

# 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."

## Confessions of an Illiterate Teacher

We have long known that there are many functionally illiterate individuals in positions of responsibility throughout our society. Nelson Rockefeller, former governor of New York and Vice President of the United States, was "dyslexic." Movie personalities Tom Cruise and Cher are "dyslexic." There is no doubt that these three intelligent individuals were the unwary victims of the Dick & Jane, look-say reading instruction they got in primary school. Nelson often joked about the fact that he couldn't read because he had attended a "progressive" school.

The story is true. Nelson and three of his brothers -- David, Laurance and Winthrop -- all attended the Lincoln School at Teachers College, Columbia University. Their father donated \$3-million to this experimental school where the progressives tried out all of their flaky socialist ideas on their students. The look-say reading program was one of them, and as a result, three of the Rockefeller boys emerged as functional illiterates.

Jules Abel, in his book about the Rockefellers, writes:

"The influence of the Lincoln School, which, as a progressive school, encouraged students to explore their own interests and taught them to live in society has been a dominant one in their lives. . . . Yet Laurance gives startling confirmation as to 'Why Johnnie Can't Read.' He says that the Lincoln School did not teach him to read and write as he wishes he now could. Nelson, today, admits that reading for him is a 'slow and tortuous process' that he does not enjoy doing but compels himself to do it. This is significant evidence in the debate that has raged about modern educational techniques."

However, most functional illiterates keep their problem to themselves. It's simply too embarrassing for an intelligent, ambitious, motivated person in America to admit that he or she can't read.

## A Teacher Goes Public

So it was something of a surprise when John Corcoran, a 50-year-old developer of Oceanside, California, who had earned a degree at Texas Western

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