January 25, 2016

Feeling very unfulfilled, but I suppose it’s a good thing that I’ve started feeling this way again. There’s something about snow days that have become a ritual to me in recent years – a huge, un-avoidable pause button that forces you to stop everything else. I can remember doing some of my most important thinking and reflecting during those Mc-Elveen granted days off, and it is nice to see the same happening (to some extent) this year.

The reason I’ve felt so – to some extent – disgusted with myself, or at least disappointed, is because I’ve thought about one of my biggest flaws: the inability to finish things, to commit to things. It’s always a passionate, all-consuming blaze at the beginning, only to fizzle out at an embarrassingly steep decline. I have Princeton, I have SGA, I have tons of resume-list achievements – but it still makes me mad at myself that I have never been able to carry the burning passion and creativity that I know I have in me to completion.

My problem is faith. Lack of faith that I’ll get it done, or that the work I am doing is worthy. It’s probably one of the reasons school appealed to me so much – for what better sign is there to indicate you’re doing well than a nice ol’ A? These things – grades, words from others, paper-achievements – sound so insignificant and obviously not “real” markers by any means, but I have to be honest and say that in times of when intrinsic assurance is lacking, these words and signs are as sweet as gold. It is so easy for me to falter from that mindset that burns bright at times, lending great results and feats that amaze myself when it does – that I am worthy; that I have potential; that I am different from everyone else, and destined for great things. But by god, if I am ever going to make anything out of myself and of my life, I need to stop that faltering and live straight by that, internalize that unshakeable faith and belief in my mission.

The world is waiting, I just have to go out and get it – and ask for it. And only by holding steadfast my faith in myself, following things through and committing to completing my ideas even when success does not always seem clear, do I have any real chance of doing so.

Love, Olivia

SOTU:

Topics I feel most passionately about now/ things I want to pursue:

Fusion energy and clean energy

Genetics, Bioinformatics – read more later

-Biomedical purposes

-GMOs for feeding

Engineering, especially aerospace engineering (Thank you, SpaceX)

Software development

Future Plans

I hope to travel the world extensively for part of life; and to be heavily involved in federal government at one point in life, hopefully as an inside expert on matters of science, technology, and clean energy

In college, I hope to participate in Figure Skating, Model Untied Nations, some Writing/Literature Club, a student music organization, and some Tech-Based Club. I also hope to intern at the Princeton Art Museum.

Presently, for the rest of the year before I graduate, I hope to continue development of the TJ Mind Matters website – have planning session on Wednesday – and continue SGA plans. I hope to follow through with my tutoring efforts and initiate some experience with this matter, hopefully in a way that can extend to the summer. I hope to continue to eat at a decent level and exercise at least thrice a week. I hope to give skating one last, grand go, which the previous goal should help prepare me for. I hope to be a better family member and create more memories than arguments, including getting a dog and playing basketball for Luke. And I hope to read much, much more.