

= Brian Goes Back to College =

" Brian Goes Back to College " is the 15th episode of Family Guy ' s fourth season . The episode originally aired on Sunday November 13 , 2005 . Guest stars on the show were Ralph Garman , Mark Hentemann and Phil LaMarr . The episode was described by show creator Seth MacFarlane to be " a real treat for The A @-@ Team fans " . The episode contained several connections with The New Yorker ; in response , they wrote a friendly article about the episode . The plot consists of Peter , Joe , Cleveland and Quagmire winning a costume contest dressed as characters from The A @-@ Team , and deciding to improve their community by continuing to act like the characters of the show . Brian is hired by The New Yorker , but is later dismissed as he did not complete college , so he returns to finish his education . It was rated TV @-@ 14 @-@ D in the United States and was rated 12 in the United Kingdom .

= = Plot = =

Peter , Joe , Cleveland , and Quagmire win a costume contest as characters from The A @-@ Team (because they had an actual black guy as B. A. Baracus and the other team had a Jewish man for the same role) . Peter and his friends find Brian , who is writing a report for the local newspaper . When Peter and his friends win the costume contest , Brian writes a report about it , and is later telephoned by a member of The New Yorker , who tell him they would like him to work for their magazine . Brian is initially given a warm welcome by the staff , but he is immediately fired after he informs them he never graduated from college . Meanwhile , disappointed at no longer being able to be The A @-@ Team , Peter decides to become an unofficial A @-@ Team alongside Joe , Cleveland , and Quagmire , and decide to help their local community . Peter designs a replica of the van used by The A @-@ Team .

After encouragement from Lois , Brian decides to return to Brown University in order to complete his education so he can go back to The New Yorker . Stewie , unknowing to Brian , returns to college with him . Brian 's new teacher (the Stephen Hawking @-@ esque man from " Ready , Willing , and Disabled ") takes an instant disliking to him , but his opinion of Brian quickly changes after he cheats on a test by plagiarizing Stewie 's work with his permission (due to Stewie 's knowledge of technology and physics) and gets a high mark . Brian goes to tell his teacher that he cheated , but is interrupted , as the teacher tells him Brian has inspired him , and he was so depressed that he was planning to commit suicide . Meanwhile , Peter becomes very satisfied with his A @-@ Team 's actions , but the team fails a mission to save a local park from demolition by becoming " side @-@ tracked by idle conversation " with the builders . The guilty A @-@ Team disbands afterwards . Brian eventually cracks under the pressure of a final test and knowing he will only pass if he cheats , he decides to return home with Stewie . A shocked Lois attempts to encourage him to go back and finish the test , and eventually chases him away with a vacuum cleaner called " Mr. Hoover " .

Brian ends up exercising for hours with the help of Stewie , parodying Rocky Balboa in the movie Rocky IV , but realizes his test is only a few hours away . He becomes stressed at being late for his exam , so Lois persuades Peter to revive The A @-@ Team one last time and drive Brian to his test , which is successful , and Brian arrives on time . He fails his test , but remains proud of himself for not cheating , much to the dismay of the family , who tells him that he probably should have cheated . Brian tries to reassure them that he finished what he started and labels his pride of that ' something ' , but the Griffins shoot him down for that .

= = Production = =

Several people who were involved in the production of the original A @-@ Team worked with show producers for this episode . Ron Jones wrote the music during the scene where Peter and his friends help the man in the bar ; Jones had also written music for the actual The A @-@ Team series in the 1980s . This episode marks the third appearance of Brian 's wheelchair @-@ using

teacher ; he originally appears in " Ready , Willing , and Disabled " and " Brian the Bachelor " when playing in the Special Olympics during the former episode and attempting to become a candidate for The Bachelorette in the latter episode . The professor 's and his wife 's voices were not played by a real person ; they were made from a generic computer system in the studio . A deleted scene was animated which showed the professor informing Brian that he once had a student who was identical to him , but instead took human form and had a mustache . David Goodman commented this as being a pretty strange gag . Several viewers contacted Greg Colton , a Family Guy director , asking him if Roger Williams Park (a real public park in Rhode Island) was due to be demolished . He commented that one couple were extremely worried , because they were due to have their wedding there . The title of the episode was originally meant to be " Brian Goes Back to College and Stewie Goes With Him for Obvious Comedic Reasons " , but it was deemed too long .

= = Cultural references = =

Peter and his friends parody the 1980s American drama series The A @-@ Team . When the introduction sequence of The A @-@ Team was made for the episode , it took the writers and producers several attempts to animate it correctly . The background images used were real images used from The A @-@ Team 's intro sequence . When Brian is shown to be exercising heavily at a ski resort under the supervision of Stewie , and then climbs the mountain and shouts from the top , the montage is a reference to Rocky IV . The 1980s television convention that the gang attends features references to Too Close for Comfort (" Cosmic Cow Autographs ") and The Cosby Show (" Bill Cosby aerobics ") . At the American football game , the teams playing are " Brown " and the " Board of Education " , referencing the Brown v. Board of Education court case in 1954 which led to desegregation in the US school system .

= = Reception = =

The New Yorker wrote a friendly response article to this episode , as they were featured in it . They appeared to take no offense at the episode , and did not retaliate . Ryan J. Budke of TV Squad praised The A Team parody in the episode , stating that the " 30 second recreation of the A @-@ Team opening had me about as excited as anything else on TV " .