

SENIOR FAIR

ENTRANCE



Double bind

I felt lucky to have gotten such a relaxed job to earn some extra money during my study psychology at the university.

Access control for the 'Elderly Fair'. Not much could go wrong there. I thought ...

A group of three women approached me. "Good morning, ladies. Ah, I see you have the discounted tickets, may I see your 65+ pass?"

"Why?" spoke one of the ladies indignantly. "Don't you believe us? Do you really think we would cheat?"

Her reaction surprised me, and I felt overwhelmed by it. She seemed genuinely irritated by my yet friendly request. "Well fine, you walk on then," I spoke after hesitating for a moment. Even though this was not in accordance with the instructions I had received, I could indeed hardly imagine that these nice old ladies could be cheating.

The next group already announced itself. Again, three people. The only gentleman in the group handed me the discounted admission tickets. I looked at the people in the group and concluded that they would definitely have to be 65+. "Thank

you," I spoke politely and gestured for them to continue their way.

"Don't you need to see our 65+ pass?" the gentleman spoke, apparently unpleasantly surprised by my reaction. He turned to the two ladies in his company, "looks like we all look that old to this gentleman."

Was he playing this, or was he really a little pissed off? Not knowing what to answer I kept it to a friendly smile and took a step aside as a gesture for them to continue walking. This was more difficult than I had imagined, two irritated groups at the first two controls, a score of 100%.

Again, a group. Four ladies this time. Politely I took the reduced tickets. "So, 65 already?" I said cheerfully. "You still look so young. But I trust you, no need to see your passes."

"Well, he's taking it real easy," the woman with the tickets grumbled while turning to the others in the group. To which one of her travel companions added, "well of course, it's just one of those students, they don't care about anything, let alone taking responsibility for their job."

Now it was me, who became somewhat irritated. However, I didn't have much time to think about it, the next group was already announcing itself.

Again, a man with three women and of course again the reduced tickets. "Oh, reduced tickets I see. But you all still look so young," I laughed kindly, to continue with, "Unfortunately I have been instructed to always check the passes. I think it's nonsense, I trust people, but if I don't, I may lose my job."

Sighing and after some searching, the individuals presented their 65+ passes.

"Good luck working for such a boss," the man muttered in passing.

END