

Staff Editorial

Life 101

Think about graduation for a moment.

Yeah, it may be a little early for some but for others it may be too late to be educated in some important matters. Sure, we know how to write research papers, solve algebraic equations, make some sense out of the U.S. government and dissect clams.

But what about the other stuff?

That "stuff" is life itself.

In its zeal (and to its credit), MSU strives to help freshmen adapt by encouraging them to take College Connections where they learn the ins and outs of the academic community.

That's for freshmen.

What about helping all the rest of us? What the university needs to offer is a senior-level course for those about to leap into the "real world."

How many know how to buy a new car? Do you know how to go about jockeying with a salesman so you don't get screwed? The same is true for purchasing a used vehicle. What should you look for so you don't end up with a lemon? Should you pay Blue Book or look around for a deal and how do you go about it?

Money. Money. Money.

Our lives will always be about money. How much of our future paychecks should we save so we can retire to the south of France (or at least we don't end up living under some bridge eating beans and franks)? Whenever we do save some cash how should we invest it so it doesn't get eaten up by inflation? How many students know about IRAs and how much they can earn by contributing to one?

One of these days most of us will buy a home, one of life's biggest decisions. Things are going to crop up like obtaining a bank loan, terms of interest, styles of mortgages. Even if you rent for a while you need to know your rights as a renter?

Eating, of course, is one of the basics of life but to some a kitchen is a foreign country. Today, men often find themselves either taking on the traditional woman's role or sharing it with a female who works during the day. What food should you buy? In case you already haven't noticed it, Ramen noodles and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches get old after a while. Other stuff might include:

- which credit card is best and how to handle it?
- what's the best way to build a credit rating?
- how do you do comparative shopping?
- when does it pay to buy quality and when does it not matter?
- how can I do my own taxes?
- situations we might encounter that we can't even possibly dream of right now.

No one person may have all the answers so such a Life 101 class might be best if it is team-taught like some Honors Courses which, by the way, exercise a lot of latitude in their offerings.

Undeniably, there's a maze of information out there and it would be beneficial if professors helped us navigate through it rather than the School of Hard Knocks alternative.

The case for creating such a novel course only proves that becoming an education person goes far beyond quoting Shakespeare or conjugating Spanish verbs. Some may call it hand-holding but a better way to look at it is giving MSU graduates a leg up.

We'll thank you later.



Level of incompetence rises to 'orange'



CHRISTIAN MCPHATE
AD MANAGER

American-inspired and yet to obtain "free" country had "fumbled" the hangings of Saddam Hussein and two of his followers.

This coming from a man whose own cabinet is notorious for "fumbling" everything from the apprehension of the most wanted man in history to the building of a democratic nation.

During an interview with Jim Lehrer, host of the "The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer" on PBS, Bush stated that the handling of the execution looked more like a revenge

killing than a killing of justice.

"It reinforced doubts in people's minds that the Maliki government and the unity government of Iraq is a serious government," Bush said, "which makes it harder for me to make the case to the American people that this is a government that does want to unify the country and move forward."

No, the seeds of doubt blooming within the American people began to sprout when the raging inferno of this administration's incompetence exploded across the media waves with the 9-11 reports (and for some info junkies, the botched voting scam in good of George's brother's sunny home state).

Moreover, the President reaffirms the American people of his incompetence with the escalation of revenge blasting across the surface of the Jewel of the Middle East.

Of course, his administration's failure to think ahead and understand the full implications of their choices when implementing a sys-

tem of voting for a country with no understanding of democracy or the humane treatment of the common man does not help either.

What does one expect to happen when one backs a government controlled by the Shiite branch of the Muslim religion, a splintering group of religious people persecuted in horrendous ways by the American-installed Saddam Hussein?

And there's more.

The Shiite believers are also in control of the number one (according to the last report on NBC, CNN, ABC, CBS, etc) "Axis of Evil" enemy, Iran.

According to figures released by the United Nations on Jan. 16, more than 34,000 Iraqi civilians lost their lives last year alone due to incompetence.

