

Video, Print & Electronic Curricula

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In The News

**Do Monkeys Follow
Traditional Gender
Roles?**

**Warning: Not politically
correct!**

Just like human boys and

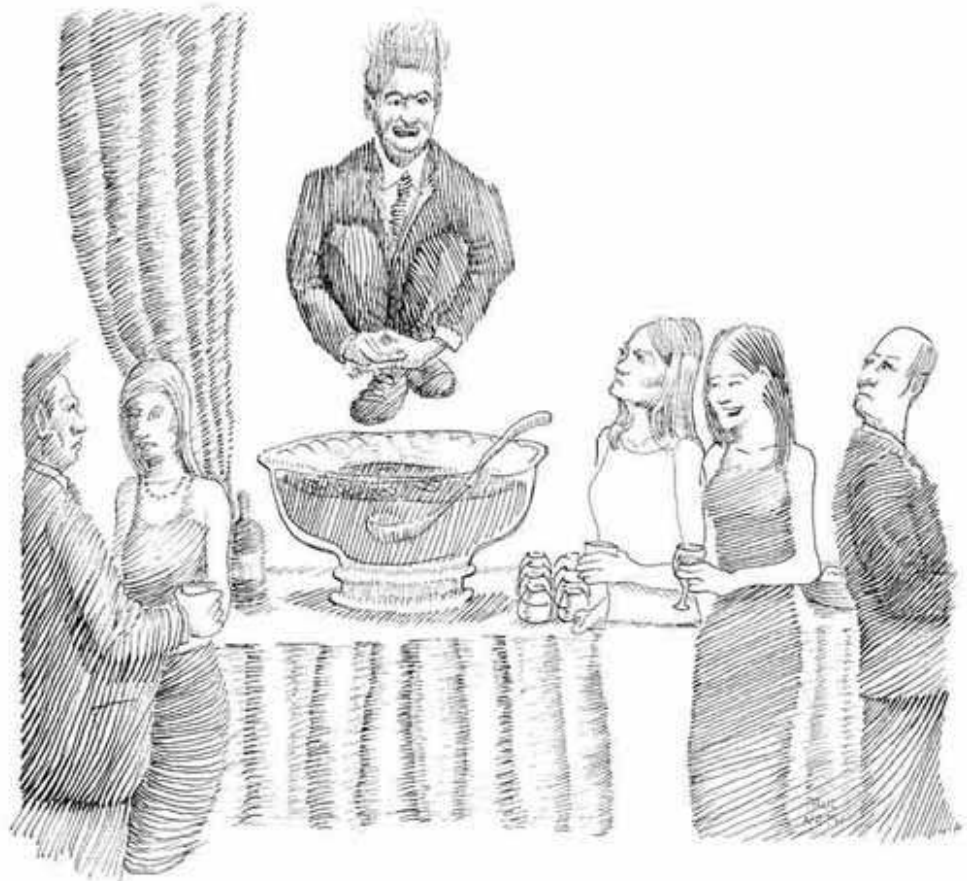
Staying Focused

"Life is amazing: and the teacher a medium for that amazement."

--Edward Blishen

Comments welcome! Have a quote about the profession you'd like to share?
E-mail us at newsletter@stanfield.com

Featured Content Area: Life Skills



"Didn't I tell you Tom was fun?"

girls, male monkeys like to play with toy cars while female monkeys prefer dolls, a research project has shown. This intriguing discovery is one of many signs of deep-rooted behavioral differences between the sexes that scientists are exploring with the latest tools of genetics and neuroscience.

[\[Learn More\]](#)

Mechanics Charging As Much As Doctors!

Visiting a garage in England can prove costlier than you think, according to new research yesterday which reveals that the average car mechanic in the country often charges more an hour than a doctor or a lawyer. A survey for What Car? magazine shows that drivers frequently pay more than £100 (US \$173) an hour for labor at franchised car dealers. The magazine contrasted this with the fees earned by a doctor, charging up to £500 a day (US \$919), and a junior barrister, who can earn as little as £30 (US \$55) an hour.

One Way Or Another, Not Left Behind...

The "Texas Miracle" that helped launch the nationwide accountability movement in education is facing new doubts as allegations surface about possible cheating on test scores. Last week the Houston Independent School District (HISD) – one of the nation's largest – announced an investigation of "suspicious" results on 2004 statewide tests.

[\[Learn More\]](#)

Social skills are all about the time, place and people you are with. For example, cannonballing at the junior high school pool party may enhance your reputation... doing it into the punch bowl at the office party probably won't! Knowing how to navigate social situations is only the first among many life skills necessary for a person to develop in order to maintain an independent lifestyle. Your students don't need to be the life of the party to make friends, get a job, or meet a significant other... the simple skills taught in the LifeSmart Series will help them face their transition from school to adult life with confidence.

The LifeSmart Video Series: Now Life Comes With Instructions!

The experts have identified transitional skills that are the most critical for coping with the demands of everyday life. And that's the focus of **LifeSmart** -- teaching the top 12 core skills in areas crucial to life adjustment. But instead of being dull and ordinary, we've made the learning fun -- with humorous "how to" and "how not to" examples that grab and keep a student's attention. The following five programs will help you prepare your students for independence.

