

College for Phil

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It all happened one day in June; as Phil was hesitating, but eventually asked his Mom, if he could attend City College. Phil knew, his Mom, being a single Mom, would find it difficult to pay for his higher education. Even though Phil having only part time employment gave half of his earnings to his Mom. They had just moved, after the loss of his Dad to Cancer. It was probably selfish of him to even ask his Mom, but he just felt he had to since he enjoyed school. Surprisingly, his Mom said, "Yes, we'll work it out," His Mom always said yes, never wanted to disappoint, she was a good Wife to Dad and a great Mom. Phil's grades were excellent, as he had graduated with Honors last year and intended to be College bound, but since his Dad had past, Phil thought College was out of the picture; his family didn't have much money when Dad was alive, and now much less. Phil thought, did Mom realize Dad was gone, when she said, "Yes?"

Phil decided to take a walk outside and hopefully become more familiar with his new neighborhood, after he had his breakfast.

Phil's Mom had driven him around the neighborhood, before they had moved in, to get a little familiar. Now he had an opportunity to get a closer look, and maybe in doing so, meet some neighbors. Phil had to walk since he didn't have a driver's license.

After a few blocks, Phil came upon a very tall building which displayed the name City College, high above the entrance way. Just amazing, Phil thought, when his Mom and he had driven around, they hadn't noticed the school, and it being so big, how could we miss it? It was just what he was looking for, and walking distance to the house, just perfect. The only problem could be, the tuition, such a big school, usually means a lot of money. Well, the only way to find out was to inquire and Phil made his way, up the steps and through the large front doors. Upon entering, Phil looked for the Faculty Offices to receive some information. Once finding the Faculty Offices, Phil knocked, was invited in, and greeted by the General admissions officer. "Good morning Sir, I'm Professor Carl, and you are?"

I'm Phil Collins, and I just moved in the area. The Professor had Phil sit down to explain his case. As Phil was talking, he glanced out of a window, noticing that for such a large school there was no Campus, or Football field, guess they were all business, he thought. When Phil was finished, the Professor, rendered his decision after explaining to Phil, the College had no extra activities, just books of learning, taught clearly in a different form, and only to those who qualify.

After an hour, it was a "yes", for Phil's enrollment, after which the Professor asked Phil if he had any immediate questions. Phil swallowed hard as he was about to ask the Professor his most important question of the day. Just as Phil was about to ask the question, the Professor stood up, and answered it, "I know Phil, what you wanted to ask me, there is no tuition, , or money for books or fees. It's all free for the chosen few. All

we ask is that you carry a minimum C average, and that you at all times, keep your thirst for learning. Which I know you will be able to achieve, that's all we ask.

"Come Phil, I'll show you around, and here is an empty class, we can enter. As the Professor held the door saying, "Please follow me", Phil entered noticing the large size of each desk, they were double the size than were in High School, big enough for two. "I know what's on your mind Phil," the Professor said, "Sit down at a desk, and you will find out why." Phil without any hesitation hustled his way to a desk, and sat. As he did, a voice said to him, "Move a bit over Matey, and give me some room for my aid?" Phil surprised, jumped up immediately, moving to another desk, while keeping his eyes focused on the Professor, who was standing in front of the empty classroom, smiling. As Phil again adjusted himself to the next desk, another voice greeted him, "Cousin can thou move a bit?" Phil jumped up again, and moved to the Professor's side, a bit shaken saying, "What's going on here Professor, what gives?"

"Phil, I'll explain, this is a very special school. Some would say, it's a ridiculously special kind of school, a school to the max. We have special volunteers, serving their penance owed in life and rendered in their death. Who sit besides our students as they learn, it's like having their own private tutor, with world experiences. Following and guiding them through all their years at City College, until they graduate."

"Whom did I have before Professor?"

"You had, at the first desk, "Red Beard" the pirate, and at the desk following, you had

"William Shakespeare", any interest now?

"Yes I do, it's been an amazing day!

The Professor continued, "At every desk sits an individual who has passed, who has an arrangement with us, to give their precious time on earth to our school.

Come back to my office Phil, and I'll give you some paperwork, to fill out, and return, as soon as you decide to join us."

When Phil and the Professor reached the General Admissions office, another Professor was leaving. Phil was introduced to the Professor, as a future student. "Congratulations young man, I'm Professor Stan, known to all as Stan the weather man. I wish you the best of luck Phil, and if you ever need help, don't hesitate," and he left.

Phil felt proud to be considered as one and asked, "Can I pick my own desk Professor?"

"Yes you may, Phil?"

"Can I tell my mother?"

“I suggest, if you must, slowly, and not everything at once, if you can help it. It may be hard for her to understand, and she may not believe you at first.”

”Will do, Professor, and I’ll be seeing you soon.”

Phil returned finishing all four years.