

= The Old Man and the " C " Student =

" The Old Man and the " C " Student " is the twentieth episode of The Simpsons ' tenth season . It first aired on the Fox network in the United States on April 25 , 1999 . In the episode , after offending the Olympic committee during their visit to Springfield Elementary , the school 's students are committed to 20 hours of community service . Bart , along with his sister Lisa , is put in charge of Springfield 's retirement home , where Bart notices the doldrums that the old people go through every day . Meanwhile , Bart and Lisa 's father Homer tries to sell springs .

" The Old Man and the " C " Student " was directed by Mark Kirkland and was the first episode Julie Thacker wrote for The Simpsons . While Bart 's storyline was pitched by Thacker , the B @-@ story , involving Homer , was conceived by Thacker 's husband Mike Scully , who also was an executive producer and the showrunner for the episode . Jack Lalanne guest @-@ starred as himself in the episode .

On its original broadcast , " The Old Man and the " C " Student " was seen by approximately 6 @. @ 9 million viewers . Following the release of The Simpsons : The Complete Tenth Season , the episode received mostly positive reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

When Lisa writes a letter to the International Olympic Committee , they decide that Springfield will be home to the next Olympics . To honor the Olympics , there is a contest for the games ' mascot . Homer creates a mascot for the Olympic Games named Springy , the Springfield Spring , which becomes the mascot (much to Patty and Selma 's dismay , who created a mascot named Ciggy the Cigarette) and everyone in Springfield prepares for the games . When the IOC inspects the town , things go well until Bart does a stand @-@ up comedy routine that insults foreign nations , which only Principal Skinner , Homer , and the children find funny . In response , the IOC decides not to let Springfield have the Olympics anymore (they award it to Shelbyville , who presumably and chronologically lost it to Sydney) , and Superintendent Chalmers blames Skinner for putting Bart on stage with his racy jokes . Skinner initially keeps his case strong by telling Chalmers that the comedy worked well during rehearsal , but to prevent losing his job , he makes every one of the school 's students do 20 hours of community service . After sending Milhouse to collect medical waste on the beach and leaving Martin to start a basketball program between inter @-@ city gangs , Skinner has Bart assigned to work at the Springfield Retirement Castle , where Lisa also works voluntarily . Bart is dismayed at how little the seniors are allowed to do .

Meanwhile , Homer gets 1 @, @ 000 springs he intended to sell as Olympic mascots . He uses various get @-@ rich @-@ quick schemes to sell off the mascots , but fails miserably due to Springfield 's hatred of Bart 's comedy routine . Ultimately , he is forced to flush the mascots down the toilet . At the time Lisa leads the seniors in " imagination time " , but when she departs , Bart makes the seniors escape to get a taste of freedom . Bart takes the seniors on a trip on the town and on a boat ride , and Lisa is initially shocked to see these things happen , but nevertheless , she is quite impressed by what Bart does for the seniors . The seniors have fun until their boat crashes into Mr. Burns 's schooner . The boat begins to sink and the seniors turn on Bart , but Grampa defends him , saying Bart gave them the best fun they have had in years . However , the springs that Homer flushed down the toilet save them , causing the boat to bob up at the surface long enough for the Coast Guard to rescue everyone . Bart finishes his community service time , but decides to help the seniors still enjoy themselves .

= = Production = =

" The Old Man and the " C " Student " was directed by Mark Kirkland and was the first episode Julie Thacker wrote for The Simpsons . It was first broadcast on the Fox network in the United States on April 25 , 1999 . The episode 's plot was based on a " disastrous " school program , in which students had to participate in community service in order to be allowed to advance to the next grade

. Thacker , whose oldest daughter was a student at the school , was signed up to do community service at an old folks home in the town they lived in . It became the inspiration for the episode 's A @-@ story , while the B @-@ story , which involved Homer selling springs , was conceived by Thacker 's husband Mike Scully , an executive producer and the showrunner for the episode .

