

POST

What did you want to be growing up?

January 27, 2022

Here's what I wanted to be ...

.

I wanted to be a "W" ...



W

Growing up I was asked what I wanted to be when I grew up. I said I wanted to be a “W”.

Why did I want to be a “W”? I don’t know. I think I liked the way it looked. And I liked the way it sounded ... “wahh”. I still like the way it sounds ... “wahh”.

Kingwood High School Career Day

I’m speaking to a group of high school men in a few days. I was asked to speak about artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and being the CEO of an environmental technology start-up. I always laugh heading into these events because I feel like I should be the one in the audience. It’s especially true now as I enter what I believe is the start of my career (I’d call my first 50 years training).

What will I talk about?

It's funny ... at one school career event some years back I had "dressed to the nines" and started to tell a group of 3 graders about being an environmental lawyer and professor. One kid, who lived in my neighborhood, interrupted and burst out ... "and he gives wheelbarrow rides!" At this point in my presentation, the whole thing got hijacked and devolved into talking about pushing kids around in a wheelbarrow, making sounds with my mouth, swerving, pretending to almost hit trees ... and then finally dumping them over giggling all on top of each other on the lawn. Kids have a great way of reminding you what your profession is.

So what will I talk about to these high school men in a few days? I'm going to talk about being a "W". My Mom was so proud that I wanted to be a "W". [She was also supportive of me having a pretend friend for probably way too long named "Randy Harsman"(yes, he had a last name) and defending me when I was told that I might need special classes (apparently most kids don't want to be "W"s!).] W's may or might not make much money. W's may or may not be valued by society. But I'm going to tell these young men (after I explain to them AI) what its like to aspire to be a "W" and how to go out there, if they so choose, and be whatever letter of the alphabet they want to be. :)

Achieving my childhood dream

I started crying this morning as I was reading and thinking about this ... and realized that I haven't failed ... I ALREADY SUCCEEDED. I didn't even realize that I had already gotten there. I apparently had forgotten what I wanted to become.

... I have become a W.

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