

Greetings from Linda Marshall

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE "YELLOW" KIND

Many years ago, when Derrick had achieved what I still wish to achieve and was at the (st)age (in life) that I am now, I had my first encounter with him. It was expected of every second year to have read the chapter that was going to be presented in the next lecture. Well, as you can imagine, not many of us did it then, not many a second year do it now! So, not having had had my date with CJ (that author of the DB books in the mid-80's for those not in the know) the night before, wondering whether I'd have a dough nut from Dom Gert's for lunch, would I be able to finish some other assignment in time if I sat in some of my lectures looking very interested and writing like crazy... The melodic lecture changed to: "And you in the yellow, what do you think the answer is?". I looked around, there was no-one that I could see wearing yellow! Why was everyone looking at me? Oh, no - why me! I stammered something to along the lines of "I did not read the work", got a response that I should have and that I will be asked again at some later stage. This event was life changing: I never wore yellow to class - darker colours were better; I diligently did my preparation before going to class - for a couple of months; I remember more about databases - especially cascading, deleting and nullifying tuples - that any of my fellow students would. I was no longer a student

number with familiar handwriting - I was known, a face with a name. Derrick, I hope you will continue to pick on unsuspecting students dressed in yellow, they may end up teaching others and aspire to be as wise as you are.

[via EMail: 06 June 2008]