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**MART 120**

**Last Lecture Synopsis**

**September 7th, 2022**

The “Last Lecture” was a deeper and more realistic interpretation of the childhood moniker of “Follow your Dreams.” The beginning of the lecture is a starking expression that Pausch has very little time left to live, yet he’s here giving a lecture at a University.

Why would he do this? When given a limited time on this mortal coil, the average person will try and cross off every element on their bucket list, going on a last-minute extravagant vacation and spending time with loved ones. While there is no doubt that Pausch did all or most of the average person's bucket list things, it is very poetic of him to leave a personal and professional legacy amongst University students.

The lecture is long, both from our perspective and perhaps Pausch’s. The study is around 90 minutes long, and while this is the length of the average college lecture, to Pausch, a measly hour and a half must feel like a monumental chunk of his final moments. Pausch spends most of the lesson speaking about his friends and childhood dreams and how important it is to follow those dreams.

Pausch’s adamancy about the importance of following your dreams and not losing childhood wonder is what I found most captivating. Pausch’s reflection on his life, family, plans, and friends brings a very rare and exciting perspective to 1.) the college experience and 2.) the correlation between careers and goals. This perspective is rare because so many people are told to “follow their dreams” in childhood. However, when faced with an academic catalog during college apps, they push away from their dreams in the name of monetary value and career success.

I think Pausch’s adamancy and success in his career, even when following childhood dreams, is an important message to deliver to young university students who often get lost in the web of career success, money, and pressure to the point that childhood dreams seem like a derogatory juvenile aspiration. I can get lost in the same trap of capitalism and imposter syndrome, where following childhood dreams seem stupid. However, looking at my perspective from Pausch’s, I can attest that I would feel regret in my life if I was now on a deathbed and chose money over happiness and emotional value in my career.