

The Blumenfeld Education Letter

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

April 1988

EDITOR: Samuel L. Blumenfeld Vol. III, No. 4 (Letter # 20)

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."

Ritalin: Drugging Kids in School

The purpose of drugging kids with Ritalin is to alleviate the hyperactive behavioral symptoms that these children manifest in school as their brains are being destroyed by the educators. Most children who enter the first grade in public schools are taught to read by an insidious technique, developed by behavioral psychologists, known as the look-say, psycholinguistic, sight, or eclectic method. This method of teaching stops the child's natural learning process and prepares him for the equivalence of a non-surgical prefrontal lobotomy. Since behaviorists are more interested in behavior than intellect, the brain tends to get in their way, and their solution is to get rid of it.

Like a guinea pig in a laboratory, the child knows something is being done to him, but he doesn't know what it is, and he is helpless to do anything about it. And so he develops symptoms that psychiatrists label as "Attention-deficit Hyperactivity Disorder." Ritalin is prescribed as a chemical straitjacket to control the child's behavior.

According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, published by the American Psychiatric

Association, "Attention-deficit Hyperactivity Disorder" is a mental illness characterized by the following behavioral symptoms:

1. Often fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat (in adolescents, may be limited to subjective feelings of restlessness).
2. Has difficulty remaining seated when required to do so.
3. Is easily distracted by extraneous stimuli.
4. Has difficulty awaiting turn in games or group activities.
5. Often blurts out answers to questions before they have been completed.
6. Has difficulty following through on instructions from others (not due to oppositional behavior or failure of comprehension), e.g., fails to finish chores.
7. Has difficulty sustaining attention in tasks or play activities.
8. Often shifts from one uncompleted activity to another.
9. Has difficulty playing quietly.
10. Often talks excessively.

The Blumenfeld Education Letter is published monthly. Sources of products and services described are not necessarily endorsed by this publication. They are intended to provide our readers with information on a rapidly expanding field of educational activity. Permission to quote is granted provided proper credit is given. Original material is copyrighted by Hosea Communications, Incorporated. Rate: 1 year \$36.00. Subscription Address: Post Office Box 45161, Boise, Idaho 83711, Phone (208) 322-4440.

11. Often interrupts or intrudes on others, e.g., butts into other children's games.

12. Often does not seem to listen to what is being said to him or her.

13. Often loses things necessary for tasks or activities at school or at home (e.g., toys, pencils, books, assignments).

14. Often engages in physically dangerous activities without considering possible consequences (not for the purpose of thrill seeking), e.g., runs into street without looking.

If a child exhibits at least eight of the above symptoms over a period of six months, then, according to the psychiatrists, that child is mentally ill.

The job of the psychologist and educator is to get the parents to buy the "diagnosis" of "mental illness." Once that is done, the child is put in Special Ed and the "treatment" can begin.

More often than not Ritalin is prescribed, and in the past few years there has been a sharp increase in the use of the drug. Generically, Ritalin is known as methylphenidate hydrochloride and classified as an amphetamine-like substance. In children it acts as a depressant and supposedly works by stimulating inhibitory nerve centers in the brain. It can produce such unpleasant side effects as insomnia, loss of appetite, irritability, headaches, tics, vomiting, hallucinations, and stunted growth.

Some Parents React

One parent in Glendale, Calif., Adelia Lorenzo, whose son was put on Ritalin at the urging of the school, has filed a \$5-million lawsuit against Glendale school officials, the principal of the school, and the child psychiatrist who prescribed the drug. According to Mrs. Lorenzo, her 7-year-old son Michael was a normal, healthy

boy who was put on Ritalin at the insistence of the school. The consequences were disastrous. Michael stopped eating, lost weight, complained of stomachaches, was unable to sleep, and had hallucinations in which he saw "somebody cutting up a baby."

The final straw came for Mrs. Lorenzo when she visited Michael in his classroom and found him in "a dazed stupor."

Apparently, most children on the drug do not experience the worst of the side effects. For educators, Ritalin has become the "quick fix" for the mounting number of children who have become behavioral problems. Five states are at the top in Ritalin use -- Utah, Michigan, Maryland, Georgia and Idaho.

