

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 these risks.
"Without vision, the people perish."

The New Barbarians: Public Schoolers Without Conscience

At a recent trial of two youths accused of stabbing to death a student in a classroom at Dartmouth High School in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, in April 1993, a student witness described how the killers shouted triumphantly and tried to make the "high five" hand slap after the attack. The *Boston Globe* of 2/9/95 reported:

That was the testimony in Superior Court yesterday of Aaron Cormier, who was 14 when his friend Jason Robinson was fatally stabbed next to him despite Cormier's attempt to deflect the hand that thrust the knife. Cormier testified on the second day of the first-degree murder trial of Karter Reed, 18, one of three teenagers charged in Robinson's death.

Reed, Gator Collet, 16, and Nigel Thomas, 15, went to Dartmouth High School about 8:30 a.m. on April 12, 1993, looking to avenge some slight allegedly committed by a student named Sean Pina, according to assistant Bristol District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn 3d. They went to a social studies class and demanded to see Pina. When he turned out not to be there, Reed allegedly attacked Robinson.

The teacher, William Murphy, and assistant principal Albert Porter, who noticed the presence of three non-students and ran into the classroom, reportedly wrested a baseball bat from Collet. Other teachers pushed Reed to the ground and allegedly took away a .75-inch diameter steel rod.

At this point, a second student named John

Silvia, testified, Collet shouted, "Karter, you're scared. How does that feel?" Cormier, following Silvia on the witness stand, testified that Reed replied, "I'm scared, but I feel good."

As Collet was led out the classroom past Reed, who was helped back on his feet by men who had seized him, the youths tried to slap their raised hands but were pulled apart by the men holding them, Cormier testified. Cormier said he had seen Reed come down an aisle and make a thrusting motion toward Robinson's abdomen. [He] tried to push Reed's hand out of the way and later discovered his knuckle had been cut. Cormier said he did not see a knife, thinking Reed had merely punched Robinson. But he said he later heard Robinson groan and exclaim, "Ah."

Silvia said he entered the room in time to hear Robinson groan and shout, "Oh, God, they got me." The youth ran into another classroom holding his abdomen, Silvia said. When Robinson removed his hands, Silvia said, he saw a blood spot "the size of a silver dollar."

Robinson ran out of the room, collapsing at the end of the hallway. He was taken by ambulance to St. Luke's Hospital and died.

That these two punks tried to give each other the "high five," as if the crime they had just committed was something to be elated about, makes one wonder about where these youths got their ideas from. That so many of

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these crimes are the result of minor disputes gives one the impression that these young monsters are the products of a nihilist education system, supported by a nihilist entertainment industry, in which conscience is not developed lest it diminish the student's self-esteem. It is not easy to realize that many of these conscienceless young people in our society are, literally, monsters who may or may not become human beings some day.

Here are some horror stories gleaned from the *Boston Globe* and *Education Week*, the first of which is about as diabolical and nihilistic as it can get:

Down a dirt road in Senoia, Ga., in a trailer home shadowed by poplar trees and Spanish moss, 15-year-old Jason Edward Lewis lived with his parents, until he killed them. The boy was alone in his room a week ago, police said, talking on the phone with a friend about a plan to kill their parents and then take off on a road trip of death and mayhem in the spirit of the teenagers' favorite movie "Natural Born Killers."

"I'm going to do it," he told his friend, putting the phone down for a minute. While the friend listened, police say, Lewis grabbed his father's 12-gauge shotgun, which he kept in the closet for turkey hunting. Police say they think the first shot struck Lewis' mother, who was sitting in a recliner watching television. Then, while his mother screamed, there was another shot, which police believe struck his father, who was lying on the couch. Then a third, which struck his mother in the face, and a fourth to the head of his father, police say.

Lewis' friend has told police that after several, chaotic and horrifying minutes punctuated with screams and gun shots, Lewis returned to the phone and said in a flat monotone: "I did it. It's done."

This case in Georgia is the latest in what appears to be a disturbing trend: children killing their parents. Three other youths were arrested last week along with Lewis in connection with the murders and are being investigated in "an elaborate plot by the boys to kill all of their parents," said Coweta County District Attorney Peter Skandalakis.

