MART 120

Last Lecture

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Wow! The way he introduced this lecture by talking about his 13 tumors and the fact that he is going to die in around 6 months grabbed my attention right away. I think the emphasis he puts on fundamentals is excellent advice as well, so many people jump straight into the deep end when starting a new project, which makes things very hard for them in the long run. The fancy or flashy method isn’t always the best way. I thought his idea about your biggest critics being your biggest supporters really rang true for me. Sometimes getting a lot of criticism can feel pretty bad or demoralizing, but he speaks the truth on this, if people are still giving you criticism, they still love you or want to see you succeed. It’s much better to be in a bad place and get criticism than be in a bad place and have people give up on you. We all struggle and it can’t be ignored how important a good support network can be to achieving success. On another note, I found what he said about Alice to be pretty interesting, especially his idea about the “head fake” method of teaching young kids programming, which is to say, the best way to teach someone something is to have them think they’re learning about something else. I really resonated with this, because back when I was a freshman in high school, I really wanted to learn how to make games using the Unity game engine. I didn’t have any idea how to program, but I had some cool ideas that I wanted to implement into actual games. I started watching every tutorial I could find and eventually I was able to make some pretty basic games using C#. All of this is to say that my fascination with programming began as something completely different, I had no idea the rabbit hole I would down as a result of this choice, eventually learning how to use Java at a basic level, and now being interested in Arduino and projects that can be built with microcontrollers.

As he closed out his talk, I thought his sentiment at the end about everyone having a good side was really remarkable and goes back to what I wrote about in my discussion about perspective. Everyone believes that their own perspective is the right one and it’s greatly important to hear people out and genuinely try and see where they’re coming from. It’s all too easy to ignore this and argue for the sake of arguing and proving a point. The way he ultimately ended the talk, saying that it wasn’t for the listeners, but rather for his kids was very powerful. Even after talking about his numerous accomplishments in the professional world, it all came back to his family, which he viewed as more important than anything else.