

**Paper: Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)**  
**Title: School's out: How students are spending their summer**  
**Date: June 28, 2007**

SUMMARY: Good manual, nice colleagues lessen pressure at Intel job

Name: David Fishback of Banks

Age: 19

School and job: The recent Banks High School graduate is working for the second summer as an intern at Intel's Jones Farm campus in Hillsboro.

No sweat: Do it on your own. Try not to ask questions.

Those were the instructions Fishback got during his first week on the job this year. His co-worker enlisted him to re-create a system to test power usage of different laptop parts. He could refer only to a 27-page manual as he tinkered.

Beads of sweat didn't bubble on his forehead. In the end, he connected the right dots.

"It's not as much pressure," Fishback said of the task. "I kind of see it as, they believe I can do it."

"They" are Fishback's supervisors and colleagues, who he says are bright and fun. As hard as they work, they don't hesitate to tell jokes or shoot rubber bands at one another. They also help him understand tech lingo and acronyms.

The self-described "geek" says he's happy to return to the team, where he helps test hardware and software to make sure it's ready for consumers.

One of his proudest accomplishments last year was testing and improving Intel Turbo Memory for laptops, a product now on the market. He's tight-lipped about this summer's work, which he said is top secret.

In the beginning: Fishback's introduction to Intel came in elementary school.

He remembers the Intel parent volunteers in his classrooms not for what they did, but what they brought.

"Oh, cool, he has one of those little guys that has the bunny suits," he remembers thinking about the Intel dolls with the colorful metallic suits.

Computers and his employer now mean more than pint-sized toys.

As he got older, Fishback was drawn to the family's computer. He started by playing games such as "Red Alert" and "Warcraft," and morphed into experimenting with digital photography and making videos.

Fishback, who plans to major in computer science, says his computer-related hobbies and internships have given him a path.

"It could easily turn into a career," he says.

The go-to guy: When Fishback leaves this fall for Carroll College in Helena, Mont., he knows his family will miss his computer-repairing skills.

But one house's loss is a college's gain.

Incoming Carroll freshmen who have begun communicating through Facebook, the online social network, have appointed Fishback the resident technology whiz.

If anyone wants to trade instant noodles, brownies or laundry service for free computer repair, Fishback says it would be a bonus. One girl has already offered to teach him how to swim.

"For most people, it would be a simple little fix," he said of his services. "I'd do it just because I'm nice."

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