

The Blumenfeld Education Letter

"My People Are Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge" HOSEA 4:6

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The purpose of this newsletter is to provide knowledge for parents and educators who want to save the children of America from the destructive forces that endanger them. Our children in the public schools are at grave risk in 4 ways: academically, spiritually, morally, and physically — and only a well-informed public will be able to reduce those risks.

"Without vision, the people perish."

Shootings in Schools Alarm Nation

The killing of 5 children and the wounding of 30 others by a gunman at the Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton, Calif., 1/17/89, is the most alarming episode of this kind to date. But it is only one of the many acts of murderous violence directed against schools or students that have occurred all over America. Here's a chronology of recent shootings:

April 16, 1987. Chester Jackson Jr., 17, shot to death and another student wounded by a 14-year-old student at Murray-Wright High School in Detroit.

March 2, 1988. Nathan Ward of North Chicago shoots four teen-agers outside Waukegan East High School after a high school basketball game.

May 20, 1988. Laurie Dann, 30-year-old divorcee, enters the Hubbard Woods Elementary School in Winnetka, Ill., shoots five children, one fatally, with a .357 Magnum pistol. She is later found dead in her North Shore home.

Sept. 26, 1988. James Wilson kills two 8-year-old girls in a Greenwood, S.C., school and wounds seven students and two teachers.

Oct. 3, 1988. A 9-year-old girl is shot in the arm and chest while playing in the playground of the Mascotte Elementary School in Mascotte, Fla.

Dec. 16, 1988. Student Nicholas Elliott kills one teacher and wounds another at Atlantic Shores Christian School in Virginia Beach, Va.

Jan.-Feb. 1989. In Little Rock, Ark., a 19-year-old boy shoots a 16-year-old boy to death at a junior high school; a 13-year-old boy shoots a 14-year-old girl on a school bus; a 13-year-old boy shoots at students in a high-school parking lot.

Jan. 11, 1989. A Bronx kindergarten teacher finds a 5-year-old student with a loaded handgun.

Jan. 26, 1989. Four students leaving Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, D.C., are shot after an argument over a cafeteria seat. (Idaho Statesman, 1/18/89; U.S. News & World Report, 3/13/89)

Comment:

When a nation's schools and its students become the objects of hatred

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and violence, one must begin to ask whether or not the schools are the cause of some of these violent reactions. It is not without significance, for example, that Patrick Purdy, who shot up the school at Stockton, had, as a child, attended the first three grades of that very same school from 1969 to 1973. We know that it is in the first three grades that children's minds are lobotomized and their souls mutilated by the school's teaching methods. Children have no defense against such abuse and malpractice. Was Purdy a victim of the system?

In previous years student outrage took the form only of physical damage to school buildings, facilities and equipment. Now teachers and students are being killed. Why? Because vandalized buildings do not suffer, but vandalized human beings do. In other words, the cost of tampering with the minds and morals of children has gone up.

If you treat children like guinea pigs in a psych lab, they will grow to hate you. If you corrupt their morals with sex education and condoms they will pay you back in kind. If you require them to write their own obituaries, they will despise and curse you.

Those of us of earlier generations remember the public schools as benign institutions where one was taught the three R's, and teachers were the object of respect and affection.

But today's teachers are trained in behavioral psychology and humanism. As far as they are concerned, children have no minds and no souls. They teach a curriculum laced with lies, perversion, and blasphemies. And that is why the schools have become the objects of such intense hatred.

The tragedy is that the damage cannot be undone. No amount of educational reform can repair the minds and souls of the victims. And what is even more tragic is that the victimization goes on unabated, and the educators,

for the most part, are blind to what they are doing. Only a degenerate profession, steeped in self-deception, fails to see its own errors.

Health of American Children Deteriorating

According to a report compiled by the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions Inc. and released in March 1989, the health of American children, as measured by 13 key health indicators, is deteriorating instead of improving.

The report documents declining rates of immunizations among pre-schoolers and the increasing incidence of mumps, measles, pertussis, and other diseases that can be prevented by vaccines.

Also, there has been a doubling of the suicide rate for 15- to 19-year-olds over the last two decades, a doubling in the number of cases of pediatric AIDS over the past year, a 55 percent increase in the number of reported incidents of child abuse and neglect from 1981 to 1985, and an increase in venereal disease.

