**Writing**

5C (Claremont Colleges) Satire

blog link

various essays

Snapshots of my past (or, a portrait of the young man as a young boy)

*The thoughts here and throughout these past journals are often funny, sometimes sad, but always honest. I was both surprisingly aware of life and unaware of my own hypocrisies at the same time, but at least I had no embarrassment about putting down on paper what I truly was thinking about.*

9-27-06 “I am writing this so I can remember what I was thinking when things happen to me…maybe when I’m older I will read this again. That would be cool.”

10-03-06 “School wise everything great. Nothing but 100’s today (again). I wouldn’t be surprised if my average is 100 in every class.”

11-8-06 “I hope Aria doesn’t show up again to our game. It is a lot more pressure when someone in your grade (especially a girl) is watching.”

12-1-06 “There is not one doubt that if my dad had grown up in America I would have been one of the most popular kids in the grade and an all-star at sports, but in this life I’m smarter and I can see the popular kids as the monsters that they are. So here is the big question. Which one of those lives would I settle for? The answer? The one I’m in right now”

12-17-06 “I started thinking about dreams and why we have them, and why they’re weird, and why they are about real life and hopes, and why forget them, and I suddenly appreciated something Wait. Mom is coming.”

12-18-06 “I appreciated how I can take an idea or create an idea that is totally original and making something of it. In the past I have invented board games, made new and creative recipes, written songs, and once for an advanced assignment I designed a helpful robot. So I realized reading that book that I was blessed with my ability to do so much stuff. (We are a non-religious family but I still thank God for all that). I am so lucky.”

12-21-06 “I wrote a 2.5 minute song. I think it is really good. I could have written it about anything, but I decided to send a message and make it seem sweet so if anyone ever found the lyrics I wouldn’t be in trouble”

12-26-06 “I spend way too much time thinking about the future. I think about how weird/hard it is to go out with someone. I blame teen shows for putting the idea of asking someone out in my head.”

1-02-07 “Why is it that little kids cry at their own b-day parties? I did it. Mom did it. Dad did it. Kieran’s friends have done it, too…I know way too much about politics for an 11-year old”

1-18-07 “Dad is like that. When he makes jokes about real life I laugh so hard I can’t breathe, but when he makes “joke” jokes I always go “Wah. Wa-ah”. I can hear Kieran laughing at his impressions right now.”

1-29-07 “That is another thing about our family. We joke around with a dry sense of humor. A lot.”

1-31-07 “I’m realizing that we live in a world where nothing is free. Even having your life saved costs money these days. But why? Why were humans created to need something in return for something they did? Volunteers are like an endangered species…What if all of a sudden we had our minds erased and re-written so that there was no such thing as money? Asking for something in return would be impractical. What if?”

5-20-04 “I just hope I can play them [songs for the final fiddler concert] as well in the concert. I hope I fix the mistakes I made in practice and if I do then HOORAY!”

5-21-04 “Yesterday I got two different trophys giving me a total of 6 trophys…I was the only beginner to get a large trophy…. I wonder how many trophys I will get next year!!!”

5-29-04 “I don’t want to brag but I am a good violin player. I like to play the violin but sometimes I do get a little bored of it.”

5-31-04 “Today was the Memorial Day Swim Party. It was a lot of fun. I had a good time playing with Dante, Christian and Grant…we had a good dinner after a tiring day”

6-5-04 “Today was my dogs third birthday. In dog years she is twenty-one…that clever dog of mine!”

problems with our world and the human race (age 11 or 12): War, Crime, Murder, Rule Breaking, No Compassion, Racism, Poverty, Hate, Countries, Language, rich + poor, restrictions on who can be in power, exclusion, two party system, bad governments, people screwing off the environment, McDonalds/fast food/obesity, hunger, thirst, not donating, curses, egos, anti “blank” people, religious strife, disease, living conditions, no longevity

2-13-03 Albert Instine fackts: He says time is a fourth demincion…Everything except light travels at a different speed. The speed of something can look different depending on where their viewed…Light comes back over time.

2007 Top 10 List: 1) friends and family 2) music 3) sport 4) reading 5) technology 6) thinking 7) self-satisfaction 8) making films 9) food 10) jokes and sarcasm

age 16: “I have the right, ability, and responsibility to live and enjoy my life by two main principles. Firstly, that I can and will be extraordinary, by any measure of the idea I see fit. Secondly, that the only proper and meaningful way to employ any special advantages that the universe has conferred on me, or from another perspective which I have created, is for the benefit of and to impact something larger than myself”

age 17: “When I’m writing, anything, listening to or playing music, or reading/learning good stuff all my worries to away – something to keep in mind. But thinking, as desperate as it is, needs to happen a bit too. Just remember everything else there is – like entire other languages!”

written on a plane to Ireland, age 11 or 12 (shows the progression of thoughtfulness over base jealousies, still the struggle): We never truly reveal who we are to others, so no one except you can ever know who you are; Happiness is the meaning of life. You were given life and given happiness so make the best of it; Everyone can create art in some way; Being able to make someone smile is one of the greatest things you can do; Those who are afraid of change are afraid of life; You are given your brain, body, and life situation and with that you create your own destiny. Or is it the other way around?; Spend one minute a day thinking about life. You can come up with hundreds of ideas through that.

