

## Student Group Advocates Grade Inflation

“I just can't believe my professor!” said John Sawyer, leader of an ad hoc student group that meets in the wee hours of the morning at the Guzzling Yak bar near Cronus College. “All semester I got straight F's, and he has the nerve to fail me!”

Sawyer's group, which calls itself “Students Wanting Inflated Grades” (SWIG), is generally made up of lackluster students who drink in lieu of studying. But there are a few exceptions. One of these is Madeline Thomas, a polite-looking coed, who sat nursing a tall glass of beer next to Sawyer. She decided to attend her first SWIG meeting after unfair treatment by a mathematics professor.

“You know, sometimes professors are just too hard on us, for no apparent reason,” Thomas explained. “Like my Calculus instructor – my final grade in her class was just a few points short of an A- and I sent her a very sweet e-mail asking if I could do anything, anything at all, to raise it just a little bit, so I could have all A's on my transcript. Like, it's my first semester in college and don't you think all A's would look pretty nice? I mean that would make my mom and dad SOOOO happy! And she just wouldn't raise it. I mean what's a few points to her? It's really no big deal. I just don't get it – it's pretty irrational, I think. Is that what I pay my tuition for?”

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## Newark Schools Get Competing Bid from Russian Billionaire

Mikhail Prokhorov, the Russian billionaire who owns the New Jersey Nets basketball team, is entering the bidding wars to control the state's troubled Newark school district. His spokesman hinted that Prokhorov might go as high as \$210 million, considerably more than the \$100 million that Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg bid to acquire control last September or the \$60 million bid by Pepsi the previous spring.

Zuckerberg's plan for the district has focused on his love of charter schools and his belief that grades should be based on the student's number of 'likes.' Prokhorov, however, apparently wants to push the district toward basketball. To receive his gift, the district will reportedly have

to allocate student funding by height and vertical leap.

What makes Newark such a good investment? Prokhorov's spokesman points to the willingness of government authorities such as Mayor Cory Booker and Governor Chris Christie to dutifully supplicate themselves to people with lots of money. Plus, Prokhorov would really like to be a guest on Oprah before the show ends its run.

When asked for their views on the possible shift in their owners, Newark residents expressed shock and asked if under the new ownership someone might actually care if they have views.

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## Reporter Finds Broad Agreement for Market-Based Reform

After phoning Eric Hanushek, Andrew Rotherham, Frederick Hess, Kati Haycock, Paul Hill, Michael Petrilli, Cynthia Brown, Terry Moe, Paul Peterson, Caroline Hoxby, Dan Goldhaber, Patrick Wolf, Kevin Carey, Tom Vander Ark,

Jay Greene, James Guthrie and Chester Finn, national education reporter Sue Ceptible definitively determined that there exists widespread agreement across the political spectrum for the newest market-based scheme in education.