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Christine Corbett Moran

@corbett

My first interaction with RMS was at a hacker con at 19. He asked my name, I gave it, whether I went to MIT (I had an MIT shirt on), and after confirmation I did, asked me on a date. I said no. That was our entire conversation. Christine, yes, no thanks.

Sarah Mei

@sarahmei · May 9, 2018

Richard Stallman is the reason I didn't start contributing to open source (then called "free software") in the 90s.

I'm not the only one.

He and his followers pushed out a whole generation of female developers, just at that critical time when open source adoption was widening.

twitter.com/alicegoldfuss/...

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2:33 AM · May 9, 2018 · Twitter for iPhone

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Star Simpson

@starsandrobots · May 9, 2018

Replying to @corbett

I remember being walked around campus by an upperclassman getting advice during my freshman year at MIT. "Look at all the plants in her office," referring to a professor. "All the women CSAIL professors keep massive amounts of foliage" s/he said. "Stallman really hates plants."

↻ 10 ↻ 254 ♥ 744 ↗

Star Simpson

@starsandrobots · May 9, 2018

I am still struck by the idea that all of the professors in the lab would keep special charms and amulets to ward off a specific person — if nothing else, this is an incredible illustration of the lack of functional recourse that professional women there previously had.

↻ 1 ↻ 66 ♥ 383 ↗

Star Simpson

@starsandrobots · May 9, 2018

Furthermore it was a somewhat appalling welcome/training on how to navigate MIT which, as an idealistic teenager, I thought ("meritocracy") would be free from such base stressors. (Though it probably counts as one of those practicable "broken step" insights that get handed down.)

↻ 2 ↻ 3 ♥ 142 ↗

Star Simpson

@starsandrobots · May 9, 2018

This was actually, now that I think about it, the moment that I stopped feeling that there must be some qualification you could get to where people would let you alone to just be a thinking woman — seeing women need to fend for themselves this way even at the professor level.

↻ ↻ 12 ♥ 113 ↗

Jerry Ballard

@stickista · May 9, 2018

Replying to @corbett and @siracusa

So your point is to confirm the likelihood of his misbehavior, or saying that just saying no was sufficient and they should stop whining? Not clear.

↻ 1 ↻ ♥ 4 ↗

perpetual farmer's tan

@lauren_ebels · Sep 18

Is your point that it's in any way ok for a professor to hit on a 19 year old student at a professional conference? What the fuck

↻ ↻ 1 ♥ 4 ↗

Aliza Tweets

@alizatw · May 10, 2018

Relevant people

Christine Corbett Moran

@corbett

Technical Group Defense Engineer @NASAJPL, Aut @Caltech, @SpaceX, @SPTelescope

Sarah Mei

@sarahmei

Software engineer @RailsBridge and @SalesforceUX. Currently stirring the speed of par

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Herr-Him-Himmel is Tw

Trending in Germany

https://mobile.twitter.com/corbett/status/994012399656042496

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Replying to @corbett

I met him at an SF con in Boston. He hit on me in a clueless way. No thanks.

9



Harley Watson  @_unlobito · May 10, 2018


Replying to @corbett and @qyliss


@sarahmei I think there are two points being muddled here.

There's discussion around RMS placing a statement inside documentation criticising states for censoring information on human abortion.

There's also RMS throwing a tantrum about his leadership not being respected.

5





Harley Watson  @_unlobito · May 10, 2018

Open Source Software has a long history of political dissent (especially when considering the Crypto Wars). Using OSS to criticise states attempting to oppress human rights is not unheard of and should be encouraged.

Unfortunately, he chose not to explicitly make this argument.

5





Harley Watson  @_unlobito · May 10, 2018

He chose to make "ironic jokes" about safe spaces and triggers in an attempt to mock those criticising his politicisation of OSS.

By doing so he completely alienated both sides. Leftists see tasteless rhetoric, rightists (inc those who reverted the patch) see propaganda.

6




Harley Watson  @_unlobito · May 10, 2018


Ultimately, this has always been his downfall.

He had a good intention with using his software to make a statement against state-sponsored censorship of human reproductive rights.

His inability to handle himself in face of a showdown destroys his credibility.

4



Harley Watson  @_unlobito · May 10, 2018

As a result of letting his tongue slip, those who removed the comment are being promoted as the sensible ones. They remained level headed after a leader made a shitty joke.

No one on lwn is discussing the toxicity involved in trying to delegitimise pro-abortion rights.

2

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