



The author, shown here with Mr Twain

# ON

by  
Denver  
Snuffer

The nervous, dapper, "peart" young man took the chair I offered him, and said he was connected with the Daily Thunderstorm, and added –

"Hoping it's no harm, I've come to interview you "

"Come to what?"

"Interview you "

"Ah! I see. Yes – yes, Um! Yes – yes."

I was not feeling bright that morning. Indeed, my powers seemed a bit under a cloud. However, I went to the bookcase, and when I had been looking six or seven minutes, I found I was obliged to refer to the young man. I said –

"How do you spell it?"

"Spell what?"

"Interview."

"Oh my goodness! What do you want to spell it for?"

"I don't want to spell it; I want to see what it means "

"Well, this is astonishing, I must say I can tell you what it means, if you – if you –"

"Oh, all right! That will answer, and much obliged to you, too."

"In, in, ter, inter –"

"Then you spell it with an I?"

"Why certainly!"

"Oh, that is what took me so long."

"Why, my dear sir, what did you propose to spell it with?"

"Well, I – I – hardly know I had the Unabridged, and I was ciphering around in the back end, hoping I might tree her among the pictures. But its a very old edition."

"Why, my friend, they wouldn't have a picture of it in even the latest ed- My dear sir, I beg your pardon, I mean no harm in the world, but you do not look as – as – intelligent as I had

expected you would. No harm – I mean no harm at all."

"Oh, don't mention it! It has often been said, and by people who would not flatter and who could have no inducement to flatter, that I am quite remarkable in that way. Yes – yes; they always speak of it with rapture "

"I can easily imagine it. But about this interview You know it is the custom, now, to interview any man who has become notorious "

"Indeed, I had not heard of it before. It must be very interesting. What do you do it with?"

"Ah, well, – well – well – this is disheartening. It ought to be done with a club in some cases; but customarily it consists in the interviewer asking questions and the interviewed answering them. It is all the rage now. Will you let me ask you certain questions calculated to bring out the salient points of your public and private history?"

"Oh, with pleasure – with pleasure I have a very bad memory, but I hope you will not mind that. That is to say, it is an irregular memory – singularly irregular. Sometimes it goes in a gallop, and then again it will be as much as a fortnight passing a given point. This is a great grief to me "

"Oh, it is no matter, so you will try to do the best you can."

"I will. I will put my whole mind on it."

"Thanks. Are you ready to begin?"

"Ready "

from: An Encounter with An Interviewer

By Mark Twain

In order to truly "think like a lawyer" the young legal mind must have an eye toward employment. To be trained for the legal ministry without having any employ is of all things most fearful

Where does the young legal-trainee look for a place to peddle his skills? Many interview and find jobs on-campus. Others interview off-campus. Some interview not at all. (The last group usually has a parent or other close relative already in the profession.)

We shall hereinafter\* examine the on-campus interview. The information contained hereinafter\* has been gathered by the author and distorted to comport with his predilections. While this avoids the "aura" of objectivity, it is as objective as anything else.

Interviewing on-campus is always demeaning. It is demeaning to the interviewee if his class standing is too low. It is demeaning to the interviewer if the interviewee's class standing is too high. Taken altogether it is better to demean than to be demeaned. Therefore one is better off the higher his class standing.

\*Pompous adverb generally appearing in student articles which are rarely read but are proudly displayed by the authors.

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# INTERVIEWING

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Polls are almost without exception worthless. One thing is worth repeating, however. All but one individual polled thought the B.Y.U. Law School was first rate.

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There are a number of recurring phenomena in the average interview. These may be accurately summarized as follows:

1 The "handshake" — a practice of dubious medieval origin requiring at least two people. It is often said that a "firm" handshake is best. As a general rule the softer and wetter the handshake, the worse the subsequent interview can be expected to be.

2 The "cordialities" — This includes such trite phrases and clichés as: "Hello,; how are you?"; "How do you do?"; "Where are you from?"; "How do you like law school?"; "Where's your resume?"; etc. Notice that these cordialities are more times than not meaningless interrogatories. Simple grunting responses are best, eg. "Uh"; "Welp"; "Fine"; "Naw"; "Don know"; etc.

3 The "reclining" — usually preceded by the interviewer saying: "Please,

be seated"; or "Take a seat"; or "Sit down"; or "Why are you standing, kid?"; etc. A good reclining is absolutely essential to a good interview.

4. The "Interrogation" — Typically a series of meaningless chatter designed to flush out any irregularities of speech or habit which could otherwise escape notice by a resume.

5 The "departure" — A strong departure is an invaluable tool in making that employable impression. Suggested departing statements are: "THANK YOU, AND GOOD-BYE"; "I appreciate your valuable time"; "Well, thanks"; "Gee, I hope I get the job."

To date, there are several interviewers coming on campus this year. It is anticipated that there will be more as the fall wears on.

If one interviews on-campus and is successful in obtaining employ, there is better than an 85% chance that he will remain in Utah or go to California or Arizona. These three states as always are over-represented. Other states which will

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be represented on-campus this year include Idaho, Washington, New York, and Florida

A poll was taken by the author, but it revealed no significant results. Polls are almost without exception worthless. One thing is worth repeating, however. All but one individual polled thought the B.Y.U. Law School was first rate. The sole dissenter said it was fourth rate. The questionnaire asked the following:

From what you have seen or heard about B.Y.U.'s Law School, how would you rate it, given the following choices:

- A. First Rate; eg. on a par with Harvard, George Washington, etc.
- B. Second Rate; eg. on a par with University of Idaho, University of Alaska (do they have a L.S.?), etc.
- C. Third Rate; eg. on a par with LaSalle Correspondence Law School, etc.
- D. Fourth Rate; eg. on a par with the University of Utah.

The question was written with the hopes of having our Law School rated overwhelmingly first rate, which it was. Next time I'll be sure to exclude U. of U. graduates from the poll — then the results should be unanimous