

Killing More Than Just the Cat

In the modern world scientists are more or less free to experiment however they see fit if it is in the name of knowledge. Why curb your curiosity? Curiosity is one of the great motivators for acquiring knowledge and acquiring knowledge is always good, isn't it?

In the movie *The Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, Will Rodman is scientist who has been trying to develop a cure for Alzheimer's disease (good) by testing a genetically engineered [retrovirus](#) on chimpanzees (iffy). The virus mutates and gives the chimpanzees a human level of intelligence, the consequences of which are deadly (bad). More than just the cat dies due to his curiosity.

Traditionally, curiosity has been viewed more as a vice than a virtue. Eve was curious. She sought to acquire knowledge of good and evil when she should have exercised obedience.

Unfettered curiosity, sometimes defended as academic freedom, can be dangerous.



What is necessary to keep curiosity in check? Wisdom. Wisdom tells us that the pursuit of knowledge can be rooted in pride. Wisdom tells us that science can lead us into things that are, not just dangerous, but deadly. Wisdom tells us that curiosity can kill more than cats.

It helpful to remember that wisdom is a virtue but knowledge and curiosity aren't.

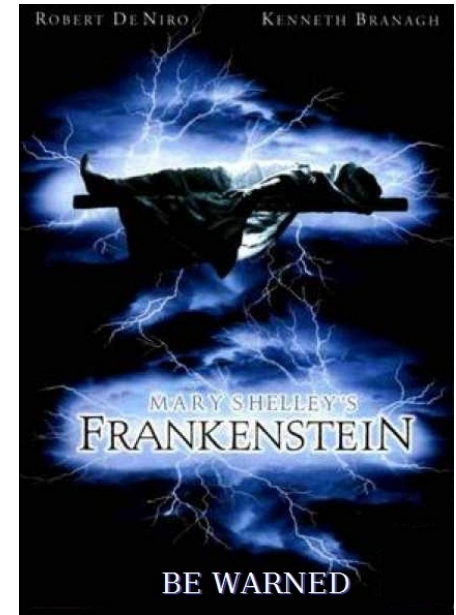
Curious, Are We?

Youth are curious. It is often one of the motivators behind the initial use of drugs and involvement in immoral sexual activity. "I just wanted to know." In Greek mythology it was the young Pandora who opened a box that released all the evils of mankind. She opened it out of simple curiosity.

Youth need to know the danger of curiosity. They need to know when their curiosity will be helpful and when it won't. Curiosity about evil or potentially evil things takes a maturity of judgment that must be intentionally cultivated.

Mary Shelley's Dr. Frankenstein produced a monster because he was curious about the secret of life. Her book opens with Dr. Frankenstein looking back on his misery and warning his audience, "You seek for knowledge... as I once did; and I ardently hope that the gratification of your wishes may not be a serpent to sting you, as mine has been."

Curiosity also has the power to hold a person captive in something, even when they know it is



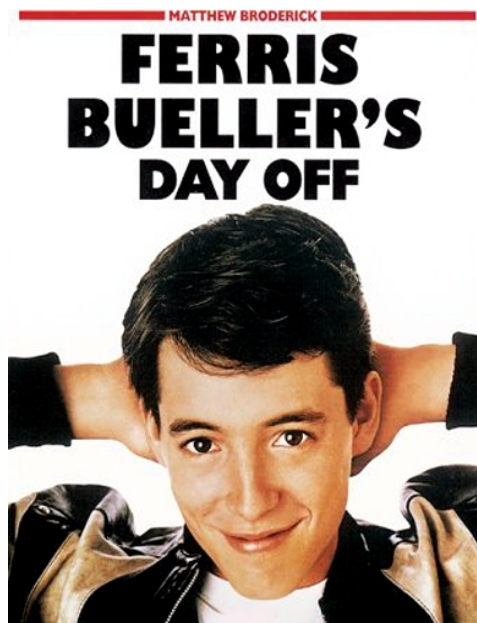
wrong. As the monster eventually said to Dr. Frankenstein, "You are my creator, but I am your master. Obey!" Dr. Frankenstein would not kill his monster although the monster was killing his family.