In Georgia, concern over the higher-than-average Ritalin sales has prompted an investigation into the matter by Supt. of Schools Werner Rogers. The driving force behind that concern was LaVarne Parker, a suburban Atlanta parent whose son's experience with Ritalin was similar to Michael Lorenzo's. She said that her son, Melvin, who was then 10, was also hallucinating and attempted suicide after taking the drug.

Ritalin On Trial

Recently, Ritalin became the subject of interest in Massachusetts during the trial of 15-year-old Rod Matthews who murdered his friend Shaun Ouillette, 14, because he "wanted to know what it was like to kill somebody." Matthews planned the killing for a month, lured his victim to a secluded wood, then stalked him from behind, hitting him repeatedly with a baseball bat.

His friends testified that Matthews told them of his plans, then showed them the body on two separate occasions. The body lay in the snowy woods for three weeks before one of the friends told the story to the police.

During the course of the trial it was revealed that both Matthews and Ouillette had been on Ritalin. Matthews' mother testified that her son's behavior had become a problem in the 3rd grade and that he was placed on Ritalin. Psychiatrist Bernard Yudowitz testified that if a child with mental illness is misdiagnosed and given Ritalin, "impulsivity and abnormal behavior increase and their ability to act appropriately in a given setting decreases." Matthews' attorney argued that Ritalin contributed to the boy's homicidal intent.

Ritalin is not the only drug being given to children. Others include: Cylert, Dexedrine, Mellaril, Tofranil, Haldol, and Thorazine. When Thorazine came into use in the 1950s it was known as the "chemical lobotomy," because psychiatrists in mental hospitals could not tell the difference between a person with a lobotomy and a person on Thorazine.

For those who don't know what a prefrontal lobotomy is, it is an operation performed with an icpicklike instrument which is inserted behind the eyeball, through the socket, forced through the thin bone behind the eye and swiped back and forth tearing up the frontal lobe of the brain. It was popular in the '40s and '50s, but drugs have replaced it as a means of altering aggressive behavior.

The Modern Quackery

Drugging children will no doubt remain an important component of educational malpractice in the public schools for the foreseeable future. An important point to consider is the fact that psychiatrists now derive more income from treating children than from treating adults. The growth of the Learning Disabilities and Special Education industries has given psychiatrists and pharmaceutical firms a lucrative new market for their services and drugs. A week doesn't go by that a psychiatrist hasn't found a

new cause of dyslexia and a new cure to go with it. Quackery in the field has reached new heights of idiocy and ingenuity.

What we do know is that the look-say method causes the learning disorders which in turn create the attention-deficit hyperactivity syndrome. And we know that subjects in the affective domain, such as death education, cause child depression and suicidal tendencies. All of this is grist for the psychiatrist's mill. In fact, it is accurate to say that the public school has now become the nation's most efficient factory for the manufacture of mental illness. In short, they are driving the kids crazy! (Educ. Wk. 10/21/87; Boston Globe, 3/28/88; Durham Morning Herald, 3/9/88; CCHR Information Letters 1 & 2)

Top Users of Ritalin in 1987
(In grams per 100,000 population)

Utah -	1618
Michigan -	1138
Maryland -	1134
Georgia -	1028
Idaho -	976

'My kids were guinea pigs in a torture chamber'....

A school-sponsored program in Crescent City, Calif., to determine whether learning disabilities can be corrected by squeezing students' skulls or pressing fingers in their eye sockets has drawn parents' lawsuits, a state investigation and criminal charges.

Some students reportedly improved after the treatments, and the Del Norte Unified School District has declined to withdraw its sponsorship of the program until its results are published, perhaps next year.

But the San Francisco Examiner reported that some students screamed when chiropractors shoved thumbs into

the roofs of their mouths, squeezed their skulls and pressed fingers into their eye sockets.

"My kids were guinea pigs in a torture chamber. And all I feel now is guilt," said Jeannie Reitterer.

The treatments are based on techniques developed by Carl Ferreri, 59, a New York chiropractor who advertises a breakthrough for treatment of dyslexia and other learning disabilities. District psychologist Roy Krause won approval for the program after he attended one of Ferreri's seminars in San Francisco. The treatment, called Neural Organizational Technique, is based on a controversial form of chiropractic known as kinesiology, the study of human muscular movement. Ferreri was searching for a school district willing to sponsor an experimental application of the technique.