Copies of "Profile of Child Health in the United States," are available for \$20 each from NACHRI, 401 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. (Educ. Wk. 3/8/89)

Comment:

Moral degeneracy leads to physical degeneracy. Moral behavior is the best preventative against disease. Even modern science cannot keep pace with the diseases and physical degeneration caused by depraved behavior. As long as our schools promote depravity as legitimate "alternate life styles," American youth will suffer the unhealthy consequences no matter how many condoms are given out.

Three Gifted Students Commit Suicide

Three gifted college students leaped to their deaths in New York City in one week last September.

On 9/19/88 Sumi Lynne Koide, 27, in the last year of a Rockefeller University-Cornell University Medical College program, jumped to her death from her 18th-floor apartment. Police said Koide apparently crumbled under intense pressures of her studies.

Four days later, on 9/23/88, New York University freshman Leila Lindhorn, 17, an honors student and former cheerleader from Auburn, Ala., plunged 12 stories to her death from a window in her dormitory. She was a presidential scholar on a scholarship and one of the top entering students at the College of Arts and Sciences.

Twenty-four hours later, on 9/24/88, honors student Jonathan Aaron Spohn, 18, a Columbia University freshman from Salem, N.H., leaped to his death from the window of his 14th floor room in John Jay Hall. Spohn was a first-year engineering student and an all-state wrestler for two years at Salem High School. He left no suicide note. (Boston Globe, 9/25/88)

Student Beaten to Death In Atlanta High School

A 15-year-old boy was beaten to death by an older student in an Atlanta high school only 10 days after district officials denied his parents' transfer request.

Derrick Guthrie, an 8th-grade student at Harper High School, died from his injuries Feb. 20 after being knocked down and kicked repeatedly by 16-year-old Brian Ball.

Students reportedly overheard Mr. Ball threatening Mr. Guthrie about his involvement with a girl at the school. He allegedly attacked the younger student in a school hallway.

District officials said the younger boy's parents had requested a transfer because they feared for their son's safety. The request was denied because of lack of evidence that the boy was in danger.

Mr. Ball, who is being held at a juvenile detention center, faces murder charges. (Educ. Wk. 3/15/89)

Star Athlete Murdered In School Corridor

A 15-year-old star athlete was stabbed to death in a corridor at Worcester (Mass.) South High School 3/27/89 and another teen-age boy was arrested and charged with his murder. Police said the altercation was the result of a long-running feud between the two youths.

Jerome Johnson, who was a star of the school's basketball team and an outstanding boxer, was stabbed once in the neck about 8:30 a.m. He was rushed to Worcester City Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 8:55 a.m.

Police arrested a 15-year-old youth and charged him with being delinquent by reason of murder. A knife, allegedly used by the teen, was found in bushes near the school, police said.

Kathy McCloud, a state Department of Social Services employee who met with several students following the incident, said the youths told her there were seven fights at the school last week and they were disturbed that nothing had been done to alleviate tensions.

Christopher Stinson, 16, a friend of Johnson's, said there are racial tensions at the school. He said he would like to see school officials conduct more locker searches to look for weapons and hold regular discussion groups to defuse potential conflicts.

"There's no way students should be allowed to come to school armed," he said. (Boston Herald, 3/28/89)

Student Kills Self in Class

A 14-year-old high school student in Jefferson City, Missouri, shot and killed himself March 15 during class, according to a district spokesman.

School officials said they had not yet determined why Donald Payne committed suicide, but they noted that he had been receiving counseling for an emotional problem.

There were 21 other students in the classroom at the time of the shooting, the spokesman said. (Educ. Wk. 3/29/89)

Georgia Teen Dies After Abortion

A 17-year-old Macon, Ga., girl died hours after undergoing an abortion on 12/2/88 in the office of Dr. Joe W. Daniel Jr. Teresa Causey was taken to the Medical Center of Central Georgia by ambulance when she failed to awake after the procedure. She died 9 a.m., 12/3/88.

Teresa Causey, who had two children, ages 1 and 2, decided to have the abortion when she learned of her third pregnancy. (Macon Telegraph & News, 12/5/88)

Nine-Year-Old Raped In School Restroom

The rape of a 9-year-old pupil at knife point in an elementary school restroom, has moved school district officials in Fairfax County, Virginia, to order new safety measures.

