

The Blumenfeld Education Letter

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

Volume 2, Number 5 (Letter # 9) EDITOR: Samuel L. Blumenfeld

May 1987

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."

Violence in the Schools

It's getting worse not better ...

On April 16, 1987, shortly before noon, Chester Jackson, Jr., a 17-year-old standout in football and track was murdered in a hall at Murray-Wright High School, Detroit, as stunned students looked on.

According to eyewitnesses, a 14-year-old student, firing a .357 magnum pistol, chased Jackson through the halls of the school, struck Jackson in the head, killing him instantly. Two other 18-year-old onlookers -- a boy and a girl -- were injured.

This was only the latest incident in a growing pattern of violence among teenagers that has plagued the black community of Detroit.

The tragedy has re-ignited a debate that raged in Detroit schools nearly two years ago over the use of metal detectors in the schools. Frustrated that the presence of both security guards and city police officers in the schools had done little to stem the flow of weapons, Detroit school officials began using metal detectors in 1985 to screen students for guns and knives. The Detroit chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), however, challenged the practice in court.

As a result, school officials were forced to notify students before a metal-detector search took place. During the two semesters that have occurred so far this year, school officials posted warning signs outside the school building.

School officials, however, have pledged to conduct "more aggressive" weapon searches but are consulting with lawyers to determine just how "aggressive" they can be.

Meanwhile, children attend school in fear of what might happen to them. One junior at Jackson's high school remarked: "You could be innocent and get shot over nothing."

In 1986 Detroit recorded the highest murder rate of any city in the U.S. -- 58 murders for every 100,000 residents. Of the 653 people murdered last year in Detroit, 43 were under age 16.

To deal with the problem, the school board has voted to create an alternative school for students who are caught with weapons. The new school is expected to open in the fall of 1987.

Ninety percent of Detroit's public school students are black. The system's

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enrollment has dropped from 300,000 ten years ago to 185,000 in 1987. Most middle-class families have left the city and many of those that remain send their children to private schools. (Educ. Wk. 5/6/87)

Editor's Comment

The purpose of this issue on violence is to make the reader aware of the deep moral corruption that now plagues public education. This corruption is due to the blatant humanist rejection of the Biblical moral code which is the foundation of the American system, and without which this nation cannot survive. The kind of violence that now pervades the public schools is a warning to us that moral relativity leads to moral anarchy. Despite this, we've seen no indication that the educators are prepared to give up their commitment to humanist moral relativity. Which means that the violence in the schools can only get worse.

It is for this reason that we urge parents to remove their children from a moral environment that is dangerous to their children's physical and emotional health. Many of these bizarre murders and suicides are being committed by "normal" children, who become abnormally affected by the heavy influence of the values-death-sex syndrome in the school curriculum.

Children thus affected become all the more susceptible to the corrupting influences of television, rock music, peer pressure, drugs, alcohol, pornography, etc., that are so pervasive in our culture. Only the home or Christian school can provide children with a modicum of protection in these corrupt times, and only informed parents can provide that protection.

Violence is Widespread in Public Schools

The most extensive survey of violence in the public schools was conducted in the 1970's by the National Institute of Education at a cost of \$2.4 million. Its findings were published in 1978, and the situation has continued to deteriorate. Here are some of the highlights:

-- Each month, 3 million high-school students are victims of crimes in school, including 2.5 million robberies and thefts. 282,000 students are assaulted in school every month.

-- Each month, there are 2,500 acts of arson in schools.

-- 1,000 teachers a month are assaulted badly enough to require medical care.

-- Risks of assault and robbery to urban students are greater in school than outside.

-- Half a million high-school students say they are afraid in school most of the time.

-- High-school students are subjected to 525,000 attacks, shakedowns, and robberies every month.

A study done in Boston in 1983 found that 40 percent of all high-school students in that city reported that they had been victims of robbery, assault, or larceny during the school year. Eleven percent of the teachers said they had been assaulted.