Forty-eight children were enrolled in the 18-week program conducted by two licensed chiropractors. Several mothers, in letters to public agencies, accused school officials of misleading them. They say some kids fought or soiled themselves during the treatments. One girl vomited.

"After the treatments, my daughter experienced bruises in her mouth, neck pain, pain in her lower back and inside her chest, hip joints, shoulders, knees and ankles," wrote Pam Harrah.

"No pain, no gain," said Michael Corwin, a Berkeley chiropractor who administered the treatment.

Edward J. Hoefling, executive director of the California Board of Chiropractic Examiners said he received several letters of complaint from Del Norte parents last summer. He visited the district and then asked the state department of consumer affairs to investigate and file a report.

The results were forwarded to the local district attorney, who filed criminal charges against Mr. Ferreri and his associate from New York, David Pinkus. A civil complaint was also

filed against the three chiropractors for alleged false representations.

Several parents have sued, alleging fraud, battery, malpractice and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

"We just want to stop them," said Reitterer, one of the plaintiffs, "so kids somewhere else won't go through the same hell." (St. Petersburg Times 3/7/88; Educ. Wk. 3/23/88)

Comment: The quackery in public education began in the 1840's when Horace Mann made phrenology a required subject in America's first state-owned teachers college. The look-say reading instruction method, of course, is the worst form of educational malpractice to be inflicted on American school children. It has resulted in the widespread learning dysfunction called dyslexia, which all sorts of quacks have tried to cure, the latest nostrum being described above. With more and more children being shoved into Special Education, we have no doubt that the abuses will get worse.

Drug Bust at Texas High School

An undercover drug investigation at a Round Rock, Texas, high school has led to the arrest of 22 people, including five juveniles. While posing as a student at Westwood High School last fall, a female officer purchased cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, and L.S.D., said Williamson County Attorney Kenneth Anderson.

Of the 22 arrested, five were high-school students at the time the drugs were purchased, he said, but three have since dropped out. Two are now enrolled at the University of Texas, Austin. Also charged were a Round Rock couple in their late 30's. Other suspects were nonstudents in their late teens and early 20's.

The operation was the second of its kind in a year in the Austin, Texas,

area. An investigation last year at Crockett High School in Austin resulted in charges against 35 people who sold drugs to an officer posing as a student. (Educ. Wk. 2/17/88)

Undercover Cop at High School Murdered

A rookie police officer, working undercover to ferret out drug dealers among the 765 students at Midlothian High School, Midlothian, Texas, was found murdered on 10/24/87. The 21-year-old officer, George Raffield, Jr., was discovered in a clump of cedar trees near town with a .38-cal. bullet hole in his head. "His cover was blown, and he was murdered because of it," said a Texas Ranger investigating the case.

The killing stunned this town of 7,500 people about 30 miles south of Dallas. Acting on a tip, police found Raffield's body the day after the rookie failed to call in. Hours later they arrested Richard Goeglein, Jr., 17, and a 16-year-old who is the son of a Dallas police officer.

Apparently Raffield aroused suspicion among the students. "When someone tries so hard to fit in fast, you know something is wrong," said a teenager familiar with the scene. The school assigned Raffield three lunch periods. Some students called him "21 Jump Street" after the TV show about undercover cops on the high school beat. (Time, 11/9/87)

Student Kills Self in School

A team of psychologists has been organized to help students at a special school for science and mathematics cope with the first on-campus suicide ever reported in the Fresno (Calif.) Unified School District.

The 15 psychologists were brought in to talk to students of Edison Computech, where a 12-year-old boy fatally shot himself in an empty classroom after school on 2/8/88. The boy, whose name was not released, was considered quiet and bright by teachers and classmates. He had gone to school concealing a .38-caliber pistol, a hunting knife, and a vial of cyanide.

About 150 students sought counseling in the first day after the incident. Teachers and school staff also were encouraged to seek counseling. (Educ. Wk. 2/24/88)

Sharp Drop in Reading Scores Baffles Experts

The National Assessment of Educational Progress and the U.S. Education Department are investigating an "anomaly" in the results of NAEP's 1986 reading test that has confounded testing experts and delayed the reporting of the results by at least four months.

The test scores, which showed inexplicably large drops in reading performance among 9- and 17-year-olds since the previous assessment, are apparently the first such abnormal results NAEP has experienced in its 18-year history.

