

COLLEGE INTERVIEW

A TEN MINUTE MONOLOGUE

By John C. Havens

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At rise, CHUCK approaches reading from a college application that HE holds in his hands (can be mimed if desired).

(reads) College Application Essay Question:

Describe, in 500 words or under, what you expect to get out of your college experience, both socially and academically. Include which subjects interest you, and why, and rank in order of importance. Briefly describe the history of academia in England, the United States, and Nova Scotia. Include engineering sketches and/or diagrams for one of the following university buildings: gymnasium, cafeteria, spa, indoor polo grounds, or pigeon racing hut.

Explain Einstein's theory of relativity. Explain the theory of Einstein's relatives. With any remaining space, define the meaning of the word "faith" for every indigenous people of the planet Earth and/or Mars. Lastly, briefly describe your personality - your chief personal characteristics, likes/dislikes, temperament, and very essence. ***(sighs, pauses a moment to think; repeats the last part of the question)*** Briefly describe your personality and very essence. Hmm. ***(mimes writing)***

I'm succinct. ***(pause)*** I'm also honest.

(Spins around, pretends HE's at a college interview. Speaks in a British accent throughout the following section, occasionally pauses as if listening to an interviewer.)

Oxford, yes. I spent last summer there and picked up a bit of the ol' accent, you know, old cap. Excuse me? ***(pause)*** Oh, yes, of course ***(laughing, trying to cover)***. Old chap, yes, quite. Just having a bit of a laugh. Ha. Anyhow, as I was saying, I spent all last summer at Oxford with the Royal Shakespeare Company doing an internship... sorry? ***(listens)***

Uh, yes, I know the Royal Shakespeare Company, or RSC as you call it, is at Stratford Upon Avon, not Oxford. But they had a special, um, uh, what do you call it, um, iambic thermometer course that I aced, and... pardon? My transcript says something different about last summer? Indeed? Preposter-me. I mean, you. Preposter-you! ***(listens)***

Us? Quite. Testing you, old boy. Boy. Preposterous! What does it say?

(listens; starts to repeat back what's being said for the benefit of the audience)

That I did not indeed spend last summer in Oxford, but working at my local Blockbuster Video Store where I was fired after shouting at the mayor for taking the last copy of "Dude, Who Stole My Car?" Ah, yes. Well.

(backpedaling) Well, I suppose saying I spent the whole summer at Oxford was a bit of an exaggeration. Actually, I rented "Young Sherlock Holmes" which took place at Oxford. **(his British accent begins to fade)**

Good movie. Sherlock's girlfriend was hot. She got shot at the end, though. And then he got stuck with Watson and Moriarty. Yeah, I'll take hot British girlfriend any day. **(pause; realizes HE's been found out)** You know, before she got shot. Oh well, **(puts British accent back on)** Wheaties! I mean, Cheerio!

(Spins around, tries to act like a jock at a different college interview. Jumps around, acting out the different sports HE knows nothing about as HE's talking and listening)

Yeah, you got a totally sweet campus. Great soccer diamond. **(starts kicking an invisible soccer ball between his feet)** Huh? **(listens)**

Field, yeah, of course. Soccer field. I just meant it's a diamond of a field is all. You know, pretty and uh... sparkly, in a grassy kind of way.

(pause)

How long have I played soccer? Oh, gosh, years, really. I mean, I remember when I was a kid I used to take fruit and bop it around the kitchen, work up the dexterity, you know? I started off with grapes, moved up to oranges. I knew I had totally made it when I slammed my first watermelon out the cat door from a distance of 30 yards.

(As HE's talking, HE begins to mime tossing the invisible soccer ball back and forth between his hands)

Yeah, chicks dig soccer players. Course, in Europe they call it football. Or Rugby, one of the two. By the way, did I mention I spent the summer at Oxford?

(pause)

Excuse me?

(looks at his hands, drops imaginary ball)

Oh yeah, I know, I know. It's just when I play, I'm usually the catcher.

(pause)

Goalie! I meant, goalie. **(turns as if to walk out, defeated, in British accent)** Blimey!

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