Hope College

The Anchor: 1988

4-20-1988

The Anchor, Volume 100.24: April 20, 1988

Hope College

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News
Library
Dedication This Thursday

John Hope Franklin To Speak At Convocation
Dorians To Be Reactivated

Sports
Softball Team Splits Double-header

Skies are blue, and students, too...
The weather’s been sunny but cool this past week, but who has time to enjoy it with papers due and exams right around the corner?
Noted Historian to Speak at Convocation Ceremony

Noted black historian and author John Hope Franklin, the James B. Duke professor emeritus of history and professor of legal history in the Law School at Duke University, will receive an honorary Doctor of Letters degree at the convocation ceremony dedicating the new Gordon and Margaret Van Wylen Library this Thursday, April 21.

In conjunction with the dedication, Dr. Franklin will also be the speaker at the convocation at 10 a.m. that day. He has entitled his address, "More Stately Mansions of Learning."


Additionally, Dr. Franklin was one of a few prominent historians who provided the United States Supreme Court with historical background for the famous Brown vs. Board of Education case. In the wake of this decision, he moved from all-black Howard University to Brooklyn College, and then, eight years later, to the University of Chicago. After retiring from the University of Chicago in 1982, he moved on to Duke University where he teaches now.

Dr. Franklin has been the president of all of the major historical associations and is a past president of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa. His public service includes membership in the National Council on the Humanities, the President's Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy and the President's Advisory Commission on Ambassadorial Appointments. He has also been the recipient of many awards, among them the Jefferson Medal for 1984, awarded by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. Dr. Franklin has received honorary degrees from more than 70 colleges and universities in the United States. "In short, John Hope Franklin is a major figure in American academic life," said Dr. William Cohen, professor of history at Hope. "Throughout his career, Professor Franklin has been a magnificent model for his students and colleagues, both white and black. Warm, outgoing and caring, he is at the same time one who demands rigor and quality in his own work and studies that are done under his direction. Passionately devoted to the principle of equality, he shows his students that moral lessons are best taught by a straightforward presentation of facts rather than by elaborate moral lectures."

Van Wylen Library to be Dedicated Thursday

Hope College will celebrate the opening of the new Gordon and Margaret Van Wylen Library with dedication ceremonies featuring a Renaissance Fair, on Thursday, April 21.

The day's events will begin with a convocation in the Dimnent Memorial Chapel at 10 a.m. The speaker will be Dr. John Hope Franklin (see related story), a prominent American historian and author, and the Hope College Chapel Choir, under the direction of Prof. Roger Rietberg, will sing anthems. Dr. Franklin will also be conferred an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from the Hope College Board of Trustees.

Following the convocation, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on the Van Andel Plaza outside the Van Wylen Library. As the ribbon-cutting concludes, a parade marking the start of the Renaissance Fair will begin on the Hope campus and make its way to the Van Andel Plaza.

At 12:30 p.m., the Renaissance Fair and revelry will begin. "This celebration of spring and the rebirth of knowledge is an especially appropriate symbol for the dedication of the new library," said Dr. Elliott Bruns, dean for the arts and humanities and co-chairman of the library dedication committee. Some events being planned for the afternoon are: an Elizabethan Rendezvous with History, a play-like presentation highlighting the revived personalities of Elizabeth I, William Harvey and Sir Walter Raleigh; American, Middle Eastern, and Greek folk dancing; Inns of Court, a debate featuring Renaissance law clerks; and Irish step dancing, Morris dancing, English country dancing, and Klongpen dancing.

The Revelry, to be held in Van Zeeien Hall, will feature celebratory singing and dancing with audience participation encouraged.

The unique approach of a Renaissance Fair and Revelry has been directed by a Hope College committee and John Langstaff of Revels, Inc. in Cambridge, Mass. The day's presentations will feature many students, faculty, and staff members. All classes are cancelled for the day.

The new Hope library is named for Gordon and Margaret Van Wylen who served the college from 1972 to 1987. Dr. Gordon Van Wylen was the ninth Hope president during his tenure, as campus facilities expanded tremendously while endowment also substantially grew. Dr. Margaret Van Wylen served the college as a liaison on many campus activities, most notably the Women's League for Hope College.

The Van Wylen Library covers 92,000 square feet and contains over 250,000 volumes on 11 miles of book shelves. The five-level, 8.7 million structure, which was completed in January, was made possible by the Campaign for Hope, a major fund-raising endeavor by the college which ended in 1987.

Loper to Present Recital

Pianist Laurie Loper of the Hope College faculty will present a recital this Saturday, April 23, at 8 p.m. in Dimnent Memorial Chapel.

The program will feature the 24 preludes of Frederic Chopin, op. 28, as well as works by Scarlatti, Mozart, and Debussy. Loper has been an instructor of piano and staff accompanist at Hope since the fall of 1986. She holds degrees in performance from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., and the University of Wisconsin at Madison. An active soloist, accompanist, chamber musician, and teacher in the Holland area, she is currently a student of Donald Walker of DeKalb, III.

