

Camp*aign Response to NYTimes OPED 4/16/9

How to Raise Our I.Q.

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

While the view that intelligence is overwhelmingly inherited has been widely held, the evidence is growing that it is, at a practical level, profoundly wrong.

Thank God for your piece, Mr. Kristof.

Any simple gardener knows that perfectly good seed will grow, OR NOT, according to the nature of the soil. If my tomato is small and shriveled, scolding it into compliance will only cause my neighbors to pull their shades and lock their doors.

Similarly, what possible good can it do to fix our broken educational system if the kids within the system are themselves broken? And, how will it help to fix a shattered economy, if the lives within that economy have been shattered?

Now that The Crisis of American Kids has become a bone fide threat to our national security, perhaps we will be more willing to replace the failure of trickle down economics with a cascade of humanity. As rich soil “grows” more and better food for the table, an enriching environment produces more wholesome and well-balanced human beings. “Miracle Grow” is no miracle; it’s common sense. Sure it costs a bit more, but think of that big juicy tomato. Besides, don’t we ... and don’t they ... deserve it?!

Jon Sherry

The Camp*aign for American Kids

www.ForAmericanKids.org