

Lower SAT scores prompted English 100

By ALICE WENNER
Gamecock Staff Writer

In recent years, there has been a significant fall in the SAT scores of college bound freshman. Scores at USC have been no exception to this trend, and statistics indicate that scores at USC are comparable to other colleges.

Arthur S. West, USC admissions director, said the minimum required score for consideration to USC is a verbal score of 350. But, the particular entrance depends on other factors, such as high school grades.

"THESE REQUIREMENTS have not changed for about four years. We had no requirement on the verbal before that," he said.

Nationwide, the average SAT scores rose to a high in 1963, but scores have been falling significantly since then. In 1966, the averages were verbal 466, math 492. In 1970, the average verbal score was 455 and math was 488. Last year, figures dropped to a verbal 434 and math 472.

Although this year's USC statistics are not in yet, West said the average freshman scores have been falling about the same as scores all over the country.

"There are any number of reasons for this decline," he said. "Mostly, I think it's because there are a lot more people going to college. A broader segment of people taking the test results in a broader base of ability being measured. The more people who take the test, the more likely the scores are to go down."

BECAUSE OF this decline and the overall feeling that many students are less prepared for college material, USC has developed special courses to help students. One such course is English 100 or the Fundamentals of Composition.

"We are now requiring those students with a verbal score less than 390 to take courses such as it," West said.

Erika Lindemann, head of the English 100 program, said the course is designed as a building block process that will give students the basic skills for college material.

When the program was first offered, about three years ago, it was on a voluntary basis. At that time, 49 students were enrolled. Beginning with fall of 1974, however, enrollment was required and enrollment jumped tremendously.



Admissions Director Arthur S. West said although the statistics for incoming USC freshmen have not been compiled yet, SAT scores have been falling about the same as scores throughout the county.

"TO SOME extent the English department was accused of requiring the enrollment for their own benefit, Lindeman said. But, actually the course increases the student's chance of staying in school. It is somewhat of a survival course."

"I think we have a responsibility to the students. It is somewhat immoral to admit students for one semester and then allow them to flunk out. It isn't always the students' fault that they lack these skills. Most students tell us that the last time they had a grammar review was the eighth grade. High schools these days tend to emphasize literature more than grammar," she said.

"Actually, I think this year's enrollment statistics indicate that the freshman are smarter than last year. Last fall there were 417 students enrolled in the course, this year there are only 406. That doesn't seem like a large decline, but we must consider that there are a lot more freshman here this year than last," Lindemann said.

THERE ARE basically two types of students enrolled in the course. Those that take it as a requirement or those who just want to improve she said.

ABA panel begins probe

By MICKEY TRIMARCHI
Gamecock Staff Writer

An investigation into the controversial USC Law School admission procedures will begin today with a closed-door meeting of a four-member team.