The Georgia killings took place a week after two unrelated cases of teenagers killing their parents in Allentown, Pa., only a few days and a few miles apart. Lewis said he was angry because his father, a truck driver, set a midnight curfew, Skandalakis said.

Police said Lewis exchanged notes with friends

referring to the main characters in "Natural Born Killers," a movie about a homicidal couple who murder the woman's parents before setting off on a killing spree in which dozens of people die. (*Boston Globe*, 3/15/95)

Teenager Who Paid Friend to Kill Parents Convicted of Murder

Wheaton, Ill. - Eric Robles often blew up at his parents if they told him to do better in school or refused to buy him a car before he turned 18, prosecutors said. The anger eventually turned deadly.

Robles was convicted of first-degree murder for paying a friend \$100 to fatally stab his parents, then watching as his mother Diana Robles was stabbed 28 times and his father Peter Robles 22 times. A DuPage County jury deliberated 11 hours Friday before finding the 18-year-old guilty but mentally ill in the slayings in April 1993 at the family's home in Bartlett.

Sean Helgesen, 18, Robles' classmate at Elgin High School, faces a trial in February on murder charges. . . . Prosecutors said the teenagers plotted for at least a week. They taped the bottom of their shoes to disguise footprints, put duct tape over the license plate of their car and wore nylon stockings over their heads.

"The defendant is a spoiled, self-centered, manipulative murderer," Assistant State's Attorney Rick Kayne said during the trial. (BG 12/25/94)

'A' Student Guilty in Calif. Murder

Santa Ana, CA - A straight A student was convicted of murder for masterminding the ambush killing of another honors student suspected of tipping off police about a plot to rob a computer-parts dealer. Robert Chan, 19, once a candidate for class valedictorian, could get life in prison. The victim, Stuart Tay, 17, was lured to a garage on Dec. 31, 1992, with the promise of a gun purchase. Chan was one of five teenagers charged in Tay's death. Two other teenagers pleaded guilty in the case. (BG 5/5/94)

11-Year-Old Dies in School Shooting

Butte, MT - An 11-year-old boy died yesterday, a day after being shot in the head by an angry classmate on a crowded elementary school playground. A 10-year-old boy fired a .22-caliber pistol three times Tuesday, upset over an argument the previous day at

the Margaret Leary Elementary School, police said. Jeremy Bullock was standing next to the intended target about 10 feet from the shooter as pupils waited for classes to begin. Jeremy, a fifth-grader, died at St. James Community Hospital. Deputy County Attorney Brad Newman said the boy, a fourth-grader, is too young to be charged with murder, but could be charged with being a delinquent youth. (BG 4/14/94)

Teenager Charged in Fight Death

Southbridge, MA - A 15-year-old Southbridge High School student has been charged with killing a classmate in a fistfight. The 15-year-old, whose name was not released because of his age, was arraigned in Dudley District Court Friday and charged with murder in the death of 17-year-old Edwin Maisonet.

Maisonet, a Southbridge High junior, was pronounced dead earlier Friday at University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester from injuries suffered in a fistfight Wednesday. Maisonet died from a head injury. (BG 3/13/94)

Children Rob Teacher at Gunpoint

Memphis, TN - Two children pulled a gun on a high school teacher in her classroom and stole nearly \$4,000 collected for a class picnic. A 12-year-old who allegedly fired at a pursuer after the robbery Monday was caught. A second child got away with most of the cash.

The boys were at the end of a line of students handing money to Whitehaven High School teacher Helen Jones. "The young man said, 'I'm here to pay,'" said Bob Raby, coordinator for security for Memphis City Schools. "The teacher said, 'You don't even go to school here.' At which time one of them pulled a gun out and demanded the money that she had just collected." The robbers took the money bag and the teacher's purse, then ran.

Jones alerted the principal, who chased the thieves in a car while an assistant principal chased on foot. The 12-year-old fired at the assistant principal before he was caught by police, Raby said. A .357 Magnum was found in bushes nearby. (BG 5/11/94)

7th-Grader Slain in Nashville

Nashville, TN - A seventh-grader was shot and killed in a darkened classroom yesterday while watching a video of "Beauty and the Beast" with classmates.