**Music – staggered down the page in sections, pictures/links throughout**

“David, you’re the music in my life” – Kieran during his Bar Mitzvah

Even at 13, my brother knew how to get at me, and not always at annoyance. The truth is though that I have learned that the proudest a sibling can be is watching their younger self surpass them in every way [fix]. I’m very excited and impressed every time I come home and see the musical leaps and bounds my brother has made, and happy to think I may have played a role in making it such a big part of both of our lives. Here’s link(s) to collaborations we’ve done for our parent(s)… (apologies to Michael Stipe/Lin Manuel Miranda, two musical heroes)

Orchestra

I still vividly remember the afternoon in 2cd grade I came home with a pink slip from music class asking if we wanted to enroll in the Bunker Hill Fiddling Lions program – I had some friends already doing it, so what the hell I thought (or some 2cd grade equivalent of that). Nothing has been the same since. Although I have continued playing in college, probably the height of my orchestral career came in senior year of high school when my orchestra travelled to New York City to play in the famed Carnegie Hall. I got my three note solo there and was part of the string octet you can hear featured in this beautiful, lush piece recorded in [the big room] of Carnegie by Thomas Canning…

Rock ‘n Roll

Learning the guitar (thanks, Dad) led to writing songs, picking up the bass, and joining a band my freshman year of high school. I have been in a band (or two) practically ever since and by a rough estimate have recorded in some form well over one hundred original songs, mainly just to my computer in my room or to a small, crowded room, but occasionally in an actual recording studio. Here’s a few selections from my high school group Oh, Nostalgia (with Vernon McGhee (link), Paul Howie, and Tib Stovall) …

College

Between keeping up with the violin, being a president of Pomona’s Musician Coalition, playing in a band (Sans Gabriel) with friends, and trying to learn some proper piano, I have also been very lucky to be a part of two very unique collegiate music group: Midnight Echo a cappella (link) and Mariachi Serrano de Claremont. We perform…(links?)

Theater

How violin led to this, changed my life in turn as well

**About**

Resume/High School CV/family tree links at the top

Why thank you for taking an interest

I was born and raised in Houston…settling place for a bunch of eccentric, brilliant Texan Jews I call my extended family…Dad’s from Ireland and very fortunate to go there as well (pictures along the sides) …younger brother. Came to college, great education from two very different backgrounds, developed current interests and who I am…maybe some of the stuff from walls of my room for current statement of purpose etc.

**Research**

Purpose

I grew up steeped in the humanities, definitely for the better, but I think I have known from a young age that I intended to either explore the very large – stars, planets, and otherwise – or the very small – chemicals, neurons, and ‘otherwise’. While I am deeply fascinated with and care immensely about what lies in the middle (human affairs, history, the people around me), I am still a firm believer that society benefits greatly from basic science research of all varieties. Some of the most inspiring, compassionate, intelligent, and humanistic people I have met have been in laboratories, and I do not think this is a coincidence. I have the privilege to be in a position in life to dedicate myself to study of the brain and mind, and in light of this I am both grateful and determined.

It did not take me long in college to realize that today the design, data acquisition, and analysis of most experiments is computation-driven, so I am pursuing a degree in Computer Science alongside my first major of Cognitive Science. With applications ranging from AI to fMRI, I view the challenge and intellectual excitement of my math and computer education to be as important as any other passion of mine [fix].

My current academic and professional goals are to work in private industry for some time improving my analytical, computational, and communication skills before returning to higher education in pursuit of a post-graduate degree in the cognitive neurosciences.

I am eternally indebted to the friendship, guidance, connections, rigor, and passion of my Pomona College advisor and mentor Dr. Deborah Burke (link to Debby).

Specific Skills

Resources: some blogs and learning websites I like

Classroom Projects and Papers (show the progression)

UCLA (link to MontiLab)

* Rissman lab work (trump it up, link to Nico’s poster), more articles read and reviewed than I care to remember (learned a lot!), participating in lab meetings, designs (especially w/ music), training, basics of TMS study (maybe link to my pictorial poster), dealing with housing in LA…

UH (link to Hernandez Lab)

* Scripting in Python and MatLab, image editing and analysis in FreeSurfer, hopefully some data stuff in R, experimental design with bilinguals…