

interested in computers, so this was kind of the tail-end of the “bubble.” Another thing is that you’re sitting in college and you’re seeing your friends graduate before you and start making ridiculous salaries in the Internet startups. Especially since it was UC Berkeley and San Francisco; it presented both the companies and the individuals a great way to work with each other. So of course, you’ll start thinking that “I’m going to be in computers too!” and of course, when I got into the job market, the “bubble” was starting to fail, but I did actually get a job in computers and it was with a little Internet Startup, which never really got anywhere.

And then I got hired at *Tech TV* because of my technical background to do research. My degree did come in handy. As a Rhetoric Major, you look at history and philosophy and you’re basically constructing and deconstructing people’s arguments. You get a fair bit of English, history and philosophy, but you’re focusing on how to construct an argument. A lot of people do it for Pre-Law, but I liked it because it had elements of an English degree, but was slightly more analytical. It turns out there is a lot of money in writing about computers and explaining how they work. See, the thing is the people that are good at computers are not necessarily good at explaining them or writing about them. It seems that it all worked out for me, because I went into Technology and then they started putting me on Television and now I’m a television personality.

**U.** That’s great. Congratulations!  
**MW** Thanks!

**U.** What would you say is the most challenging part of your job?

**MW** That’s an interesting question (long pause). You know, my job is pretty sweet, to be honest (laughs)! I play video games and hang out with my friends, think up comedy sketches, and talk about video games on TV and get to play all the best games before anyone else gets to. I even get to meet all the game developers.

**U.** That’s a real good, honest answer.

**MW** It’s still a job, and you still have to go into work every day, whether you feel like it or not, especially if you’re on television, you have to keep up with appearances. There are always some younger woman coming up behind you trying to take your place, but you work with good people who are mellow. It’s nice to get to do something I enjoy while at work, like play video games and it’s also something that people tend not to think about when they start a career but maybe they should, like you will have long, long hours sometimes and sometimes my friends will get called at 11 o’clock at night for emergencies for their job and there’s never really a video game emergency. You’ll have late hours some-

times. When you work in video games, which are in the entertainment industry, you seem to have a pretty good perspective [about your job].

**U.** Sounds like it’s like a lot of fun.  
**MW** Yeah it is a lot of fun.

**U.** I don’t know if you’re allowed to say this, but do you have a favorite gaming platform?

**MW** You know, not really. As gaming professionals, we have all of them, and it’s really about the different games that are available, and there are good games available on every platform. If people are looking to buy a console, definitely look at the games that are available. Even if it’s the best, most technologically advanced, flashy, most expensive console out there, if you’d rather be playing Super Mario Brothers, then you should get Nintendo GameCube. And I think that the PSP vs. the DS proves that in a little bit of the way, because the PSP is more expensive, it’s flashier, has better graphics, but the DS, it really focuses more on the games, and has really taken advantage of that.

**U.** That was a very diplomatic answer using that Rhetoric Major!

**U.** Should I even ask? Do you have a favorite game franchise?

**MW** I can mention a few of my favorites games, I don’t have a favorite but I’m really looking forward to the new Zelda game “The Twilight Princess.” They say it’s going to be a launch title for the “Wii” and I really enjoy the *Ratchet & Clank* series and I’m excited about the new game coming out in that series released by Insomniac Games. The *Unreal Tournament* franchise is on my list too. I’m very excited about the *Gears of War* game coming out for the 360, developed by Epic (the same team that did *Unreal*.) So those are few of my favorites.

**U.** How did you start your career?

**MW** I got lucky and looking at most of my friends, who graduated Berkeley, there is an element of intent to starting your career and there is an element of accident. Some people have more intent than accident and some people, such as me, have more accident than intent. My friend, who’s a lawyer, knew what she wanted to do for a very long time, and she’s settled in her job and loving it there. I stumbled on my career mostly on accident. I didn’t think I wanted to be on television, and it’s been hard. Television brings with it a certain amount of notoriety. People seem to be interested in what you’re doing on the Internet all the time. People are watching what you are doing and what you’re wearing. They invade your privacy and it’s a little bit strange and I never really wanted that. But, now I have a good time at my job, so... I can’t really say no.