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The Stanford Daily

Intermission

Dear Ms. Azia Kim . . .

May 25, 2007

By [Victor Fuste](#)

I tip my hat to you. Many of us actual Stanford students read your story in awed delight yesterday, but I for one saw through the carefully orchestrated deceit to the underlying genius of your plan. You are an American heroine for managing to pull a fast one on so many of us who considered ourselves the best and the brightest. Turning lemons into lemonade — or rather, I should say, a free college education — is no easy feat, but you, Ms. Azia Kim are a mastermind, deserving to be ranked up there with Frank Abagnale and D.B. Cooper as one of the greatest con artists of the 20th century.

How proud your parents must have felt when they heard you would be attending Stanford in the fall of 2006. My question to you is whether they were in on it from the beginning or if you were planning on waiting until graduation to spring your little secret on them. If they were in on it, they must have recognized your entrepreneurial spirit — you were well on your way to sneaking into a board position at Enron, perhaps. If they weren't in on it, I can't imagine the kind of pressure they must have put on you that you would have to fake being a student at Stanford just so that they would get off your back. You know what they say, a diamond can only be created with heat and pressure which (congratulations!) you have plenty of now. I hear it goes well with shame.

If you don't mind, I'd like to pinpoint the incredible brilliance of your scam. You must have done your homework. How else would you have known to slip into Kimball, a dorm where student interaction (and thus, word of mouth) is as rare as fork in a Chinese restaurant? On top of that, you chose the single largest undergraduate major to "study" — HumBio. Who's going to notice you in a giant lecture hall? No one — exactly.

And then there was the remarkable move of saying, "Oh, don't mind me, I'm just a displaced freshman with nowhere to live." Hacking into the roommate's email account to give Housing the thumbs up on your squatting was simply inspired. I think I saw that on "Mission: Impossible." Right after he climbs in through the window because he doesn't have a key. Sound familiar?

I vote that they should award you, Ms. Kim, with honorary student status. Anyone who is smart enough to fool 14,000+ Stanford students in addition to the staffs in two dorms and Student Housing deserves some recognition. Hell, I barely got away with a tiny stain on my carpet last year, but you were able to get away with eight freaking months of free housing! They would have never caught you if you hadn't slipped. I bet you probably could have gotten a degree from the university had you stayed under the radar.

The only drawbacks to your plan were the potential ramifications for your roommate from Okada — her parents just found out that their daughter was sleeping with her boyfriend so much that she practically wasn't even in the room they were paying for. Oy. I know my parents would kill me. I can't even imagine what hers will do to her.

You are now number five on Google trends. You will undeniably be in the local, if not national news. These are your fifteen minutes, Azia Kim — revel in their glory. Though the University has deemed you unworthy to be here, I salute you, Azia Kim. In less than 24 hours, you have become something of a living legend. You may not be graduating from Stanford, in fact you may have never even been admitted into the school in the first place, but there are plenty of other places that are in dire need of people with your level of underhanded deception. If not, at least we know that you have a long career in cat burglary ahead of you.

You knew exactly how to play the system and by golly, you are amazing Azia Kim. Good luck out there, you're going to need it.

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