Terrence Murray, 13, died after being shot once in music class at J.T. Moore Middle School. A student who was sitting behind the slain student was taken into custody. (BG 4/22/94)

Girl Sent to Jail in Gang Rape Case

Fort Worth, TX - A 14-year-old girl was sentenced to 15 years in prison yesterday for luring a friend to a gang rape at her mother's apartment. Doctors said the 17-year-old victim was so severely injured in the September attack that she may never have children. The girl was convicted on an aggravated sexual assault charge after she testified that she knew her friend was having sex with four teen-age gang members, but thought it was consensual. Under terms of the sentence, the girl must spend the next four years in state juvenile facilities. When she turns 18 a judge will decide whether to free her or send her to an adult prison to serve the rest of her sentence. (BG 1/12/95)

Nebraska Teacher Shot by Student

Chadron, NE - A seventh-grader walked into a social studies class yesterday and shot the teacher as 19 other students looked on. The bullet grazed teacher Andy Pope on the upper chest just as the morning class was ending. He was hospitalized in good condition. It was not immediately clear what prompted the shooting at Chadron Middle School. The seventh-grader is in one of Pope's classes, and there was no history of problems between the boy and Pope, said Meryl Nelson, principal of the 325-student school. (BG 2/9/95)

Girl, 9, Wields Knife on School Bus

Boston police yesterday arrested a 9-year-old girl on a Boston public school bus after she pulled a foot-long kitchen knife from her school bag and threatened to attack another child. Police said the third-grader, who lives in Dorchester and attends Harriet A. Baldwin Elementary School in Brighton, tried to coax a 10-year-old girl to fight her. But when the older girl refused, police said the youngster pulled the knife out and said, "I'll cut your face up so nobody recognizes you."

Police received a radio call for help from the bus driver transporting about 20 children home at 4 p.m. The driver told police he turned to see the girl holding the knife, then pulled his vehicle over at the corner of

Rutland and Washington streets in the South End. The girl ran to the back of the bus and tried to hide the knife behind some seats, the driver said. (BG 2/8/95)

Five-Year-Old Brings Gun to School

Washington, DC - Police took a 5-year-old Maryland boy into custody after he brought a loaded semi-automatic handgun to his elementary school Friday and showed it off to his classmates. Police said that a teacher at the school in Prince George's County, confiscated the .38-caliber weapon after she saw the boy showing it to a group of other students in the back of a classroom. She said the boy had taken the weapon from a dresser drawer in his mother's house. The mother was charged with two misdemeanor firearms counts. (BG 2/5/95)

Gun Seized from 8th Grader at School

Boston school officials yesterday seized a 22-caliber handgun with nine bullets in the clip from an 8th-grade girl at the Mary Curley Middle School in Jamaica Plain. Boston police said they later discovered the 15-year-old Dorchester girl also was carrying two plastic bags containing what was believed to be 15 large chunks of crack cocaine and some white powder.

Fellow students saw the gun in the girl's school bag and reported it to administrators and Assistant Headmaster John McDonough confiscated it. It was the 12th gun seized in a Boston public school this academic year. (BG 6/3/94)

15-Year-Old Rapes 6-Year-Old

Walpole, MA - A 15-year-old Walpole youth has been placed in custody of the state Department of Youth Services for raping and molesting a 6-year-old girl. . . . After a daylong hearing last Friday, he was found delinquent on charges of statutory rape, assault with intent to rape and indecent assault and battery.

Norfolk District Attorney William D. Delahunt said there have been 14 cases of juvenile sex offenders reported in Walpole since 1988. (BG 2/18/94)

Student with Gun and Drugs Arrested

Boston, MA - A 15-year-old student at Dorchester

High School was arrested at the school yesterday when police said they found him carrying a loaded gun and four bags of what is believed to be crack cocaine. At 11:40 a.m. a teacher notified school police that two students were passing bullets back and forth between them. Police said the suspect tried to run but was subdued after a struggle. Police took from him a .38 caliber handgun with three bullets in the cylinder. (BG 3/23/94)

D.C. Student Murdered in School

A 14-year-old Washington, D.C., boy has been charged as a juvenile with first-degree murder in the fatal shooting of a 16-year-old at the city's Cardozo High School. The victim, Antar A. Hall, a sophomore at Cardozo, was shot three times in the back on Jan. 5, following what witnesses described as an argument between the youngster and his alleged attacker. The shooting quickly raised new concerns about safety at the city's schools. "We can put all the security officers and metal detectors we want," said Superintendent Franklin L. Smith, "but we can't stop someone from pulling open a door and shooting inside." (EW 1/18/95)

