



A Warning to America's Teachers
by Rabbi Nachum Shifren

We as teachers cannot afford to sit on the sidelines any longer. It cannot be business-as-usual as we seek to bring enlightenment to our over 100 charges each day, nonchalantly plowing through our benchmarks and state standards. There is something deeply disturbing about our profession, and the time has come to shed light on our role as the mentors of America's youth.

Never before in my recollection has there been a youth so out of touch with America's values. This applies to the upscale "westside" schools as it does to the most challenging inner city environment. As I patrol the halls at times during our announcement and pledge-of-allegiance period, I see very few students or even teachers saluting to the flag. Why is this important? Why must our students visibly identify with their country? I bet you there are a whole bunch of teachers out there that have given up on presenting an unabashed view of patriotism and altruism. I sense that our destructive media and kowtowing boards of education prefer not to instigate the leftist media with any above-the-radar incidents that would bring scrutiny to their fiefdoms.

What's happening across the land is basically that we teachers of America are losing our students. We are losing them to the Internet madness of pornography, the armies of organized gangs marauding through our cities and towns, the prolific drugs and stimulants that alter fragile, undeveloped minds, but most insidious of all, we're losing our youth to a national lethargy and political correctness that threatens to sap the collective fighting spirit of America, turning us into victims and setting our nation up for a home-grown fifth column, ripe for the picking of the leftist ideologues that abound on our campuses.

For us teachers, it all starts in the credentialing programs. These are often run by pinheads that are burned-out, self imposed refugees from the classroom, putting on a facade of love of the profession, but in reality want to be left alone, stress free and student-free. If teaching is so wonderful, why are they out of the class? Why are they not in our inner city ghetto schools, dealing with the gangs and violence that abounds? Where are these self-professed "professionals" (funny, the more PhD and magnanimous appellatives that surround their titles, the less they seem to be fit for the daily rigors of campus combat!)? Answer: teaching is difficult, not for the squeamish or faint-hearted. That's why it is the **COMPLETELY INEXPERIENCED, ROOKIE TEACHERS THAT GET FED THROUGH THE MEAT GRINDERS** of America's inner city campuses,

untrained, inexperienced, ill-equipped to deal with the dysfunction and often racist environment that permeates the failing schools and fuels our out-of-control drop-out numbers. The experienced teachers either are re-assigned to the "good" schools (sans black/Hispanic racial contentiousness), or finagle getting some "administrative" gig--far away from the students--or, lacking the above, quit. California educrats tell us that the average lifespan of a teacher is 7 years. SEVEN YEARS? How much did it cost to train our teachers, how many man-hours to get them in para-professional positions, putting entire classes on hold while they plow through their course load on their way to getting credentials?

When you talk to these teacher drop-outs, its not the money (what money?) that bothers them. It's the total lack of administrative support, parental backing, community indifference, and lack of validation toward their professionalism that drives them away.

What we don't see in our nation's teachers, even the most erudite and professional, is often a total lack of the *raison d'etre* for being a teacher in America. Period. When one walks by the class, witnessing a myriad of instructional aids, high-tech devices thrown in to make us look "modern", computerized classrooms with Internet auxiliary programs, and the like, the naive observer gets the notion that all MUST be going great, what with the arsenal of high-tech gadgetry and all. What we don't see is the alienation and disconnect between imagery by design and the credo of each individual student's responsibility and connectedness with his or her country. Essentially, we're teaching in a vacuum. We draw no conclusions about our nation's status among the nations, our uniqueness and special place in history, and the role of the individual in asserting freedom and individual liberty. Teachers nowadays are loathe to reinforce values that have etched their way into American culture by our founding fathers, nor are they willing to risk revealing the consequences of those values that will guarantee our freedom in tomorrow's war of ideas and assaults upon our country.

Today's modern teacher cannot stand before a class and tell why America is NOT a racist nation. Our educators cannot withstand the fuselage of queries about why America considers itself "different" from the plethora of dictatorships and tyrannies run roughshod over the globe. What teacher today can, with straight face, unflinching clarity, and bold assertiveness, claim, "there is no such thing as global warming," for example? Who among us has the audacity to insist that "multi-culturalism" is code for the unraveling of the national glue that holds us together, often used as a racist ploy, chipping away at the very foundations of America? Where is the teacher so confident and steadfast in principle, that can withstand the run-away train of junk-grades, given to take the pressure off due to "community activists" and football coaches meddling into the teacher's grading system.

We've become lackeys of the administrations, grotesque miscreants in a well-orchestrated dog-and-pony show by principals and administrators, covering their collective behinds as they hoodwink entire communities with the usual smiles and accolades given to let everyone know all's well.

What's needed for our profession is a book Alinsky DID NOT WRITE: Rules for Radical American Patriotic Teachers.

We need to break the silence, adopt a radical, non-union stance in order to save our youth. That is, assuming we care!

Those teachers that are ready to "come out" for America, are urged to attend a one-of-kind seminar on January 21 in Los Angeles. We promise you an exciting, no-nonsense program for and by teachers in the field, leaders of America's youth, and politicians that are ready for less "hope and change," as we prepare for the America that will survive with faith and values intact.

Place and time will be communicated pending your email confirming your participation. All participants will receive a free copy of Rabbi Shifren's incredible documentary of L.A.'s inner city schools, "Kill Your Teacher" (www.KillYourTeacher.com) Concerned parents are urged to come. Neighborhood councils, school boards, department chairmen and advocates for academic excellence are heartily welcome. See you on the 21st!

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