

OPINION

Education is worse than we thought

Last December, I reported on Harvard University professor Stephan Thernstrom's essay "Minorities in College -- Good News, But..." on *Minding the Campus*, a website sponsored by the New York-based Manhattan Institute. He was commenting on the results of the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress, saying that the scores "mean that black students aged 17 do not read with any greater facility than whites who are four years younger and still in junior high. ... Exactly the same glaring gaps appear in NAEP's tests of basic mathematics skills." Thernstrom asked, "If we put a randomly-selected group of 100 eighth-graders and another of 100 twelfth-graders in a typical college, would we expect the first group to perform as well as the second?" In other words, is it reasonable to expect a college freshman of

any race who has the equivalent of an eighth-grade education to compete successfully with those having a 12th-grade education?

Maybe this huge gap in black/white academic achievement was in the paternalistic minds of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals justices who recently struck down Michigan's ban on the use of race and sex as criteria for college admissions. The court said that it burdens minorities and violates the U.S. Constitution. Given the black education disaster, racial preferences in college admissions will become a permanent feature, because given the status quo, blacks as a group will never make it into top colleges based upon academic merit.

The situation is worse than we thought. U.S. News & World Report (7/7/2011) came out with a story titled "Educators Implicated in Atlanta Cheating Scandal," saying that "for 10 years, hundreds of Atlanta public school teachers and principals changed answers on state tests in one of the largest cheating scandals in U.S. history, ac-



**A
MINORITY
VIEW**
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BY WALTER WILLIAMS

ording to a scathing 413-page investigative report released Tuesday by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal." The report says that more than three-quarters of the 56 Atlanta schools investigated cheated on the 2009 standardized National Assessment of Educational Progress. Eighty-two teachers have confessed to erasing students' answers. A total of 178 educators, including 38 principals, many of whom are black, systematically fabricated test scores of struggling black students to cover up academic failure. The governor's report says that cheating orders came from the top and that widespread cheating has occurred since at least 2001. So far, no Atlanta educator has been criminally charged, even though some of the cheating was brazen, such as teachers pointing to correct answers while students were taking the tests, reading answers aloud during testing and seating low-achieving students next to high-achieving students to make cheating easier.

Teacher and principal exam cheating is not restricted to Atlanta; it's widespread. The Detroit Free Press and USA Today (3/8/2011) released an investigative report that found higher-than-average erasure rates on tests taken by students at 34 schools in and around Detroit in 2008 and 2009. Overall, their report "found 304

schools where experts say the gains on standardized tests in 2009-10 are so statistically improbable, they merit further investigation. Besides Michigan, the other states (where suspected cheating was found) were Ohio, Arizona, Colorado, Florida and California." A Dallas Morning News investigation reported finding high rates of test erasures in Texas. Six teachers and two principals were dismissed after cheating was uncovered.

In 2007, Baltimore's George Washington Elementary School was named a Blue Ribbon School after the number of students who passed state reading tests shot from 32 percent to nearly 100 percent in just four years. Last year, The Baltimore Sun reported thousands of erasures on those tests. Susan Burgess, the school's principal, had her professional license revoked after an investigation by state and city school board officials.

Why is there widespread cheating by America's educators? According to Diane Ravitch, who is the research professor of education at New York University, it's not teachers and principals who are to blame; it's the mandates of the No Child Left Behind law, enacted during the George W. Bush administration. In other words, the devil made them do it.

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Letter to the editor and article policy

Letters to the editor and news articles can be mailed, faxed or dropped off at the News office located in the Bank of America Building, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. till 12 noon.

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced if possible, brief and to the point, approximately 150 to 200 words or less. Not all letters are published. **To be considered for publication letters to the editor must be signed, include the writer's address and phone number, and in the Jasper News' office on Friday before noon.**

News Releases, 400 or less words, should be typed, double-spaced if possible, brief and to the point. Not all articles are published.

Letters and articles may be edited to fit available space. Well written letters/articles require less editing.

