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Introduction

This document serves to “create a picture of me as an undergraduate student” but how do sources of knowledge or entertainment even begin to describe me? Well, the short answer is they do not, only what I believe of them or how I have accepted them is the description of their impacts. So to describe my portrait of myself I am necessary, as no series merely by its title or contents can describe how I react to it.

Also what constitutes a title is an odd concept, as what has influenced me has not to be a published work. For merely mapping how intellectual growth occurs does not have to be read or seen revelation. All minds make their own conclusion whether guided or unguided our decisions are accepted by ourselves wise or not, educated or ignorant.

adding more later

Texts:

1. Popular Mechanics [An overall picture]
 - a. (intro) Popular Mechanics is a fun educational magazine on topics such as sciences, engineering, invention, and DIY projects. These articles are usually educational with a hint of fun to keep readers interested in the material which would be bland without the entertainment angle. This has changed over the years with topics spreading out to genetic research, current events, video games, and more. These are not meant for one group of people and allow educational information from all disciplines to be passed around to whomever will be interested.

- b. (Annotation) This stuff has been rotating in and out of my life for a long time. From, back in elementary school I read magazines when I got home from school, to now where I go on every once in a while to see if anything absurd has come into existence. This has repeatedly patted down the notion of the “Jack-of-all-Trades” that has been reinforced through other means. I would parallel this with notions gained from *The Ten Books on Architecture* by Vitruvius, as no one science trumps all others the co-dependency facilitates their growth. This foundational truth built from the understanding of interdisciplinary symbiosis has allowed for educational, professional, and philosophical growth.

2. Mecha [A spark into the world of engineering]

- a. (intro) This is a broad category due to all the shows or games I have seen but a focus point has been that of exoskeletons, power armor, or mechs. A staple of entertainment in my childhood. There has always been wonder about massive machines performing acts that seem impossible in a machine built upon technologies that can only be awe-inspiring. From the first time, I saw my first *Gundam* episode to the latest incidents in other genres such as *Warhammer 40K*, *Mechwarrior*, and *Armored Core*.
- b. (annotation) The point of this subject is to highlight the point of joy in any form of work. As no matter what the project is, it could be a struggle, there is no requirement for it to be enjoyable. I have dealt with this in things I like and struggled with it due to the joy, motivator, or purpose falling away.

3. Gym [The hobby of mine]

- a. (intro) A gym is a place for self-improvement due to its nature. That being the person has to focus on themselves intensely and maintain focus. Now my trial into self-improvement came to me at a time of poor-self reflection and immense stress. It was around a 20-credit semester in my sophomore year when I started running. This workout routine evolved more and more as I developed from just being a mile jog to now being 90-minute workouts 6 days a week. After leaving high school as a swim captain, there was a void missing out on the camaraderie of sports. Now from the start, it was a place to work on my problems and help relax on the day-to-day. However, it became more and more impactful as I went through the process.
- b. (Annotation) The gym was not the focus point, but what it has done for me is. This project was initially done directly for personal gain, which it has done. However, the gym has helped me work through many of my problems. As always, having something consistent that is not school or housework is calming and relaxing and allows for other problems to melt away. The goal for me was mostly physical growth when I decided to go to the gym for typical boyish reasons. These reasons are pride/ego and the misconception that being fit makes the chances of relationships better. But, it became so much more over time. I now know muscle exercises, how muscles work, and more about biology or kinesiology. It has also allowed me to do many things, such as better time management and

determination, and gave me my first hard rounds of humility/injuries. I can still feel my first failed squat and getting folded, and having a sore back for a couple of weeks. It was humiliating to be out of condition for a couple of days just because of a singular ego-lift. It felt as if each lift was a reward, a physical step toward something greater. These stirred me ever forward ever since picking up the barbell that first day in 2021, and adding more intensity each time I go.

