

TAKE THIS JOB AND LOVE IT

More burned out than Brian Hunter? Test-drive a new dream career with Vocation Vacations

TRADER
D.I.Y.

TRADING: IT'S EXCITING

and all. Usually lines the pockets pretty nicely. But surely you've had days when, down six figures by lunchtime, you've wanted to chuck it all, move to a yurt somewhere near Borat's hometown and farm alpacas or make cheese until you're too old to stand.

Interested, then, in a brief, risk-free taste of a cool second career? Check in with Vocation Vacations (vocationvacations.com), a Portland, Oregon-based company that plucks Type A go-getters from their workaday lives and for up to three days immerses them, apprentice-style, in a dream job of their choosing.

Not *any* dream job, of course; if you'd like to trade places with Steve Nash, Condi Rice or Bono, for example, you're out of luck. But more than 200 other careers are up for grabs, from the genuinely enticing (brewmaster, golf pro, sportscaster, minor-league-baseball GM) to the bafflingly dull (natural-food store owner, ice cream retailer, RV campground proprietor) to the downright bizarre (clock restorer, sword maker, weaving-studio owner). They're even working on a program to let you spend time as a magazine editor — if you're, you know, an unpleasant lout with dim life prospects.

It's a cheap and easy way to try on new professional clothes for kicks; no Vocation Vacation runs more than \$2,000. And while



THEY REPORT, WE DERIDE: "Frankly, Bill, credit-derivatives trading just hasn't been the same since everyone started juicing."

it's fun to nose around in other people's business, you need not, thankfully, worry about hordes of day-trading losers nosing around in yours: "Wall Street is always a popular request," says Brian Kurth, Vocation Vacations' founder and president. "But ever since 9/11,

we can't gain entry to trading floors."

Another reason to give it a try: As far as Kurth knows, no trader has ever signed up for a Vocation Vacation. Hmmm, we wonder why. "Maybe," he says, "because trading is a dream job already?" Our thoughts exactly, big guy.



Do the Hustle

POKER SONGS TO INSPIRE YOUR CHEATIN' HEART

TUNES

YOU ARE, NO DOUBT, the very picture of prim honesty while trading — but all that stuffy fealty to the rules can get awfully dreary. So who could blame you for approaching your weekly off-hours No-Limit marathon with motives of a lesser purity?

Well, your poker buddies, for starters. But certainly not Ricky Jay, the master illusionist and sometime thespian whose sly, rakish mien animates the new box set *Ricky Jay Plays Poker* (Octone), an omnium-gatherum of card-shark ephemera and 21 well-chosen songs about the game. Also included are a deck of cards, a DVD in which Jay shows off the finer points of his unscrupulous craft and a 66-page booklet containing his compelling history of poker hustling ("I must admit," he writes, "that my efforts to master these

illicit techniques inspired my interest in the game").

The music is an artful gambol around the card table, with contributions from Bob Dylan, Patsy Cline, Townes Van Zandt and Robert Johnson variously describing poker as a metaphor for politics, for relationships, for life itself. A more contemporary gloss, meanwhile, comes from British dance trio Saint Etienne, whose weirdly hypnotic "Etienne Gonna Die" samples some of Jay's pungent dialogue from David Mamet's 1987 film *House of Games*.

This collection capably makes the case that a little chicanery is sometimes to be desired. So by all means maintain your rectitude while subject to the market's dictates. Then head to the poker table with these songs in your head — and a few extra tricks up your sleeve.

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TRADERTICKER

34

NUMBER OF JOBS VOCATION VACATIONS IS CURRENTLY PLANNING TO DEVELOP IN ADDITION TO THE 200 IT CURRENTLY OFFERS

24

NUMBER OF MOVIES AND TELEVISION SERIES IN WHICH RICKY JAY HAS ACTED, INCLUDING "BOOGIE NIGHTS" AND "DEADWOOD"