To mail your letter/article, send it to: The Jasper News, 105 NE 2nd Ave., Jasper, FL 32052 or FAX it to: 386-792-3009.

Annual Perry/Leigh Reunion begins on July 30

Submitted

The annual Perry/Leigh Family Reunion will be held on Saturday, the 30th of July, 2011 and on Sunday, the 31st of July, 2011.

On Saturday the 30th, we will gather at 7:00 PM for a good old fashion Peanut Boiling at the shop of Action Signs on U.S. 41 South

in Lake City, FL. Peanuts and Drinks will be furnished free.

On Sunday the 31st, we will meet at 9:00AM at the Stephen Foster Memorial in White Springs, FL for the family reunion. The noon meal will be catered and meal tickets will be sold at the reunion.

When you enter the park, tell them you are attending the Perry/Leigh Reunion and they will pass you through. All relatives and friends are invited. If you plan to attend the

Sunday Reunion, please contact Larry Perry at (386) 961-8859 or Willie Douglas at (904) 781-

0662, as we need some sort of head count to order meals for everybody.

Hamilton County Brotherhood to meet

Submitted

The Hamilton County Brotherhood will hold their quarterly meeting on Thursday, July 28th, at First Baptist Church, White Springs at 7:00 p.m.

Please contact Cecil Rowe, Hamilton County Brotherhood president, at 397-8359 for more information.

TOWN OF JENNINGS, FLORIDA PRE-SOLICITATION NOTICE

The Town of Jennings, Florida proposes to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for trash and garbage collection and disposal services on or about August 15, 2011. This acquisition will be a full and open, best value competition. Award is anticipated in September 2011 with services to begin on 1 January, 2012.

This pre-solicitation notice is not to be construed as a formal solicitation (Invitation for Bid [IFB] or a Request for Proposal [RFP]). This notice is for information and planning purposes only. Companies desiring to submit a proposal for trash and garbage collection and disposal services for the Town of Jennings, Florida should contact Town Manager, Billy Snipes at 386-938-4131 or via email: jenningsmanager@yahoo.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE, hereby given that the Town of Jennings, Florida will consider adoption of ORDINANCE 2011-02 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO "BOTTLE CLUBS" IN THE INCORPORATED AREA OF JENNINGS, FLORIDA; DEFINING "BOTTLE CLUBS" AND PROVIDING OTHER DEFINITIONS PERTAINING TO "BOTTLE CLUBS"; PROVIDING CLOSING HOURS AND BUSINESS REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Public Hearing to receive the citizen views and interest will be held at the regular Council meeting, August 2, 2011, 7:00 PM, Jennings Council Chambers, 1199 Hamilton Ave. Public is invited.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Jennings, FL is accepting sealed bids to dispose of one (1) vehicle:

2003 Ford Crown Victoria

Sealed bids must be submitted by 12 noon Tuesday, August 2, 2011. Clearly marked, Sealed Bids, Attention: Billy Snipes, Town Hall, 1199 Hamilton Ave., Jennings, Florida 32053 Bids will be open and awarded Tuesday, August 2, 2011, 7:00p.m. The Town of Jennings reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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Item is sold "as is-where is" and no warranty is expressed or implied. Terms are cash or certified funds. Item must be paid in full and removed from City compound within 10 calendar days. Any item not removed will revert to the Town and funds forfeited to the Town. Item may be inspected from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., July 25-29, 2011.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE, hereby given that the Town of Jennings, Florida will consider adoption of ORDINANCE 2011-01 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JENNINGS TO REPLACE ORDINANCE 2009-3, INCREASING WATER & SEWER RATES, AND TO ESTABLISH POLICY AND FEES FOR DEPOSITS, NON PAYMENT AND RECONNECTIONS

The Public Hearing to receive the citizen views and interest will be held at the regular Council meeting, August 2, 2011, 7:00 PM, Jennings Council Chambers, 1199 Hamilton Ave. Public is invited.

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