

[Back to regular view](#) [Print this page](#)

suntimes

Who will teach my children?

Last Modified: Apr 8, 2011 04:01PM

You wrote an editorial in the wake of the news that Chicago is the only top 10 big city in the nation to lose population over the last decade. Your list of negatives included the weather (how droll) and taxes. You then attempted to offset those two items with all the wonders that this city has to offer. I must agree, I love this city and all it has to offer. The problem is what it does not offer: the opportunity for all children to have a decent and safe education.

My wife and I have two children, one about to enter kindergarten and another just a year behind. The public school in our neighborhood is not acceptable. While walking through the school last May, we found a pledge outside the fourth-grade class that had been signed by every child. Is the pledge to read one book a week or watch less television? No. It's a pledge not to bring a gun to class. I cannot enroll my child in a school where the consequences of a broken student pledge can be literally deadly.

So the next step was to apply to every single magnet school regardless of the difficulties related to distance from our home. Of the 18 schools we applied to, we were accepted at none. The private school we love and would work our budget to attend? Wait-listed. The "gifted" programs available in this city? The test was passed, but we did not get in.

I am so happy that, as you wrote, you could write a list of wonders as long as a Chicago winter. I bet I would agree with every single one. But who's gonna teach my kid!?

Gary Abrahams, Irving Park

Rape column off base

Heather Mac Donald's column doubting the epidemic of sexual assault on college campuses was abhorrent ["Don't buy into tale of campus-rape crisis," April 6]. Mac Donald claims that rape victims aren't coming forward because they "don't exist."

Mac Donald's victim-blaming and doubt are the very reasons sexual assault is vastly under-reported by victims.

The majority of rapes happen between acquaintances, when there are no other witnesses and there may be very little physical evidence that an assault even occurred. Victims aren't coming forward because they fear that they will not be believed.

We must create a college culture where victims are believed, all students understand what consent really means, and the existence of rape is no longer ignored.

Rachel Durchslag,

executive director,

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

GOP moves appalling

I am appalled that Speaker John Boehner and Republican House members keep pushing us toward a government shutdown when it is clear that troops and military families will be among those hurt.

While our troops will be asked to continue serving, they won't be paid for their sacrifice until the shutdown ends. Though they will receive back pay when the budget is resolved, troops and military families who depend on their biweekly paycheck will not see it on time. For troops who have spouses and kids, even one delayed check could cause huge problems .

Linda Wallace, Homewood

Copyright © 2011 — Sun-Times Media, LLC
