

No Cameras Allowed by Computer Clan

#011 - This College is Awesome! (Oh, It's \$120,000...?)

Show Notes:

Here are the Columbia College facilities I was referring to:

[Media Production Center](#)

[All Creative and Media Spaces](#)

Transcription*:

Hey guys, how are you all doing? If you're new here, welcome. My name is Krazy Ken, and welcome back to another episode of No Cameras Allowed the autobiographical journey of running the Computer Clan channel, which is one of the longest running tech YouTube channels still operating today. So I have a lot of cool stories and tidbits and nuggets to share from this journey. I was hosting a Q&A recently and a couple of people. I know at least one person asked about what I did for college. So here is my college journey. It was in middle school. When I first started, I guess you could say thinking about college as much as a seventh or eighth grader could think. And the school took us to this community college nearby that focused on technology. And, you know, I was a like a new techie at the time.

I was starting to grow into it, like in computers and things like that and digital art. So this was kind of cool. And I thought, all right, pretty nice. But I didn't really think this is the place I would go to. So for the sake of the chronicles today, we're just going to call that one College 0. So we had that tour to College 0, and it was just for the day moving on. So then I was on Apple's website one day and I saw something about full sail university, I think because they're Mac based for a lot of their stuff, if not all of their stuff, that's why they were featured on Apple's website. That's how I found out about them and their program looked really cool. You could learn about filmmaking and all this cool stuff. And I don't know if they have more locations, but I know one of them is in Florida.

So I was thinking, okay, this full sail university thing looks pretty cool. Maybe I can go to Florida and go on a tour, long story short that ended up not happening. So I won't, I won't build any suspense there. So then I'm in high school. Now I hear about this recommended college. So I'm taking these video production classes in these photography classes and Photoshop and all this stuff. I'm learning all of this digital art stuff. Right? And in that program in high school, they were promoting a nearby college. Guess what? It was also college, zero, that same community college, that middle school took me to several years prior. So it's interesting. This College 0 kept popping back up in my life, but I didn't really think anything of it. I learned about the program a bit you know, the guys came in and spoke to the classes and to be honest, I wasn't super enthused.

I was kind of like, nah, I want something better than this. And this was also at the time where I, I wanted to live in the city. I kind of liked the idea of a city lifestyle. So that's what I was going for. I wanted something bigger and better. So kind of shoved College 0 to the side. Now I'm a little bit later in high school, the clock is ticking. Now we've got to start touring at places, right? So the first college I tour at, and for the sake of this, we'll call this one. Yeah. College, one focused heavily on media and video production, live, video production, filming, editing, all that kind of stuff. You know, a lot of that stuff that I do now, overall, it was an okay experience. I remember going into their live switching room, you know, like a big desk you would use for live switching cameras and stuff for a broadcast.

And yeah, it was running windows 3.1 or something like that. It was a dated thing. But you know, I'm guessing a lot of colleges have some older equipment sometimes, but it was still kind of cool to play with that thing. So then ended up meeting with the Dean of the main program I was looking to apply to. I don't remember the name, name of it, but we met with the Dean and goodness gracious. This could just be my brain playing tricks on me and making it seem worse than what it actually was. But the way I remember it is the Dean was in the room with my family and we're sitting at this table and I'm sitting next to her, but she doesn't really notice me yet. And, and she asks, who is the student who wants to apply? And my parents point to me and they say, it's Ken.

And she turns to me and I kind of saw her smile, like slightly disappear. Cause he got to keep in mind. I'm like maybe 14 or 15 years old at this time. Give or take. And I don't know what was going through her head, but she probably saw me noticed how young I looked and was like, huh? Even nowadays I look pretty young. A lot of people think I'm like 10 years younger than I actually am. So she probably saw me and was like, okay, this, this person's looking to go to college. Okay. Whatever. So we move on from that, I thought in my head that was a little awkward, but we move on and we start talking about what I'm interested in. Well, my folks probably asked this, like what could can do to get ready? Is there certain things you should learn?