4. AMC [Career and entering the field]

- a. (Intro) My first engineering job was here on the campus at the Advanced Manufacturing Center. For the first time with my projects and project managers, I finally got to use the skills and talents I had developed from high school all the way to college. These projects were all fascinating, such as robotic programming for automation processes or designing a machine to manufacture dowels. It was also no small feat cramming in 10 hours a week with nearly 20 credit semesters with labs. The goal of the work here is simply to fill out contracts to the best of my abilities, which does not sound the most entertaining. However, it gives an engineer all the room they can think of to express themselves. Every day, there is always something I can sprinkle on a design, testing method, or report to showcase a concept or theory to make my things unique.
- b. (Annotation) This career gave me something unique to help shape my pursuit of engineering. Concepts such as recognition of external problems, impossibilities, limitations, and futility. Many problems in engineering

that I have learned is simply problem you have not noticed yet. Such as communication with customers being slow, technology limitations, and simply trying to solve problems that either are impossible one way or easier solved in another method. Which leads to changes in the design and corrections to all of the projects over time. However, with these inevitable issues, interruptions, and impossibilities arrive, each problem can be solved with a solution with a second glance which is more visible to me now.

5. Greenhouse [The projects and my average]

- a. (Intro) This has been one of my family's passion projects, a plan for the future, and a hobby for the family. This project was 5 years of planning by my father with inputs from me on the field of mathematics, electrical control, and other design considerations. Furthermore, the effort did not stop at the planning, we made the lumber, hung the plastic, installed the wiring, and even added the hydroponic tank. This project still goes on today with the heating be installed to prevent damage over the winter.
- b. (Annotation) This is not a complex place of learning, rather the simplicity is the insurmountable value. As life has begun to grow exponentially in terms of complexity with such things of information, complications, and tasks. These have let me become abstracted from the roots of my reality. Going back to the greenhouse has brought forth consistency and an understanding of necessity. I believe this has helped me recognize that staying in politics debating, conflicts, abortion, gun control, legalization of

marijuana, ghost guns, etc keeps me and other people who have only a minor difference apart. This has formed the lesson of “taking a step back” or realizing staring at a problem for too long blinds. This extends beyond rushing and forgetting your car keys on the table, it can be forgetting about socket wrenches, everyone is a person, and everyone needs food.

6. Frankenstein [A timing and sign] {1}

a. Written

7. Machiavelli The Prince [A sign of politics] {2}

- a. (Intro) This book is about the method of “ends justify the means” going over various ways of maintaining, seizing, or changing power. The main focus of the book is not this aspect but rather, how to get a state in a state of turmoil. The surrounding conflicts are detrimental to the existence of any state, regardless of anyone trying to maintain a state of decency or peace. So, this book is a philosophical lecture on how to create a state through utilitarianism with regard to cruelty and necessity with a view of maintaining statehood through power.
- b. (Annotation) From Machiavelli, I have learned that the philosophy of everything is subjective and can be parallel and different or different and similar. As, most people want a better place but Machiavellianism will go through unjust means to maintain that stature. Machiavelli permits cruelty, “trimming the hedges” is how I would put it, which does allow for the maintenance of a state. But, over a long time no matter how swift the cruelties he permits it will catch up. Similar to repairing a roof with only

patch jobs or temporary solutions, someday they will crumble. The understanding of these “temporary” solutions has allowed a branch of my philosophy to manifest with what can be called a “Slippage”, groups may trick me with an idea I may agree with but, use it to forward a secondary goal that I am opposed to. So to avoid a “Slippage”, one must be aware of the political or social manipulations performed by groups or persons.

8. Russo-Ukrainian Conflict [A tale of an age]

- a. (Intro) The conflict in Europe is one of the most visible wars and documented. Footage from the frontline permeating across the internet showing the gruesome reality of the conflict. Furthermore, this is a continuation of another conflict the Donbas War, which started in 2014. This was due to a change in politics in Ukraine from pro-Russian trade to pro-European trade and furthermore de-Sovietizing the country. Now this gruesome conflict has consumed over 500,000 lives due to this political upset.
- b. (Annotation) This brutal conflict has been in and out of my awareness over the past months. Due to either seeing the conflict in videos online or seeing brought up in politics. However, this fluctuation on my side and consistency over there has allowed me to fathom the size of the world. The impacts reached me soon after the conflict started and potentially to get worse in the future.