Exterior doors of the 120 elementary schools in this affluent Washington suburb will be locked at all times and students will not be permitted to go to the restroom alone.

The new policy stems from a series of assaults on elementary students by outsiders who had entered the buildings through unlocked doors.

Although the doors will be locked from the outside, they are equipped

with "panic bars" that allow them to be opened from the inside.

Students will have to go to the restroom in pairs or with a teacher. Supt. Robert R. Spillane is also considering requiring all school visitors to wear identification badges. (Educ. Wk. 3/8/89)

Teachers Report Disruptive Students, Apathy Biggest Problems

A nationwide poll of 22,000 public-school teachers sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, has revealed a disturbing picture of the problems teachers encounter in their classrooms.

Nearly 90 percent reported disruptive behavior and student apathy to be serious problems in their classrooms. Almost 70 percent identified theft and vandalism as problems in their schools, and 50 percent said that alcohol and drugs were problems. Ninety percent complained about lack of parental support; 44 percent were concerned about violence against students; and 24 percent said they considered violence against teachers a problem.

In a foreword to the report, Ernest L. Boyer, the foundation's president, noted that teachers describe students as "emotionally needy" and "starved for affection."

"The data and teacher comments suggest that we have not just a school problem, but a youth problem in the nation," he wrote. "Teachers repeatedly made the point that in the push for better schools they cannot do the job alone, and yet there is a growing trend to expect schools to do what families, communities, and churches have been unable to accomplish." (Educ. Wk. 12/14/88)

Comment:

It is the educators who have led the public to believe that the schools

can solve America's social problems. It was the educators who insisted on adding sex education to the curriculum, despite strong parental and church objections. It is the educators who are pushing for school-based clinics. It is the educators who promoted values clarification, sensitivity training, drug education, nuclear war studies, and death education in the schools. Most parents do not even know these programs exist.

The teachers complain about the lack of parental support. But parents who show concern are called book burners, censors, troublemakers, and other epithets. The educators simply want the parents to endorse, sanction, and approve of anything and everything the educators want to do.

But obviously most parents don't care what goes on in the public schools. That's why the kids are "starved for affection" or "emotionally needy." The sad truth is that, for most American parents, children have become a burden, an inconvenience, a source of family conflict, a financial liability, an unwanted responsibility. Parents put their children in public schools because that's the easiest way to get them out of their hair and fulfill a social responsibility.

It is interesting that students are both disruptive and apathetic. The apathy is a result of the lobotomization they have undergone in the psycho-educational process, and the disruption is their reaction to a hateful environment where they are treated more like inmates than learners.

We have long hoped that parents would abandon the public schools and thereby hasten the demise of that miserable institution which is destroying our morals and religion. But the sorry truth is that the parents want the public schools, and that is why the NEA and the education establishment can laugh all the way to the bank. The brainwashing has worked.

Massive Academic Failure In Mass. Cities Schools

Students in the cities of Massachusetts did worse than expected in the state's Basic Skills Test given to 170,000 third-, sixth-, and ninth-graders last October.

In Boston, only 56 percent of the ninth-graders, 57 percent of the sixth-graders and 69 percent of the third-graders were able to pass all three tests.

The Basic Skills Test was implemented three years ago as a state-mandated method of identifying students who have not mastered the three elements of education.

A passing grade does not necessarily mean a student is doing work at grade level, said Beverly Miyares, director of the testing program. But a failing grade indicates a student is so far behind in basic knowledge that he or she is incapable of doing the work expected in that grade.

Statewide, 87.5 percent of the third-, 82.8 percent of the sixth-, and 78.6 percent of the ninth-graders passed all three tests.

In a separate report released 3/27/89, the Boston School Department's research and development team said Boston scores were unexpectedly worse than scores in schools with similar students.

"These comparisons suggest that lower performance cannot be explained merely by demographic and socio-economic factors," the Boston report said.

