

Re: My College Crisis

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At 24 Oct 2004 08:38:10 -0700, f00000000000bar@netscape.net (f00000000000bar) wrote:

>drstrange99@yahoo.com (Tron99) wrote in message news:<5751a31e.0410231246.

>4e333f65@posting.google.com>...

>*snip*

>> Most students are not mathematically mature enough to excel in school.
>> This is not a problem of competition but one where some students have
>> been exposed to and/or thought about math sorts of problems more than
>> others. My suggestion is that to fully take advantage of the college
>> environment that the person take off from school for a few years,
>> living at his parent's house, working on and studying about math sorts
>> of problems. There simply is not enough time to go into depth in math
>> problems if he is not highly mathematically mature BEFORE he goes to
>> college. The ones who are mathematically mature, the subject level is
>> very low level, and they don't spend much time on it. Rather, they
>> spend their time researching math.

>

>Interesting... do you know any one who has tried this?

>

>Some people obtain such backgrounds: (1) a lot of math exposure during
>high school beyond their regular courses (e.g. self-learning, math
>competitions, college courses), and/or (2) attendance at a
>math/science high school where they are in this kind of environment
>for four years.

>

>It's kind of like the difference between a virtuoso performer deciding
>to study music at the college level and someone who is still at a
>beginning/intermediate level who is expecting college to bring them up
>to the virtuoso level. The former would likely get a lot more out of
>college.

>

>Of course, how do you explain for pure talent? Surely there are
>talented youngsters without a particularly strong exposure to math who
>develop an interest in the subject *during college* and decide to
>major in it. Lots of math majors used to be EE or CS majors, but
>others come from just about any type of background. Many of these
>people do quite well upon choosing math as a major, despite having a
>supposed lack of mathematical maturity.

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It's possible that such students are engaged in pursuits that a mathematician might recognize as mathematical, even though the students aren't studying math formally. Or perhaps the students had a good basis in the fundamentals of math at an early age. Or even that they are able to thrive in the college/university environment, not being held back by poor teachers, distractions to learning, etc.

--gregbo
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