

# Education

## EDUCATION and FUN IN THINK-ETS!

### Think-a-Lot Toy's "Think-ets" Is the Fun Intelligent Choice



Boulder, CO (October 30, 2008) – Let's face it. We'll all be looking for ways to save money this holiday season, but nobody really wants to sacrifice value in the process – making Think-ets your perfect solution. For only \$9.99, kids from 8 to 108 can stimulate their imaginations, and have some serious fun, with a new game that's portable AND affordable.

On top of that, it's

simple. Think-ets players start off with a bag of 15 tiny treasures from around the world (all the little treasures in a bag will be different). The challenge is to make up stories, using the trinkets that are put into play. Let's say one player puts out a dragon, a little girl, a pair of tin snips, a doughnut and a bottle of milk – can you conjure up a quick story using the five pieces?

Of course you can, but there are 10 other pieces in the bag, or more if you're playing with extra bags of Think-ets. So, the saga might go in any number of directions by the time the first game is over, and the next games will produce brand new stories as well. The only limits are the imaginations of the players.

No batteries. No computers. Cleanup is a

breeze, and we've even taken social responsibility into account. Think-ets are primarily made in the U.S.A., using quality materials and no lead-based paints. Also, Think-ets is assembled by the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center in Denver, Colorado, who employ people with a wide variety of disabilities in an effort to make all our members of society feel productive and useful—and those who assemble Think-ets just love their job.

Think-ets has won kudos and awards from all over the country: iParenting Media Award Winner for 2008, Preferred Choice from Creative Child Magazine, Editor's Choice Award and Seal of Approval from The Toy Man, top ratings from AblePlay (the toy rating system and website that promotes games and toys for children with special needs), and a Worthy of Attention award from Dr. Toy.

Obviously, we like our game – but so do other folks, and here are a few testimonials from Think-ets fans.

\* "Think-ets is a great game that inspires imagination and can lead to many hours of fun by your self or with friends and family. It is a great game to take in your purse or leave in your car for a time filler at restaurants."

\* "Oh my! We eat out a lot, and with three kids this is a lifesaver. We use this product while we are waiting for our orders. It's the perfect way to pass the time. It's easy to carry/store. It's quick to set up. It's quick to clean up. It engages every member of the family and encourages family interaction, creativity and fun!"

\* "It's a toy which allows children to be really creative. We liked the fact it allowed our daughter to do whatever she wanted with it and helped her with opening her imagi-

nation. It's also very portable as well, allowing it to be played nearly anywhere.

About Think-a-Lot Toys

Think-a-lot Toys was founded in 2005 by Randy Compton and Julie Lake, two friends who came up with the idea for Think-ets after seeing how much Randy's daughter Meryl loved playing the game "What's Missing?" using her dollhouse miniatures. Completely new to the toy industry but not new to innovation and challenge, they launched the product formally in the fall of 2007 to members of the American Specialty Toy Retailers Association and sold a thousand. At the International Toy Fair in New York in February 2008, Think-ets was listed as the top game/toy for the entire show by the toy reviewer at About.com. By then, Think-ets had won five awards.

The sales of Think-ets

have increased exponentially and the game is steadily spreading around the country—in toy stores, gift shops, general stores, drug stores, and even hardware stores. They have already sold five times what they sold last year.

The mission of Think-a-lot Toys is to create games, products and accessories designed to foster human connectedness and encourage imaginative thinking. Their continued goal is to create a host of products and accessories from around the world—games that provide fun and joy for all who come into contact with them.

Think-ets are available at stores nationwide and have a suggested retail price of \$9.99. They are recommended for anyone between the ages of 8 and 108. For more information call Think-a-Lot Toys at 303-449-2737 or visit their website at [www.Think-a-lot.com](http://www.Think-a-lot.com).

## Portrait of civil rights leader to be unveiled Nov. 13 at Vanderbilt

The Rev. James Lawson to be honored on 50th anniversary of arrival



Rev. James Lawson

A portrait of civil rights leader and Vanderbilt University professor the Rev. James Lawson will be unveiled Nov. 13 at Vanderbilt.

The portrait by Simmie Knox, a prominent Washington, D.C., artist who painted the official White House portrait of President Bill Clinton, will be unveiled during a private event at 6 p.m. Nov. 13 in Benton Chapel on the Vanderbilt campus.

