

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."

Supreme Court Bans Creation Science in Public Schools

Secular humanists were jubilant over the U.S. Supreme Court's 7-to-2 decision rejecting a Louisiana law mandating balanced treatment for the theories of evolution and creation in public schools. According to the Court, the intent of the 1981 law "was clearly to advance the religious viewpoint that a supernatural being created human-kind," and therefore the law violates the First Amendment's prohibition on a government establishment of religion. The decision was issued 6/19/87.

In speaking for the majority, Justice William J. Brennan wrote: "The legislative history documents that the act's primary purpose was to change the science curriculum of public schools in order to provide an advantage to a particular religious doctrine that rejects the factual basis of evolution in its entirety. Out of many possible science subjects taught in the public schools, the legislature chose to affect the teaching of the one scientific theory that historically has been opposed by certain religious sects."

The majority also rejected Louisiana's claim that the law was intended to enhance the secular purpose of academic freedom.

"While the court is normally deferential to a state's articulation of a secular purpose," wrote Brennan, "it is required that the statement of such purpose be sincere and not a sham. It is clear from the legislative history that the purpose of the legislative sponsor, Senator Bill Keith, was to narrow the science curriculum."

Scalia and Rehnquist Dissent

Justice Antonin Scalia, joined by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, dissented, saying that to call the main intent of the law religious is to ignore what the legislators themselves said, thereby accusing them of lying and impugning their motives.

"The Louisiana Legislature," wrote Scalia, "set forth its secular purpose (protecting academic freedom) in the very text of the act. . . . The act defines 'creation science' as 'scientific evidence.' We have no basis on the record to conclude that 'creation science' need be anything other than a collection of scientific data supporting the theory that life abruptly appeared on earth."

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Frederick Edwards, executive director of the American Humanist Association, said Scalia and Rehnquist did as their "right-wing supporters" might have hoped, but he expressed pleasure that the court as a whole did not move clearly in their direction.

"The creationists keep losing their legal battles," he said. "This decision gives them very little to crow about and sends a clear message to school districts around the country that creationism is religion and doesn't belong in the schools."

The suit (Aguillard v. Edwards) was brought against Gov. Edwards in 1981 by Don Aguillard, assistant principal of Arcadiana High School in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Implications

This decision puts the Supreme Court on a collision course with U.S. District Judge W. Brevard Hand, who ruled in March 1987 that secular humanism is a religion. Evolution, of course, is at the very heart of secular humanism which rejects the existence of God and regards "the universe as self-existing and not created," and that "man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as the result of a continuous process." (Humanist Manifesto I)

In other words, the humanist "faith" is based on a belief that the theory of evolution is not a theory but truth. But the fact is that evolution is even less than a theory, it's a fairy tale. Yet, Justice Brennan spoke of "the factual basis of evolution." There is no factual basis to evolution. First, there is no scientific evidence that the universe spontaneously came into existence out of nothing. Second, there is no scientific evidence that living matter arose spontaneously out of non-living matter. Third, no scientific evidence has been found indicating that higher organisms evolved from lower organisms, nor that one species evolves into another. But what about fossils, you might ask.

The fossil record is simply a series of still pictures of species that existed at one time. They do not show how one species evolves into another. Transitional fossils have not been found. The fossil record shows new species appearing suddenly without any ancestors.

What scientific investigation indicates is that the species are immutable and that when mutations occur they do not become new species. For example, evolutionists have been experimenting with fruit flies for years in the hope of demonstrating evolution at work. But the fruit flies have stubbornly refused to develop into anything but more fruit flies, despite all kinds of stimuli, including radiation. Some mutations have occurred, but nothing to suggest the beginning of a new species.

In other words, lions have remained lions, monkeys have remained monkeys, and cats have remained cats. Different breeds and varieties may exist within a species, but nature places built-in genetic obstacles to evolutionary change. (Of course, genetic engineers may create intra-species monsters by tampering with genes and chromosomes, but this could hardly be called a natural process.)

