

Letters

# Misinterpreting constructive criticism doesn't help

Dear Editor,  
I read the letter from Dean Bodkin and the response from Glen Morehouse. Unlike Susan Whitebread, I don't see Mr. Morehouse's letter as a general condemnation of teachers.

I understand him to be saying that there are burned out teachers who should be retired or replaced, and some who may have become teach-

ers for the wrong reasons. But these teachers remain, be it for contractual reasons or due to the extreme difficulty in removing them. So it follows that there are bright young teachers who will never get to show their abilities because of teachers with lifelong contracts who have essentially arranged permanent ownership of their jobs, regardless of their performance.

It seems to me that the true thrust of Mr. Morehouse's letter was that the system needs fixing, starting with the merging of the two publicly funded boards. Government bureaucracies are well known to be inefficient and top heavy with management. Unfortunately the education system is no different. I believe the silent majority, of which I am usually one, concurs with this

opinion. Many of us believe that the Minister of Education, John Snobelen, is taking the necessary steps to address this difficult and complex problem.

Ms. Whitebread references a Toronto Star interview of four families asked to grade the school system. From that she manages to draw the conclusion that "the problem for our system and its front workers"

is the parents' "expectations of the school's responsibilities". Expectations are a minuscule part of the problem. The funding of a top heavy administration dedicated to self preservation takes money that could be put to much better use in the class rooms of Ontario's dedicated teachers, be they young or old.

"Support is more helpful than pot shots" states Ms. Whitebread. I can assure you that that support will be much easier to come by when the taxpaying public believes the education system is the best it can be. It is ill served by misinterpreting and misstating someone else's constructive criticism.

John Alden  
Newmarket



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**ADVERTISING CORRECTION**

Eaton's Baby Book broadsheet, appearing in this newspaper this week. Please note the following: Page 4 - Girls' 2-piece fleece sets, Reg. \$24.99 and \$29.99 shown in middle of page, will be available November 16. Pages 1 and 2 - off offers are missing copy. Should read: Excludes items already sold at 2 for pricing. Multipacks are considered one item. Inadvertently, the errors listed appeared in our advertising. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or confusion to our customers.

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