"This is posing a real mystery here for us," said Archie E. Lapointe, NAEP's executive director.

"I'm pretty disgusted by this," said Chester E. Finn Jr., the department's assistant secretary for educational research and improvement.

A similar report, published after its 1984 assessment, showed that students' reading performance had improved between 1971 and 1984, but that it had leveled off in the 1980's.

But the data showing sharp drops in 9- and 17-year-olds' reading performance between 1984 and 1986 were "unbelievable," according to Mr. Lapointe.

"The drops were so significant that, if true, the whole world would have recognized that we have a reading problem," he said.

NAEP officials' efforts to find an explanation for the test results have not satisfied the Education Department, which has launched its own study of possible flaws in the assessment.

But until the true cause of the abnormal results can be determined, said Mr. Finn, "there is a definite possibility something went awry in reading, not the test." (Educ. Wk. 1/20/88)

Top U.S. Students Fare Poorly on Science Achievement Test

According to a study of science achievement done with 17 countries, American students did very poorly. More than 300 U.S. schools participated in the assessment conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement.

The 2,822 U.S. 5th graders tested ranked 8th, behind Japan, Korea, Finland, Sweden, Hungary, Canada and Italy. The 2,519 U.S. 9th graders tested ranked 15th among the 17 countries assessed -- behind Hungary, Japan, Netherlands, Canada, Finland, Sweden, Poland, Korea, Norway, Australia, England, Italy, Thailand and Singapore.

American 12th graders studying biology scored below students from the 16 other countries. In chemistry, students from all other countries except Canada and Finland outscored their U.S. counterparts. And in physics, only Canada, Finland and Sweden ranked below the U.S.

The American students were drawn from the small proportion of the nation's high-school students enrolled in advanced science courses. They represent our best science students.

William Bennett, Secretary of Education, said the study's findings offered an even bleaker picture of student achievement than that presented in the Education Department's latest 50-state comparison of education statistics.

"Compared with students in other countries," said Bennett, "American elementary and high-school students are not just in a 'dead stall,' they're doing even worse. They're in reverse and going downhill." (Educ. Wk. 3/9/88)

Occult Project in Catholic School Leads to Murder and Suicide

In November 1987, Thomas Sullivan's Catholic schoolteacher assigned students to research other religions. The studious 14-year-old did his paper on Hinduism, but police say he became more interested in a subject that earned his classmates an A: satanism.

Within weeks, the all-American neighborhood paperboy became a defiant, hostile teen buried in library books on the occult and listening to heavy-metal rock music.

His teachers at the Rev. George A. Brown Memorial School in Sparta (N.J.) noticed the transformation and warned his mother on Thursday, January 7th. By Saturday night, mother and son were dead.

Police say Sullivan was entranced by the occult as he stabbed his mother at least 12 times and tried to kill his father and 10-year-old brother by setting fire to their Jefferson Township house. Then he slit his throat and wrists with a Boy Scout knife, slumping dead on bloody snow in a neighbor's back yard.

Words of the murder-suicide and the hint of cult worship among other youngsters left the rural 45-square-mile township in northwestern New Jersey searching for answers to questions few ever had imagined asking.

"I'm willing to bet there's got to be more involved," Mayor Fran Slayton said. "There's just something that's bothering me about this situation. It bothers me that a good kid like that can go in two weeks."

Thomas Sullivan Sr. buried his wife and son in private. But he spoke to some reporters, recalling how his namesake's obsession turned from model airplanes to the occult and urged parents to heed such changes in their children.

Sullivan told the New York Daily News that all that week his son had been singing a song "about blood and killing your mother." He said his son had told a friend of a vision in which Satan came to him, wearing his face, and urged him to kill his family and preach satanism. "The rest, I think, is history," Sullivan told New Jersey Nightly News. "I'm surprised I'm still here."

Investigators said the boy indicated in a suicide note that the murder and suicide were planned and influenced by his interest in the occult. They also said the teen-ager argued with his mother before the attack.