In a scene in the episode , Lenny gets one of Homer 's springs stuck in his eye . Lenny 's eye injuries have since become a running gag , and " The Old Man and the " C " Student " " started the trend " , according to Thacker . The " clunky , Up With People @-@ type " dance that the students perform for the Olympic jury was partly demonstrated during the animatic by Simpsons writer George Meyer . When Meyer later watched the episode , he found out , to his " horror " , that he had been given a choreographer credit at the end of the episode . The episode features American fitness expert Jack Lalanne as himself . In the DVD commentary for the episode , Scully stated that Lalanne was " very funny " and that he " gave a great performance " . Lalanne 's lines were recorded separately from the series main cast members .

= = Cultural references = =

The episode title is a reference to the novel and film " The Old Man and the Sea " . In the beginning of the episode , a sign reading " International Olympic Committee " can be seen . The logo below the text parodies the logo of the real International Olympic Committee . Because they did not want to " upset " the committee , the Simpsons staff slightly altered the logo by changing the colors and not making the rings interlock . In a scene in the episode , the old people can be seen watching an edited and over @-@ dubbed version of the 1939 film *Gone With the Wind* . The nurse that works in the old folks home is based on Nurse Ratched from the American drama film *One Flew Over the Cuckoo 's Nest* . The film is referenced again in a scene where Bart takes the old folks on a boat trip and a scene where a Native American chief in the old folk 's home throws a dishwasher through a window , and jumps out , mirroring the last scene in the film . The character then returns , and hands Lisa a pamphlet that reads " Prop 217 " . The pamphlet is a reference to Proposition 217 , a proposition that allowed Native Americans to operate casinos in certain states . It is also a reference to the day Scully and Thacker met , which was on February 17 . The scene in which Smithers is drawing a portrait of Mr Burns is a reference to the 1997 drama film *Titanic* . The scene where the old people celebrate their escape from the home is a reference to a sequence from The Beatles ' 1964 film *A Hard Day 's Night* . Both are set to the group 's song " Can 't Buy Me Love " , although in the episode the song is a cover performed by NRBQ . During the end credits , an album cover reading " A Bart Day 's Night " , a reference to The Beatles ' album *A Hard Day 's Night* , the film 's soundtrack , is shown . " Can 't Buy Me Love " also plays over the end credits .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast on April 25 , 1999 , " The Old Man and the " C " Student " received a 6 @. @ 9 rating , according to Nielsen Media Research , translating to approximately 6 @. @ 9 million viewers . The episode finished in 41st place in the ratings for the week of April 19 ? 25 , 1999 . On August 7 , 2007 , the episode was released as part of *The Simpsons - The Complete Tenth Season* DVD box set . Matt Groening , Mike Scully , George Meyer , Julie Thacker , Ron Hauge , Nancy Cartwright and Mark Kirkland participated in the DVD 's audio commentary of the episode .

Following its home video release , " The Old Man and the " C " Student " received mostly positive reviews from critics . Aaron Roxby of *Collider* gave it a positive review , calling it one the season 's best episodes . He wrote " The Simpsons has always been great about addressing / mocking the way that out culture treats the elderly . " He added that Lenny 's eye injury gave the episode " Extra points " . Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood of *I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide* described the episode as " A marvellous feel @-@ good story " and " Very sweet , very endearing . " They added that the " stereotyped Olympic Committee debate " at the beginning of the episode is " marvellous " , and concluded by describing the episode as " terrific

" . Colin Jacobson of DVD Movie Guide was positive as well , writing " I gotta admit I like Springy , the Olympic mascot , and the spring @-@ related aspects of the show entertain . " He added that the story involving Bart " offer more than a few good moments , " and concluded by writing " Though the episode never quite excels , it ? s pretty solid . " James Plath of DVD Town called it an " okay " episode . Jake McNeill of Digital Entertainment News described the episode as " not @-@ so @-@ good , " adding that " by this point , this show has expended just about every old folks joke there is . " However , he also wrote that " ' I want some taquitos ' never grows old . "