress would vote quickly for a repeal through the end of this year. And they said a permanent repeal would be included in their fiscal 1997 budget package.

The Clinton administration has said it is willing to discuss repeal. At the same time, it has moved to drive prices down by increasing supplies.

And on Tuesday, Assistant Attorney General Anne Bingaman, head of the Justice Department's antitrust division, named a five-person task force of lawyers and economists to investigate price increases.

She acted at the request of Associate Attorney General John Schmidt and in response to inquiries by three members of Congress, department spokesman Carl Stern said.



Senate Majority leader Bob Dole, left, and Newt Gingrich said Congress would vote quickly to repeal the 4.3-cent-a-gallon gas tax increase, imposed by President Clinton in 1993 to reduce the deficit.

During gasoline shortages in past years, the antitrust division has found no basis for taking action against oil companies. In those instances, either market forces were responsible for price increases or the companies raised prices independently of each other, thereby avoiding violations of antitrust laws that prohibit competing businesses from agreeing on price actions and strategies.

The Justice investigation is the third move by the Clinton administration in two days to respond to the price surge, which has become an election-year issue.

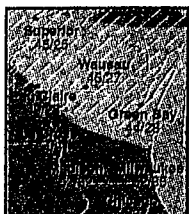
On Monday, Clinton authorized the orderly sales of about 12 million barrels of oil from the nation's strategic petroleum reserves, a move that, by increasing supplies, might drive down prices.

Gasoline prices are at their highest level since the Persian Gulf War. They've jumped 5 cents in the past two weeks and 14 cents in the past year. The average price nationwide, including all grades and taxes, was \$1.36 a gallon as of Friday, according to the Lundberg Survey of 10,000 gasoline stations.

An informal survey of five Dane County gas stations showed prices ranging from \$1.27 to \$1.68 per gallon for regular unleaded and \$1.47 to \$1.88 per gallon for premium unleaded, with the higher prices being for full service.

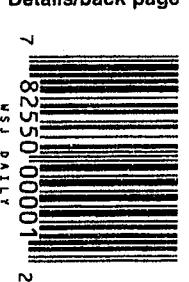
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Madison Forecast:
Today: Partly cloudy with cool conditions.
High 52. Tonight: Partly cloudy with fair and cold conditions.
Low 32.

Details/back page



UW-Madison officials praise school district's work

■ The success of Madison graduates in college reflects the community's historic emphasis on education

By Phil McDade

Wisconsin State Journal

The Madison School District has a reputation for doing a good job in preparing students for college.

It's a reputation that's well-deserved, say officials from UW-Madison and other colleges.

Millard "Pete" Storey, UW-Madison director of undergraduate admissions, said high academic performance and strong preparation of Madison students reflects the community's historic emphasis on education.

Madison is full of well-educated parents with high expectations of their children, he said, and the community's schools reflect that.

"They also bring in some pretty sharp kids who are well-cared for by their families," Storey said of the school district. "I do think that has something to do with it — good schools and parents who demand pretty good schools."

This past fall, for instance, UW-Madison enrolled 250 freshmen from the Madison School District. West High School, which sent 85 freshmen to UW-Madison, had the highest total of any school in the country, according to UW-Madison officials.

That's an accomplishment, given the enrollment standards at UW-Madison. The university, Wisconsin's flagship campus, has the toughest admission criteria in the 26-campus UW System. More than

four out of 10 entering freshmen at UW-Madison graduated in the top 10 percent of their class, and nearly 80 percent of the freshmen graduated in the top fifth of their class.

"We have been very pleased with kids from these schools," Storey said. "We have a lot of them and they tend to do very well."

Throughout the UW System, about 450 students a year from the Madison School District enroll at a UW campus, according to UW figures.

Madison School District graduates also do well in competing for spots at Wisconsin's 21 independent, private colleges and universities, officials report. Several of those schools, including Beloit College, Lawrence University, and St. Norbert College, have tough admissions standards for their students.

"My general sense is that the students we get from Madison tend to be very well prepared," said Craig Wesley, admissions director at St. Norbert in DePere. "They tend to do very well here."

Both Storey and Wesley said Madison School District graduates benefit from a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum at the district's high schools. Wesley said a typical St. Norbert student in high school took four years of both English and social science, three years of mathematics and science (with four years in each subject not uncommon), and two years of a foreign language.

"They take the right kind of courses that meet our expectations," Wesley said of Madison School District graduates. "They meet our requirements without difficulty."

That course preparation is re-

flected in test scores by Madison students on college entrance exams. The two exams, the ACT and the SAT, measure a broad range of knowledge that students learn during their high school years. They are usually taken by high school students in their junior or senior years.

Madison students last year averaged 23.5 (on a scale of 1 to 36) on the ACT, according to district figures. That compared to the national average of 20.8 and a statewide average of 22, according to district figures.

Madison students also scored above both state and national averages on the verbal and math portions of the SAT. On the math portion, for example, Madison students last year averaged 612 (on a scale of 200 to 800) compared to a state average of 572 and a national average of 482, district figures show.

Abortion

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are too stupid to make a decision that's responsible."

The law also interferes with the patient-doctor relationship, she said.

Regarding the legal challenge, Thompson said: "In my business I get sued about every day. I expected it."

"The courts will make the final decision if it's constitutional or not," Thompson added. "It's been based upon other laws in other states that have been held constitutional and for those reasons I think the courts will more than likely find this one constitutional."

The Legislature passed the waiting period bill last month following heated debate and protests at the Capitol since last fall.

