

# Students Get the Last Laugh

**M**AYBE YOU REMEMBER competing in the school talent show. Maybe you recall singing "Yesterday" in a voice-cracking pubescent howl. Maybe you think you were pretty good. Well....

Youth and exuberance fade, but the talent show will always be around. And the mother of them all was recently initiated by MasterCard and

the National Association of Campus Activities.

Featuring 10 finalists drawn from 81 schools and more than 200 contestants, the first National Collegiate Talent Contest represented the best of campus music and comedy. A Texas Southern U. capella group and a junior comedian from Christopher Newport U. in Virginia walked away the winners at the Anaheim, Calif., finals on Feb. 18.

"We were very nervous because they had some amazing talent," says Texas Southern U.'s Derek Brotherton, whose a capella group 2nd Nature took first place and won \$15,000. "We weren't eager to win or lose — we were just eager to sing."

This year's competition will include more than 100 schools, says Ron Laffitte, NACA's event coordinator. (Check with your campus stu-

dent activities board to see if your school is registered.) There is also a new video submission category — students can send in short VHS tapes of musical or comedy routines to 13 Harvison Way, Columbia, SC 29212. Call NACA at 1-800-962-2287 for more information.

"The students get to intermingle with entertainment industry folks," Laffitte says. "It's a really great opportunity for them to get their talent shown and for agents to see what's out there."

Mandy Stadtmiller, Northwestern U.

# Schools Drop Their Scores

**P**ACK UP YOUR NO. 2 PENCILS, KIDS. A RECENT survey from the National Center for Fair and Open Testing reports that more than 200 colleges and universities have dropped SATs or ACTs as an admissions requirement.

"The bottom line is that SAT/ACT scores are not good predictors of how students will perform in college," says Pamela Zappardino, executive director for the American testing watchdog group. "The best predictors are high school records."

Zappardino says the scores are unreliable and highly coachable, which gives added opportunity to students who can afford coaching material.

"Nothing says schools must use SAT scores, but our studies have shown an increase in the number of schools using [them]," says Jan Gams, executive director for the SAT College Board.

Kansas State U. offers open admission to students graduating from an accredited Kansas high school but requires SAT/ACT scores from out-of-state students.

"Requirements for out-of-state students are stricter, but we do not discourage them from applying," says Barbara Dawes, associate director of admissions at KSU.

Dawes believes that SAT/ACT scores are a good comparative assessment of a student's skills and sometimes all a school has to go on.

After one semester of being SAT/ACT free, Connecticut College has diversified its campus, a



Hasta la vista, SAT!

move that both students and faculty have praised.

"We felt attention on a four-year examination of quality was more important than a three-hour test," says Lee Coffin, Connecticut's dean of admissions.

Courtney Minden, a junior at Connecticut College, says the change is good and that she looks forward to a more well-rounded atmosphere.

"My SAT scores were a huge hit on my self-confidence because I didn't do as well as I'd hoped," Minden says. "I think some students fear college because of their scores. This way, students can think about college and not about outsmarting an SAT test."

Amy Osmulski, Texas Tech U./Photo by Maggie Welter, James Madison U.

# Watch Your Step

**W**HEN YOU THINK OF PEOPLE TRAMPLING A stage, you probably envision a rock concert with a bunch of security guards yanking fans out of the spotlight.

But at the MGM studios in Orlando, Fla., about 50 members of six black fraternities and sororities stomped around on stage as much as they pleased... to the tune of a \$5,000 award.

In this year's annual stepping competition, S.T.O.M.P! '95, each team had only three minutes to wow judges with their best step routines. And we're not talking step aerobics. Stepping is a traditional dance made up of synchronized footwork and clapping that has been passed down through generations of black Greek life.

After outstepping the competition, the Phi Beta Sigma men

from Clark Atlanta U., Ga., and the Delta Sigma Theta women of Southern Methodist U., Texas, walked away with the prize money.

Phi Beta Sigma members never doubted they'd take first place. "Of course we came on with a cocky attitude — who didn't?" says Phi Beta Sigma member William Jones.

Missed the competition? You can rush the stage at next year's event or catch S.T.O.M.P! '95, hosted by rapper LL Cool J. and TV Siren Adrienne-Joi Johnson, on national TV this fall.

By La Chanda Jenkins, Howard U.



Step this way.



# Poached Eggs

At the U. of California, Irvine, "scrambled eggs" have taken on a new and disturbing meaning.

In June, three panels appointed by the university found that Ricardo Asch, a fertility specialist at UCI's Center for Reproductive Health, had transplanted patients' eggs and embryos and conducted research on them without the donors' knowledge or consent.

Officials at UCI announced in July that as many as 35 women may have been involved in improper transplantation of eggs and embryos at the clinic. The panel also found that at least nine patients received a non-FDA-approved fertility drug.

The initial findings by the panel released in June estimated that only five women received eggs from non-consenting donors.

The accusations alleged that Asch and two other doctors, Sergio Stone and Jose Balmaceda, mishandled the consent process, didn't report all of their earnings to the university and didn't make the required payments to the university for the undeclared income.

The investigation stemmed from several reports, dating to February 1994, filed by various administrators who dealt with the clinic. Because the investigation began seven months later, UCI also was accused of neglecting to respond quickly to the complaint, but the panels didn't sustain the allegation.

Fran Tardiff, a university spokesperson, says the investigation progressed slowly because the physicians refused to produce the necessary records and information. The panel also found that the university acted as quickly as it could to put together the investigations, Tardiff says. All three doctors have denied any wrongdoing.

On June 2, the university terminated its contract with the clinic and told its doctors to remove their medical equipment from campus.

Although the preliminary investigation is over, Tardiff says that the university is in the process of suing the clinic for records that the physicians have refused to release. Until those documents are recovered, "the true scope of the wrongdoings will remain unknown," she says.

"The doctors were wrong, and a lot of people here feel it was wrong for UCI to cover this up," says Ken Felipe, a sophomore at UCI. "It's not really the talk of the school or anything.... But I think an explanation of exactly what happened and what the school will do about it should be published."

Heather Orey, California State U., Fullerton