BECOMING
JobSmart.
[\[Learn More\]](#)

BECOMING
SafetySmart.
[\[Learn More\]](#)

BECOMING
DateSmart.
[\[Learn More\]](#)

BECOMING
MoneySmart.
[\[Learn More\]](#)

BECOMING
PeopleSmart.
[\[Learn More\]](#)

Buy all 5 and
SAVE \$995!
[\[Learn More\]](#)

Educator Feedback

"I found the LifeSmart series to be wonderful! The vignettes are highly motivating and the examples are ideal and real for the situations my students find themselves in each day. I particularly liked the 'how to do it' approach – it is both funny and educational."

-- Louise Fulton, Ph.D., CA.

Am I Missing Something?

Comments from the publisher

As Vocational Ed is being replaced with Remedial Ed to ensure "no child is left behind," it's noteworthy that a recent survey by the British magazine *What Car* reported that the average mechanic rates were the equivalent of \$173.00 per hour in the U.K. (**See article, News column**) That's more per hour than the British pay their doctors and lawyers! And in Los Angeles a mechanic, plumber, electrician, or construction worker can make \$60,000+ a year. So why cut Vocational Ed?

This week TIME reported that 30% of high school students will drop out before graduation. Lack of motivation is the most common reason given for leaving school. And those who do stick it out but fail the exit exam are unlikely to return once labeled a washout.

Women's Issues

Girls Make Better Investments!

Even today in the modern, developed world, surveys show that parents still prefer to have a boy rather than a girl. One long-standing reason why boys have been seen as a greater blessing has been that they are expected to become better economic providers for their parents' old age. Yet it is time for parents to think again. Girls may now be a better investment.

[\[Learn More\]](#)

~~Miss Ms.~~ Demeanor



Please! (Don't Leave)

*Dear Miss Demeanor:
Last night I went to see
Carcass, my favorite death
metal band. (They are sooo
much cuter than Cannibal
Corpse) The mosh pit was
just starting to get
interesting when my
boyfriend wanted to leave.
He politely pushed (how
lame!) his way out of the
mosh pit. (Who would walk
out on Carcass?)Is this bad*

No Child Left Behind seems designed to leave special and at-risk high school students behind. Adding more remedial classes is not the answer; these kids are dropping or aging out NOW.

As we seen, good jobs are out there for those who have the necessary "employability skills." Wouldn't at-risk kids have a better chance of landing these jobs upon graduation if they were in Pre-Vocational rather than remedial programs. Is there something I'm missing?

--James Stanfield, Ed.D

Recommended Links

[Teach-nology](#) – A site just for teachers packed with thousands of printable worksheets, games for the classroom, and a message board for teachers to share thoughts and ideas.

[Center For The Prevention of School Violence](#) – A great source for articles, links, and information about stopping school violence.

[MindTools.com](#) – Free articles and tips on organization, time management, communication skills and more.

Exerpts From The Onion

McDonald's Employee Just In It For The Money

SHREVEPORT, LA—According to reports, Sean Boyce, a member of the Jefferson Avenue McDonald's team, may be doing it purely for the money. Critics say Boyce, 22, who lives with girlfriend Renee Simmons and their 2-year-old daughter, cares more about getting paid than dedicating himself to his craft.

"It's sad when a person's sole motivation is money, but that really seems to be the case with Mr. Boyce," said Peter Kuharcich, editor of the restaurant-industry newsletter Fast Food Report. "The only thing he's interested in is getting that paycheck."

Contrary to claims made at the time of his hire, Boyce does not crave the challenge of brightening people's day the McDonald's way.

"When I interviewed Sean, he really seemed to agree that the most fulfilling thing about working here is getting the chance to make the customer's McDonald's experience as enjoyable as possible," assistant manager Frederick Taubense said. "But the longer he was here, the more apparent it became that it was all about the money for him. He's always asking stuff like, 'Wasn't I supposed to get a raise last month?' and, 'I thought I get time and a half when I work overtime.' At some point, he needs to wake up and realize that money isn't what's truly important."

[\[Read More\]](#) *reprinted with permission from theonion.com*

Why We Use Humor-Fused Education

manners or he just a wuss?

*--Mistress Death,
Greenbow, AL*

Mistress Death:

If I may point out, unveiled sarcasm and the term "wuss," are **hardly** the most polite of expressions. However, I will take pity on you and answer your question.

Your boyfriend ought to have known that you should never, at any form of public entertainment, make a move to leave the venue before the performance is over. Men who recklessly and selfishly disturb public assembly in this way have the instincts of mosh-pit savages, not gentlemen.

Please do not leave until the entertainment is over!

Unfortunately, many people are completely unaware of the very specific set of rules that govern mosh-pit behavior. My new book, Miss Demeanor's Guide to Acting Better than Most Animals in Social Situations, has a whole chapter covering the ins and outs of well-bred manners while slam-dancing.

If you have a question about the delicate arts of etiquette, send it to newsletter@stanfield.com. I will be most happy to set you straight!

● Promotes good feelings

Neurologists at Stanford University have discovered another reason why laughter makes us feel good. They monitored the brain activity of people reading funny cartoons and found that humor and laughter triggered the brain's "reward centers." Interestingly, these are the same areas activated by cocaine and amphetamines. Perhaps that's why laughter is habit-forming.

The implications for instruction are obvious: laughter heightens attention, and by association, good feelings for the teacher and her message.

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Questions or comments about the newsletter? Drop us a line at newsletter@stanfield.com. We would love to hear from you!

Employee of the Month



Rudy Pena, our Shipping Manager, is the man responsible for getting your programs out to you quickly and efficiently. If you have questions for Rudy, email him at shipping@stanfield.com

Newsletter Archives

For more vital news, great deals, and fun, visit the past issues of the Stanfield ***Teaching Social Competency Newsletter.***

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