When you consider that our museums are now filled with over 100 million fossils of 250,000 different species and not a single series of transitional forms has been found among them, one begins to suspect that a gigantic hoax is being perpetrated by the evolutionists. In fact, gaps between major groups of organisms have been growing even wider and more undeniable. And so it is hard to understand how scientists can assert that evolution is fact and still call themselves scientists. Even Dr. Stephen Jay Gould, a passionate defender of evolution, has written: "The fossil record with its abrupt transitions offers no support for gradual change."

Naturally, the evolutionists have been reluctant to broadcast this information to the general public.

Concerning this reluctance, Sir Fred Hoyle, author of a theory of cosmic creationism, writes:

"To what has been said in our attempt to understand why Darwinism has achieved such a strong grip on scientific thinking we must add the great force of educational continuity. It is hard in later life to doubt those basic tenets of intellectual thought which all one's teachers have accepted without question. We have had quite a number of encounters with biologists who have remarked much as follows: 'I will admit that your views are consistent with the facts, and that they even have a certain driving logical quality which normal theory lacks, but I just cannot bring myself to face the upheaval in my thinking that would follow if I agreed with anything you say.'

"Once the whole of humanity becomes committed to a particular set of concepts, educational continuity makes it exceedingly hard to change the pattern."

In other words, if enough people accept falsehood, it becomes in their eyes the truth. And this is certainly the case with the Supreme Court judges. Undoubtedly, they are reluctant to face the upheaval that might take place in their thinking if they accepted the possibility that creation science was closer to the truth than evolution. After all, these judges have the blood of millions of unborn children on their hands. To entertain the notion that these unborn children were created by God and had souls might give these men more than a few sleepless nights.

Also, the establishment clause was put into the Constitution to prevent the federal government from creating an official state religion. It was not meant to separate public institutions from God. We acknowledge the existence of God in many public ceremonies, in our national anthem, on our coins. Thus, asserting in a classroom that "a supernatural being created humankind" can hardly be construed as an establishment of religion.

What the justices have actually done is affirmed the fact that secular humanism is our national establishment of religion and that the public school has become the national church.

The Christian Response

There are those Christians who believe that the public schools of America can and should be "taken over" by Christians. I find such an idea to be both impractical and unworkable. For such an idea to succeed would require Christians and conservatives to achieve majority control on 15,000 local school boards, in 50 state legislatures, and in Congress. It would require a conservative President, and a Supreme Court with a majority of Christian or conservative justices. It would require a conservative department of education in each state, and thousands of conservative teachers and professors of education. It would require a complete ideological revolution in the graduate schools of education which are now controlled by behavioral psychologists, humanists, and Marxists.

The amount of time, energy and money needed to achieve all of that is far beyond the means of the Christians of this country. In addition, the entire concept of government-owned and operated education works in contradiction to the Biblical principle of parental responsibility for education. The American public school movement was engineered by Unitarians, Owenite socialists and Hegelians to get religion out of education through the device of secularization. Their ultimate purpose was to separate children from God.

It makes no sense for Christians to take control of a government school system that was created in the first place for purely secular purposes.

The simple truth is that a government owned and operated system will never be able to satisfy the spiritual and educational needs of the Christian community. Only a vast number of private Christian schools can do that.

Also, the growth of the home-school movement indicates that Christian parents are more than willing to return to the way of the Bible in matters of education. They are finding that the Bible's way is the best way, not only for the children but for the family as a whole.

The public school experiment has gone on long enough. It has proven to be a gigantic failure -- academically, spiritually, morally. For parents who have children who must be educated now, the only viable alternatives are private, church and home schools.

A Christian civilization can only be built on a foundation of Christian institutions built from the bottom up by Christians. A good example of such an institution is the Christian Liberty Academy of Arlington Heights, Illinois, founded by the Rev. Paul Lindstrom. It was started 19 years ago rather modestly by a Christian with a Biblical vision. Today it serves over 20,000 home-schooling families and occupies the large, imposing edifice of a former public high school. That's the kind of "take over" that makes sense and can be achieved by Christians now.

