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MART120

Homework 2 – Last Lecture

This is a subject that I’ve always struggled with. I never really held a dream all throughout my childhood, and especially not into adulthood. I have simply wanted to spend my time on my hobbies, and work to support that. The problem with that idea, is that it’s tough to turn these random hobbies I have into a career where I can feel as though I’m not working at all. This is an ongoing debate in my head, and I’m afraid I’m not about to find the solution after listening to this lecture. This is not to say that I found nothing I could relate to in Randy’s fantastic, final lecture for his children.

What really stood out to me was Randy’s thoughts on mentorship and his advice to act on feedback. When I first came to the University of Montana (probably 9 years ago now), I started working at Griztech (CHS IT). At this point in my life, I could only describe myself as arrogant and self-centered. I thought I knew a lot about computers and had very little patience for my fellow techs who didn’t. To make a long story short, my boss at the time, Jared Sheffield, became my mentor and shifted my perspective drastically. It was due to his feedback and advice that I became more patient and understanding with not only my coworkers, but people in my life in general. I watched the people I worked with start with no knowledge of computers at all, and, overtime, become star technicians. Basically, I stopped being totally miserable to work with. I may still be arrogant and self-centered, but at the very least, Jared gave me a huge helping of self-awareness to balance myself out with.

Even with me being unable to relate to the overarching theme of the lecture, Randy’s Last Lecture is a truly worthwhile watch with excellent advice that people would do well to listen to. I wonder if I had listened to this earlier, would I had been able to take his advice and act on it sooner. I have a feeling that, in my case, I wouldn’t have been able to. I’m pretty sure my arrogance was strong enough that I needed this particular life lesson beaten though my thick skull with experience. That aside, when I eventually find myself on death’s door, I hope to face it with Randy’s attitude.