

11 Oct 2017  
MARTY TRIED  
(Apologies to Merle Haggard)  
from Chris Brown

V

As World's Smartest Kid Today, in my own mind anyway,  
I ignored their boring books and common core,  
I despised the teacher's pet, stole my answers off the net,  
Only studied forums, blogs, and gaming lore.

C

I turned sixteen with my X-Box, found some courses I could pass,  
While crushing Warcraft foes from near and far, near and far,  
Thought I'd take my talent to some place that needs a touch of class,  
And that's how I wound up at U. of R.

V

That nice young Professor Ted tried to get into my head  
Those trees, graphs, sets, sorts, hashing, and big Oh...  
While my labmate broke his head, I was texting girls instead  
Of learning what I saw no need to know.

V

Kindly old Professor Brown never even showed a frown  
As I blew off Prolog, Matlab, Scheme, and C.  
And he never thought of shaming me for spending all night gaming,  
He just smiled, said: "No hard feelings, here's your E."

C

So I turned nineteen knowing nothing, with my life out of control,  
No one could steer me right but Marty tried, Marty tried,  
Marty warned me of the future and dissected my sad past,  
So there's only me to blame cause Marty tried.

V

Distracted, dazed and bleary, I flamed out in Systems, Theory,  
Independent study, even HCI.  
Psyche and English turned me down, Anthro said "Get out of town!"  
U of R was giving up, still Marty tried.

C

So I turned twenty-one in Hylan Lab this morning just past five  
No song, no cake, nobody by my side, by my side,  
My whole class has gone to Google while my BA was denied —  
But I may get out next year cause Marty tried.  
I may graduate next year cause Marty tried.