Is there software he should teach himself? And I remember the debate happening of like, Oh no, no, you shouldn't get into video production software. Cause it can cost like a thousand bucks or so. And we were talking about Apple's ecosystem specifically. So th the Dean was saying, don't buy the software. It's like 1700 bucks or whatever. And and I'm like, no, the final cuts suite is nine 99. At this time it was nine 99. They just, I guess, kept debating me on the price. I'm like, Hey, it's only a thousand bucks. Like if I need by that to teach myself things like I will do that. And I don't know, she just seemed to a little stubborn. Like she was insisting. It was more expensive than that. And I was like, no, it's not. I don't know. It just seemed like I could not get along with her.

If I couldn't get along with the Dean, maybe that's not a place I wanted to go to. However, she did say one thing that at the time didn't make any sense to me, but nowadays it totally makes sense to me. And in fact, this is advice that they give people that want to follow a similar career path as me. She said, I recommend you take writing classes. And at the I'm like, what the hell? I want to edit video and make motion graphics. Why do I need to write? And of course, again, this is my like early high school brain, my close minded brain. Not

thinking about the big picture. She was absolutely right about that though. Cause you're a storyteller when you work in video, especially if you're the editor, it is writing. You're just not writing with words. You're writing with motion, picture and sound.

You are telling us the story with puzzle pieces of a film timeline at the time that made no sense to me, but it absolutely makes sense now. And it's the advice I do give people when they say, Hey, I want to go into video production or learn editing. Like what's a tip. My tip is learn how to right? And I'm not talking, learn grammar and stuff. I'm saying, learn creative writing, learn storytelling, learn how to narrate. You got to learn that stuff. Absolutely. So that was college. One ended up not working out, but that one bit of advice right there was actually really critical. So that's something I have kept with me ever since. Funny enough, before we moved on to our next college tour, college, zero popped up again and it turns out they have a new program, which seemed like a perfect fit for me.

It was about animation, digital interface, active web experiences and web design, video production, photography, filming, editing. It seemed like the perfect thing. It was right up my alley and it was brand new. I could be one of the first students to go through this new program zero. So we ended up meeting my family and yeah. Meeting with the heads of the program. I'm not sure if they were the Dean or whatever you call it. And it was kind of cool. They had a very fascinating portfolio. They worked on some legit stuff that was on cable TV everything from like motion graphics you might see on billboards and stuff to digital signage, to stuff you would actually see on TV, including a lot of straight ahead animation. So stuff that's drawn for the most part frame by frame and colored and rotoscoped into live action film and stuff like that.

And yeah, it was kind of cool, but the people I talked to focus so much on animation, I guess it kind of lost my attention. Cause I wasn't really going into college for that. So their goal was they wanted to teach a program that taught all this kind of stuff. But when I was meeting with them, they just emphasize the animation stuff so much. It was cool, but it wasn't aligning with me. And I was like, okay, well College 0 still doesn't look like a good fit. Even though there's this new program we'll keep moving on. So college two comes up. This is Columbia college in Chicago and this one was freaking awesome. They kicked off the tour. It was a big tour. Like this was a huge group tour thing that kicked it off with this awesome theatrical performance in this big theater, it was super fun.

And the campuses were really beautiful. The dorms are beautiful. They had tons of space where you could work because they were spread all throughout the day, Chicago. And I'll put a link in the description and in the show notes, whichever is more convenient for you. You can go ahead and click on that and just see visually what some of this stuff looks like. It's so cool. In terms of video production, they had recording studios, production trucks, soundstages post-production centers, screen rooms, TV studios, but they had just all this cool stuff that you could use as a student here at Columbia. And I believe I went to their meetings production center in particular, they had a lot of stuff in this one building, it was like 35,000 square feet. I remember vividly the motion cap studio. It was like a 2000 square foot motion cap studio with green screen and harnesses. So you could suspend yourself in midair and all this stuff. It's what you would use to act out the motion, capture data for

animated characters or video game assets. It's pretty commonly used, but it was so cool to be in one for real, a big motion capture studio and see that. And again, this was all at Columbia college. It was so freaking cool. Everything was beautiful. And everyone I met with was super friendly. The cost was going to be at least \$120,000 though. That was not a fun realization.

That was around the time where I really really realized I don't want to spend a lot money on college. I don't want to put myself into a debt like that, but also contrary to what I wanted to do when I was younger. Yeah. Around this time I realized I don't really want to have a city life. I don't want to have my car glasses and stuff all over the city where I have to take a bus to get from one building to the other. I don't want to live in downtown Chicago. I th that desire to live in the city really started dying at the time. So the combination of that plus the \$120,000 price, not for me, but that's just me. I know people have gone there and have been successful. I've worked with other people in the video production world that have gone there.