In 1979 the National Education Association estimated that 110,000 teachers were attacked every year. In 1984, 120 students were shot in Detroit schools. During a five-month period in 1981, about 100,000 incidents of violence were reported in California schools. On average, 24 teachers and 215 students were assaulted daily in

California schools. (National Review, 12/13/85)

The school-violence problem is nothing new. In January 1975, The American School Board Journal, reported:

"One-half of all serious crime in this country is committed by children under 18 and those kids account for 26 percent of the estimated 9 million arrests made in one year. A giant jump in crime by youngsters at the junior high school age level and, in some areas of the country, many 7- and 8-year-olds are committing assaults, robberies, and even murders. The problem is one of all age levels and of both sexes -- crime among teenage girls is growing at almost twice the rate as that for teenage boys.

". . . The leading school crimes are theft, vandalism, assaults, and the illicit use of drugs, . . . including alcohol. Assaults on teachers have increased by 7,000 percent in the last decade, crimes against students by 3,000 percent during the same time. And this tab of destruction would run even higher, if crime reporting were more accurate."

Guns in the Schools

During the week of Oct. 20-26, 1985 (National Safe Schools Week) the following incidents took place:

-- Two students were shot in a Washington, D.C., high school in an argument over a radio. A 7th-grade student was arrested for carrying a loaded .38-caliber handgun in his bookbag.

-- A 17-year-old senior was shot and killed on the grounds of a high school in Prince George's County, Maryland.

-- Police arrested a 14-year-old student in Boston after finding a loaded .22 caliber pistol in a coat on

a desk next to him. It was the fourth gun confiscated in Boston public schools in a three-week span.

According to school officials, students are more likely now than in the past to resort to violence to resolve a conflict and have less compunction about using guns.

School security officers also point to the widespread availability of handguns in many communities.

One gun in a school is a problem, even if it is never used, because it creates a "climate of fear" among students and staff, says Richard Green, chief of school security in Los Angeles. "Often students feel that they have to carry a weapon to protect themselves on the way to and from school," he says.

In Los Angeles 160 firearms were confiscated from students during the 1984-85 school year.

Guns are such a serious problem in Boston schools that the superintendent has sent letters to parents and has required teachers to conduct classes to discuss the dangers of weapons in school.

Is there a solution to the problem?

The National Alliance for Safe Schools, a nonprofit research group made up of school-security experts, is helping to implement a project funded by the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice. The program consists of "adapting information-management and decision-making techniques to the special circumstances of school security. . . .

"Using standardized incident-reporting forms, information on violations of law or school regulations is entered into a computer, giving the principal an accurate overview of the situation. . . . A group made up of students, parents, teachers, and support staff members meets regularly with

the principal and assistant principal to discuss the computer-generated data and devise ways of preventing the behavior it catalogs. Sharing information and perspectives with non-administrators has helped school officials develop more creative and comprehensive approaches." (Educ. Wk. 11/13/85)

Meanwhile, the bullets go zinging by.

Students Attack Teachers in D.C. Schools

Three student attacks on teachers and administrators at Hart Junior High School in Washington, D.C., in one week prompted a petition by teachers calling for tougher discipline.

Principal Kenneth Milner, who was away during the week of the attacks, said he has a "low-key" style of disciplining students, using suspension as "a last resort."

About 30 teachers signed a petition asking for more stringent discipline. While the principal was away, administrators called students to two emergency assemblies on behavior, and supervisors patrolled the halls for three days. (Educ. Wk. 3/11/87)

Students Sue School in Rape Case

Two New York City girls who say they were sexually assaulted repeatedly over a two-year period by a teachers' aide at their school have filed suit against the city school board, a former principal of the school, and the school's parent-teacher association.

The suit charges that Sandra and Ramona Holder, sisters who are now 12 and 15 years old, were sexually molested by the aide on more than 100 occasions between Nov. 1984 and Feb. 1986 during school hours at P.S. 3.