PTA Advocates State Regulation of Home Schools

Schools operated by parents in their homes should follow the same rules as public schools, including the use of certified teachers, the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) said on 6/23/87 at its national convention in Dallas.

The 1,800 delegates overwhelmingly approved a policy urging state affiliates to work with their legislatures to pass uniform home-school laws.

"We're defending the right of the child to the same minimum education standards" as in public school, said

Francile Anderson, Michigan PTA president and former teacher. "I have no idea how to teach my child to read. That's why we have professionals."

A home school should not exist, Anderson said, unless a certified teacher regularly monitors teaching procedures.

Twelve states and the District of Columbia have no laws or policies on home schools, a PTA survey shows. Rules in the other 38 states vary widely. Home schools in some states must register with local school officials; in some states with the county; in North Carolina with the governor's office.

Among local laws the PTA says should be national:

-- Nevada tests a child before starting a home school to measure if he or she learns anything.

-- New Hampshire allows a child to object to being taught in a home school.

-- Idaho requires immunization records and birth certificates for children educated at home. (USA Today, 6/24/87)

Educators Warn of Impending Massive Failure

Even though every state in the union has passed an education reform bill and poured millions more into the public schools in response to the "A Nation at Risk" report, the nation's educational leaders are predicting that the crisis is going to get much worse.

As many as one-third of the nation's 40 million school-age children are at serious risk of failing in school and society, which would create "massive, urgent problems" for the nation, leaders of 11 education groups warned on June 1, 1987, at a conference in Washington, D.C.

Their coalition, known as the Forum of Educational Organization Leaders, said this potentially large number of unproductive citizens -- many of them handicapped by drug problems, poverty and criminal behavior -- will drain the economy in welfare and social-service costs and seriously hamper the nation's ability to compete internationally.

The leaders called for federal and state governments to guarantee "an array of necessary educational services" designed to help such youngsters graduate from high school.

Suggestions included pre-kindergarten classes, programs to improve parental involvement, assigning "mentors" to students who repeatedly have failed at school, and assuring job or college opportunities to high-school graduates who meet certain standards.

"If we are to meet this challenge successfully, the reform of the last five years may pale against the requirements of the next 10," the coalition stated.

The statement is not the first to warn of the pressing danger of huge numbers of failing youngsters, but educators said at the conference that a growing body of evidence has prompted them to push the issue to the front of the national agenda.

"The American people have not accepted this as a major concern," said Mary Hatwood Futrell, president of the National Education Association. "Until it becomes a national priority, we'll plod along as we are today."

The educators, pointing to the "radical change" in the nature of many students, cited these statistics:

- Nearly one-fourth of the nation's children live below the poverty line.

- Nearly 60 percent of today's 4-year-olds will live in single-parent households before turning 18.

- The rate of birth to U.S. teenagers is twice that of any other Western nation.

- Nearly 40 percent of public-school students are minorities.

- Delinquency rates among children ages 10 to 17 have increased 130 percent since 1960.

- The rate of drug use by U.S. teenagers is the highest for any industrialized society.

The coalition also cautioned that the current education-reform movement may be contributing to the crisis, by raising standards without providing extra help for students, which encourages more youngsters to leave school before graduation. (Tucson Citizen, 6/2/87)

PTA Issues "Guide to Extremism"

The PTA has launched a lightly disguised attack on the religious right by issuing a pamphlet entitled "National PTA's Guide to Extremism." While no specific organizations or personalities are mentioned, the wording of the pamphlet leaves no doubt as to who the "extremists" are. The pamphlet states:

"Today many of the institutions that Americans hold dear are under attack by well-organized and well-financed groups who don't believe in tolerance of different opinions, compromise, freedom of thought and inquiry, fair play, regard for the rights of others and reasoned debate.

"These groups are not liberals or conservatives -- they are extremists.
. . .

"Most extremists attempt to impose their values and beliefs on others, permitting no dissent, no opposition, no questioning. They employ the politics of over-simplification, threat, misinformation and vengeance. They admit to no uncertainties, no realms of

possible debate, no gray areas between absolute right and wrong. They try to polarize society, to intimidate their enemies and to rewrite history to serve their own uses. . . .

