

GIFT RAP

NEWSLETTER

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Encouraging the Gifted to be "Blue Collar" Workers

(by O.S.)

Many people automatically think gifted children should become "white collar" workers - doctor, business, etc. However, the new realities indicate a shift in attitude is vital. Gifted people should be directed into "blue collar" work—areas where high tech creativity, skills, abilities are often sorely missing.

We need to value the application of intelligence in all areas of society. We benefit from the work of gifted mechanics, masons, carpenters, machinist, technicians. Today, many "blue collar" jobs offer just as much

money and prestige as "white collar" work.

"Blue collar" work is often seen as below what gifted people need. The changes in modern technology and innovations suggest this no longer applies.

In our world, there is a desperate need for highly intelligent workers - check newspaper ads. They seek those who can analyze, run and improve highly sophisticated machinery, computer programs, and monitor procedures.

No longer can workers be "cogs in the wheel". The demands for teamwork, efficiency and problem solving have changed factories,

plants, and businesses.

Manual labor is becoming more and more prized as skilled workers become scarcer. "Paper pushers" may have to move over as manually skilled people become accepted more as equals.

Despite the needs mentioned, our education systems still tend to steer gifted students into "white collar" careers.

Fees for different kinds of education often show what is valued. The trades/apprentice systems are often almost "reserved" for less able or average people, certainly not for the highly intelligent.

We need gifted people and their intelligence in all levels of the workforce. Besides gifted surgeons, we need gifted trades people, technicians, field workers, machine operators.

Our daughter, who is not identified as gifted, is enrolled in a community college and is learning a trade despite being considered of university quality. All the more to her when she works as a highly intelligent sound engineering technician.

Value and encourage "blue collar" jobs for gifted people. Today, all jobs require high intelligence.

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Amazing Websites

Medieval Egyptian Knitting Techniques (instructions for making socks)

<http://home.earthlink.net/~lilinah/Knitting/EgyptKnit3.html>

Hubble Telescope Space Photo Galleries (get lost in the hypnotic beauty of outer space)

<http://www.skyimagelab.com/galleries.html>

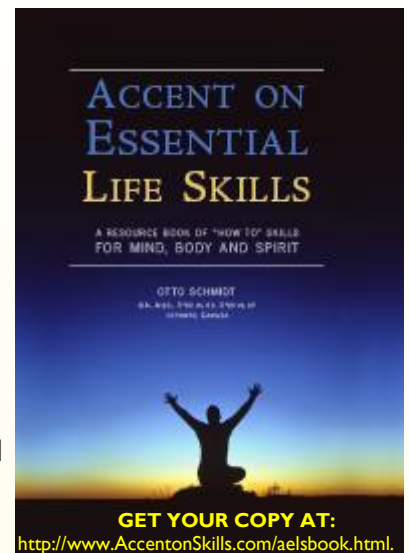
Online Virtual Hairstyler (upload your photo and try different styles) <http://www.thehairstyler.com/>

Hair Style Gallery (pick one from 1000's of photos) <http://www.ukhairdressers.com/style/main.asp>

Love Quotations (Enjoy)

<http://honeymoons.about.com/cs/wordsofwisdom/a/whatislovequote.htm>

History of Cupid <http://www.holidayinsights.com/valentine/cupid.htm>



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<http://www.AccentonSkills.com/aelsbook.html>

News and Views

Let's Celebrate!

Feb 2 – Groundhog Day
 Feb 6 – Ash Wednesday, end of Mardi Gras
 Feb 7 – Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat)
 Feb 8—Nirvana Day
 Feb 12 - Sexual/Reproductive Health Awareness Day
 Feb 14 – St. Valentine's Day
 Feb 15—Canada Flag Day
 Feb 18—Heritage Day
 Feb 20 – Full Moon
 This is also Psychology Month,
 Nat'l Pet Dental Health Month

The 2007 List of Useless and Banished Words (as compiled at Lake Superior University)

These words and phrases have been banished because they have been overused, misused and are generally useless.

Gitmo	Ask your doctor
Combined celebrity names	Chipotle
Awesome	i-anything
Gone/went missing	Search
Pwn or pwned	Healthy food
Now playing in theatres	Boasts
We're pregnant	
Undocumented alien	
Armed robbery/drug deal gone bad	
Truthiness	

Cheap Air Travel Tricks (from an article by Al Kirk, Now Magazine)

With constantly rising costs of travel, there are few tricks that can save considerable money. Here are some innovative ones:

Sometimes direct flights cost you more. It is possible to buy a cheap flight to one country and then cheaper flights from there. E.g. a flight from Canada to England and then take a great bargain flight from there to Spain.