Harry Gadson, the aide, was arrested and indicted but disappeared after being released on \$2,500 bail. The suit charges the school board, the school's former principal, and the P.T.A. with "gross negligence" for failing to provide for the girls' safety at the school and for failure to properly investigate Mr. Gadson's background. (Educ. Wk. 3/11/87)

Weapons in Boston Schools

Nearly two dozen knives and a deadly array of other weapons were seized during a two-week period in Sept. 1986 in several Boston schools.

At Brighton High School -- the scene of a near fatal classroom stabbing -- officials confiscated a studded belt and a wrist band.

In all, school officials seized 22 knives -- many with 3-to-6-inch blades, metallic knuckles, bats, martial arts items, and a .22 caliber bullet. (Boston Herald, 11/14/86)

Montana Student Murders Wrong Teacher

A 14-year-old student at Fergus County High School in Lewistown, Montana, shot and killed Henrietta Smith, 40, a substitute teacher, as he sought to kill LaVonne Simonfy, his French teacher. The boy also shot and wounded the vice principal, John Moffatt, and wounded two other students as he ran to escape from the building.

The incident occurred on Dec. 4, 1986, at 1:20 p.m., when Kristofor Hans, a freshman, knocked on the door of his French class while it was in session. When a student opened the door, Hans asked to see the teacher. When she came to the door he pulled out a .41 caliber magnum pistol and shot her in the face, killing her instantly. Apparently he did not realize he had shot the wrong person.

On fleeing down the hall, Hans encountered the vice principal, whom he shot, wounding two other students with ricocheting bullets. Hans escaped to his home where he was later captured.

According to classmates, Hans had threatened to kill his French teacher because she had flunked him. He had applied to be an exchange student with the American Field Service program and had received a glowing recommendation from a supervisor.

Students described Hans as quiet and part of a small group of students who didn't take part in school activities.

"He's quiet, he's into 'Dungeons and Dragons,'" said sophomore Tim Severson, 16.

"He had a few friends," said Trevor Weinheimer, 16, a sophomore. "They all kind of have their own little group. Nobody associates with them. They're kind of scared to. They're different from everybody else. They play 'D-and-D' all the time. They do drugs."

Asked if Hans used drugs, Weinheimer said, "I don't know if he did, but I know some of the others do."

A search of Hans' locker revealed no evidence of drugs.

News of the shooting shocked Billings Gazette District Sales Manager Margie Bell, who supervised Hans as a newspaper carrier. "I can't believe he would do a thing like that."

Bell said that she had written a letter of recommendation for Hans, who was applying to be an exchange student. Hans had accepted a second route because he wanted to save money for the program, she said. Hans took his responsibility seriously. "He was very mature, very polite to me. He was just real cooperative. He treated me very well, and he was always nice," Bell said.

Henrietta Smith, the murdered teacher, was a frequent substitute at the school and well liked by the students. She was the mother of two children.

On 12/11/86 the Billings Gazette published an editorial on the tragedy:

"It is difficult for us to believe a 14 year old could be capable of what happened there, particularly that 14 year old. . . . He worked hard as a newspaper carrier. He worked hard as a student. He worked hard to become a foreign exchange student. And then he failed. He was given an F in French -- an F in a foreign language for a young man who desperately wanted to be a foreign exchange student. What incredible pressure our children face. What a terrible tragedy when they buckle under it."

Parents Found Guilty of "Slandering" Teacher

A district-court jury in Adams County, Colo., has found three parents guilty of slandering an elementary-school teacher that they claimed taught students witchcraft and occult sciences.

The jury awarded \$110,500 in damages late last month to Jan Cole, who teaches 6th grade at Malley Elementary School in North Glen. The jurors agreed that Ms. Cole's professional reputation had been harmed by the parents' statements.