Fourth-Graders with Cocaine Arrested

Six 4th grade students who were caught carrying small bags of cocaine in their affluent Tampa, Fla., elementary school were suspended this month and placed in an alternative school for first-time offenders. The students, who range in age from 9 to 11, were arrested and charged with possession of a total of 3.5 grams of cocaine. The student who brought the drug to school, and passed it around to classmates, was charged with distribution of the drug. If the students complete the 90-day program, the arrests will not appear on their permanent records. Police believe an adult gave the cocaine to the child, who then took it to school. (EW 1/19/94)

Student Kills Self in Class

A 17-year-old high school student shot and killed himself inside his first-period classroom at a rural east Texas high school late last month. Joseph Leon Olivo, a student at Kennard High School, in Kennard, 130 miles north of Houston, brandished a rifle shortly after 8 a.m. on Jan. 21 and told the teacher and his classmates that he wanted them to leave be-

cause he was going to kill himself, Jimbo Rains, the Houston County sheriff said.

School officials evacuated that wing of the school and returned to try to talk the student out of shooting himself. Mr. Olivo pointed the rifle at them and told them to leave; shortly afterward, he turned the gun on himself, the sheriff said. Mr. Olivo left a note in the classroom indicating that he had personal problems and that "he didn't want to live anymore." Mr. Olivo, who apparently slipped the gun into school by hiding it in a pants leg under a heavy coat, had borrowed the rifle from a friend during hunting season. (EW 2/2/94)

Student Killed in Los Angeles

Police were investigating last week the fatal shooting of a Los Angeles student during a gang-related argument. Rolando Ruiz, 16, a student at Hollywood High School, was walking in front of the school Sept. 7 when three young men approached him and a fight began. Mr. Ruiz was shot in the chest and collapsed to the ground as his assailants fled. Principal Jeanne Hon rushed to Mr. Ruiz to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, but when she reached him he was already dead. The incident happened just hours before Superintendent of Schools Sid Thompson was to unveil a crime-prevention program that increases community-watch efforts and police patrols around L.A. schools. (EW 9/21/94)

Student Charged with Murder Can Attend School

A 17-year-old Massachusetts student charged with murder in an off-campus incident must be allowed to attend high school because school officials did not follow proper procedures in suspending him, a state appeals court judge has ruled. The decision to allow Stephen DiRenzo to return to Rockland High School angered district and state officials. Mr. DiRenzo is one of six teenagers accused of beating to death a 22-year-old man outside a Rockland sandwich shop in February. He is free on \$25,000 bail. (EW 9/21/94)

Student Murders Student in Iowa

A state police trooper's stepson faces first-degree murder charges in a shooting last month at an Ottumwa, Iowa, high school. The victim, a 15-year-old boy, died of two .22-caliber gunshot wounds to

the head, police said. The 16-year-old boy arrested in the murder was convicted of armed robbery last year and had been released from juvenile detention five weeks before the shooting. (EW 8/3/94)

Boy Strangled at Residential School

A 13-year-old boy faces murder charges in the strangulation of a 12-year-old boy at a residential treatment center and school for troubled youths in Pleasantville, N.Y. The victim's body was found on the grounds of the Pleasantville Cottage School. Police believe the older boy strangled the victim with his hands. No motive is known. The school is a nonprofit home for about 200 children, ages 8 through 18, who are referred for counseling and treatment by various state child-welfare agencies. (EW 8/3/94)

Honors Student Kills Parents

A 17-year-old honors student in Union, KY, who had just killed his parents and two sisters showed up for his trigonometry class with the gun used in the killings, then surrendered after talking to an assistant principal. Local officials had not decided last week whether to charge the boy as an adult or juvenile. Friends said that the student at Ryle High School had been having problems after being shunned by a girlfriend.

