
Subject: Re: Job Offer: Dept. of Planetary Sciences, Univ. of Arizona
Posted by [lrn](#) on Wed, 31 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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Ken Knighton (knighton@gav.gat.com) wrote:

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: ~~~~~
: You must work in the bay area. The figure you give is no doubt greater
: than the salaries made by the Ph.D. researchers in that department.
: These researchers are used to paying \$12,000/year to highly capable grad
: students to do the same thing. Also, most researchers have written
: 500-1000 line tangled webs of code that they believe are computer
: programs, and so they view programming as something that is inherently
: easy, requires merely above average intelligence, and is mostly just
: grunt work like writing a paper or preparing a presentation. Realizing
: that the researchers control the funds and that they are underpaid for
: the amount of education and hard work that they have invested, it is
: easy to understand that they would resent paying market wages to someone
: doing a task that they perceive as easy.

The whole tone of this article is out of place in this newsgroup. I see no reason to pit ``researchers" (by which I assume you mean scientists) against programmers (computer scientists or whoever makes a ``market wage"). I have written many thousands of lines of (what you would probably call ``tangled") code, mostly in PV-WAVE, in the course of doing a PhD in physics. The programs I have written do what they are intended to do and were fairly ``easy" to write, but I'm not writing an operating system, a mass-marketed text processing program, or an air traffic control system either. I don't think it's scientists resenting programmers as much as it is lack of funding in science compared to Microsoft or wherever it is that pays ``market wages".

Have a lovely day,
Larry

	Larry R. Nittler	Human beings were invented by water as
	lrn@howdy.wustl.edu	a means of transporting itself from
	Interstellar Dust Buster	one place to another. -- Tom Robbins