Dorian Sorority to be Officially Recognized

By Brian Breen
anchor Editor

After a recommendation by the Extra-Curricular Activities committee, the Campus Life Board voted unanimously Tuesday to recognize a group of women who are reactivating the Dorian Sorority. The organization folded back in 1971.

The Extra-Curricular Activities committee made the recommendation after hearing a presentation by six members of the Dorian group on Monday. A total of 34 women have been working since January to reactiviate the sorority. "We're very excited about the decision," said Jennifer Haveman, a member of the Dorian Executive Board. "We're just kind of waiting to see what Pan-Hel decides."

The Dorians went before the Pan-Hellenic Board last Wednesday in a jam-packed meeting in the Otle Room. A number of administrators, including Dean Beal and President Jacobson, attended the heated meeting, along with many greeks.

"They had a very well-developed plan," said Phil Beal, Dean of Students. "It included their goals and plans, and even a pretty well-developed rushing and pledging plan." The Dorians want to be recognized as sorority by Pan-Hel. "We really want to work with the system that exists right now," explained Haveman.

The Pan-Hellenic Board will each sorority were supposed to discuss admitting the Dorians into Pan-Hel with their respective organizations this week. According to the Dean of Student's office, the necessary steps to becoming a sorority begin with Pan-Hel. This requirement is supposedly based on precedent. However, no new sororities have been created since 1965, when Kappa Delta Chi surfaced on Hope's campus over 15 years ago.

Members of the Pan-Hellenic Board and the Interfraternity Council, the two greek governing bodies, are
The new Hope College admissions building is finally nearing completion, after nearly two semesters of construction. The building, according to William Anderson, vice-president of Business and Finance, is "99 percent complete," and requires only a few minor finishing touches. Landscaping and interior decorating are scheduled for the next three weeks, along with pouring the cement sidewalk.

Features of the new admissions building will include approximately 12 private offices for administration and staff, and also interviewing rooms and work areas. The admissions staff is scheduled to move into the new structure beginning one week after Tulip Time.

The new building, which cost approximately $600,000, was funded through donations from alumni, parents, and friends of Hope College. The new building will add to the appeal of the campus to prospective students as well as the current college population.

Knicks Hold Can Drive

This past Saturday, the members of the Knickerbocker fraternity disrupted the tranquility of Hope's campus to hold their annual spring returnable drive for Muscular Dystrophy. The Knicks canvassed the Hope community for cans, bottles, and other returnables at nearly all of the dorms, cottages, and off-campus houses.

Most Hopeites gave freely of their returnables, including several off-campus houses which had an abundance of empties from the previous night. Most were glad to have them taken off their hands. However, there were still some students who would have rather kept the money instead.

Many people brought their returnables down to DeWitt Circle, the Knicks center of operations, where the work of counting, sorting, and bagging took place.

Fraternity members Ron Lawrence said, "We collected over $334 worth of returnables, that's $120 more than last year's record." The Knicks will be presenting a check for $334 later this week to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

DORIANS cont. from p. 2

required to follow established rules and guidelines. Yet, if the Pan-Hellenic Board decides not to recognize the Dorians, the jurisdiction of the group would be transferred to the Campus Life Board which already recognizes them as an organization. Membership limits, and rushing and pledging guidelines (already set by Pan-Hel) would not have to be followed. Technically, the Doriens could recruit new members in the fall like other campus clubs and groups.

Two years ago, the Centurian fraternity reactivated and became a campus organization once again. Membership in the Inter-Fraternity Council is automatic after approval by the Campus Life Board.

The Students of Hope College

would like to thank the alumni, parents, students, and many donors who contributed to the building of Van Wylen Library

THANKS!

Paid for by Student Congress
Freeze Frame

Do you feel you are being taught in a Christian context here at Hope?

James Lawrence
Junior

"Speaking as a transfer student from a large state-sponsored university, I feel that it is much easier to find the "Christian context" at Hope College. A lot of the students and faculty here profess to be Christian, but their actions speak louder than words."

Laura Dennis
Sophomore

"I think that the atmosphere here at Hope is Christian, but the classes aren't taught strictly in a Christian context."

Sigma Xi To Sponsor Presentation

35 Hope students representing the departments of biology, chemistry, geology, mathematics, computer science, physics, and psychology will participate in the Sigma Xi science poster presentation this Thursday, April 21, from 1-3 p.m. in the new Van Wylen Library.

Opportunities for significant participation in research by the students is one of the key features of the science program at Hope. Many of these research projects result in official publication in professional science journals. The Sigma Xi science poster presentation gives the students an opportunity to present their work to their peers and to others.

Sigma Xi is a national honorary scientific research society with more than 500 chapters and clubs across North America and abroad located at major research universities, colleges, government laboratories, and industrial research centers. The Hope College Sigma Xi club sponsors this event each year. It will be capped by a special recognition dinner prior to graduation.

Personals and Classifieds

PIANO PLAYER wanted for men's quartet. For more information write the King's Messengers, Box 154, Allendale, MI 49401.

GAY FEMALE seeks gay or bisexual males for possible relationship. Write P.O. Box 2146, Holland, MI 49422. Discretion Assured. Curious George's and jealous males need not apply!