The poorest showings were in Chelsea, where the passing rate was 49 percent for ninth-graders and 68 percent for third- and sixth-graders, and in Holyoke, where 56 percent of the ninth-graders, 50 percent of the sixth-graders and 60 percent of the third-graders passed all of the tests. (Boston Herald, 3/28/89)

Maryland Schools to Expel Students With Guns

Students caught carrying guns or other weapons into Montgomery County, Md., schools will be automatically recommended for permanent expulsion, under a new district policy.

While officials have moved in the past to expel gun-toting students, Supt. Harry Pitt acted this month to make the practice formal district policy. Expulsions will also be meted out to students found selling or distributing drugs or alcohol on school grounds.

Although the new policy gives students a chance to justify their actions, a spokesman argued that it was unlikely that a student would be able to provide a "legitimate" reason for possessing a weapon.

Mr. Pitt is also considering a new policy to ban beepers and portable phones, which are often carried by students involved in the drug trade. (Educ. Wk. 3/15/89)

Los Angeles Parents Boycott Violence-Plagued High School

Parents of about 65 students will keep their children out of Jordan High School in Los Angeles until safety conditions improve, according to a group representing the parents.

The American Association of Women says that violence and weapons are common at the school, which is located in the crime-ridden Watts neighborhood.

Leslie C. Dutton, the group's president, said that many parents have been keeping their children out of school since January. They have asked the U.S. Education Department's office of civil rights to investigate the situation, on the grounds that the level of security at Jordan is not the same as that provided in mostly white schools.

District officials, who say that only 21 students are involved in the protest, maintain that the school is safe. No disciplinary action is planned against the students who miss classes, they said.

Shortly after the parents announced their protest, a teenager was shot to death in the parking lot of a Watts elementary school. (Educ. Wk. 3/8/89)

Three Boys With AIDS Win \$1.1-Million School Settlement

Three brothers who were denied access to their Florida school because of their exposure to the AIDS virus will receive nearly \$100,000 each over 10 years, as part of a \$1.1-million settlement with the DeSoto County school district.

Under the agreement, the boys will each receive \$820 a month for 10 years. The boys' parents each will receive at least \$300 monthly for 30 years, and an immediate \$50,000 cash payment. The settlement also includes attorneys' fees and court costs.

Ricky, Robert, and Randy Ray, who were exposed to the AIDS virus during treatment for hemophilia, were refused admission to the Memorial Elementary School in Arcadia, Fla., in 1986 and 1987. In August 1987, the boys attended school under a federal court order, but the family fled to Sarasota after parents of other students staged a boycott and their house was burned by an unknown arsonist.

A lawyer for the Ray brothers described the settlement as the largest ever made for an AIDS civil-rights case. (Educ. Wk. 10/12/88)

Union Must Repay Nonunion Teachers

The Toledo Federation of Teachers must repay nearly five years' worth of fees collected from six nonunion teachers, the Ohio Supreme Court has ruled.

The panel voted 5-2 to uphold a lower court's ruling that the money had to be refunded because the union had failed to meet guidelines established by the U.S. Supreme Court for unions in collecting dues from nonmembers whom they represent in collective bargaining.

The fees in question have been held in escrow since Sept. 1983, when the lawsuit was filed. In addition to returning those funds to the six plaintiffs, the union was ordered to pay some \$20,000 in attorneys' fees to the National Right to Work Legal Defense Fund, which represented the plaintiffs in the case, Gibney v. Toledo Board of Education. (Educ. Wk. 3/15/89)

Governor of Missouri Proclaims Home Education Week

Gov. John Ashcroft of Missouri has proclaimed May 1-7, 1989, as Home Education Week. The proclamation was signed 1/5/89.

Families for Home Education of Missouri have planned a variety of activities to promote the cause of home education throughout the state. (Heart of America Report, Feb. '89)

Mich. Judge Strikes Down Home-Schooling Rules

Judge Thomas L. Brown ruled in Feb. 1989 that the Michigan education department's regulations on home schooling were vague and arbitrary. He directed the department to draw up new regulations, which he said would be subject to approval by the court.

The state regulations were challenged by a parent and the Clonlara School of Ann Arbor, which provides assistance to some 600 parents who teach their children at home.

They accused the state of harassing home schools by imposing standards that they said were more strict than those applied to other nonpublic schools --

for example, by requiring them to provide 180 days of instruction each year by a state-certified teacher.