Heck I've even met at least that I know of one actor. Yeah. In the YouTube space that went to Columbia as well. So I'm sure people have had a good time there. It's just the lifestyle wasn't for me. And at that price tag, Holy crap. No college three comes up and I believe this was far enough away. Well kind of like, you know, far enough away where it was a bit of a road trip. I don't exactly remember, but again, this was a big group tour thing. This wasn't a private meeting or anything and it was kind of fun. But when they showed the dorm, I was like, Holy crap, this is so small.

How can I live here? That is now when I didn't just realize, I don't want the city life. I really don't want campus life. You know, the typical college campus university campus lifestyle that you see in the movies all the time. I was really starting to not want that. Especially after seeing how small that dorm was. I was running the computer, clean YouTube channel at this time. I was like, how the heck am I going to my YouTube channel from this dorm? It's so tiny. Where would I film? What the heck would I do? This just seems like such an uncomfortable fit. Now, if I really had to make it work, I would have found a way. Absolutely. But part of me still wanted to give the school a chance, but I did not want to live in the dorms. So I thought, okay, maybe I can rent an apartment nearby, but you know, I don't know how standard of a policy this is, but they required all freshmen to live on campus for the first year.

I do not want to live in this tiny cramped dorm, which looked very old and dated and spend tens and tens and tens of thousands of dollars to come here. That's ludicrous. I get it. There's people that want that lifestyle and make it work for them. That's great. If you can make that work, fantastic. Everybody's college journey is different, but boy, this was not a good fit for me, but Hey, let's go to the video production department. So I wanted to look into the video. Yeah. We went there next as a little family trip and it was pretty cool. They had a decently sized TV studio sort of thing. It just seemed really dated. He did though. And I get it. It's not always about the equipment because it's about the skills, not the tools. So if you're using some older stuff, that's fine. Plus it's a college, you know, they probably only get so much money and they can't have the latest and greatest of everything.

But the dated fields is didn't make me feel very comfortable. Heck I remembered the instructor was giving a demo. They were playing some sort of like instructional video or something on a VHS tape. And I'm like, okay, well this is like the early 2010s whatever. And we're watching instructional videos off of a VHS tape. I really didn't want to go here either. So we moved on to college for an, Oh my gosh, this was a private meeting this time, right. It was not a big group thing. And the gentleman was super, super nice, but I don't remember much of that experience at all because I was tired as brick. I do not remember why we had to get up early to make the journey. I was not awake. It was after another long week of high school, I was tired. I was burned out. I was so out of it, but we still had this date set as a private meetings.

So we had to go and I just, I just was not very engaged because nothing really stuck out. So I was like, okay, well this is decent. But again, I don't know if I want to have to relocate, move away from my friends and spend a lot of money to come here. If I'm not jumping up and down about it. So then guess what? College 0 popped up again. This time there was this new program being offered at the high school where you could take the college classes in high school and get them credit for them. When you go to this college. And I thought, wow, this is a great fit. I can save money and save time and already be done with classes before I even walked through the door. Heck yes, I'm going to do this. And then I found out the classes I needed to take were classes.

I took that year. So I inquired about this and I said, Hey, can I get this credit? I already took these classes that you mentioned in your program, but unfortunately that's not how it worked. There must have been too many things tweaked in the program or whatever, where this did not apply retroactively. You could not get credit for the class if you took it before this program was initiated. So I had to retake, I think just two classes in high school, but honestly I was okay with that because I loved what I did. It was photography, video production, learning to put a storyboard together, learning to edit. I didn't mind going through that stuff again. Heck sometimes getting back to basics and relearning stuff is great. And if I could do it and learn and still have fun and get credit for college before I even walked onto the campus, that sounds like a great idea.

I'm going to do that. But I still wasn't sure that I was going to be going to College 0, but I told myself if it ends up happening because it's come up multiple times already. Well, at least to have this credit, I have nothing to lose. And then the instructor of this video production class announced they were going to go on a tour of college, zero. And I don't remember even being on a tour probably since middle school of college. Zero. Yeah. It's been years. So college, zero kept popping back up. Like, I don't know, man, maybe it was destiny. So we go there and I remember being wowed by the technology. They were up to date. They had modern classrooms, virtual classrooms too. So you can telecommunicate with other campuses, projectors, new iMacs, giant Cintiqs, you know, those big drawing tablets with the screens built in like the 27-inch models or whatever they were huge.

