

Re: Why being Real Smart SUCKS

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From: DavidBowman (dt041054_at_yahoo.com)

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> > *After college, there IS nothing worthwhile.*

> *What about your career?*

What career?

When you've managed 920 PCs, built and programmed the neutron-embrittlement monitor for a commercial reactor, represented your company at a compiler conference, wrote for PC Magazine and PC World, wrote the custom software Judge Jackson used in the Microsoft case, spent two months programming a gamma-ray spectrometer, wrote a skyshine analysis utility for variable shield geometries, and then quit for no other reason than to see what it's like working in a piss computer store so you could publish an article about it called "Try A Little Vendor-Ness", then it doesn't MATTER that your award-winning work has universally been acclaimed as excellent — particularly if you look like a biker, are a biker, and answer the question "what do you want to be doing in five years" with guffaws and laughter.

You see Creighton, they're looking for the guy in a suit who learned the Java language with great difficulty from a place he found on a pack of matches that said "Earn BIG MONEY in computers!" who hates it, and only does it so he can rise to middle management, not the guy in sneakers who owns one dress shirt, nine black T-shirts, no other shirts, and who learned Java from a pirated IBM websphere CD in the morning and wrote a proxy server in the evening.

Stupid businessmen — Republicans all — interpret doing many TYPES of things as "not knowing what you want to do", and will take someone who's Microsoft Certified over someone who could teach it, every single time.

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See, hiring managers are looking for people like themselves, and so they want sizzle, not steak; and talk, not action. They interpret "better" as "unusual", "eclectic" as "eccentric", "overwhelmingly capable" as "overqualified", and "appearance" as "reality".

Yeah, my first posting was a joke!

I don't REALLY think that being smart sucks; what sucks is that everything is run BY stupid people FOR stupid people.

Sure, maybe I should have kept looking after a month or two, even though Bush fucked up the economy and tech unemployment in this area is twice the general rate, but I decided to say "the hell with it" early, and now divide my time between earning a little money doing creative writing, and doing the only thing I really want to do: learn.

I do a good bit of it at sci.relativity, for which I thank you very much.

And how was your day?

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