9. [Second Treatise on Civil Government \[Individual right\]](#) {3}

- a. (Intro) Once again a book of simplicity and for someone to realize what the world is. We read John Locke around as other massive books on government, to discuss something about the primal nature of government existence. John Locke interpreted this as the “social contract”, where the government exists by the consent of the majority. As well as consent exists from a man who is free in the “state of nature” until they give their consent to a governing body. Wherein they only have the option of maintaining the state of the social contract or somehow altering or exiting the contract.
- b. (Annotation) This notion of consent gave me an understanding of the necessity of participation. As with a contract it is best to know everything that is covered. Especially, with people like Machiavelli educating people to manipulate others, and deceiving those who consent. Or furthermore, if the majority shifts out of your viewpoint how to maintain stability in the option you are currently in? As with a social contract, and the notions of tacit consent, by existing in a country you are born into a contract but how does one know their best situation or how to even recognize if the contract has switched against one’s ideas?

10. Mr.Biron and CIM {Why do Specifically electrical engineering not ME}

- a. (intro) This teacher of mine was the first major showcase of engineering that was involved in my education, 20 college credits in high school from this professor. This took 4 years and was my first real select mentor in that of pure engineering, furthermore it continued to robotics. This was a

pointer in what I can be, the first so obvious and so direct. As I was told directly “you’d probably be best with electrical engineering, look at what you have done here”.

- b. (Annotation) After years of this, I realized I am easily impressionable, or rather gullible. I have fallen into this major for 4 years with little consideration of the implications. Furthermore, I often wonder why I chose this path due to its difficulty, innate complexity, and the “magic smoke” within it. Often reflecting back to my moments of failure and success, which I have realized is connected to everything. Overall, I have concluded that what I should choose is not a measure of performance, as anyone with discipline, passion, or reason may succeed, rather I should focus on goodness {The benefit to me and all}, rewarding {as to maintain drive in the process and sustainability}, and correctness {making sure methods and career is morally ok}.

11. The Size of World [monologue on what I have seen and the gaps]

- a. (intro) Over time all of us have traveled to unique places, been in unique situations, or met people in places where we would not expect them. Furthermore, where we have been may not have existed but still persists. This notion extends so far that astounding, as it complicates everything. In addition to the ever-existence of everything, there is always change. The feeling of something like karma feels true, as we always expect good and bad things to happen as a constant but the delivery method is always in flux.

- b. (Annotation) The reason for the importance of this topic is simple, it is to remind me of inclusion. To remember to include everything would be to never forget as to include memories, never be brash as to include manners, and be correct as to include all reason. Furthermore inclusion is typically beneficial as having goodness, reason, and compassion at each opportunity can reward oneself with growth and betterment in a physical, societal, enviornmental, philosophical, and moral understanding and action. Though, this feedback only works as good as an individual strives to work, I assume we all have faults or have faulted whether we recognize them as merely a problem or our mistake. These are things that must be remembered to maintain growth, as to repair or overcome issues is to grow for this topic.

12. Metamorphosis [On what is important] {4}

- a. (intro) This book is a definition of what is known as Kafkaesque or one could choose *The Trial* instead, either works it does not matter as each indicate the purpose of that of some form of what I call rational bias, or similar to confirmation bias. Which means, someone who assumes something is normal or should be done and acts upon an unchecked assumption.
- b. (Annotation) This section is about more relization of my rational bias, following simple choices laid out ahead of me from perceived benefits. This made me question more questions liek that of remaining in the honors college and more. But, beyond that it has lead me to always consider why

am I doing this. As it is important to always act not for your own-self interest or others, rather some combination that leads to some form of overall benefit.

Conclusion

-At most 3-4 books from the honors sequence