About a week before the killings late last month, he was given community service for bringing a stun gun to school. His parents had punished him by taking away the keys to his pickup truck and not allowing him to listen to his favorite music, officials said. (EW 6/8/94)

Boy Murders Girl in School Restroom

Authorities have charged a 15-year-old boy with the beating death of a female classmate at a suburban St. Louis high school. The suspect, from Florissant, MO, was being held last week in a juvenile-detention center for the Jan. 24 slaying of Christine Smetzer, 15, at McCluer North High School. The girl's badly beaten body was discovered in a restroom by another student shortly after 3 p.m. The boy attended a district-run behavior-disorder program that is run out of the school, officials at the Ferguson-Florissant district said. (EW 2/8/95)

As the reader can see from the above

items, no part of the country is immune from these horrible occurrences. They take place in the inner city, the suburbs, and in rural communities. The curriculum is virtually the same throughout the nation's schools, and the cultural influences through music and television are all pervasive. The only true safety for children is to be found in well-run private schools and home schools.

Teenage Drug Use Up

Marijuana use among the nation's eighth graders, some as young as 13, has more than doubled since 1991, while at the same time the number of eighth graders who reported using cocaine also jumped, according to a national survey released 12/12/94. The annual study also found that cocaine use among high school sophomores increased from last year, and that the percentage of both sophomores and seniors who had tried marijuana rose for the second year in a row.

The nationwide survey of about 50,000 eighth graders, sophomores and seniors showed that teenagers overall appear to be increasingly less concerned about the health risks of using illicit drugs. Among high school seniors surveyed, 30.7 percent said they had tried marijuana at least once in the past year, compared with 26 percent in 1993 and 21.9 percent in 1992. Almost 46 percent of seniors in 1994 reported using an illegal drug such as cocaine, LSD or heroin at least once in their lives, compared with 43 percent in 1993.

The annual survey, which began in 1975, was conducted by the University of Michigan with a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, an agency of the US Dept. of Health and Human Services. A new survey by the Massachusetts Dept. of Education said that nearly 30 percent of students surveyed, or about 72,000 teenagers, said they

had been offered, sold or given drugs on school property during the 1992-93 school year. (*Boston Globe*, 12/13/94)

College Drug Arrests Up

The number of drug arrests increased sharply on the nation's college campuses in 1993 while murder, rape and burglary rates declined, according to an annual survey. Campus officials reported a total of 4,837 drug-related arrests, 34.3 percent more than the 3,601 reported for 1992. The numbers were contained in a survey of 796 schools released today by the Chronicle of Higher Education. Aggravated assaults rose by 2.7 percent, but the number of rapes declined by 19.9 percent and burglary dropped 4.5 percent. Fifteen murders were committed, down from the 17 reported in 1992.

A 3-year-old federal law requires colleges to compile crime statistics and provide them to students and staff. Differences in the way crimes are reported and categorized may skew campus crime data, school officials say. Rapes, for example, are not always included in the statistics from campus police if the assaults were reported only to residential advisers or campus rape crisis centers. (*Boston Globe*, 1/29/95)

Heroin and Marijuana Use Up Among Young Americans

Use of Heroin and marijuana is on the rise, while cocaine use is steady in some areas of the nation, according to spot checks prepared for the White House drug police office. Lee Brown, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, said the long-term decline in drug use among young people stopped several years ago. The new infor-

mation comes not from the usual surveys but from a combination of ethnographers who talk to drug users and dealers, plus researchers and others in the area, drug treatment specialists and police.

According to the report, heroin inhalation has become the "in thing" in the New York nightclub drug scene and dealers are specifically targeting that market. Speedballing—injecting a combination of heroin and cocaine—appears to be the norm in drug cultures. Cocaine remains the primary drug of abuse, the report said.

Marijuana use is up in most areas. Now popular are "blunts," fat, marijuana cigars, surfacing in Los Angeles and among Southern students after being spotted in New York and Washington. Hallucinogens such as LSD, mescaline and PCP, are reemerging, while Denver, Los Angeles and San Francisco mentioned a rise in amphetamine use. (*Boston Globe*, 5/12/94)

Prozac and Ritalin Use Rises Among Children

Prozac, the best-selling antidepressant taken by millions of American adults, is increasingly being prescribed for children and adolescents—even to children as young as 5 or 6.

"Just as it was OK 20 years ago to take your kid to an analyst, now it's OK to put them on Prozac," says Dr. Massan Hassibi, director of child and adolescent psychiatry at Metropolitan Hospital in New York City.

