

"When I get out... Big Bucks..."

Stepping inside the grey flannel MBA suit

This article and the "Valued Appraisals" are slightly abridged from the form in which they appeared in the third issue of Business York, the newsletter of the faculty of administrative studies.

By LINDA LAUFER

To paraphrase Gertrude Stein on her deathbed: "Tell me, what is the answer?" Silence. "In that case, what is the question?"

Input: One slightly befuddled arts

graduate who (after having carefully considered job options available) is now bordering on desperation and is willing to try anything. ("It's gotta be better than selling life insurance.")

Output: One human form who, having grown an appendage strongly resembling a charcoal grey Samsonite attache case (with appropriate monogram), is now designed to reorganize the world into an efficient, comprehensive money maker.

Question: Have you found yourself

sweating over an interview for a job that you would have laughed at two years ago?

And where were you four years ago? A lot of us are from arts background; most arts programmes centre around the Dilemma of Western Man in the Twentieth Century. The prime perpetrator of the Dilemma is the Establishment, and a major component of the Establishment is Big Business.

Through some mysterious metamorphosis, the children of the Liberal Enlightenment become

Soldiers of Establishment.

Truism: The MBA programme takes up 96 per cent of all waking time. During this period we are totally immersed in the whys and wherefors of modern business.

We become so concerned with how we are doing, we forget why we are doing it; the mechanics usurp the macrocosm. Before you can say 'grey flannel suit', you're in one.

Wait a minute. Is this what we really want?

The Song of the MBA: "When I get out... Big Bucks... When I get out... Big Bucks..."

That's what got us to enlist in the first place, and that's what keeps us going. Those Big Bucks will make it all worthwhile.

Myth: When we get out, we'll have more free time. What we're being trained for — Jobs of Responsibility — have their costs. And those costs are measured in units of spare time.

Valued business appraisals

TERMS

1. Average
2. Exceptionally well qualified
3. Active socially
4. Wife active socially
5. Character and integrity beyond reproach
6. Zealous attitude
7. Unlimited potential
8. Quick thinking
9. Exceptional ability
10. Takes pride in his work
11. Takes advantage of every opportunity to progress
12. Forceful and aggressive
13. Indifferent to instruction
14. Stern disciplinarian
15. Approaches difficult problems with enthusiasm
16. A keen analyst
17. Often spends extra hours on the job
18. Conscientious and careful
19. Meticulous in attention to detail
20. Demonstrates qualities of leadership
21. Judgment is usually sound
22. Maintains a professional attitude
23. A keen sense of humour
24. Strong adherence to principles
25. Slightly below average

DEFINITIONS

- Not too bright
- Has committed no major blunders to date
- Drinks heavily
- She drinks too
- Still one step ahead of the law
- Opinionated
- Will retire as a manager
- Offers plausible excuses for errors
- Always enters the right washroom
- Conceited
- Buys drinks for the boss
- Argumentative
- Knows more than his seniors
- A bastard
- Finds someone else to do the job
- Thoroughly confused
- Miserable home life
- Scared
- A nit-picker
- Has a loud voice
- Lucky
- A snob
- Has vast repertoire of dirty jokes
- Stubborn
- Stupid

Scouts, cubs, beavers may colonize Downsview

The Scouts are blazing a trail into Downsview.

Donald McLean, director of development for the Boy Scouts of Canada in greater Toronto, told Excalibur last week that a recruitment drive is underway for leaders for scout troops, cub packs and (wait for it) beaver colonies — the youngest boys.

"There are 12 groups in Downsview," said McLean, "but we don't think we're reaching all the boys we can."

"Our objective is to find 60 adult leaders, men and women, to take on the job of leadership. Then, in the fall, we can run a number of recruiting campaigns in several schools, to recruit boys."

The scouts need two to four

leaders per section; activity leaders must be 16 or 17 years old, assistant section leaders from 18 to 21 years, and section leaders over 21.

The jobs are strictly volunteer. "The section groups meet one night a week, in churches, schools, or firehalls," said McLean.

"There may be Saturday outings as well. It calls for a certain amount of responsibility on the part of the leader not to let the kids down."

John Pelly, a businessman active in scouting, said one reason for stressing the Downsview area for scouting is its high delinquency rate in Toronto, and its dearth of youth facilities.

Anyone interested in becoming a troop leader or helper can call Don McLean or Dan Kennedy at 925-3425.

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