"A disturbing group of extremists tries to manipulate religious values to oppose or support positions and policies that are nonreligious in character and nature and to brand opponents as 'irreligious' or 'immoral' because of their political, social or economic beliefs.

"Today's extremists are much better organized and financed than in the past, and more sophisticated in electronic media and direct-mail tactics.

"Extremists try to stifle the free expression of all views opposed to their own. . . .

"Extremists try to purge school and public libraries of books and materials that are objectionable to them and try to limit the discussion or consideration of ideas with which they disagree. . . .

"Extremists try to impose their beliefs, values and lifestyles on everyone. . . .

"Extremists believe coercion, intimidation, threat, brainwashing and even violence are acceptable to advance their causes. . . .

"America's educational system is coming under special attack by many extremists. . . . Many extremists oppose public education. Some even wish to destroy the public school system and to replace it with a private system controlled by them.

"In some communities, extremists are responsible for attacks on school boards and school board members who do not agree with their views or their faith. They are calling on their supporters to run for the school board or to seek appointment in an attempt to 'take over' the board and thus control the schools. . . .

"PTAs should guard against extremism that disrupts meetings and fair procedures; infiltrates and takes over the PTA in an attempt to change its goals and purposes; creates community fear or hysteria about an issue or problem; attempts to coerce or intimidate PTA leaders, school administrators or teachers; and demands that all PTA leaders and school staff and board share their values and beliefs."

(For a copy of the pamphlet, write to: The National PTA, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2571, (312) 787-0977.)

Of course the PTA's advocacy of coercive government measures to regulate home-school families is a sign of tolerance and consideration for the ideas and rights of others! The simple truth is that the PTA is nothing more than an instrument of the humanist education establishment which harnesses the support of gullible parents for the programs and "reforms" of the educators. Proof of their slavish adherence to the education establishment is the fact that they consulted no home-schoolers or home-school organizations before adopting their anti-home-school policy at their convention in June. All they did was adopt the guidelines on home-schooling issued by the NEA in 1984.

Aborted Fetuses Used for Skin Grafts

West Penn Hospital, in Pittsburgh, PA, is the first burn center to be approved for trials of a type of laboratory-created skin to treat critically burned patients, according to hospital president Steven A. Caywood.

"In time, if the trials prove out, this can virtually eliminate the need for skin grafts, which is a very painful process," said Caywood.

Eugene Bell, chairman and chief scientific officer of Organogenesis Inc. in Cambridge, Mass., and scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology, developed a procedure to produce new skin from living tissue. "Lasagne-sized" sheets of skin are grown in a lab during an eight-week period, using tissue taken from aborted fetuses or from a biopsy from the patient, Caywood said. (Boston Herald, 6/17/87)

The article did not say whether or not the aborted fetuses were alive when their skin was removed.

Defective Condoms Recalled

The children of America have been assured by Surgeon General Koop that, barring abstinence, a condom is their best protection against AIDS. So they might have been somewhat upset when the Food and Drug Administration announced recently the recall of defective condoms made by three U.S. manufacturers and that it has detained 19 shipments of foreign-made condoms at the border. The recalls were made by Schmid Laboratories of Little Falls, N.J., National Sanitary Labs of Lincolnwood, Ill., and Circle Rubber Corp. of Newark, N.J. The nature of the defects was not given. (Boston Globe, 6/20/87)

It is not known to what extent the children have been informed about the defective condoms. The Surgeon General might suggest that the children blow up the condoms into balloons before using them.

Students Riot Over Grading System

Hundreds of high school students in Hollister, California, went on a rampage on 3/3/87 to protest a new grading system, throwing rocks and beer bottles and vandalizing City Hall, police said.

"The kids just came in like a herd," said City Manager Paul Ogden. "A couple hundred entered council chambers, broke picture frames, twisted microphones."

