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Weather  
Columnists  
Newstracks  
Full headline list  
Archives

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Letters  
Commentary

## Sports

Blogs  
Preps  
Outdoors  
Fantasy Sports  
NW Sports Stats

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For the record  
Obituaries  
Announcements  
Listings

## Lifestyle

Food  
Travel  
Tributes  
Comics survey »  
Book Club »  
Movie listings »  
Calendar »  
Blogs »

## Weekly sections

Home & Garden »  
7 »

## Extra

awayfinder  
Online Contests  
Comics  
Sudoku  
Crossword  
Down to Earth blog  
Health  
Special Sections

About us »  
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**SpokesmanReview.com**

Saturday, January 26, 2008

Letters to the editor

## Librarians critical resource

I applaud the efforts of Lisa Layera Brunkan ("Plea for school librarians," Jan. 24) to stand up for what is good for children and for our fine public schools.

One of the most critical elements in Spokane's quality of life is its high-quality public education system. Unlike other cities, people know their children will get a great education in a safe environment at Spokane public schools. Having been involved with work force development and physician recruiting in Spokane, I can tell you that one of the most significant reasons people choose to relocate to Spokane is our quality public education system. It is of critical importance that library funding be included in the state education funding formula.

Libraries, and qualified librarians, are a critical component of public education. When I was a fourth-grader in Spokane, with the encouragement of the librarian, I read nearly every book in the school's library. The key to learning is reading, and good librarians help children explore their world through books. I want to ensure that our children have access to the quality public education that Spokane is known for. Textbooks are not enough – children thrive with exposure to the world of books.

**John Driscoll**  
*Spokane*

 

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