Prescriptions of Prozac and similar new antidepressants to children have more than doubled since 1990, according to government statistics. Over the same period, the use of Ritalin has also doubled, making it the most widely prescribed psychoactive medication in children.

"There's a lot of looseness in the way

these medications are being prescribed," said Dr. Alexandra Rolde, a child and adolescent psychiatrist in Watertown, Mass. Many of the teenagers she sees in the clinics say antidepressants do not help. "They really need someone to talk to, and there just isn't anyone. Taking a pill gives everyone a false sense of security—that everything is all right, when in fact, a child's development can occasionally be impaired in some way."

Pressure to medicate, mental health professionals say, can come both from managed-care insurance companies trying to save money and families reluctant to delve into their own emotional lives.

"Parents want something to happen quickly, and they don't always want to look at what's really going on," said Dr. Elizabeth Beane, a child and adolescent psychiatrist in Braintree, Mass.

Most psychiatrists agree that medications should never be used alone, without other forms of therapy, in treating children and adolescents. They note that while controlled studies have shown that antidepressants work in adults, research has not shown that these medications are effective in children. (*Boston Globe*, 10/26/94)

High School Yearbook Rejects Abstinence Ad

Student editors of Lexington High School's 1994 yearbook have given a thumbs down to a proposed ad promoting sexual abstinence. (This is Lexington, Mass., of American Revolutionary Minute Man fame.) The ad had been submitted by the Lexington Parents Information Network, a group formed last year partly in response to a decision by the School Committee to make condoms and sexual information available to students at the high school.

The ad "doesn't fit with the nature of the

book, which is supposed to be a kind of memory and history book for the students," said Dow Chi, the yearbook's co-editor. "The yearbook's purpose, and philosophy behind it, is a personal keepsake." The staff of about six students decided unanimously to reject the ad.

Douglas Yeo, chairman of the parent group, and a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, said he was disappointed in the decision. He said he had been trying since November to place a full-page ad that stated, "We Know You Can Do It!" above the single word "ABSTINENCE," with a bottom line that added, "The Healthy Choice." A \$200 check to pay for the ad was recently returned to the group.

"The students have legal grounds to support their contention that it is their right to decide what is printed in their publication," said Jeff Young, Lexington School Superintendent. "Neither Douglas Yeo nor any other individual has a superseding right to force students to print a particular message simply because he wants it printed."

Yeo said he thought school officials and students were trying to censor ads promoting sexual abstinence. He said his group's role was to "strengthen public education in our community by informing parents and enabling them to become more involved in their children's education." (*Boston Globe*, 4/9/94)

Mass. Has Highest Rate of Unwed Teenage Births

Nearly nine of every 10 teenagers who gave birth in Massachusetts in 1991 were unmarried, the highest percentage of out-of-wedlock teenage births of any state in the nation. According to the most recent data available from the National Center for Health

Statistics, 86 percent of the 7,018 mothers under age 20 who gave birth in this state two years ago were not married. The percentage was higher in Boston, hitting 92 percent. In Springfield, 90 percent of teenage mothers were unmarried.

The new statistic has experts puzzled trying to fathom why the percentage is so high in Massachusetts and prompted activists of all stripes to urge remedies ranging from improved sex education to welfare reform to a return to "traditional morality." Of the 6,788 children born out of wedlock to teenage mothers in 1991, 5,454 were born to white mothers and 1,334 to black mothers. Hispanic teenagers accounted for 1,773 of the births.

Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, vice president of the Institute for American Values, noted that the high number of white unwed teenage mothers in Massachusetts is recorded amid escalating fears of a growing "white underclass" that has seen the number of unmarried women giving birth soar by 50 percent over a six-year period. Only the District of Columbia ranked higher than Massachusetts in the percentage of unwed teenage mothers, at 95 percent. Texas ranked lowest, with 39 percent.

Whitehead said the increase may be due partly to the fact that the age of first sexual encounters has steadily dropped while the stigma against unwed motherhood has lost its power.

Sandi Martinez of Concerned Women for America, a group espousing traditional values, said the statistic underscores the need for an "abstinence curriculum" to teach students how to refrain from sex. Ellen Convisser, president of the state chapter of the National Organization for Women, contends that the state should remove restrictions on access to abortions for teenagers. (*Boston Globe*, 2/11/94)