

BOOKS



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**THE END OF IGNORANCE:
Multiplying Our Human Potential
by John Mighton**

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Published by Alfred A. Knopf,
Canada, 2007

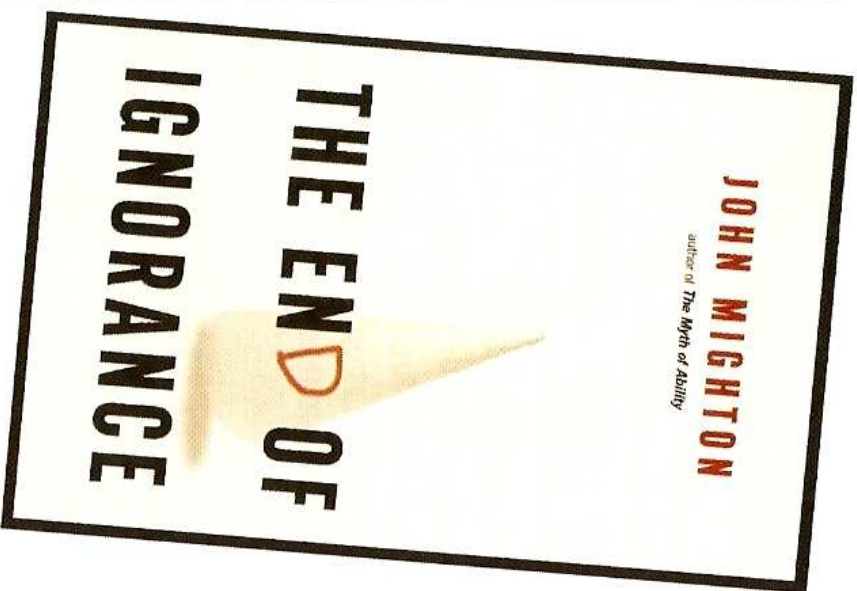
320 pages, \$29.95

Reviewed by Larry French

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Imagine that a visionary teacher had perfected a method of teaching mathematics that allowed all students in the regular school system, even significant under performers, to achieve success. Imagine that he had developed learning materials that enabled other teachers to implement his method. Imagine that the materials were pilot-tested and implemented with

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success in schools in Western Canada, the US, Australia, South Africa and England. Imagine that schools in several boards in Ontario had tried the method and enjoyed significant improvement in test scores. Imagine that the teacher himself was from

Ontario and developed his method and materials in our province. One would then imagine that, surely, the Ministry of Education and math consultants in school boards across Ontario must be leaping over one another to ensure that our students benefit from this innovative home-grown breakthrough.

Wrong. John Mighton and his JUMP program—Junior Undiscovered Math Prodigies—have been rejected in large part by the Ontario math establishment, despite the fact that learning theorists and practising teachers here in Ontario and elsewhere have validated his method. The JUMP program, which covers the Ontario math curriculum, Grades 1 to 8, is described as “a balance of shared, guided and independent learning strategies and tools,” that breaks learning into micro steps that guarantee success. Mighton’s book, and its message that no student need be left behind, is inspiring reading for everyone involved in education. It

should be required reading for math consultants.

Larry French is a Life Member of OSSTF/FEESO and a former Director of Communications and Political Action at OSSTF/FEESO’s provincial office.

IN OUR OPINION: MORE THAN 100 YEARS OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS

Edited by Don Sellar

Published by Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 2006

290 pages, \$24.95

Reviewed by Richard Young

To be sure, newspaper editorials have long been a staple resource in many high school classrooms. They can be

