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Camp Quest teaches kids how to think

Letters to the editor

Regarding the article "There is no God, but there is horse riding" (July 21): The writer makes an error stating that Camp Quest teaches children "there is no God." This is not true.

Rather, campers are taught critical thinking strategies, reason and use of the scientific method for examining natural phenomena. As stated in the article, you cannot prove a negative, and it is not up to nonbelievers to prove that gods do not exist - it is always up to the person with the positive claim to provide evidence. Until that happens, atheists do not have to consider the matter at all.

Len Zanger, director, Camp Quest of Michigan, Bloomfield Hills

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CAMP QUEST A SAD COMMENTARY

The recent article profiling Camp Quest, the summer camp designed for young atheists, was one of the saddest commentaries on our society I have yet read ("There is no God, but there is horse riding," July 21). For parents to teach their children that there is no God is sad, but the idea that atheists have joined forces to create an indoctrination camp where children are taught that the views of all major religions are as daft as believing in unicorns is startling. Moreover, the implication of the article that Camp Quest represents the only viable camp experience for kids whose parents want them to be atheists is absurd.

Have you never heard of band camp? Karate camp? Horseback riding camp? Art camp? Tennis camp? Numerous camps around the country contain no religious focus whatsoever. Perhaps the broad-minded atheist parents who don't want their kids corrupted by religious camps should consider sending their children to such a camp rather than to one whose primary message seems to teach children to ridicule the beliefs of others.

Marilyn Clark, Symmes Township

EDITORIAL WRONG ON CUSTODY CASE

The editorial "Court made tough call in custody case" (July 21) misses the mark. Peggy Fugate obviously turned her life around, satisfying Juvenile Court and Court of Appeals. Had her self-directed determination and dramatic change in circumstances resulted in an Ohio Supreme Court ruling in her favor - and eventual return of her 16-year-old daughter - Hamilton County Job and Family Services feels it would have "opened the floodgates for other parents to do the same thing." Precisely.

People make mistakes. The trick is, what do we learn from our mistakes and how do we change our conduct to avoid them in the future. Family services might have more work to do when other parents demonstrate they can do their jobs. A rubber stamp from above now ensures foster placement is the end of the story. That's not in the best interests of a child or family when the family changes.

The state allows murders and rapists parole for second chances but won't let this woman to share what's left of her daughter's adolescence.

Timothy Brown, Norwood

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PROVIDED PHOTO

Hensley Akiboh (far right) untangles a human knot with other Camp Quest campers and staff.

Letters to the editor

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RELEASED GITMO PRISONERS DANGEROUS

Evidently, liberal writers such as Bob Herbert feel that the U.S. government should release the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay so they can return to their homelands (or here in the U.S.) and again kill Americans ("Bush, cronies undermining fabric of America," July 18). Maybe they could be released into the custody of people such as Herbert so, when they kill again, he can be held responsible.

In addition, if they empty out the prison, can Sheriff Simon Leis apply to take it over for his excess prisoners, or should they also be released in the custody of Herbert et. al.?

Ed Lohaus, *Green Township*

TRADING CARDS SEND WRONG MESSAGE

Indian Hill police are sending citizens a disturbing message with their new trading cards ("Children collect cards for chance at prizes," July 5) with cards declaring "In God we Trust, all others we polygraphed!"

So everyone's a potential suspect, everyone's a liar, everyone should be watched? Obviously the Indian Hill police need a refresher course in civics so they can brush up on American virtues such as "innocent until proven guilty."

Michael O. Eshleman, *Turtlecreek Township*

INSULT DESERVED A HEAD BUTT

I disagree with the editorial "Superstar took his eye off goal" (July 11). If someone insulted your wife, what would you do?

French team captain and soccer icon Zinedine Zidane may have cost France the World Cup but he did not cost France, or his wife, their honor.

That is why World Cup fans, like me, will always love Zidane.

Harold Johnson Jr., *Bond Hill*

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