You could use them to draw on big Pegasus RAID to store footage. It was such a modern environment full of juicy new tech. I was like, heck yes. Okay. Now these people are speaking my language. Plus they showed some other cool stuff. They also teach animation.

Like I talked about earlier. So we actually got to see some original storyboards from some famous cartoons that were on network television, I believe, including Nickelodeon. So it was kind of cool to see those original pieces of paper in person. So that was cool. I was starting to warm up to the people there, more getting to know them. The technology was modern and the program, it was really lining up with me and my interests. In the end, I ended up going to college, zero routes. After all of this time of pushing it away, it ended up being the perfect fit.

And the cool thing was because it was a community college, the commute wasn't that crazy check. There was no campus lifestyle that was going to be inconvenient to me check. There was no small dorm I had to live in check. And the total cost was only about 10 grand. All the boxes were getting checked. So I ended up going to zero. By the time I get there, I'm already, I think about 16 credits in because I tested out of mathematics. I tested out of intro to computer literacy, which was basically just Microsoft office. I took the test and you got three hours. I'd finished it in 90 minutes. I got everything perfect. Except I think I had an Excel column, like one letter too narrow and I got a point deducted for that. So a letter got cut off. That was the only point I lost.

So I tested out of all that basic stuff. And I already had these credits for these video production and photography classes. So I was already walking into that school with I think, 12 or 15 credits. That was pretty nice. I was incredibly grateful for that. So the first classes I took there were about animation. And again, I wasn't going mainly for animation, but it was part of the program and I was totally willing to learn. So we did digital stuff. Yes. But we all started with the basic, basic, basic, basic stuff, pencil and paper. And that was kind of hard for me because I don't draw a lot. I remember doodling a few things and a student walked by my desk and they were like, Whoa, you draw. I'm like, no, I don't. Hey, it's you know, we're always harder on ourselves, right? They actually were quite impressed with what I was drawing.

And I was like, I don't really know what I'm doing. But anyway, we did basic stuff with pencil and paper, learning the basics of some storyboarding stuff to the flour sack animation, pretty much everybody does the flour sack animation where you draw it frame by frame the flour sack moving. But even more basic stuff than that, just the bouncing ball. That's the most basic animation thing you learn. You start with a bouncing ball. We learned how to draw like those little time charts, whatever they're called for the key frames on the paper, the six principles of animation. I know we studied the principles of animation, but heck if I remember how many there were, this was a long time ago, but you study things like squash and stretch. So characters and shapes don't look rigid. The follow-through animations. So if a person moves their head, their hair moves.

That's followed through animation. We've learned all this stuff on pencil and paper before we ever touched a computer. And then we started getting into more of the digital stuff. And that's where I started learning Adobe flash pro and some Toon boom products. And this was before it was called Adobe animate. It was as you know, called Adobe flash pro. So it was cool to learn all this stuff. I remember one of the projects we had to do was we had to make a storyboard for a short film. And I remember seeing one person storyboard in

particular and it looked like a complete professional had done it. And I'm like, what are you doing? Doing here? You're done.

The person did look a little bit older. So I'm guessing they were going back to school for something. And they already had all these skills, but Holy cow, it looks so professional. I was like, there's no way. This is some freshmen, you know, storyboard thing. This is legit. So I got to talking with her. I was still kind of introverted back then, but I was a little better. And we're, we're not really like close friends today, but we still stay in touch every so often. And it really cool to get to know her and her drawing skills were phenomenal. So yeah, she was way above the level of that class. So then I ended up learning Adobe illustrator, which was key. Cause I use that program all the time. Vector-Based drawing very nice. I've learned more about Adobe after effects for motion, graphics and animation.

