

Then and Now

by Earl P. Holt III

Occasionally, one gets a glimpse of what American education used to be like before the federal *Department of Education*, the **National Education Association** and court-ordered desegregation destroyed American education and substituted a curriculum of communist propaganda and indoctrination by cowards, idiots and functionally-illiterate black baboons.

This was before "*Critical Race Theory*" and other Marxist concepts like "*White Skin Privilege*" were fabricated, and it was a time when students actually learned something about their history, their civilization, its values and its founding principles. Whites and even some black students were truly educated, not merely indoctrinated.

A glimpse of this bygone era can be found in a ***Twilight Zone*** episode titled "*A Changing of the Guard*." It is a beautifully written drama starring actor Donald Pleasance, who brilliantly portrays an eccentric English Teacher named Fowler who teaches at a prep school in New England. Around Christmastime and after 51 years of teaching, he has just been informed that his services are no longer required by the school.

Professor Fowler grows profoundly despondent over his forced retirement and immediately jumps to the conclusion that his entire life and career have been wasted and pointless. He decides that suicide is the only remedy for his predicament, and trudges across the snowy campus to a statue of the celebrated educator, Horace Mann, before whom he intends to shoot himself with his own revolver.

Unfortunately, at the base of the statue is Mann's famous quote: "***Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.***" This

was anything but comforting to Professor Fowler, who had already reached the conclusion that his life had been purposeless and that his 51 years of teaching had inspired and influenced no one.

Just as he is about to shoot himself before Horace Mann's statue, he hears a loud and prolonged ringing from the school's bell. This makes him pause, because it was a very *odd hour* for the bell to be ringing. Puzzled by the ringing of the bell, he trudges through the snow to his classroom in a kind of somnambulant daze. As he sits at his desk deep in thought, a dozen or so former students slowly materialize at their desks in front of him.

Fowler fondly recognizes all of them by name, even though all are deceased. One died at *Pearl Harbor*, another at *Iwo Jima*, and others fell at various battles of World War II in the Pacific and European Theaters. One serious young man died of Leukemia from conducting medical experiments with radiation in Virginia. Fowler is overjoyed to see them all, but confused because he realizes they are all dead. Each of these apparitions approach him to explain their purpose in being there.

The young man who died at Iwo Jima -- and was posthumously awarded the *Congressional Medal of Honor* -- informs Professor Fowler that it was Fowler who taught him about courage, and that the award is partly Fowler's. Another thanks Fowler for teaching him about patriotism, and others thank Fowler for teaching them about loyalty, ethics, and honesty.

A young man who died on the *Arizona* at Pearl Harbor, while saving a dozen others, echoed a similar sentiment. The young physician who died as a result of his radiation experiments told Fowler that his life's work was inspired by a poem Fowler introduced to his English Class by Howard A. Walter, titled "*I Would Be True*":

***I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.***

The entire episode is handled so beautifully and intelligently, that you have to be soulless if it doesn't make you swell up with emotion. In any event, this epiphany of Professor Fowler's quickly restores his pleasant and friendly demeanor and gives him a profoundly different perspective on his life and teaching career. **Suddenly, Fowler recognizes that his life has been rich with purpose, and that he has helped to inspire some very great and courageous young men who have done great things in the service of humanity.**

This episode is an example of Rod Serling at his very best. His story is quite uplifting, but it also inspires elements of sadness and lost opportunity: This beautiful story was what TV **COULD** have been, instead of cable TV's current menu of endless "zombie" movies, fruitless searches for "Bigfoot," "professional" wrestling, televangelists without piety, and endless sitcoms written for retarded niggers, disgusting queers or prevaricating communists.

It's also sad because "The Changing of the Guard" affords a glimpse into what education used to be and should *still* be: It used to be a calling for honorable, dedicated and knowledgeable people, rather than a refuge for third-rate idiots from fourth-rate Education Departments, whose primary agenda appears to be promoting the pernicious ideologies of the age, Marxism, multiculturalism, environmentalism, feminism, and transgenderism.