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AP Chemistry

Oral History Reflective Essay

Going into this interview, I didn't know what to expect. Two periods seemed like a long time and my group was apprehensive about running out of questions to ask. But this turned out to be an unnecessary worry. As William Radigan began to answer the questions, we found that the time started to just slip away. The more he talked about, the more questions we were able to come up with on the spot. When the interview came to a close, it felt as if there was still so much to cover. He had just started talking about going to Woodstock, which in and of itself was interesting, but we never got to hear the full story. However, the interview went better than I could have ever expected and through his stories, I feel like I got to see a whole new perspective.

One of things that Bill Radigan talked about that really fascinated me was how far technology had progressed in such a short span of time. He told us a story about how he had said to his wife that one day, everything in supermarkets would have barcodes that could be scanned so that the items would not only be subtracted from the inventory, but also added to the total cost of what the customer was buying. At that time, this idea had been inconceivable because of the lack of scanners. To see how this one time far-fetched fantasy has become such an underwhelming, everyday occurrence is extremely surreal. To think that the things we dream about today might undergo the same transformation from ludicrous to commonplace boggles the mind with its implications. Maybe one day,

there really will be robots doing all of our work. This seems to be the thought on Bill's mind. He already has had the idea to build himself a robot that will shovel the snow for him. This is an ongoing project, and though he admits that he spends more time actually thinking about it than building it, his eagerness is almost contagious.

When Bill talked about the possibilities in science and technology, he absolutely lit up with enthusiasm. He started talking about computer programming and it was with reverence and awe. He made everything he talked about seem interesting just because he himself expressed such joy when he talked about it. Though I can't pretend to understand some of the programs he talked about, the passion with which he spoke provided a certain type of understanding in itself. Seeing the kind of enthusiasm Bill possesses motivates me to find a career where I can find a similar feeling of fulfillment.