Seth Terry

Creative Coding

Mart 120

Last Lecture Reflection

In his last lecture, Randy Pausch discusses how he achieved his childhood dreams. He spends the first few minutes talking about how even though he has cancer, he is not letting it get him down. A mindset like that is hard to understand, but I think since he did most of the things he set out to do, it was not that hard for him to let go. I hope to use his advice in my own life and not let my hardships get the better of me, however small they may be in comparison.

The part that affected me the most was probably toward the beginning, around the ten-minute mark, where he talked about learning fundamentals. He says that implementing the "fancy stuff" will not work without first learning the fundamentals. This saying is true for all aspects of life and is an excellent philosophy to integrate into everyday living. He then goes on to say that you cannot achieve everything you want to in life without the help of others. The more I think about that, the more I realize I haven't been seeking help from others as much as I could be. Most of the time, if I can't get something done alone, I will not do it. That's a bad habit that needs to be resolved. Part of the reason is embarrassment, but most of it is just laziness. If I'm ever stuck from now on, I will make sure to ask for help from someone who knows what they are doing, not just in school but in everyday life as well. With the power of the internet, I'm not just stuck with people I know personally either, so I have no excuse not to seek help with my projects.

Randy Pausch has a fantastic attitude. He can explain simple ideas in ways that make me think about them entirely differently. I have heard the phrase “learn the fundamentals” more times than I could possibly count, but it never clicked quite as it did with his football analogy. I’m not even a football fan, but he was able to explain it in a way that I don’t need to be. If I can seek out more people with his teaching skill, I’ll be able to achieve anything I put my mind to.