That is more than the number of Americans killed since the beginning of the war—five years ago.

Incompetence seems to be running amok throughout this diabolical weeding out of terrorism.

For the two sects of Muslims, the Sunnis and the Shiites, branched off and split the trunk of Allah because of an incompetent disagreement over which group would lead after the death of the Prophet Muhammad (think Pentecostal and Baptist, but with Ak-47s and tanks instead of the holy ghost and the Antichrist).

In addition, with Donald Rumsfeld's, one of the leading masterminds behind the fiasco of Democracy, quote in the Jan. 29 issue of Time magazine, the parasite of incompetence continues to grow at an alarming rate:

"There are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say, we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns—the ones we don't know we don't know."

God/Allah/Jehovah, oilmen, warmongers, please...make it stop.

New ideas for relevant sitcoms a sure hit



JASON KIMBRO
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

to get into groups and try to come up with inventive ways to help alleviate the social problem of domestic abuse within families.

A fellow classmate came up with the idea of a television sitcom about a dysfunctional and abusive family. Not like "Married with Children," but one with actual physical violence. He figured it could do the same for this problem that "All in the Family" did to help with the issue of racism.

I don't mean to steal from an idea but I thought it would be nice to consider this idea for other social problems.

For instance: "Unfixed Mistakes."

This silly romp of a sitcom would involve a single mother who first had a child at the age of 16. Since her parents were adamantly pro-life

yet all about handling one's own responsibilities, she was forced to keep the child and had to drop out of high school.

Things get worse after she gets her G.E.D. and decides to try community college when suddenly she is pregnant with triplets. She is unable to go to college to learn the social awareness and competence to hold a job. Since all the men in her life are asses, she is forced to raise the children by herself, living off the Lone Star card and Supplemental Security Income.

Her children are constant targets of poverty in and out of social settings with their top-notch second-hand clothing and commodity groceries.

Things get even funnier as we realize she spends every possible dime on USA Gold cigarettes and Silver Thunder 40's.

Mommy and daddy have disowned her and due to the wonderfulness of being pro-life, she has now subjected her little family for generations to come to the laughter of the underclass.

My next hilarious idea for a show would be "Heroine, My Hero!"

A colorful group of heroine addicts would basically sit around shooting up whatever samples of

the good 'ol drug they could get.

On occasion things would get uproariously out of hand when one of them would overdose or perhaps forget about doing something important like feed their baby.

It would be kind of like "Trainspotting" meets "Seinfeld."

There could be a few crossover appearances between the two aforementioned shows as the mother from the first could show up as a guest star as she is dragged down into the funny underbelly of addiction.

Finally, I feel a great suggestion for a series would be "She Told Me She Was 18!"

I really don't think I need to describe this one too much, but it could go into so many directions, from dealing with the parents or even some Dateline NBC to Catch a Predator type situations.

A few others that I felt I should throw in: "HA! You're Poor!" or perhaps the guaranteed successes "Porn for Tweens," "Jesus is the Reason for the Season," "Dog Pound Blues," "Those Wacky Iraqis," and of course "The Adventures of a Successful Rapist."

Indeed some of these programs could probably cause a stir or two and would only be seen on HBO or

Showtime, but I figure if I can push them on the right executive then perhaps many of these issues could be somewhat diminished.

Of course as I take some time to reflect, maybe I am wrong. Sure, "All in the Family" did help to open an eye or two and it did spawn off one of my favorite programs "The Jeffersons," but maybe we are all choosing to laugh at the wrong things to begin with.

For years we have laughed at programs like Mad TV and Saturday Night Live as they make fun of the political figures we put into office.

I really have a hard time laughing at them myself because they make it too easy for these comedic troupes.

How about we give them all a challenge next time.

Let's really sit and think about whom we want representing us as our senators, congresspersons and commander-in-chief.

All I know is that it is quite infuriating to have a child take control of one of the most precious yet dangerous toys out there and refuse to give it back as he sits and throws a fit when it really should be nap time.

Goodbye all!

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