Three students from San Benito High School were arrested, but there were no

serious injuries. Police said that 400 to 500 of the school's 1,650 students marched through the town 50 miles south of San Jose.

The new grading system calls for a prescribed grade curve for each class. Students and teachers said the system would punish good students by giving them lower grades while helping poor students by giving them higher grades. (Chicago Tribune, 3/4/87)

PURE to Hold Organizing Convention in Amarillo

Parents for Unalienable Rights in Education (PURE) will hold its first organizing convention in Amarillo, Texas, on September 25-26, 1987, the last Friday and Saturday in that month.

The purpose of PURE is to mobilize home-schooling families in order to assert unalienable parental rights in the face of the education establishment's determination to deprive parents of their right to educate their children at home without interference of the state.

Delegates from many states are expected to take part in the deliberations. The convention promises to be an historic milestone in the growth and development of the home-school movement and the struggle to defend parental rights.

For information about PURE and the convention, write to PURE, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, Mass. 02178. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope to help defray costs.

Creation Science Conference in Seattle

A national conference on creation science will be held at Seattle Pacific University on August 2-5, 1987. Speakers include Richard Bliss, Duane Gish, and other noted authorities on creation science. For information call Roy Smith at (206) 242-3074 or Doug Jue at (206) 246-9156.

AIDS Statistics Update**Accumulated Cases and Deaths**

	Number of Cases as of 4/22/85	Number of Cases as of 12/15/86	Number of Cases as of 6/22/87
NY State	3702	8963	10873
NY City	3415	8218	9873
CA	2220	6390	8563
S.F.	1141	2911	3614
L.A.	821	2386	3262
FL	614	1911	2505
Miami	336	856	1082
NJ	584	1717	2251
Newark	241	712	901
TX	487	1712	2367
IL	199	714	1002
PA	207	648	862
MA	174	577	800
Wash, DC	143	509	702
GA	142	553	769
PR	119	313	374
MD	115	416	566
CT	103	330	439
WA	98	337	456
LA	98	325	441
VA	83	329	432
CO	75	281	384
OH	67	246	354
MI	65	246	353
MN	44	158	202
AZ	42	159	225
NC	38	169	229
IN	33	114	166
HI	33	101	154
OR	32	113	172
WI	25	77	120
MO	23	146	242
SC	22	104	138
KY	21	59	81
OK	17	76	120
AL	16	70	135
RI	15	48	78
NV	14	63	91
DE	13	40	49
UT	11	49	64
TN	8	98	109
WV	7	20	28
KS	7	52	77
NM	7	41	58
IA	7	35	49
NH	5	23	31
MS	5	36	51
AK	5	20	30
AR	3	40	61
NE	3	21	31

Accumulated Cases and Deaths

Date	Total Cases	Total Deaths
1979	11	
1980	58	
1981	318	
1982	1,312	
1983	4,031	
1984	9,362	
Apr. 22, 1985	9,760	4,760
Dec. 30, 1985	15,948	8,161
Jun. 30, 1986	22,173	12,186
Dec. 29, 1986	29,003	16,301
Jun. 22, 1987	37,386	21,621

**Accumulated Cases of AIDS
in Major U.S. Cities
as of June 22, 1987**

New York City, NY	9,873
San Francisco, CA	3,614
Los Angeles, CA	3,262
San Diego, CA	454
Miami, FL	1,082
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	440
Houston, TX	1,178
Dallas, TX	680
Newark, NJ	901
Jersey City, NJ	440
Washington, DC (Metro Area)	1,103
Chicago, IL	897
Philadelphia, PA	703
Boston, MA	593
Atlanta, GA	606
Seattle, WA	359
New Orleans, LA	321
Denver, CO	320

Editor's Note

Additional statistics on AIDS were published in our November 1986 issue, which was entirely devoted to the AIDS crisis.

**Atlanta B. of E.
OK's AIDS Policy**

The Atlanta Board of Education has approved a policy that guarantees educational opportunity for students with AIDS. Local school officials, in certain cases, will be permitted to isolate students with AIDS from their classmates. (USA Today, 6/12/87)