Love, The Old Man: I Found What I’m NOT Looking For

I’ve discovered that it takes trying something to determine whether you truly hate it or not.

I have a vast array of interests and the myriad of possibilities (especially in career choices) has nearly rendered me paralyzed. There are so many options that I don’t know where to begin and, when I’m about to pursue something, I wonder if I’m making the wrong choice and should chase something else.

For example: I have been toying with the idea of getting involved in the government and public policy for a few years now, and Trump’s election brought the issue to the fore. As part of my investigation, I attended a twelve-hour workshop last Sunday that State Representative Solomon Goldstein-Rose set up to teach people around my age how to run for public office.

While it was interesting and rather fun at points, I think that I can say that I am NOT interested in that exact position. Representative Brad Dye volunteered his time also and, in a one-on-one conversation, he said, “As soon as you get elected, your time is not your own. Almost every minute of your being awake is dedicated to either being in an office, thinking about a bill, or running community events.”

As much as I want to change our country for the better and as much as I enjoy hearing myself talk, I have other ambitions that I’d like to fulfill. Also, I’m not that charitable of a person, thank you very much.

Yet Representative Goldstein-Rose said that he wishes he was more busy and that he often has too much time to himself.

Even with this more liberal perspective, I worry that I would get sucked into surrendering my personal dreams.
Again.

I’ll keep public office in mind, but the point of all this is to show how little I knew about this occupation and how much I learned from doing some of it. If anything, now my field of choices is a little narrower.

In many cases, you won’t know if a job, club, or anything else is a good fit for you until you get a taste of it for yourself, so try whatever you can get your hands on. Incoming students hear this quite a bit, but it ESPECIALLY applies to those of us looking at living in the wider world. In college, we have a unique opportunity to dip our toes into many ponds without committing to diving straight in, so we should try as many as we can before taking a dive.

Except for the campus pond. Go into that and you’ll grow a third ear and another nose.

Song of the Week: Once again, I’m going to subject you to a song cover that I prefer to the original. Disturbed’s version of U2’s “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For” is more energetic, I like the singer’s voice better, and I’m a total sucker for hard rock and the like. My only qualm is the guitar solo in the middle. Feels out of place to me, but, hey, ya’ll may love it.

Enjoy!

Blog Column:
Love, The Old Man

Source URL (retrieved on 08/19/2018 - 9:21am):
https://www.honors.umass.edu/blog/mhlady/love-old-man-i-found-what-i%E2%80%99m-not-looking