

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 these risks.

"Without vision, the people perish."

Did Public Education Cause Los Angeles?

The recent events in Los Angeles are now seared permanently in the American psyche, and all sorts of analyses are being done to explain why it all happened. The liberal pundits blame the riots on poverty, unemployment and hopelessness aggravated by the heartless policies of Reagan and Bush. They blame the riots on the anger and frustration caused by the Rodney King verdict, which is translated purely and simply as an act of deep-seated racism. Little attempt is made to analyze why the jurors voted as they did. In other words, not much critical thinking went on in South Central Los Angeles or anywhere else for that matter.

The prosecution had accused the police officers of felonious assault. That is, they were accused of doing to Rodney King what the thugs in South Central Los Angeles did to the innocent motorists who were dragged from their cars and beaten to a pulp. Had the prosecution limited its indictment to excessive use of force, the jurors would have probably found the officers guilty, although the defense argued that the measures taken by the officers were in line with their approved procedures. Whatever the case may be, the jurors could not believe beyond a reasonable doubt that the intention of the

officers was to assault an innocent man rather than subdue a dangerous lawbreaker resisting arrest.

It should also be noted that the jurors were thoroughly informed of the events leading up to the beating of Rodney King, of his attempt to evade the police through a harrowing auto chase which endangered King, his two passengers, other motorists, and the police themselves. When King finally stopped his car, the two passengers quickly responded to police orders, emerged from the vehicle and "went prone" without incident. King, on the other hand, first refused to get out of the car, but when he did he behaved in a very bizarre manner, laughing, dancing, pointing to the helicopter overhead and making obscene gestures. Although he was surrounded by police pointing guns at him, he did not respond to their verbal commands.

The officers assumed that King — who is 6 feet 4 inches tall, powerfully built, and weighs about 250 pounds — was on PCP, a drug associated with unpredictable and dangerous behavior. By then, Sgt. Stacey Koon had arrived with his Taser, which can deliver 50,000 volts of electricity. Koon warned King that he would zap him with the

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