

An Insult to Teachers

To the Editor:

- 1 In "No Teachers Are Required for Grading Common Core" (news article, June 23), we have final confirmation on the state of the teaching profession today. We prepare our teachers poorly in programs that are rarely rigorous and almost never useful to the practitioner; we pay them far less than what other professionals make while simultaneously requiring them to obtain more and more specialized degrees; we tell teachers that we will evaluate them fairly based on standardized test results from students; and now we hire the likes of former wedding planners to grade those tests so we can rate those teachers.
- 2 Doesn't anyone recognize the insanity of public education these days? How can we make the claim that teaching at any level is a profession when there is every indication that our public policy treats it in such an insulting fashion?
- 3 It is small wonder the most accomplished students from the college ranks predominantly seek other avenues of employment. Can you imagine doctors having their performance be judged on some standard operation, a dubious premise to begin with, and then have the results be evaluated by – what – truck drivers? I happen to love truck drivers, and I know they would be the first to tell us they don't want to rate doctors or have doctors rate them, so why is it O.K. for teachers?
- 4 Of course it's always the money, isn't it? Maybe we think: Anyone can teach. That may be true, but anyone can do surgery, too, except the trick is that you are supposed to heal patients, not harm them. Great teachers heal, and we treat them like dirt.

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