I learned about project management, some very good technical skills and some workplace skills that translated into what I do at my day job for video production and for my YouTube words. So I learned a lot of great stuff there. I, I ended up learning a ton and I met some really good friends too. I think that's almost more important. I don't know. You can argue that, but yes, I made some good lasting friendships from that place. And I'm still friends with several of those people today. In fact, I've also met some great artists who I have worked with on a business this level. And one of them who ended up being a good friend of mine still is a good friend of mine is our channel artist. The person that drew the artwork for the podcast. You're listening to right now to the banner graphics on our YouTube channel.

Yeah, my friend Heidi, I met her there. And look at that years later, she ends up being the channel artist. He never know how that stuff's going to go way back then. You know, it's, it's kinda cool to look back at. It's like fate, it just all worked out. It came up multiple times in my exploration, right? My journey to find an answer for a college that I wanted to go to and I kept pushing it away. Not really malice, just, that's just kinda how it happened. And I kept looking at other places, but yet it kept popping up. And then here we are, it's where I ended up going. So I guess the answer is often just right in front of you. You just don't always know it yet. So that was that journey looking for a college and finding the right place to go to.

And before we talk a little bit more about that, I always love to address a question of the day. And if you want to submit one, you can email me or tweet me on Twitter DME. You mentioned, Hey, this was a question for the podcast, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, and type your question. And you have a chance having your question read and answered in a future podcast episode. So go ahead and submit those questions. Here's one from @Volts_PC on Twitter. He asked, I have a question for the podcast, which iMac or MacBook had, or has the best design and why not focused on specs simply aesthetics and usability. Keep up the great work on the podcast. Well, thank you volts for asking that. And this is a very subjective thing, of course, but in terms of iMac and Mac book, in terms of the design, I mean, I just liked the latest ones.

Honestly. I think the latest MacBook Pros, the sleek space gray, all that stuff and the iMacs, you know, they're, they look fine. I just think it's the latest stuff. I'm not saying the new MacBook pros are the best. You know, my MacBook pro is still over seven years old. Cause I had an upgrade cause I don't like a lot of the decisions Apple made, right? Like the butterfly keyboard, even though they ended up ditching that they knew they were wrong about it. You know, ditching all the USB ports and stuff like that. But word on the street is they're backpedaling. So we'll probably see a really cool new Mac pro coming up soon. And then my answer will change, but yeah, volts PC. Thanks for asking that. And again guys, if you want to submit your own questions, feel free to send them to me on Twitter or email.

So yeah, college man, crazy times. Not really for me, it wasn't that insane. Cause again, it didn't really have that dorm life, but I found out what I wanted. You know, the community college route just seemed fine for me. I told myself, I don't really want to spend a lot of time in college and I don't want to spend a lot of money on college because most of the stuff for this field I was studying was going to be stuff I learned on my own. This was going to be stuff I learned through industry experience, doing my own projects and just doing stuff I made up this rule called the "10-to-1 rule." It's not mathematically accurate, but whatever. And I said for every hour you study a subject in school, you got to practice it 10 hours outside of school, the stuff you're going to learn, the network connections are going to make.

Most of that stuff is not going to be in a classroom that doesn't apply to everything. You know, this is mostly for this digital creative arts sort of thing, but the basic messages you got to practice a lot just outside of school. Trust me. You don't want to apply to a place and have your portfolio be a bunch of college projects. I've seen that. It's not, it's not that great. You need to make some more stuff to make yourself stand out. I appreciate you listening to me. Just go on about this. It was really cool to relive it myself and Hey, if you do like the show and you want to leave a rating slash review for us, if you'd like to leave that, I'd really appreciate it. Thank you so much. And Hey, if you want to help fund the future of the computer clan, plus get some awesome perks along the way.

Feel free to pledge to my Patreon. It's [Patreon.com/KrazyKen](https://www.patreon.com/KrazyKen), "krazy" with a "K" you can get some awesome stuff on there and you're supporting the computer, climb the podcast, YouTube channel the whole lot. So thank you in advance for your support. I hope you guys enjoyed, and I will see you again on March 8th on this podcast while I won't literally see you. That might be weird. I'm not hacking into your camera or anything I promise, but yes I am taking the next week off, but I will be back with another podcast episode on March 8th. The usual schedule is new episodes every Monday. So subscribe, stay tuned and keep listening. Thanks for sticking with me. Catch the crazy and pass it on.

***Transcriptions are auto-generated by a transcribing software. Sometimes, small edits are made by carbon-based lifeforms, but please excuse any inaccuracies.**