

Editorial misinformed, misguided: teacher

Dear Editor,
While I agree with the general message of *The Tribune's* May 5 editorial entitled "Take an active role in child's education" — particularly the point that active involvement by parents in their child's education helps to improve the educational process — I must take issue with your statement that "standardized testing at least gives us an idea where we stand."
Such a statement is both misinformed and misguided. The horse-race mentality inherent in test result comparisons ignores the fact that most educational jurisdictions score so closely together that there are no significant differences between them. Thus the ranking of scores which usu-

ally takes place only serves to accentuate small, non-significant differences.
In addition, proponents of such testing never provide empirical evidence to endorse their claims that system-wide testing will help to improve our education system because none exists.
The research data, on the other hand, overwhelmingly supports the argument that system-wide standardized testing has a detrimental effect upon students. Unfortunately, however, critics of the education system see such testing as a panacea and ignore the real impact on learning.

LETTERS

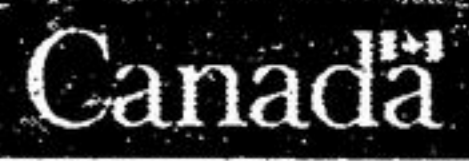
I would implore you to read the research which outlines the negative impact such system-wide standardized testing has on student learning before you make such sweeping generalizations in the future.

Steve Bull

Can't be sure of dogs

Dear Editor,
As an owner of a large St. Bernard called "Argo", I am alarmed at the recent experience in Stouffville. Many Stouffville children know Argo as Beethoven and children who are normally afraid of dogs are not afraid of Argo, mainly because of the videos, called Beethoven and Beethoven II. My dog has the same personality as portrayed on film. My dog loves kids and loves to be the centre of attention. He was trained by local well-known trainer Jerry Cudahy and even though I am 90 per cent sure my dog is safe, I can't be 100 per cent sure? As Jerry says he is still a dog and no dog is 100 per cent safe. My dog loves to come to town and walk the parks and trails, but because of the recent seriousness of dog attacks, my dog is better off at home. I did bring him to town the other night, in the back of my pick-up. I needed to use the Green Machine and while he was in my truck one person made the comment to another, "I wonder what they feed him, kids?" No caring pet owner needs that kind of comment either. I don't have the answers for the problem of dog attacks, but I do

know my heart goes out to the families of the child and the dog owner, no one would have dreamed that it could have happened to them, but it did, and I don't ever want to experience such a dreadful lesson! There are a few poorly trained undisciplined dogs all around us but most dogs are very safe and very good companions and pets.
Garry Knott
Stouffville



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 **CORRECTION NOTICE**

We wish to draw your attention to the following in our current "Giant Outdoors Sale" Flyer:

Page 16: Item #4, 15-pc. Drill Bit Set, 54-3629-0. The 3-Year Warranty does not apply to this product.

Page 29: Item #8, Paper Napkins, 99-0977-2. Illustration is incorrect. Should show "Scott" Paper Napkins not "White Swan".

Page 32: Portable Booster, Pac, 11-1550-8. Copy Reads: Reg. \$149.99, Sale 99.99, 1/3 OFF. Should Read: Reg. \$139.99, Sale 99.99, Save \$40.00.

Page 33: STP Fuel Injector Cleaner, 99-4620-6. Copy Reads: Special Buy \$3.29 for #99-4620-6. This product # is incorrect. Should Read: Special Buy \$3.29 for #99-0770-2.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience we may have caused you.

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