

Ex Cathedra

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Harmful

I've bragged about some of the famous people I've met: how I rode up in an elevator with Mr. Rogers, how the Video Ranger saved my life, and I haven't even got around to mentioning how I ended up standing on stage with Stan Kenton with egg all over my face. I've met the inventors of VRML (and the inventors of Inventor), and though I've tried — in some cases, tried hard — I can't manage not to like them. I've met the Notorious VRML Grrrls and I believe one or two of them may have even glanced in my direction. But that's chicken feed. Penny ante. Chump change. What I'm about to reveal to you now eclipses all those brushes with fame (except for the VRML Grrrls, who could and would kick my butt).

I know and like and even work with (on different sides of the country, but still) Howard Modell, one of the authors of the seminal paper, "[Structured Programming Considered Harmful](#)". That's the ACM's site. If you can't get it there for free, you can get an [HTML version on Howard's website](#).

Howard has gone on from those sunny days in grad school to become an [evil overlord](#), and he's commanded me to get my legion of faithful followers here at the blog to start practicing on this [fiendish device for destroying the web](#). Once we've mastered that, just a little more training (under suitably evil leadership) and we can [destroy the earth](#).

Howard is every bit as funny and inventive on the Boeing newsgroups and in private emails as he is in that paper, and he's a decent person, too. I've managed to get one of my good friends from work, Bob Holt, onto the masthead here at *Ex Cathedra*, and another, Kellie Miller, has his own blog. My group at work have even been inspired to create their own blog for the lab. But so far Howard hasn't fallen into my clutches yet. He's one of the folks I'll miss the most when I leave Boeing next week.

This entry was posted by Rev. Bob on Sunday, May 22nd, 2005 at 5:42 am and is filed under [Woot!](#), [Computing](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

One Response to "Harmful"

1. [Howie Modell](#) Says:
[May 26th, 2005 at 4:31 pm](#)

Wow. A "fan letter" .. I'm speechless.

With your permission, I've added a link to this page to my website, as well as adding your blog in general to it (down among "Friends") If it won't always be available, may I make a .pdf and post that on my site?

Yes, I'd be flattered to be added to your masthead. Does that commit me to anything

You'll be sorely missed in b.g. [Who will RJ have to engage foils with?]

Contribute to Patrick's TOURBUS occasionally .. I subscribe.

Leave a Reply

Name (required)

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