The suit arose from a dispute that began in the fall of 1984, when the parents told school officials that Ms. Cole was teaching witchcraft. Ms. Cole filed the defamation suit in Sept. 1985, after the district cleared her of the accusation.

The parents, William and Arlene Lehman and Sandy Montoya, objected to 32 of Ms. Cole's classroom practices, including students' relaxation techniques and playing classical flute music as a relaxation exercise.

Ms. Cole, who has taught in the school district for 19 years, said last week that she would continue to use "creative" teaching techniques.

At the trial, the parents argued that they were exercising their rights when they approached officials about the teacher, and that they had not acted in reckless disregard of the truth. (Educ. Wk. 4/22/87)

"Dungeons & Dragons" Suicide Provides Transplant Organs

Multiple organs from Jeffrey Jacklovich, 14, of Wamego, Kansas, whose suicide has been linked by authorities to the Dungeons and Dragons game, were donated by the boy's parents for transplant purposes.

The 6-foot 3-inch, 200-pound high-school freshman was found 2/6/85 about 6 p.m. in the basement of his home with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. References to the Dungeons & Dragons game were in a note found next to his body.

The youth was taken to St. Francis coronary care unit and placed on life-support systems. On 2/7/85 an electroencephalograph showed the youth had suffered brain death, and he was pronounced dead at 9 p.m. His parents then gave permission for the multiple organ retrieval.

Dr. William Leifer, Shawnee County deputy district coroner, said doctors retrieved the heart, kidneys, eyes, pancreas, lymph nodes and spleen from Jacklovich.

The Jacklovich family previously had discussed organ donation.

"That's something we had discussed quite a while ago," said Joseph Jacklovich, the youth's father. "There's a lack of donors and quite a demand. When

you have a tragedy like this with a young boy, you can donate and allow someone else to go on living."

County officials said the death of Jacklovich was tied to Dungeons & Dragons, a fantasy role-playing game based on medieval mythology. Using their imaginations, players take on identities of warriors who battle and collect treasure through dragon-filled dungeons.

Critics across the county have charged that the game has spurred impressionable youths to commit suicide or other violent acts. They cite the names of youths across the country whose suicides they say are linked to the game.

National news reports have said that no scientific studies apparently have linked the game to suicide and violence. The reports also have quoted spokesmen for the company that manufactures the game as saying that because nearly 4 million people, mostly 10- to 24-year-olds, play the game, statistically some of that number would commit suicide anyway. The spokesmen say the game is being made a scapegoat for teen-age suicide.

The Jacklovich youth had played the game for some time, authorities said. He was last seen by his parents playing the game. A note was locked in a small box at his feet with three dice from the game sitting on top of the note. The half-page note was written on a pad used by the youth when playing the game. Keys to the box were on top of the box. According to the coroner, Jacklovich had been obsessed with the game. He bequeathed the game to his best friend.

Coroner Leifer said: "Maybe parents should be aware of adolescents who become obsessed with a game where they act out solutions to a plot. It has some public health implications with kids who become obsessed with this game."

William Allen, principal of the St. George High School where Jacklovich was freshman class representative to the student council, described the youth as "an average everyday student." Jacklovich had been a tackle on the high school's junior varsity football team.

Teacher Sues Teachers

A Maine teacher who claims he received bras, panties, and a whip and chain in the mail has filed a \$1.6 million lawsuit against three female teachers charging them with sexual harassment.

Glenwood H. MacDougal, chairman of the Office of Occupations Department at Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute in Presque Isle, claims he also received flowers and sexually suggestive poems, letters and cards, all signed "Love, Charlene" between Sept. 1985 and Sept. 1986.

The lawsuit, filed in December in Superior Court, charges Miriam Gregg, Margaret Coffin and Janice Sargent, all teachers at the Institute, with sexual harassment and invasion of privacy for allegedly sending the materials to his home and office.

MacDougal's lawyer, Bernard O'Mara, said his client became emotionally upset because of the alleged harassment and was forced to seek psychological counseling. He has been out of work since September with emotional problems.

