



Week of Thursday, December 7, 2006

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How're we doing? Survey intellectual capital to learn

Neither Tim Padgett's recent Time magazine screed slamming Miami nor this newspaper's convincing rebuttal, painting a more balanced picture, addresses a key metric of a city's quality of life and competitiveness – intellectual capital.

For example, among the top 10% of the high school graduating class of the county's three top private schools – Gulliver, Miami Country Day, Ransom Everglades – how many remain/return to work here after college graduation?

It is a fact that high achievers are far more likely than the average citizen to become actively involved in civic and community organizations, keep their hands out of the public cookie jar and remain after intermission for an orchestral performance at the Carnival Center. "Exit interviews" with the best and the brightest who do not remain/return are a far more useful tool to help us improve our strengths and remedy our deficiencies than one-sided literary hatchet jobs or hyperbolic PR puffery.

Jerry Haar