

larry

- bright mind
- wordsmith
- language nazi
- humor
- keen mind
- framemaker
- corporate speak
- bike ride from work
- work at us west
- work at sun
- tools in garage
- communicated email and phone since I moved
- always assumed I'd be able to call larry to discuss life and figure out problems of world
- liberal / politics
- always talked about Orion
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To Orion and the family and friends of Larry Hurley,

I am very sorry to hear about Larry's passing. Even though Larry was 70, he left us too soon: he seemed like a much younger man to me. Over the holidays, Larry and I tried to talk on the phone, but Larry was pretty busy (probably because of his new or impending grand daughter), so I assumed we would catch up latter.

I met Larry around 1996. I had just finished a degree in English with a teacher's certification. Like Larry, I went to college as an adult. But I did not like teaching and had started to investigate tech writing. My friend Gordon introduced me to his neighbor, Larry. We talked briefly about tech writing and what I needed to do to get into it, but the main thing Larry said was, "You have to know FrameMaker." And he was correct with that advice.

About two years later, after working at a startup and learning FrameMaker, I got a job at US West, where Larry was working, and I got to know him at lot better. And later we worked together at Sun Microsystems.

At first, our common interest was FrameMaker, but I quickly found out we had a LOT in common. We were both part of a large, US West tech writing group called Information Development. It was a great learning experience to work with a large group of writers, but many of our mandatory group meetings were brutally dull. During and after these meetings, Larry and I would complain about the "corporate speak" that most of the writers and administrators used so carelessly. We even had a worksheet called "Bullshit Bingo" and would see how many of these phrases were

used in a meeting. For example: Leverage (as a verb), re-purpose (as a verb), Up to Speed, Hit the Ground Running, Think Outside the box, Client Focused.

And when we worked at Sun, Larry helped me when I first started. I was having a hard time with Sun's corporate culture and was ready to quit. Larry would take me for a coffee at the espresso shop that overlooked the beautiful Sun courtyard with an amazing view of the Front Range. We would sip our espresso and marvel at our luck to be working in the spaceship-like buildings and getting paid a lot of money to do it.

Even after we no longer worked together, we would send emails with examples of the latest corporate speak. Here's a beauty from a website called MurderF&ck.com (Larry found it): *Here at Murderf&ck, we use creative solutions to offer only the best service to our clients - whether it's proactively actualizing your communication channels or globalizing your intellectual capital. Our promise is to deliver scalable quality vectors to streamline your ROI.*

And Larry would send me these hilarious emails where he would put together a string of corporate speak.

When we talked on the phone, we would never run out of things to discuss. We almost always discussed the latest bone-head right-wing, tea party bullshit politics and how could anyone believe this crap. And of course, religion, which neither of us could believe (both of us were raised Catholic but it didn't stick).

We would also talk about literature and writers and writing. Larry always planned to start a blog, but he never got around to it. Too bad because he had a lot to say.

I'm glad I got to know Larry, and I'm going to miss him. It's not like we talked all the time, but it was comforting to know that his keen mind was out there and only a phone call or an email away.