

Letters to the Editor,
The Orange County Register
P.O. Box 11626
Santa Ana, CA 92711

May 12, 1994

Dear Editor,

Perhaps we can use Don Feder's critique of Calvin Klein's dubious value to society in debunking our favorite myth *du jour*: that California's teachers are to blame for our students' poor showing in the national education derby. (Orange County Register, Opinion section, May 9, 1994.)

Feder limited his discussion to Klein's messages of sex and instant gratification. Why not include Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger and the other muscle-bound avatars of testosterone-driven violence? When was the last time any of them were shown reading a book?

What about superstars like Michael Jackson and Madonna? Do their concerts end with exhortations to the audience to study hard for the next exam—instead of dreaming of them?

It is irrational at best, and dishonest at worst, to demand that our teachers compete successfully with the overwhelming barrage of childish diversions directed at our young people. Ending the scapegoating of teachers for our children's failures will signal a welcome maturity in the adult population. Only then can we begin to repair our badly torn social fabric.

Sincerely,
Bill Becker

[I seem to have omitted my address and phone number, which would automatically consign this letter to the waste basket. Perhaps I pasted an address label below my name. In any case, I do not know if the letter was printed.]