

# The Blumenfeld Education Letter



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

Volume 2, Number 3 (Letter # 7) EDITOR: Samuel L. Blumenfeld

March 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."

## How Progressive Educators Planned To Socialize America

Most Americans who have become aware of the academic and moral decline of public education, tend to believe that the humanistic curriculum that now dominates the system is of relatively recent origin. They believe that the great emphasis now placed on the "affective domain" -- all of those programs devoted to values, feelings, activities, behavior, group dynamics, sexuality, etc. -- is somewhat new. Actually, it is far from new. The fact is that the groundwork for what we have in our schools today was laid early in this century by the Progressives who knew exactly where they wanted to lead America: to a socialist society.

The Progressives were a new breed of educator that came on the scene in the late 19th century. These men, members of the Protestant academic elite, no longer believed in the religion of their fathers. They put their new faith in science, evolution and psychology. Science provided the means to know the material world. Evolution explained the origin of man, thus relegating the story of Genesis to mythology. And psychology institutionalized the scientific study of human nature and provided the future, scientific means to control human behavior.

Many of these progressives studied in Germany under Prof. Wilhelm Wundt, the father of experimental psychology. Among the most noteworthy were G. Stanley Hall, James McKeen Cattell, Charles Judd, James Earl Russell, James R. Angell and Frank E. Spaulding. They brought back to America Wundt's teachings and methodology and set up psych labs of their own in American universities. In these labs man was to be studied scientifically as one would study any other animal. But since human beings could not be experimented on in labs, the psychologists used animals.

In 1928, Prof. Edward L. Thorndike, head of educational psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University, wrote:

". . . experiments on learning in the lower animals have probably contributed more to knowledge of education, per hour or per unit of intellect spent, than experiments on children." He also wrote: "The best way with children may often be, in the pompous words of an animal trainer, 'to arrange everything in connection with the trick so that the animal will be compelled by the laws of his own nature to perform it.'"

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 \$47.80. Subscription Address: Post Office Box 45161, Boise, Idaho 83711, Phone (208) 322-4440.