

The Exceptionally Talented

Julian Stanley

Educators at The Johns Hopkins University conduct nationwide searches for the fraction of youngsters 12 and under who demonstrate extraordinary ability in mathematical and/or verbal reasoning.

The talent searches — *700-800M Before Age 13* and *630-800M Before Age 13* on the mathematical (M) and/or verbal (V) parts of the College Board's Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) — are designed to identify intellectually talented students and to help them enrich their education.

Students meeting those standards are eligible for summer-school scholarships in accelerated programs conducted by Johns Hopkins at Dickinson College and Franklin and Marshall College, both in Pennsylvania. The residential programs, which run three and six weeks, offer students a choice of college-level courses in science, the humanities, and languages. (They are also open to persons scoring at least 500M or 430V before age 13.)

The mathematics search, *700M Before Age 13*, is sponsored by The Johns Hopkins Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth (SMPY), the verbal search by the University's Center for the Advancement of Academically Talented Youth (CTY).

Julian C. Stanley, professor of psychology and director of SMPY at Johns Hopkins, instituted *700-800M Before Age 13* in the fall of 1980. During its first two years the search located approximately 200 of the estimated fewer than 1,000 boys and girls throughout the United States who can achieve a score of at least 700 (attained by only the upper 5 percent of college-bound 12th grade males) on the mathematics portion of the College Board's Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT-M) before the age of 13.

The CTY national talent search — *630-800V Before Age 13* — began a little later. This search is designed to identify those youths who possess a high level of verbal talent, as measured by their ability to score at least 630 on the verbal portion of the Scholastic

Aptitude Test (SAT-V) before their 13th birthday. (Only about 5 percent of the nation's college-bound high-school seniors, most of whom are 17 or 18 years old, score that well.)

CTY Director William G. Durden said, *Conceived, in part, as the ability to reason accurately and imaginatively, verbal talent is integral to nearly every form of human interaction.*

Dr. Stanley added, *With proper assistance, these superbly talented youths will have much more productive careers and happier lives. Without special help, many will wither on the vine and the nation will be the loser.*

In both national talent searches, a graduated scoring system permits students to be eligible beyond their 13th birthday. After his or her 13th birthday, a student participating in *700-800M Before Age 13* must earn ten points above 700 for each month or fraction of a month, up to the maximum attainable score of 800 the day he or she becomes 13 years 10 months old.

Based on the same scoring system, a student may qualify for the verbal program up to 17 months beyond his or her 13th birthday.

Dr. Stanley said youths interested in participating in one or both of the national talent searches should take the entire SAT—that is, the mathematics and verbal portions as well as the Test of Standard Written English—on a regularly scheduled testing date in their communities. A free practice booklet (*Taking the SAT*) and SAT registration materials may be secured from the college counselor in any senior high school or by writing the College Board, Princeton, New Jersey 08541. Dr. Stanley urged those intending to take the SAT examination to study the practice booklet thoroughly.

Students who qualify for either or both programs should send a copy of their SAT score reports to the appropriate office at John Hopkins:

Those meeting the *700-800M* criterion should send a copy of the SAT score report directly to Dr. Julian C. Stanley.

Those qualifying in the *630-800* verbal search should send their SAT score report to Dr. William G. Durden, Director of CTY, Latrobe Hall, The Johns Hopkins University.

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