

September 2017

Consequences

A short item in the Boston Globe's Op-Ed section of Sunday 27 August was intriguing and worth sharing. Kevin Lewis, a Globe columnist, compiled short pieces from various disciplines including education, medicine, business, and finance. You can write to him at kevin.lewis.ideas@gmail.com.

Testing creationism

Researchers at MIT have found evidence confirming what many educators and science advocates have feared. After Louisiana passed a law allowing public school teachers to contradict the scientific curriculum, scores on the science part of the ACT (an alternative to the SAT) declined relative to scores in neighboring Texas. There was no similar decline in math scores. At the same time, creationism-related search terms on Google became more common, relative to evolution-related terms, in Louisiana than in Texas. Notably, the decline in science test scores was concentrated in areas with a less-educated population but better Internet service – a further indication that the Internet enabled, rather than inhibited, ideological segregation.

Sen, A. & Tucker C., "Information Shocks and Internet Silos: Evidence from Creationist Friendly Curriculum," Massachusetts Institute of Technology (July 2017).

Jerry Nault

Chairman, RSU 12 Board of Directors