Clint Connors

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MART 120

**The Last Lecture Reflection**

The Last Lecture was an extremely inspiring meditation on self-improvement, perseverance, and the bravery to chase our dreams. Randy Pausch’s funny, insightful anecdotes gave me further inspiration to pursue my childhood dream of becoming a filmmaker. I have been told there would be (and so far, there have been) those “brick walls” Pausch warned about that would keep me from breaking into this extremely competitive profession. However, seeing Pausch overcome litigation, evil deans, rejections, tumors, and other obstacles to live the life he wanted to live makes me feel like pursuing my passion, no matter how difficult it may be, is possible.

Pausch’s discussion of his football experience particularly resonated with me as it changed the way I looked at constructive criticism. I have never been the best at handling feedback, whether it be for speech and debate, school work, or the short films I’ve made. If a person pinpoints something for me to improve, I sometimes take it personally or unfairly assume that he or she doesn’t believe in my abilities. While I’ve gotten better at handling feedback over the years, I didn’t really understand the importance of said feedback until Pausch recalled some advice from an assistant coach: “When you’re screwing up and nobody’s saying anything to you anymore, that means they gave up.” He explained that it’s our critics who truly care about us and help us succeed in our endeavors. That’s definitely advice I will be keeping in mind the next time I ask for someone’s honest thoughts about whatever I’m working on.