
Subject: Re: Expecting Phone Call from Oprah
Posted by [Joseph B. Gorman](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2001 22:50:22 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article <MPG.162d13b126369e769896f9@news.frii.com>,
david@dfanning.com wrote:

[snip]

> I haven't been silent, I've just been biting
> my tongue. I think this is just about exactly
> what you can expect when large corporations
> start to make decisions. There is no question
> it is a good business decision, if you are
> considering just the ins and outs of money.
> There are, quite frankly, not very many Mac
> users. And I don't even think Apple believes
> the Mac is going to be a big scientific computing
> platform.
>
> When things are flush, it is no problem doing
> fringe projects. But things are not flush at
> Kodak, not by a long shot. I wouldn't expect
> more platforms to bite the dust, but I do
> expect more products to fall into disfavor.
> Who is using River Tools anyway?
>
> Anyway, I think this is probably a sad day
> for Dave, Ali, and the other good guys at
> RSI, for whom money was never the most
> important thing. Their number one goal--
> always--was producing quality software
> for scientists. I'm glad I'm not there
> anymore.
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> P.S. Let's just say I have the same feeling
> in the pit of my stomach as I did when Office
> Depot came into town and put all those
> Stationary stores out of business. :-(

I agree that this is a sad day, and that the good guys probably
think thaty this, not too put too fine a point on it, sucks. I'm almost
sad I have no Kodak stock to sell.

There are plenty of Mac users of IDL. Undoubtedly not as many as Windoze users, or Solaris users, but more than enough, at some fraction of \$5K a pop, to make up the 2 man-year's of thierry Fauconaux's time.

Sorry, David, but this is a bineheaded business decision, since the attraction of IDL in the sicentific community is at least as much its cross-platform portability as its versatility for the individual user. If I'm developing applications and software trees to deploy across a broad (if not enormous) user base, why would I even bother to look at aq product that's as self-restricted as IDL now is?

By the way, I have offered to buy the OS X IDL code base from Kodak. Anybody know where Thierry is now?

Joe Gurman