About a dozen other states have abortion waiting periods, including Pennsylvania, whose law was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The requirements that women make two visits to a doctor, rather than letting them get information over the telephone, and that doctors provide certain information make the Wisconsin bill more restrictive, Austin said.

Planned Parenthood is joined in the suit, filed on behalf of three doctors, by the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, based in Washington, D.C.

James Haney, a spokesman for Attorney General James Doyle, said it was too early to say whether Doyle would represent the state in the case.

Key provisions

The key provisions of an abortion waiting period bill Gov. Tommy Thompson signed into law Tuesday are:

■ Requires women to consult with a doctor in person at least 24 hours before getting an abortion, except in certain cases of rape and incest.

■ Requires doctors to provide oral and written information about the procedure, risks, alternatives and social service programs and give the woman a booklet containing pictures of developing fetuses.

■ Lifts the waiting period for victims of forcible rape if a police report is filed.

In cases of incest, if one of those involved is a minor and a police report is filed, a two-hour waiting period would be required. If both are adults, a woman would have to observe the full 24-hour wait.

■ Carries fines of \$1,000 to \$10,000 for doctors who violate the law.

Hope

Continued from Page 1A

take the test.

■ African-American students score significantly lower on the ACT than Asian-American students, the only other minority group in Madison that takes the ACT in significant numbers.

In a school district that has long had racial disparities in the success of students, it shouldn't come as a surprise that whites easily outscore African-Americans on the American Collegiate Test, or ACT.

A top Madison school district official attributed the disparity in test scores and test taking to low expectations of African-Americans.

"We need to change our expectations," said Virginia Henderson, special assistant for equity, diversity and advocacy.

"There is a perception about the ability of African-American students to learn and the tragedy is that many African-American students have bought into that as well," Henderson added. "A lot of (African-American) students don't see college as something in their future."

One vocal African-American critic of the school district agrees, although she takes the district to task for failing to remedy the academic disparity.

"As long as we're willing to have people pass the buck, we're not going to be successful," said Tenia Jenkins, a teacher at Malcolm Shabazz City High School and a critic of the district's record on educating African-Americans. "We need to change the way we're doing things," said Jenkins, who argues for more intensive programs aimed at African-Americans on the edge of failing or dropping out. "If you can do it for one group of kids, you can do it for others."

Taking the ACT — or its sister, the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) — is usually a prerequisite to applying for college. The University of Wisconsin System, for example, requires every high school student to take the ACT before applying to enroll at any of its 26 campuses.

And going to college can be a big financial advantage in the long

run. College graduates will earn \$450,000 more during their lifetimes than students who only have a high school diploma, according to recent statistics released by the U.S. Department of Education.

The Madison district has several programs in place to encourage more African-American students to think about going to college.

One program pairs students from UW-Madison's College of Engineering with students at Lowell Elementary, O'Keefe Middle, and East High schools.

The college students serve as mentors and tutors to the students, a strategy the district has used with African-American community leaders, Henderson said.

The district is also stepping up efforts to identify students who do poorly on tests like third-grade reading, and target programs at them, she said.

"We recognize the problem; it's very frustrating," Henderson said. "We're really out there in every area that we can."

Disparity is apparent in prep classes, too

The disparity was clearly apparent in the class of 1995. The graduating class of 1995 had 1,193 white students, according to district figures. Sixty percent of those students (714) took the ACT test.

In comparison, the class of 1995 had 165 African-American students. Only one-fourth of them (40) took the ACT test.

Madison's white students are also more likely than African-American students to take courses that prepare students for going to college.

These "core college preparatory" courses include: English classes that focus on writing, rhetoric and literature; mathematics classes that include or require knowledge of algebra and geometry; social science classes in fields such as history, political science, and geography; and natural science courses in fields such as biology, chemistry and physics that require significant laboratory work.

Of the 714 white students who took the ACT, 408 of them (57 percent) took core college preparatory courses, according to district figures. Meanwhile, of the 40 African-American students who took the ACT, less than half of them (18, or 45 percent) took the core courses.

In addition, white Madison students who took the ACT test fare better in school than their African-American colleagues, figures show. Of the 714 white students who took the test last year, 80 percent were ranked in the top half of their class. Close to half of them (306, or 43 percent) ranked in the top quarter of their class.

Meanwhile, 21 of the 40 African-American students who took the ACT were ranked in the bottom half of their class. Only five of the 40 students (12 percent) ranked in the top quarter of their class.

It's not surprising, then, that Madison's white students do much

better on the ACT than African-American students. In 1995, white students averaged 23.8 on the test, compared to 19.2 for African-American students.

African Americans face disadvantage

Those figures illustrate the difficulty African-Americans have in moving on to college. For example, UW-Milwaukee and UW-Parkside at Kenosha are considered two of the easier UW campuses in which to enroll.

But each of those schools requires incoming students to have graduated in the top half of their high school class or scored a 21 on the ACT. More than half of Madison's African-Americans graduating in 1995 who took the ACT failed to meet those standards.

African-Americans also scored significantly lower on the ACT than Asian-Americans. A total of 48 Madison Asian-American students graduating in 1995 took the test, slightly more than the number of African-Americans who took it. Asian-Americans averaged 22.4 on the test.

There is one silver lining for Madison's African-American students: they scored better on the ACT than their state and national colleagues.

African-Americans in Wisconsin in 1995 averaged 17.8 on the ACT. Nationally, African-Americans averaged 17.1 on the test, or more than two points behind the Madison average of 19.2.

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