

Battle takes shape for soul of America's schoolchildren

by Steve Komm and Jeffrey Steinberg

Over a century ago, the Brothers Grimm revived an old German folk tale and wove it into a horrible tragedy that has special meaning and great relevance today. It seems that the town of Hamelin, on the Elbe River, was infested with rats, and every effort made by the town fathers to solve the problem met with dismal failure. One day, a piper arrived and offered—for a sizeable reward—to rid the town of the rat infestation post-haste. Using his magic pipe, the piper led the rats into the river where they perished. However, the town officials, consumed with budgetary woes, decided not to pay the piper his due reward.

The piper, undaunted, proceeded to play another tune on his pipe, this time luring all the village's children to follow him up to a mountain where they passed through a magic door, disappearing forever. The one surviving child, a lame boy who simply could not keep up with column of children following behind the piper, returned to the village to recount what had just happened. The children were lost forever.

A frighteningly similar phenomenon is gripping the American public school system today. Beset by budget crises, caught up in the depths of the worst economic depression of the century, the American educational system has been nearly captured by a modern day "piper" who is also trying to take away America's children. He goes by a variety of names: outcome-Based education (OBE), Vision 2000, the Rainbow Curriculum. Its leading proponents come from a wide range of public, private, and corporate institutions, including the National Education Association (NEA), the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), the New American Schools Development Corporation (NASDC), RJR Nabisco, and the Carnegie Corp.

But unlike the mythical elders of Hamelin, today parents

and teachers across America are beginning to wake up to the New Age nightmare that has swept up many of America's schools. In nearly every state in the union, battle lines are being drawn for what promises to be a frenzied fight over the direction that American public education is going to take. Will children's minds be raped just as brutally as bodies of Muslim women and girls have been raped in Bosnia? Or, will this crisis serve to overturn the entire post-industrial, Mother Earth-worshipping cult, so that children can be rigorously educated as creative scientists and artists as they master the beautiful lawfulness of our universe?

OBE pushers hold war council

Last April, in Denver, Colorado, some of the leading proponents of the New Age curriculum gathered to assess the state of the war. Some 200 educators gathered under the banner of the IDEA Institute to defend educational "reform" against the onslaught of parents whom these de-schoolers labeled as "the religious right." Among the participants in the event, dubbed "Responding Democratically to Religious Agendas: Right-Wing Pressure Groups and School Reform," were representatives of People for the American Way, a slick, Hollywood-based political action group which has longstanding ties to the ADL and the most radical wing of the Democratic Party. Typical of the kind of inflammatory propaganda being put out by defenders of the New Age education movement, was a statement by Frosty Troy, an Oklahoma editor, who told the gathering: "They have a political agenda, and they're using a religious rationale to press it. But what's new about that? Look what Hitler and Goebbels did in Germany."

Among the events that triggered the convening of the

Denver "war council" was an overwhelming vote in January 1993 by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to ban the state Department of Education's OBE plan on the grounds that it fostered manipulation of children's values and emotions. The vote had been forced by a year-long mobilization of parents' groups, who held meetings of hundreds of concerned parents in towns across the state, and produced a videotape documentary about the horrors of OBE and other New Age "reforms." That video, featuring Pennsylvania Parents Commission leader Peg Luksik, is now circulating across America among groups resisting OBE.

Just before the Denver conference, OBE advocates had suffered another defeat under mass pressure from parents, when the Iowa State Department of Education dropped its plans to impose statewide "outcome standards," choosing instead to allow local communities to make their own decisions about curriculum "reforms."

More recently, on June 20, the Ohio state legislature passed a budget which explicitly forbade the state from imposing OBE until full public hearings are held. The 90-2 vote, like other recent defeats for self-described educational "reforms," came as the result of intensive grass-roots mobilization of parents and traditionalist teachers.

Voinovich smoked out

The Ohio fight smoked out the ostensibly conservative Republican Gov. George Voinovich as a strong advocate of OBE. Voinovich is the new head of the National Governors Conference Committee on Education. He recently rammed through the state legislature a bill that will shut down all the state's welfare offices, moving them to the public schools, which will become "neighborhood service centers" over the next five years. Such so-called "reforms" fit right into the schemes of the most radical social engineers, who intend to turn the public schools into alternatives to the nuclear family.

Nowhere is the nightmare of the educational "reform" offensive more visible than in the PAT program (Parents As Teachers). Initiated in Missouri in 1981 at the urging of Harvard Pre-School Project director Dr. Burton White, PAT is now in implementation in 40 states and in several foreign countries. Under the PAT program, a "parent educator" is assigned to every child, practically at birth. The outside social worker-teacher is given access to the household and becomes a co-parent with the biological parents. If at any point the biological parents deviate, in the eyes of the "parent educator," from the "good parent" criteria established by the state, the child can be forcibly removed from the home.

The selling point of the PAT program is that children are given free daycare, free after-school care, including overnight facilities, and are even provided with free summer camp. For parents faced with the need to work full-time to make ends meet, the allure is almost impossible to resist.

The PAT program exposes the underlying meaning of former Bush administration Education Secretary Lamar Al-

exander's call in 1989 for the schools to be open year-round to serve the needs of children from 3 months to 18 years.

From the days of Sparta and earlier, there has not been a totalitarian state in history that has not premised its control on the destruction of the nuclear family. In the United States, many parents are discovering, in some cases too late, that the "Clockwork Orange" future is here, and is being packaged with candy coating under such guises as OBE and PAT.

The counteroffensive

The situation will heat up in early August, when the *New Federalist* newspaper is scheduled to release a mass circulation pamphlet profiling the key players in the plot to destroy the American family. That report, according to its authors, will show the roots of the OBE and related schemes in the efforts of the Lucis Trust (originally the Lucifer Trust), the Frankfurt School (of the Communist International), the British Tavistock Institute (the World War II Psychiatric Division of the British Army), and others to destroy the underlying Christian value system that built western civilization.

Exposés are expected in particular on the role of outright Satanists, operating through overlapping Lucis and communist networks of psychiatrists such as the Association for Humanist Psychology and the "Third Wave" group of Abraham Maslow, Carl Rogers, and William Glasser, to spread OBE and other "global citizen" education plays based on the World Core Curriculum of Robert Muller.

One newsletter circulated by Pennsylvanians Ed and Mary Tarkowski warns parents that the fight is national and international in scope, and that parents and educators must be prepared to battle on that global terrain. They write: "In late 1991, it came to the attention of a few citizens in Pennsylvania that a move to reform education was taking place in our state. Through this reform, children were to be modified in their behavior, values, and attitudes into a particular image. As we got involved in the resistance to what is called outcome-based education, we learned the specifics and intent of this agenda. Soon the realization hit that the same planned restructuring was taking place in all the states of our Union. Then came the realization that this restructuring effort involved more than just the United States—it was international in scope. . . . It is a global effort, and its ultimate goal is a world community of people living under the power structure of a global political, religious and economic system. . . . We feel it fair that you enter your statewide fray knowing that the same battle is going on all over the world."

Another pamphlet exposing the National Education Association's far-flung political operations was published by Save Our Schools Research and Education Foundation. It warns that the NEA's criterion of what it means to be "pro-education" includes "favoring the decriminalization of marijuana," and "supporting affirmative action programs requiring the hiring of homosexual teachers at every grade level including pre-school and kindergarten."