"The tale of the Rev. Lawson's relationship with Van-

derbilt has been an epic," said Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos. "This beautiful portrait marks one of the high notes of that relationship. It's our fervent hope that the Rev. Lawson will continue to be a resource for our students for years to come."

The fall 2008 semester marked the 50th anniversary of Lawson's arrival at Vanderbilt. He returned in 2006 as a Distinguished University Professor, 46 years after being expelled as a student in

1960 because of his work helping to desegregate lunch counters in downtown Nashville. After a national press uproar and threats of mass faculty resignations, a compromise allowed Lawson to complete his graduate studies at Vanderbilt. He opted instead to complete his degree at Boston University.

Dubbed by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as "the leading nonviolence theorist in the world," Lawson studied the Gandhian movement in India

before becoming a leader in the civil rights movement. He also had a long career as a United Methodist minister.

Knox, formerly an abstract artist, has specialized in portraiture since 1981. He has been commissioned to paint the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., writer Alex Haley, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, comedian Bill Cosby, boxer Muhammad Ali and many others. He will not attend the unveiling.

## African-American Students Find Ways To Fund College



(NAPSM)—There are more than 2 million African-American college students in the country, according to recent data from the U.S. Census—and many of those students have found smart ways to fund their education.

In fact, experts say students can likely find financial aid to pay for the college of their choice, as long as they know where to look and what steps to take.

"Many times people are afraid of the price, but the college's cost doesn't necessarily mean that is what a family is going to pay. Most don't understand that financial aid can give them access to any university they choose," says J. Leon Washington, dean of admissions

and financial aid at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa.

According to Washington, the best strategy for applying for financial aid is to become familiar with available resources and the necessary steps to apply for aid. To help smooth the process for students and their families, Washington offers the following advice:

- Complete the needed forms. Most colleges and universities require you to complete some basic forms to be considered for aid, including the College Scholarship Service Financial Aid PROFILE application, as well as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. In addition, federal tax returns are required, and some families may need to supply further paperwork.

- Highlight special circumstances. Colleges and universities take seriously the responsibility of evaluating a family's financial circumstances and therefore recognize that a wide range of factors can affect a family's ability to pay. Be sure to be thorough and provide as much detail as possible.

- Be aware of deadlines. Deadlines for financial aid are critically

important, and missing them could make you ineligible for aid. Financial aid deadlines are separate from your college application deadlines and may be much earlier.

- Understanding need. Some universities encourage all applicants to file for financial aid, regardless of financial circumstances. If you don't apply, you may miss out on a range of opportunities to fund your education through loans, grants or even scholarships. There's a variety of tools available online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org), [www.salliemae.com](http://www.salliemae.com) and [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

- Consider applying for private scholarships. There are many private scholarships that are determined by various factors such as need, academics, career goals, etc. Free information is available at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), [www.college.net](http://www.college.net), [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.gocollege.com](http://www.gocollege.com).

For additional information, visit [www.lehigh.edu/assistance](http://www.lehigh.edu/assistance).

An increasing number of African-American students have used financial aid to help pay for college.

### Vanderbilt University names new director of global education office

Vanderbilt University has named Ara Pachmayer director of its Global Education Office (GEO), which provides international learning and global engagement experiences for students.

GEO offers enriching and unique study abroad programs for students, a variety of outreach activities for the university and is the home of the Vanderbilt Initiative for Scholarship and Global Engagement (VISAGE) – a yearlong learning program that combines the university's commitment to international study with civic engagement. VISAGE is a rigorous service-learning program designed to develop global civic leaders whose scholarship and civic participation help enrich local and global communities.

Prior to joining Vanderbilt, Pachmayer was associate director of the Office of Study Abroad at Arizona State University where she worked

in international education for 10 years. Pachmayer worked closely with faculty and administrators developing and managing study abroad programs and other opportunities for students.

Studying abroad in France during high school and in Italy during college as well as extensive travel while growing up led to Pachmayer's career in international education. She has traveled throughout North and South America, Europe, New Zealand, Australia and parts of Asia.

Pachmayer holds a bachelor's degree in political economics and international business from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's degree in recreation management and tourism from Arizona State University.

For more information about global education at Vanderbilt, visit <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/geo/>.