Check the costs of low-cost flights operating within Europe. Rather than setting up a series of cities with the same airline, fly to the mainland and then use local in-country carriers. Local airlines compete with excellent rail systems and therefore have to be highly competitive.

Fly at odd or off peak hours, (note: not off seasons or months) Even if you fly during peak times, you might want to be prepared for a stopover and book your flight many months in advance. To save money, your departure and arrival may be very late or early in the day but think of the reduced crowds and reduced costs.

Use caution when doing Internet searches. Companies can go out of business or just disappear.

Other advantages: meeting more local people instead of just tourists, several landings and takeoffs give you the chance to see more cities by air, you participate in activities most tourists miss.

Note: these ideas are good ways for young people to visit the world economically.

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Computer Top Tip

As computers get older and more filled, it takes longer and longer to boot up. Follow these steps to change the speed of the Startup. (My computer now boots up in about half the time! I had to do it twice to believe it.)

First click on the "Start" button then select the "Run" option. Type "Regedit" into the open space and hit enter. You will be in the Registry Editor window. Double-click on the yellow folders on the left side and follow the path below.

HKEY_CURRENT_USER \ Control Panel \ Desktop and finally double-click the "**MenuShowDelay**" document on the right side.

By default the value you see is "MenuShowDelay=400", but you can set the value between 0 to 400. Now change the value **MenuShowDelay = 0** to speed it up. Close the registry editor and restart your computer to allow the changes to go into effect. This is really amazing and does not affect anything else, as far as I can tell.

Tidbits of Trivia

- Every time you lick a stamp, you consume about 1/10 of a calorie.
- the Dutch are considered to be the tallest people with males averaging about 6'1".
- the Dutch rated the top, out of 21 countries, in providing physical and material well-being to children.
- the only nerves that reproduce in the human body are the olfactory nerves which regenerate

- every 30-40 days.
- about 40% of a hen's egg is yolk. They lay 1 egg per day in the mornings only.
- there were 13 honeymooning couples on the Titanic.
- Borneo is the 3rd largest island and is mostly dense tropical rain forest.
- during 1931-35, while workers built the Hoover Dam, they were always concerned with falling rocks. They in-

- vented the earliest versions of the hard hat by coating their cloth hats with coal tar to make them hard.
- the average person spends about 30 years being mad at a family member.
- a four-year-old child asks about 437 questions a day.
- 20% of men say their TV has taught them more about life than their parents have.
- it takes approx. 2.6 days for a person to feel relaxed on a vacation.

Consistency in Golf and Other Things in Life

(from an article in the Toronto Star)

Practicing a movement repetitively does not ensure a final total mastery. The reason is that the brain as well as the body are involved. Neither processes the information the same way each time.

Inconsistency in golf swings, bowling a ball, throwing a fastball will always be a part of life.

Experiments by Stanford U. researchers on rhesus monkeys showed the inconsistencies when they were taught to reach quickly for a red spot and slowly for a green one. Juice was the reward. The speed was always different for each effort.

It is suggested that this came about because predators never face exactly the same conditions when pursuing prey. The rewards go to those who improvise and are flexible in any situation.

(Note: A lesson we might all learn from this is to be more willing to go at different speeds; improvise and flex in what life gives you. Rigidity or attempts to do things repetitively in the same way can slow you down and may not get you what you want.)

Interesting Reading

Canadian Governor Generals's Literary Awards—finalists for children's literature

Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose: The Story of Painting by Hugh Brewster.

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis.

The Alchemist's Dream by John Wilson.

Kanada by Eva Wiseman.

Adult Finalists:

Soucouyant by David Charlandy **Helpless** by Barabara Gowdy

Divisadero by Michael Ondaatje **Lullabies for Little Criminals** by Heather O'Neill

The Assassin's Song by M.G. Vassanji

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Think about all the energy that goes first into growing the food, then processing and freezing it and then in an extravagant extra step we reheat it. Three stages, not two. Cut energy consumption by eating fresh food that still has the vital minerals and vitamins we need.

Increasingly Coarse Language

Much of public media provides regular doses of swearing and other coarse language. Do swear words really add that much to conversation? Certain words are greatly overused and are getting numbingly boring. One suggestion is that people swear because they don't have the vocabulary to express themselves clearly. Coarse language encourages people to be lazy speakers and also increases aggressive, emotional responses.

Loss of Touch as a Form of Communication

People are becoming increasingly hyper-sensitive to being touched. Teachers can't touch students. Some parents have stopped touching children!! Children are less able to differentiate between good and bad touch. In the process, everybody becomes touch starved. The scary thing is that as good touching is eliminated, all touching in general will eventually be perceived as sexual or inappropriate touching. Simple, loving, innocent touching becomes a memory of the way things were.