The state probably will appeal the ruling, according to Supt. of Public Instruction Donald Bemis, because the court said it would have to approve the new regulations. That requirement violates the separation of powers embodied in state law, he said. (Educ. Wk. 3/8/89)

What Are They Teaching the Children?

The following letter from Nancy Puffer of Fountain Hills, Arizona, was published in the Arizona Republic of 2/16/89:

"One paragraph in your Feb. 5 Arizona Republic caught my attention and bears repeating. In an article, written by Naaman Nickell, it was stated: 'Of 6,603 Valley eighth graders asked "what word best describes America's economic system: Capitalism, socialism, communism," 42 percent answered socialism and 19 percent answered communism. Only 31 percent opted for capitalism.' Obviously 8 percent had no answer.

"This totals out to 4,027 students that had the perception that our system was either socialism or communism.

"We are not citing a small class of 30 students; we are identifying over 4,000 eighth-grade pupils, who see our system that way.

"I must ask: What is being taught in our public school system to give these students this distorted impression?"

Comment:

We have repeated in many places that the goal of the progressive educators was and is to use the schools as the means of changing America from a capitalist to a socialist society. Thus, it should surprise no one that our children are learning what they are being taught.

Signs of the Times

Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii-Manoa students kicked off National Condom Week with 1st-ever "Condom Fair." 5,000 free condoms were distributed with pamphlets promoting safe sex.

Lincoln, Maine: Trey Emery, 16, denied he killed Heather White, 8, who disappeared from school playground last October. He's 4th juvenile arrested on homicide charges in state in 1989.

Kalamazoo, Michigan: Right-to-work forces filed class-action lawsuit against Michigan Education Assn. seeking that fee collection for non-members of teachers' union be halted.

Helena, Montana: House panel killed bill that would have outlawed instruction about abortion, birth control in public school sex education courses.

Crete, Nebraska: Novel, Being There will continue to be there for English students at Crete High. School Board voted to keep it despite parents' complaints that 4 pages contain inappropriate obscene descriptions of sexual encounters.

Dale City, Virginia: Security was added at Garfield High School, where Damon Yorker, 16, was shot 2/13/89. He's in stable condition. Shannon Dewayne Monts, 18, of Springfield, was charged with malicious wounding, use of firearms in commission of felony. (USA Today, 2/15/89)

Fairfax, Va.: All 23 high schools will get metal detectors to check students for weapons. Principals have right to call in drug-sniffing dogs for searches. (USA Today, 2/20/89)

Houston, Tex.: 68.5% of Houston Independent School Dist. schools scored in bottom quarter of state-mandated basic skills tests. 159 of 232 schools were on state's low performing list. (USA Today, 11/6/87)

Iowa City, Iowa: 4,000 freshmen at Univ. of Iowa are being excused from rhetoric classes this week to attend

school-sponsored lectures on safe-sex practices, AIDS. (USA Today, 11/5/87)

Tucson, Ariz.: According to police, 54 juveniles were arrested for sex crimes in year ending July 1, up from 26 in previous year. Adults arrested for similar crimes rose 20%. Blamed: changing values where "it's almost OK to hurt other people." (USA Today, 11/3/87)

Baltimore, Md.: Grand jury reports that half of city male high school students surveyed have carried handguns. 160% of students know someone who had been shot, threatened, robbed in school in last 6 months. (USA Today, 11/3/87).

Vital Quotes

"Nothing is more infectious than association with the ungodly, for, since we are inclined to vice, it cannot be but that, when we frequent corruption, the contagion spreads more widely. Hence the utmost zeal and caution must be employed, lest the impious with whom we come in contact should infect us by their vicious behavior, especially where there is danger of idolatry, towards which each of us is inclined."

-- John Calvin, as quoted
in John Calvin
by William J. Bouwsma, p. 36.

PURE Convention & Book Fair

Plan to attend the 2nd Annual Convention of Parents for Unalienable Rights in Education (PURE) to be held in conjunction with a Home School Book Fair on July 14-15, 1989, at Shady Grove Church, 1829 W. Shady Grove, Grand Prairie, Texas 75050. For information call Jack Dolph at (214) 642-1075 (home) or (214) 742-5390 (office). The change in time and place for the convention was announced in last month's BEL. Grand Prairie is a suburb of Dallas.