

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."

Violence in the Schools

It's getting worse not better ...

On April 16, 1987, shortly before noon, Chester Jackson, Jr., a 17-year-old standout in football and track was murdered in a hall at Murray-Wright High School, Detroit, as stunned students looked on.

According to eyewitnesses, a 14-year-old student, firing a .357 magnum pistol, chased Jackson through the halls of the school, struck Jackson in the head, killing him instantly. Two other 18-year-old onlookers -- a boy and a girl -- were injured.

This was only the latest incident in a growing pattern of violence among teenagers that has plagued the black community of Detroit.

The tragedy has re-ignited a debate that raged in Detroit schools nearly two years ago over the use of metal detectors in the schools. Frustrated that the presence of both security guards and city police officers in the schools had done little to stem the flow of weapons, Detroit school officials began using metal detectors in 1985 to screen students for guns and knives. The Detroit chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), however, challenged the practice in court.

As a result, school officials were forced to notify students before a metal-detector search took place. During the two semesters that have occurred so far this year, school officials posted warning signs outside the school building.

School officials, however, have pledged to conduct "more aggressive" weapon searches but are consulting with lawyers to determine just how "aggressive" they can be.

Meanwhile, children attend school in fear of what might happen to them. One junior at Jackson's high school remarked: "You could be innocent and get shot over nothing."

In 1986 Detroit recorded the highest murder rate of any city in the U.S. -- 58 murders for every 100,000 residents. Of the 653 people murdered last year in Detroit, 43 were under age 16.

To deal with the problem, the school board has voted to create an alternative school for students who are caught with weapons. The new school is expected to open in the fall of 1987.

Ninety percent of Detroit's public school students are black. The system's

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