

### ***An F for Mr. Starr's excuses***

I was surprised and disappointed by Montgomery County School superintendent Joshua P. Starr's reaction to the report that 45 percent of public high school students in the county failed final exams in math ["Fail rate still high on math finals," *Metro*, July 27]. Mr. Starr's explanations were bizarre: First, blame 37a (motivation), then the test creators or teachers (lack of coordination between exams and curriculum), then 37b (unspecific, but getting a little closer) and finally 37c (whatever that means, but it sounds like it's the darn students' fault again).

When students fail to master a given set of material, one should ask why the teachers didn't teach it. If they did, then see why the test didn't reflect it. In both cases, it is the responsibility of the school administrators to ensure that the teachers and the tests are working. The buck stops on the desk of the 38.

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