

Scene: Manager's Office

Characters: Manager  
Male Maori teenager  
Female Pakeha teenager

Action: Manager welcomes Tainui Tahere into office and shows him seat. Manager, whilst seated behind desk, shuffles through applications for the job of sales trainee and chooses one paper. For a short period Manager peruses said paper.

Manager Well, Mr Tahere - How are you this morning?

Tainui I'm fine, thank you

Manager Could you repeat your name again please. Never could get my tongue around all those Maori words

(Tainui, looking doleful, repeats 'Tahere' carefully, twice

Manager Never mind. We will start from the top (Looks intently at sheet)  
How old are you?

Tainui 18½

Manager What qualifications do you have? Have you passed any examinations?

Tainui Yes. School Certificate and University Entrance

Manager Good. Let's see now. What subjects were you best at? (Whilst asking questions the Manager still intently looking at application form)

Tainui My top marks were in Maori, Art and English. I liked Art especially.

Manager Funny subjects really. I hear that Maori people don't want to learn Maori. What do you need to learn Maori for? It is deader than Latin. Mind you, I have always maintained that English is the right language for all of us in this country. Not much use learning Maori. French is bad enough, but Maori is worse. Art .... hm ... even little children can do art. Triangles and squares. Oh well .... Anyway ... What schools did you go to (referring still to paper)

Tainui I went to Te Aute College

Manager Te WHO? Where's that? Is that a school?

Tainui Yes Sir

Manager Oh, go on. Must be one of these new fangled ones; never heard of it. Did they teach you anything there? What are your interests in life? What sports do you play?

Tainui Well Sir, I am very involved with our local Marae. I teach Maori Culture to a group of young people. As far as sports are concerned, I am in the Old Boys Soccer team, and I like playing the guitar.

Manager Hm..... I see.... What do Marae Committees do?

Tainui Well they .... (interrupted by Manager)

Manager Perhaps we'll leave that for the moment. We'll have to get on with the interviews. I've got another person due in a few minutes. Tell me Tiny what sort of aims or goals for life do you have? What do you really want to do?

Tainui Well, I'd like to get a position where I can help my people. Then maybe I can help them in some way to preserve our culture. My tribe ....

Manager I don't know. Seems like the sooner we are one people the better. Don't you think this talk of tribes is a bit old-fashioned? There's no place for that sort of thing today. One last question. Will you be able to relate to all the people in this job? Because you will be mixing most of the time with people who are not Maoris. Mind you, when we hit the Polynesian community with a bit of our big advertising you'll be able to get them on our side. I reckon that Islanders and Maoris will be our best customers (and in a joking manner) but you have got to make sure you get your money first. (Laughs jovially and winks at Tainui). Do you think you will be able to relate effectively with people.

Tainui (Hesitantly) Well, I would try to. I'd have to be honest with them.

Manager (In a magnanimous style) Well, that is very good Tiny. I feel sure that if you get this job you will be an asset to us and a credit to your race (possibly ad lib) Goodbye

Exit Tainui

Enter Helen Smith

Shown seat by Manager, who pulls chair out for her. Manager sits behind desk and picks up Helen Smith's application and gives it a cursory glance.

Manager Well, Helen, I see that from your information sheet you gained good passes in School Certificate and University Entrance. Hm... French, Latin, History of Art, Economics .... 18 years of age ... yes ... oh, I see Wanganui High School ... Haha! I was engaged to the French teacher there once. Do you know her - Miss Mullholland?

Helen Oh, yes, Sir. She was my hockey coach in the inter-house tourneys.

Manager Really, so you play hockey do you. What other interests do you have?

Helen Well, I am involved with Rotaract and I take a Brownie Pack every week up at the Guide Hall

Manager That is interesting! It's so nice to see young people getting involved in the community like that, in really worthwhile projects. And it's good to see you passing on a bit of your knowledge to young children. Tell me Helen, what do you have by way of aspirations?

Helen Well, one day I would like to get into politics. That's after I have had experience working with all sorts of people. I think I have leadership qualities which can be used to help people.

Manager           Excellent, excellent! I think it is fantastic for a young person to have goals which will help people other than themselves. Well, I think I can say without a shadow of a doubt that your future here with this firm looks very bright indeed. We need people who want to help others.  
Tell me - Do you know many Maori people?

Helen             No. I'm sorry. Not really. There weren't many Maori girls in my class at school. Actually, there were only seven in the whole school. But I used to meet a few on the way to school sometimes, and I passed a few Maori houses. There were always little children running around. My friend and I used to laugh because they often had no pants.

Manager           Yes, yes. I've seen them too. I'm sure you'll get to understand them pretty quickly. Mind you, you might have to keep an eye out. Well Helen. Thank you so much for coming in. If you are a good hockey player, that's even better. My daughters play hockey too. Tell you what. I'll ring your home tonight at 5 to tell you what we've decided.