
Subject: Re: My Last Post Here

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 19 Apr 2005 13:22:55 GMT

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Haje Korth writes:

> I am still in denial. You *MUST* be joking, right? Has IDL made you that
> desperate that you drop it altogether? (I hope you will not use it for Video
> Editing, I heard there are cheaper packages out for that without the need of
> having to program first. :-)))

Well, I was *mostly* joking (although not about the unisex bathrooms). But, like all good jokes, there has to be a certain amount of truth there somewhere or there is no hope of it being funny.

But the fact that so many people have taken it seriously has had a profound effect on me: I'm now taking it seriously myself!

There was a time when all I ever wanted to do was work with IDL. I loved it. I loved talking about it. I loved answering questions about it. I loved writing programs with it. I had no problems sitting in front of a computer 12-14 hours a day.

I still sit in front of a computer a lot, but I've realized more and more there are other things I want to do with my life. I've been learning to garden. I'm taking yoga classes. I've given up playing tennis as often as I used to. I've even hired a "change coach" to help me clarify what is most important to me and to develop strategies for creating a life that is even more congruent with who I want to be as a person and what my values are.

Then, when you go hang out at college with a bunch of young people, you just get totally transfixed by how many interesting things there are to do in this life, and with how much potential there is to--I don't know--show up in the world! It is exciting. I was overwhelmed. It went to my head. I probably said some things I shouldn't have said.

But after I said them, I think I realized there was more truth there then I originally intended. :-)

So am I really leaving? Yes and no. I'll be around a bit. I still have to make a living, after all. And tuition is

a stern taskmaster. But I'm going back to Germany for a couple of months to work with Karsten and his friends at the GSF on some active contouring projects we have in mind. I hope to carve out some more time to write. I was surprised by how much I enjoyed that last time, and by how much I discovered about myself and my family by doing it.

It may be, in the end, that I fall in love with IDL all over again. It's happened several times with my wife, so there is no reason to think it couldn't happen with IDL, too. But for the time being I am taking a break, intentionally choosing to be less active here and maybe more active in other areas. (I actually would like to teach some IDL courses or seminars while I am in Europe.)

So, even though I didn't *really* mean that was my last post (I'm desperate to get to 10,000, after all!), I think--for a while--I will be posting less and seeing if I enjoy it more.

This has been, for a long time, the best newsgroup in the world. You can't even imagine how much I will miss it. You really are, all of you, the most supportive and friendly group of programmers I have ever been privileged to know. It has been a great deal of fun. I've learned more from you than you will ever know. Thank you. And I hope to see you all again.

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say Joseph Campbell's Myths to Live By may not have been the best book to take on the plane last week if a safe life is what you were after. :-)

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>