

The Blumenfeld Education Letter

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

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EDITOR: Samuel L. Blumenfeld

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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."

Outcome Based Education or How to Turn a Dinosaur into an Octopus

In some of our past writings we have called public education a "sick dinosaur" being kept alive by a life-support system known as the education establishment. The latter, through considerable political power, has managed to keep this ailing, obsolete, nineteenth-century anachronism alive because so many careers not only depend on it but must continue to use it as their means to wield power over society. We have predicted the demise of this dinosaur because, like its extinct ancestor, public education has a huge body, a voracious appetite, and a tiny brain. And the establishment knows this.

And so, they have worked out a new plan, not merely for survival, but for a major enhancement of their power which, if successful, will transform the doomed dinosaur into a huge octopus with tentacles so large, so blood-sucking, that it will embrace the entire American people. The plan is called "Outcome Based Education" or OBE for short. It can also be described as the last nail in the coffin of traditional education, not that there is much of it left by now.

The most radical feature of OBE is that it

does away with the traditional requirements for graduation based on the Carnegie units. Under the Carnegie units, you were required, for example, to take 4 years of English, 2 years of American history, 3 years of math, etc. Each unit was worth a number of credits, and when you obtained the necessary credits you were eligible for graduation with a diploma attesting to the fact that you had covered all of these subjects successfully.

The success of the system was based on the effective teaching of these subjects by competent teachers who knew what they were doing, with the students passing a number of tests to verify that they had learned whatever it was they were supposed to learn. All of us who went through the system remember studying, or cramming, for the midterms or finals. You hoped to get an "A" or a "B plus", or a "B." If you got a "C" you passed. If you got a "D" or an "F," you were required to do some sort of makeup or repeat the class.

All in all, the system, with its compulsory attendance laws requiring children to attend school from the age of 6 to 16 or 18,

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