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MART 120  
Last Lecture

Given a few months of good health left in my life, I don’t think giving a lecture would be anywhere on my list of things to do in that time. Randy Pausch however had different ideas and it was truly inspiring to hear him speak. He certainly captures your attention with his honesty and humor throughout his “last lecture.” It was hard not to be inspired to go after your dreams after watching. For me the biggest takeaway I had was that although you may not achieve your actual dream, of say being Captain Kirk, is to find happiness and gratitude in the journey along the way. To be satisfied with however far along you get to your dreams as long as you put all your effort into it. “Experience is what you get when you didn’t get what you wanted” as he put it. It can be devastating to have to admit defeat or alter your dreams for any reason. It is important to remind yourself that the journey can be just as satisfying, if not better, than the actual goal itself. There is a lot to be proud of in all the effort and hard work that went into it along the way.

I certainly found myself nodding in agreement with his messages at the end of his lecture. “Apologize when you screw up.” We all screw up from time to time but to take accountability, own your mistake, is what shows a person’s true character. His reinforcement of knowing that you can’t always, or ever, achieve your goals alone. It takes a lot of help from a lot of people. As someone who has been in recovery from alcohol for the better part of two years, I can certainly attest to that it wasn’t done alone. I really appreciate his idea to find the best in people. It can be hard, especially in this day and age, to find common ground with some people. We can all use a reminder that although you might not agree with everything someone else believes, that doesn’t make them a bad person.