Genesis, *The Planet of the Apes*, *Pandora's Box* and *Frankenstein* are four good ways to explain to youth the problem of curiosity. Help them understand how curiosity appeals to the flesh, is promoted by the world, and used by Satan. If you do, they might just walk away from some curious temptations.

Go to College Month Is Here

Incoming college freshmen may not seem to know much. It could be because...

- For them, Czechoslovakia has never existed. Audrey Hepburn has always been dead and there has always been chicken soup for the soul.
- Gas could have still cost just \$1/gallon the day they were born, and Windows NT3.1 was the hottest new technology!
- They have never seen a Sear's catalogue.
- Ferris Bueller is old enough to be their dad.



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The College Gender Blender

Freshman students at Wesleyan University in Connecticut have the option of living in a new *gender-blind* facility reserved for students who don't want to be categorized as one gender or another. The students living in the facility will be assigned a roommate with gender not being a factor.

Wesleyan is one of over 60 universities in the US offering shared bedrooms based on gender-blind selection. Typically, the justification given is that the rooms serve those who are unsure about their gender identity.

At some schools, like Harvard, such housing is only open to transgender students – meaning anyone who does not want to be assigned a gender for whatever reason. At some universities, like Michigan, it is treated on a case-by-case basis. At others, like George Washington University, *gender-blind* housing is open to everyone.

Do You Know Your Tattoos?

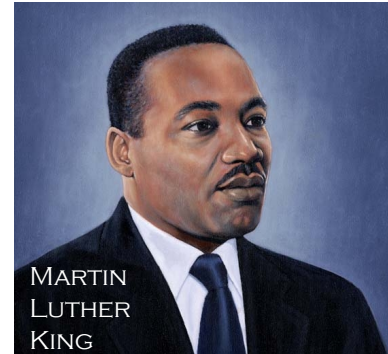


λ = Gay

☿ = Transgendered

No More Dresses

Morehouse, a small, *all-male*, historically African-American college in Atlanta, Georgia, has banned students wearing women's clothes, makeup, high



heels and purses as part of a new crackdown on "inappropriate attire." The cross-dressing ban has brought national attention to the small college.

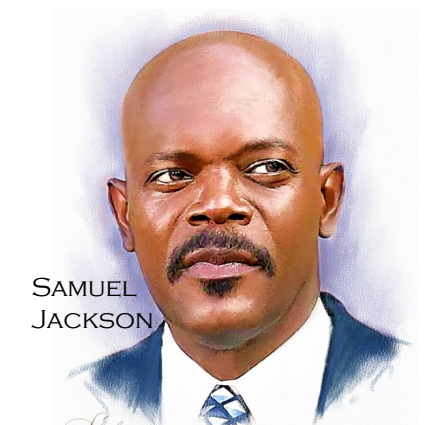
The policy also bans wearing sagging pants and do-rags, hats in buildings, pajamas in public, sunglasses in class and walking barefoot on campus.

Vice President for Student Services, Dr. William Bynum, said, "We are talking about five students who are living a gay lifestyle that is leading them to dress a way we do not expect in Morehouse men."

Bynum discussed the new dress-wearing ban with the

campus gay organization before it was passed. "We talked about it and then they took a vote," he said. "Of the 27 people in the room, only three were against it."

Bynum said the policy comes from the vision of the college president, who wants the institution to create leaders like notable graduates Martin Luther King Jr and actor Samuel Jackson. He added, "The policy



is just saying you have to show respect in how you dress and there are things just not acceptable at Morehouse. We have a legacy that we are trying to uphold."

Those breaking the policy will not be allowed to go to class. Chronic offenders could be suspended from the college.

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