

The Passy Press

Letter to the Editor

From: joseph.mccarthy@undisclosed.com
To: Nick Gardiner enpg@thepassypress.com
Date: September 10, 2014 2:45pm EST
Subject: Comments on John MacMurray's Essay on US Education

Dear Sir,

1. More respect and remuneration for teachers.
2. The summer vacation should be shortened.
3. The tyranny of standardized testing should be curbed. Stanley Kaplan and the Princeton Review represent an industry that is geared to only test taking success and NOT education and learning. The “numbers game” played by admission offices eliminates Steve Jobs types and favors students who either have innate testing skills or whose families have spent much money on test taking coaching.
4. Admission policies are admitting a homogeneous product and turning out a homogeneous product. In recent years, one third of Harvard College graduates consistently go into investment banking and consulting.
5. Reduce grade inflation. In my interviewing of medical school applicants and surgery residents, I rarely see applicants with a GPA of less than 3.5.
6. Universities should encourage curiosity and “thinking out of the box”. They should selectively allow creative students to take a year or two off to develop their ideas.
7. Do away with the burden of student loans. I have known students with indebtedness in excess of \$200,000. Higher education costs should be borne by society and, in turn, all young people of both sexes should give two years of some type of public service. This would include young people of the higher socioeconomic class.

Joe McCarthy

Joseph G. McCarthy who holds an A.B. from Harvard and an M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons. He is Director Emeritus of the Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery at NYU and the author of several publications on craniofacial reconstruction. He holds a patent on a technique and device, for lengthening mandibular bone to allow for new bone growth.

He won the Pioneer Surgeon Award by the University of Zurich in 2003.

He has also been celebrated as Best Teacher at NYU and Father of the Year.