

The Blumenfeld Education Letter

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

Vol. II, No. 10 (Letter # 14) EDITOR: Samuel L. Blumenfeld

October 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."

Humanists Launch Attack on Christian Fundamentalist Schools

The Fall 1987 issue of Free Inquiry, a quarterly magazine published by the Council for Democratic and Secular Humanism, and edited by Paul Kurtz, a signer of Humanist Manifesto II and professor of philosophy at State University of New York (Buffalo), has launched a sharp critical attack on Christian fundamentalist education, calling it a "national scandal."

In a lead editorial headlined, "A Call for Public Scrutiny," the reader is told:

"It is estimated that there are now more than one million students in twelve thousand such schools across the country -- but little is known about the quality of education offered by these institutions. . . .

". . . Our review of their curricula, textbooks, and educational philosophy reveal that they are flawed in numerous and serious ways. . . .

"Their admitted aim is to indoctrinate students rather than to educate them. This indoctrination pervades the

entire curriculum. . . . Dissent is not tolerated. . . .

"Their textbooks present an extremely one-sided, and often verifiably false, view of the natural and social sciences, philosophy, literature, and the arts. . . .

"These schools do not develop in their students the skills of critical thinking. True education can only begin when a questioning outlook is cultivated, yet any questioning in these schools is repressed, and rote memorization remains the principal educational tool.

"While parents undoubtedly should have the right to send their children to schools outside the public school system, we believe that children, adolescents, and young adults have a concomitant right to learn elementary logic, critical thinking, and other problem-solving skills and to test ideas before accepting them. The schools included in our research deny their students these basic elements of education and employ a subtle form of mind control."

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.