Richard C. Engels, the attorney for the defendants, said his clients were playing a practical joke on MacDougal and had no intention of harassing him. "There has been a history of good-humored practical jokes played by the various faculty members at the school. What happened was nothing more than that," said Engels. (Boston Herald, 2/26/87)

Prof. Kohlberg Commits Suicide

Prof. Lawrence Kohlberg, the humanist psychologist who developed the theory of moral development, committed suicide on or about Jan. 17, 1987, because of despondency over his health. The Harvard professor's car, a 1979 Volkswagen Rabbit, was found Jan. 21 in Winthrop at the end of a dead-end lane that meets tidal marshland leading to the Atlantic Ocean. Winthrop is a seaside community just north of Boston.

Kohlberg's colleagues and students in Harvard's human development program said they were "shocked" by the professor's disappearance. Kohlberg's books on stages of moral development are required reading in many teacher-training programs. Today, school systems all over America have been strongly influenced by Kohlberg's work, particularly in the area of values clarification.

Dr. Kohlberg was 59. (Boston Herald, 1/30/87)

Professor Plots to Kill Judge

A former professor at New York University was charged with attempted murder 2/20/87 for allegedly sending poisoned Valentine's Day chocolates to the judge who sent him to prison for running a campus drug lab. The judge's wife had to be hospitalized after she ate four of the candies, according to the criminal complaint filed in federal court in White Plains, New York.

The defendant, John Buettner-Janusch, is an anthropologist who was convicted by a federal jury in 1980 of illegally making LSD and methaqualone in a New York University laboratory and of lying to federal agents investigating reports of a campus drug mill. U.S. District Judge Charles Briant ordered Buettner-Janusch, 61, to serve three years in prison for manufacturing the drugs and two years for the false statements. He was paroled in 1983. (St. Petersburg Times, 2/21/87)

Vital Quotes

"The Law of Nature dictated by God himself is Superior to any other. It is binding over all the Globe, in all Countries and at all times. No human laws are of any validity if contrary to this, and such of them as are valid derive all of their force and all their authority mediately and immediately from this Original. Upon these two foundations, the Law of Nature and the Law of Revelation depend all human laws. Human laws are only declaratory of and act in subordination to Divine Law."

-- William Blackstone (1723-1780), English jurist whose Commentaries on the Laws of England (1765-69) deeply influenced the growth of Common Law. The above quotation is inscribed on the wall of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in the State Capital at Harrisburg.

Mr. Blumenfeld's Lecture Schedule

For further information call the persons at the numbers listed.

May 22-23 Homeschooling Conference
CBN University
Virginia Beach, VA 23463
(804) 424-7777
Laura Walker

May 26 Ogden, Utah
(801) 756-7327
Robert Crawley

May 27 Logan, Utah
(801) 753-0238
Clyde Baugh

May 28 Manti, Utah
(801) 835-5841
Jane Braithwaite

May 29 Salt Lake City, Utah
(801) 571-6871
David Jorgensen

May 30 Provo, Utah
(801) 756-7327
Robert Crawley

Jun 1 Phoenix, Arizona
(602) 995-8831
Linda Smith

Jun 2 Tucson, Arizona
(602) 825-9686
Carl Terry

Jun 3 Colorado Springs, Colorado
(303) 596-9363
John Heimsoth

Jun 4 Denver, Colorado
(303) 337-5215
Frank May

Jun 5-6 Houston, Texas
Southeast Texas
Home School Conference
(713) 554-7448
Susan Jackson

Jun 8 Durango, Colorado
(303) 247-5854
Cecil Cooper

Jun 11 Ft. Collins, Colorado
(303) 223-5440
Dave Thomas

Jun 13 Homeschooling Conference
Newton Assembly of God
Church, 230 Central St.,
Auburndale, MA (Boston area)
(617) 834-6747
Ed and Sharon Pangelinan

Daily News Digest Flyer

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