Acceptance of Loss of Privacy

People used to value their privacy. Now we not only allow, but almost demand surveillance cameras, security checks. Most people don't realize that crimes are committed by about 5% of the population. How many more invitations will be sent to governments to intrude into our lives and demand of us the taxes to pay to do it.

Loss of Common Sense in Solving Problems

Trust in personal judgment or "gut reaction" is disappearing. Manuals and procedural directives, laws, computer programs now supposedly make life easier by controlling much of our decision making. Let somebody else tell me if I'm doing something wrong. I need an expert to tell me if I'm doing or not doing things correctly. Sorry, I can't do anything; I'm just following orders. I will continue to do it unless I get caught. How sad.

Narcissism and Lack of Consideration for Others

Me, myself, and I seem to be the 3 most important people in the world. The road belongs to ME. Get out of the way because I'm here. Let others do it. Give money instead of getting involved personally. Violence and pain—the lowest form of communication—are increasing as method of choice to solve problems. When someone discovers the centre of the universe, there will be very many disappointed people because they are not in it.

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Disturbing Trends (by. O.S.)

Thinking about life and survival of the planet, there are a number of seemingly ordinary behaviours and trends making dramatic impacts on all of us, the environment, and the quality of life in general.

Frozen Foods

If you stop and think about it, grocery store freezers are full of leftovers! Why? All food has already been processed. You are reheating it like you would a leftover.

We welcome

creative contributions to this newsletter. Send us your articles or ideas, jokes, wise words, fun activities, letters, trivia.

E-Mail to:

GiftRap@DiscoverTeenergy.com

Back issues link is on the home page

Why People Don't Report Crimes

(from an interview on CBC Radio, Canada)

We often hear reports of crimes and people don't want to come forward if they witness them. Why don't people get involved? As it stands, criminals get even more emboldened by this behaviour.

Reasons for silence:

- Fear. "Snitches get stitches"
- Lack of trust in police protecting them
- Children don't want to freak out parents
- Belief in loss of status in the neighborhood
- People don't want to be called snitches
- Lack of respect for the justice system that doesn't give tough sentences
- The greater the distrust of the system, the less likely to report
- Innocent victims will get sympathy but gang members don't so it is ok to kill them
- If people in crime know each other they are often afraid to say something
- People don't know the person so they think it is none of their business
- Fear of a negative impact on one's life
- Many people would testify but witness protection programs changes life completely i.e. loss of friends, job, etc.
- Risk of losing one's existing way of life
- Loopholes and criminals get off or a reduced sentence while the witness has been greatly inconvenienced i.e. loss of time at job and regular life

How to turn it around:

- Police need to reach out more and build trust
- More people need to show they care
- A more individual approach would help overcome general cynicism around reporting

Falconer Report on Violence in Toronto Schools

http://www.tdsb.on.ca/_site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=9998&menuid=10258&pageid=9021

Educators of the Gifted Organization (EdGO)

Our mandate:

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Jokes of the Month

I went to the psychiatrist, and he says "You're crazy " I tell him I want a second opinion. He says, 'Okay, you're ugly too!" (Rodney Dangerfield)

A guy asks a lawyer what his fee is. "I charge \$50 for three questions," the lawyer says. "That's awfully steep, isn't it?" the guy asks. "Yes," the lawyer replies, "Now what's your final question?"

I have a large seashell collection, which I keep scattered on beaches all over the world (Steven Wright)

A guy is sitting at home when he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door and sees a snail on the porch. He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can. Three years later, there's a knock on the door. He opens it and sees the same snail. The snail says 'Hey, what was that all about?'

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What Will They Invent Next?

Water—Powered Car

Daniel Dingel of the Philippines invented a car that runs on water. Through hydrolysis using a battery, the water is turned into oxygen and hydrogen and this goes into the engine to ignite and create power. One liter of water will provide power for about an hour. The car has been tested for four years and continues to run well. Major auto manufacturers have seen it but nobody wants to upset the economies of the world that such a vehicle could cause.

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=5861531323893686460>

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Wise Words of Wisdom

"Love at first sight is easy to understand; it is when two people have been looking at each other for a lifetime that it becomes a miracle." - Sam Levenson

"Telling someone you love him or her is like having a bath; it doesn't last and you have to do it every day." - Betty Jane Wylie

"Love is like a violin. The music may stop now and then, but the strings remain forever." - June Masters Backer

"A good education should leave much to be desired." - Alan Gregg

"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance." - Derek Bok

"Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know." - Daniel J. Boorstin

Don't compare yourself with anyone in this world. If you do so, you are insulting yourself-Allen Strike

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