



## Don't Ask, Don't Tell

STUDENTS ARE always encouraged to have an open line of communication with school officials, especially where incidents involving abuse are concerned. But a recent New Jersey standardized test asking third

graders to share private information may have crossed the line. Parents are upset that a question on the Assessment of Skills and Knowledge, given in early May, asked students to disclose a secret and write about why it was hard to keep.

“It’s outrageous to ask 9-year-olds to reveal secrets on a test that’s supposed to be testing their writing skills,” Richard Goldberg told CBS 2 New York. Goldberg’s twin 9-year-old sons attend Asher Holmes Elementary School in Morganville, NJ.

New Jersey Department of Education spokesman Justin Barra confirmed to the Asbury Park Press that a variation of the question had appeared on the test but confirmed that students wouldn’t be scored on it. Barra also said the question— which was given to approximately 4,000 third graders in 15 districts— will not be included on future tests.

—by *Aisha I. Jefferson*

## Tainted Tuna?



HERE’S SOME food for thought the next time you order a tuna roll. Five months after the Fukushima nuclear meltdown in Japan triggered fears of international air pollution, scientists tested bluefin tuna caught off the coast of San Diego and found radiation levels 10 times higher than those discovered in the species in the same area in previous years. The fish with elevated levels of the radioactive metal cesium were traced back to Japan. It marks the first time a huge migrating fish carried radioactivity such a distance, researchers revealed. But don’t swear off your favorite sushi spot just yet. Stanford University’s lead researcher, Daniel Madigan, says the amount of radioactive material found is too low to pose a health risk.

—by *Kendra Cusic*