The week before the murder-suicide, Sullivan was caught passing a classmate a note that had to be reversed and held up to the light to be read, police Chief George Stamer said. The note seemed to be in Latin and had to do with the occult. It has yet to be determined if other area youngsters were involved. (Idaho Statesman, 1/13/88)

Comment: As Catholic schools become increasingly secular and fall under the influence of humanism, Catholic children are getting less and less of a grounding in their own religion. The result is that Catholic children have become increasingly vulnerable to satanic forces. We know of one Catholic school in Springfield, Mass., where elementary school children were taught death education and taken on a field trip to a local funeral home. All of

this is leading more and more Catholic parents into home schooling as their only recourse.

Testing Firms Accused of Consumer Fraud

Friends of Education Inc., the West Virginia group whose controversial report last fall challenged the accuracy of nationally normed achievement tests, has filed consumer-fraud complaints in all 50 states against four major commercial test publishers.

The complaints charge that the test makers -- C.T.B./McGraw-Hill, the Psychological Corporation, the Riverside Publishing Company, and Science Research Associates -- have violated consumer-protection laws by selling "deceptive" tests that allow most districts to claim that their students performed "above average." The vast majority of elementary-school students scored above national norms of the tests, the group's report found.

The group asks the states' attorneys general to seek court orders requiring the testing firms to publish actual national averages, and to administer new tests -- at their own expense -- to determine where students rank. (Educ. Wk. 3/23/88)

Student Murdered at School

Gloria Woods, a 17-year-old senior at Pender County (N.C.) High School, was stabbed to death by a 13-year-old student while changing classes on 2/23/88. According to police in Burgaw, N.C. (pop. 1700), the senior was walking from the main classroom building toward the school's band building when she apparently confronted the younger girl.

As the older student turned to leave, she was shoved, and when she turned around, she was stabbed in the

neck. Apparently, the dispute had begun on a school bus several days earlier, when the senior teased the younger student. (Educ. Wk. 3/9/88)

School Bans Beepers

The Baltimore School Board has prohibited students from carrying electronic beepers after complaints that students were using them to arrange drug deals.

The ban, which was voted on March 3, took effect on March 14. Students now found carrying a beeper face suspension.

"At the high school and middle school level, if a child is in possession of an operational beeper, they are usually dealing drugs," said Arthur Pierce, principal of Francis M. Wood High School. "At the elementary level, kids are wearing inoperative beepers to appear tough or macho and mimic the older kids. And that's not something to encourage." (Idaho Statesman, 3/5/88)

Christians Lose Appeal in Tennessee Textbook Case

The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed an appellate ruling of 8/24/87 which overturned U.S. District Judge Thomas G. Hull's ruling that the right of Christian children to free exercise of religion was violated by their forced exposure to humanistic, anti-Christian textbooks in their public schools.

Without comment, the High Court declined to review the case, known as Mozert v. Hawkins County Board of Education. This once more confirms that the only right Christian children have in the public schools is simply to be there.

The case stemmed from the school board's decision in 1983 to adopt a Holt, Rinehart & Winston reading series

that promoted humanistic values and ideas. Christian parents complained, and the school board suspended several of the children when they refused to read the textbooks. The parents sued.

On 10/24/86 Judge Hull ruled that the children's First Amendment rights had been violated and ordered the board to permit the Christian children to "opt out" of the classes and to be given alternate suitable textbooks. The board appealed, and a three-judge appellate panel voted unanimously to overturn Judge Hull's decision. In its opinion the court said the plaintiffs' rights had not been violated because they were not required to believe the ideas expressed in the Holt books.

Judge Danny Boggs wrote: "As we ultimately decide here, on the present state of constitutional law, the school board is indeed entitled to say 'My way or hit the highway.'"

John H. Buchanan, chairman of People for the American Way, hailed the High Court's decision as "a good victory for the freedom to learn and excellence in public education." Buchanan also revealed that the Washington law firm of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering donated nearly \$1 million in legal work in defending the school board.

Michael P. Farris, the lawyer for the parents, called the decision "Christian bashing."

"It's time for people with deeply held religious convictions of every persuasion to get out of the public schools," he said. "If public schools are dumb enough to follow the lead of the Hawkins County school district, they will help the exodus of children from the public schools."

He predicted that the option of home schooling will become more popular as a result of such rulings. At the time the suit was filed, Mr. Farris was a lawyer for Concerned Women for America. He is now president of the Home School Legal Defence Association. (Educ. Wk. 3/2/88)