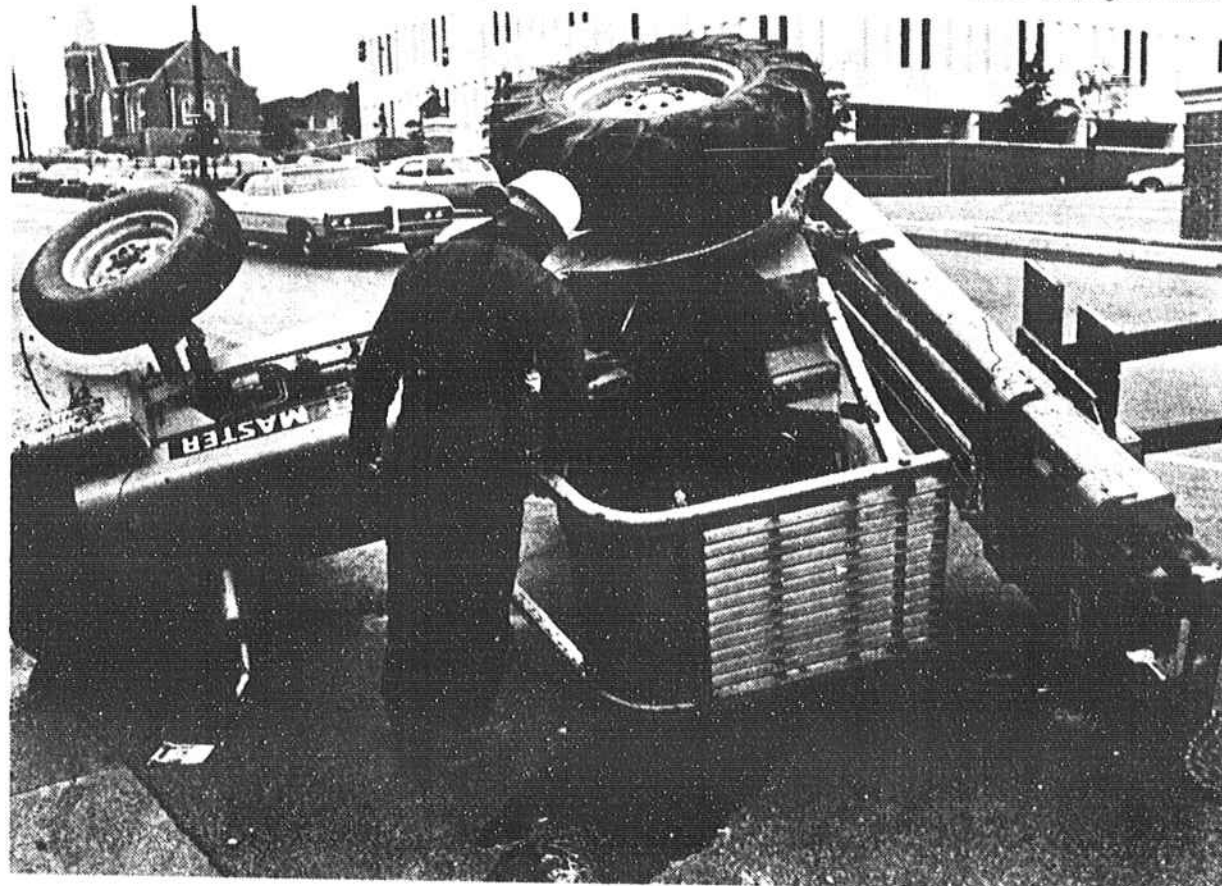
Headed by Dean A. Kenneth Pye, of Duke University, the committee of the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar of the American Bar Association (ABA) will launch its probe after a request to investigate the controversial admission procedures of the USC Board of Trustees. The Board lowered the entrance requirement of 14 students into the Law School in August.

Other committee members include John Germany, an attorney from Tampa, Dean Monrad Paulsen, of the University of Virginia School of Law and J. Dickson Phillips, of the University of North Carolina School of Law.

Consultant to the committee, James P. White, of Indianapolis, said the group will "hear the certain facts reported to the ABA from all interested parties, and on that basis, the Council will draw its conclusion."

"We (the committee) will be available to hear any information that is pertinent to the issue."

After today's meeting, the committee will begin to write its report and forward it to the 19-member council by Oct. 17. All information pertaining to the case will remain confidential, in compliance with ABA regulations.



What a way to start the day. The driver of this overturned fork-lift truck looks on in disbelief. The accident occurred Tuesday in front of the Coliseum when a car cut in front of the truck. The truck went out of control when it attempted to brake on the rain-slick street. Fortunately, the driver escaped uninjured.

Med school stable financially

By CATHERINE THRIFT
Gamecock Staff Writer

The newly founded USC Medical School is in stable financial condition, despite a report in a national magazine that many American medical schools are in deep financial trouble.

A recent issue of New Times said soaring energy costs, inflation and a drying up of federal aid has brought many medical schools close to bankruptcy.

Owen Clary, educational liaison officer for the Veteran's Administration in Columbia, said no such problems were anticipated at the USC Medical College.

CLARY, WHO said his office would be aware of a substantial financial depletion at the med school, said, "This is the first I've heard of any such problems in the country."

The magazine said that the most vulnerable schools were among the 26

newly built ones that have been "thrown up over the past decade to answer the public cry for more doctors," although some established institutions are having problems too.

CITED AS proof were two new schools in California that may be forced to close soon, and Temple University's Med School, in Philadelphia, which is more than \$40 million in debt.

Temple's medical program is so insecure financially that it can only survive if the state legislature takes over the debt and bails it out, the magazine reported.

In addition to the financial difficulties, the magazine said that several med schools had suffered recent setbacks due to dim prospects of obtaining accreditation.

Several projects for new VA-based schools, similar to the University's, were shelved because their chances for being accredited were slim.

DESPITE THE reports, Clary maintained, "We (the VA) deal only with accredited schools, and I haven't heard of any problems."

Clary added, "But I can only tell you about South Carolina. If other states are having problems, their own Veteran's Administration would have to say."

Not all states are as secure as South Carolina, according to the magazine. Schools having trouble with finances and accreditation can be found in Maine, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

At least eight VA-based schools in these, and other states, have been set back or are floundering because of the situation.

"If any problems of this sort were to come up, our office would know about it," Clary reiterated. "And to our knowledge, nothing like this has come up with the South Carolina Medical College."