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Last Lecture Response

First off, I would like to say that I thoroughly enjoyed Randy Pausch's "Last Lecture." Not only was Pausch meaningful and incisive with the concepts that he talked about, he was also very relatable and easy-going. I think sometimes speakers, especially one's that are at Pausch's intellectual level, can tend to unconsciously speak *at* people, instead of with people; more frankly, they can get a little "preachy." I did not think this was the case at all with Pausch's presentation. I thought he not only showed humility and humanity, but that ever-more important trait of empathy for others. While this idea of empathy was a major point in his lecture, it was actually not the concept that grabbed me the most. The idea that he kept bringing up over and over again that really stuck with me was the idea of "walls" being in the way of someone's life goals. Now, this really isn't a new concept; everybody faces obstacles. What I loved about Pausch's outlook, however, was the fact that he insisted that the "walls" were not negatives in our lives, but positives. He talked about how "walls," or adversities, are a sort of protection for the world; they block the people who do not care about certain things from getting too far and powerful. I, personally, had never thought of personal adversity in this way before. I used to think that "walls" were more of a practice opportunity; scaling and getting over them was just what you did in order to get to the next phase or level of your journey, and it was something everyone must learn in order to survive. Now I feel as though I've taken a completely new outlook on obstacles from Pausch's lecture. I truly now see how something being hard, or seemingly impossible, is not an indicator to shy away and run, but rather to face it head on and wade through the murky waters of adversity. Obstacles are just place-markers that mean you have advanced to a higher level in some area or another, not setbacks that detract from the goal at hand. Thanks to Pausch's lecture, I now have a new outlook on one "bad" aspect of living, and I am very excited to take it and run with it in the future. I have a feeling knowing Pausch's wisdom will push me further than I thought I could have gone before.