The Filter Press

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The "Arkansas Traveler" Tells the Inside Story of Interviewing

Bob Brodkey Philosophies
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Bob Scott (Editor Emeritus)

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Since this may be the last issue of "The Filter Press" this
quarter, congratulations are hereby extended to those students who
have survived and are graduating, or just plain leaving, whichever the
case may be. Remember men, once a Jewel, always a Jewel!

Congratulations are also extended to the Professors who have
tolerated the students through this and past years, as well as to the
students who have tolerated the Professors in struggling for academic
achievement.

Incidentally, it has been disclosed, and accepted as factual,
that a certain graduate student, affectionately known as "lover" to the
opposite gender of the species on campus, has been smashing social
precedent by having more coffee dates than his advisor - an astronomical
number, as one observer remarked.

It is also noted that Dr. Brodkey seems vulnerable to philo-
sophical attack on many fronts should his intellectual digression slip
out of the confines of the non-belligerent circle of engineers. Perhaps
even in this circle challenges may arise. Any challengers? See
R. Brodkey, Room 321B, Chemical Engineering.

SUBJECT TO FREQUENT FLUCTUATION AND HIERARCHICALLY DIRECTED PURGES.
All ye undergrads who will seek employment someday read Bob Heaston's inside poop on interviewing and draw your own conclusions. This is certainly enlightening reading, for oddly enough, the Arkansas Traveler has had more interviews than the number of firms in existence—a remarkable feat.

Support ye all the AICHE or the boogie man of science will take possession of your slide rules and all your calculations henceforth will be diabolically distorted! Go ye to the picnic! Attend ye all the meetings! Vote ye! Participate ye! Contribute ye!

UNFORTUNATELY TRUE TALES OF THE INTERVIEW TRAIL

by

Robert J. Heaston

Tale No. 1 - Interviews Require Giving the Right Answers

"Are you interested in research or development?"
"Based upon your company definition, I'm interested in research."
"Too bad, we were looking for people for our Development Department. Oh, say, do you know Dr. John Smith of Such-and-Such Company?"
"Yes."
"What do you think of him?"
"Well, since I did have quite a bit of contact with him on my job with the Government, I could say this for him ............. All in all, he is not known to be the most capable administrator."
"He's my brother-in-law. Do you have any more questions?"

Tale No. 2 - Interviews Require Making Travel Arrangements

"Do you want our receptionist to confirm your flight reservations for you? We'll pick up your tickets here later."
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"Here are your tickets, Mr. Heaston. You are confirmed: San Diego, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Chicago."
"Who are you interviewing in Las Vegas, Mr. Heaston?"

Tale No. 3 - Interviewing is Better with the Opinions of Employees

"Dr. Smith, I have studied your company brochures, talked to some of your people, and have learned quite a bit about your operations and where I might fit. I like what I have seen and heard. It would be interesting to add to this information if I could hear some of your reasons why you went to work for this company."
"I don't like working for this company, but .........!"
Tale No. 4 - Lunch is a Relaxing Break During Interviewing

"Mr. Heaston, this is a fine eating place and offers an excellent menu. By the way, how do you think quantum statistical mechanics enter into the theoretical calculation of the diffusivity coefficients for partially ionized plasmas?" quietly asked a Dr. Smith on my left.

"Your menu please. Would you like to order?" asked the waitress before I could answer Dr. Smith.

"Your coffee, now?"

"Yes, thank you."

"What do you think caused cancellation of the Air Force high energy fuel program, Mr. Heaston?" interjected Dr. Jones on my right.

"Mr. Heaston, do you always put salt in your coffee," quizzed Dr. Smith.

"Oh-h-h! Uh-bhhh, it will kill the bad taste of the worst coffee! (The coffee didn't taste bad either.)"

Tale No. 5 - Interviewing Has Some of Its Finer Moments

"If you accept a job with us, you will be assigned to work on a research project in Trona."

Tale No. 6 - Interviewing Requires a Person to be Subtle

"What are you doing by yourself in the hallway? I left you in my office. This hallway is to be used by escorted visitors only."

"Dr. Smith, it was like this. You left me alone in your office. There were two secret and one confidential classified papers on your desk. Also, your top secret safe was open. I do not have a clearance any more and I was indoctrinated at one time while working for the Government that it was just as much a violation for me to be in your office under those circumstances as for you to leave the material unattended. That was, if you'll excuse me for saying so, three different security violations on your part."

"Who are you supposed to see next on your interview schedule, Mr. Heaston?"

-----------------------------Later in the day with the personnel department-----------------------------

"Mr. Heaston, I see by the comments on our interview evaluation questionnaire from Dr. Smith, 'Almost too d___ security conscious.' What does he mean by that?"

Tale No. 7 - Interviewing Means a Rigorous Time Schedule

"Good Morning!"

"Good morning. My name is Heaston. I was requested to contact Dr. Smith about an interview this morning for technical employment."

"Oh! How did you get to our plant this morning. Eight inches of snow fell during the night and it's still coming down."

"I drove in yesterday 400 miles from Ohio State in Columbus, Ohio and arrived before it started to snow. I'm staying in the motel across the street."
"I'm sorry, Dr. Smith lives on the other side of town and called in to say he can't be here. Let's see, you also were supposed to see Dr. Jones, but his wife had an operation yesterday. Maybe you can talk to Dr. Brown. Can't do that though, he was weathered in at Chicago. Mr. Green can take care of you. He's been with the company only three months, but should be able to help you. Would you please wait until I contact Mr. Green."

"Thank you."

"Mr. Heaston, Mr. Green will be busy for about thirty minutes. Please have a seat and I will call you when he's available."

Tale No. 6 - Interviewing Develops Insight

"Dr. Dryden, I have a problem."
"Yes."
"I've received twelve negative replies on my interviews."
"That's not too bad. How many interviews have you had?"
"Twelve."
THE COMPLEAT ENGINEER

Reason is the faculty by which man extends his knowledge into the unknown. Reason, and imagination, are common to all disciplines, whether in arts, sciences, or engineering. The engineer who wishes to accomplish something worthwhile cannot, in fairness to his own potential, restrict himself to his field. More important than the facts involved in any discipline are the paths to these facts - the various reasoning and imaginative processes necessary for their establishment.

Thus, it is discouraging to see that the University Education Requirements are often regarded as arbitrarily imposed, unnecessary, time-wasting, delay-actions. Provided they are taken in the spirit of fairness to one's personal development, they can be extremely profitable. In these "peripheral" studies, one can see reason and imagination, used in different ways, to achieve different ends. Certainly, rationality and imagination cannot be taught as "subjects", but can be seen, and appreciated, even in such things as zoology, poetry, and anthropology.

Man is incapable of sustaining reasoning; the mind tires, and reason is gone. Like any machine, the mind must be rested; there is indeed value in relaxation. This sometimes may be effected simply by diverting the mind to an altogether different subject.

When the pressure of school is over, one begins to appreciate the value of outside interests, not only for their instructive content, but for the relaxation afforded by them. The "whole man", the "compleat engineer", is a rational, imaginative person to whom all knowledge is valuable.

By

Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Brodkey