VIDEOTAPE your wedding, school project, or letter to home. Reasonable rates! Call VIDEO MEMORIES at 399-5466.

RISE INTO HOPE'S HISTORY on one wheel! Just jumping to juggle? Blokes with jokes, entertain the folks! Clowns, mimes, skateboarders, magicians, too. Don't miss the chance — it's made for you! April 21 is Hope College's day. Make it yours — here's the way! Call this number without delay!

Lonely? Need a date? Write Datetime, 1319 Jenkins Avenue, Suite C, Norman, Oklahoma 73072.


SUMMER JOBS-$8.05-

All majors may apply. Scholarships and internships available to those qualified. During school or start full-time interview now, work part-time during breaks. Saturday interviews available. Must be 18. Call 1-361-8207 9-5 Monday thru Friday to set up appointment with personnel manager. State-wide openings also.

HAVE YOU ORDERED your 88 Milestone yearbook? There's still time! You can call the Milestone office at 9-8 weekdays. The books will arrive in September. We'll bill your account $18. Don't miss out!
**Election For Student Congress Officers to be Held**

A total of nine candidates are running for the three positions on the Student Congress executive board. The campus-wide elections will be held this Friday in Phelps dining hall, the Kletz Coffee Shop, and the new Van Wylen library.

Four students are running for president. Sophomore Craig Kozler, Junior Tom Kyros, Senior Sean Luckman, and Junior Kori Levos are all vying for the top spot. Sophomores Erika Anderson and Rhonda Bohannon, along with Junior Bruce Brown are running for the office of First Vice-President.

Sophomore Jonathon Hoffman and freshman Mark Van Gendener are campaigning for Second Vice-President.

Members of the executive board run all congress meetings, appropriate money to campus organizations, hold fall and spring congress elections, and voice student concerns to the administration and the Board of Trustees.

Elections for congress representatives are held during the first few weeks of the fall semester.

**Honors Convocation Rescheduled For Tuesday, April 26**

Members of the Hope College community will gather next Tuesday, April 26, at 11 a.m. in Dimnent Memorial Chapel for the annual Honors Convocation. The convocation was originally scheduled for April 28, but had to be changed.

The presentation of major academic awards and prizes will be made during the ceremony which honors students with merit recognition for their classroom performance this past year. Awards to be presented include: Hope's Outstanding Teacher-Educator Award, Senior departmental awards, student athletic blankets, and announcement of new Mortar Board and Phi Beta Kappa members.

Over 150 students will be recognized. Participating in the ceremony will be Chaplain Van Heest, Provost Nynhuys, and President Jacobson.

Two interesting sidelights of the tour to the East coast were a concert at West Point, and the United States Military Academy at West Point, the home church of senior Jonathan Tagg. Other stops on the tour included appearances at Reformed Churches in Richbore, Pa., Bronxville, N.Y., Wyckoff and Somerville, N.J., Locust Valley, Long Island, the historic Reformed churches in Kingston and Schenectady, N.Y., and the First Reformed Church of Rochester. Last Sunday the choir appeared in concert as part of the evening worship at the Faith Reformed church in Traverse City, the home church of senior choir member Timothy Eitenga.

This year’s choir numbers 66 members, pursuing study majors or students studying applied music; a number of students are majoring in such areas as biology, business administration, chemistry, English and history. Other fields represented include computer science, education, foreign languages, humanities, learning disabilities, mathematics, psychology and religion.

Sunday night’s program will include works by Viadana, and by six English composers: Tallis, Purcell, William Walton, Jack Hawes, David Willcocks, and John Rutter, a motet in German by Johann Brahms, one of the six motets by Felix Mendelssohn, one of the four psalm settings by Poulenc, two by the American composer Randall Thompson, an American folk hymn, a spiritual, and the Credo from the Gospel Mass by Robert Ray. Soloists include Mary Alice Smith, Karen Veramay, David Bright, and Tom Bouwer; accompanists are David Bright, and Robert Hudson. Charlie Smith, string bass, and Chad Dykema, percussion, will join the choir in their performance from the Gospel Mass.

This will be the final Spring concert for 22 of the choir members who will graduate this May.

The choir is directed by Roger Rieberg, professor of music. A graduate of Hope College, Rieberg received his Master of Sacred Music from Union Theological Seminary, New York, and has done graduate work at Julliard School of Music and Syracuse University. In Holland, he is minister of music at the Third Reformed Church. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and the Hymn Society of America.

**Chapel Choir to Give Concert**

The Hope College Chapel Choir, recently returned from their annual Spring Tour, will present their home concert this Sunday, April 24 at 8 p.m. in Dimnent Memorial Chapel.

The choir’s recent tour to the East coast began with a concert in the Mount Lebanon United Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, the home church of one of its choir members, Jonathan Tagg. Other stops on the tour included appearances at Reformed Churches in Richbore, Pa., Bronxville, N.Y., Wyckoff and Somerville, N.J., Locust Valley, Long Island, the historic Reformed churches in Kingston and Schenectady, N.Y., and the First Reformed Church of Rochester. Last Sunday the choir appeared in concert as part of the evening worship at the Faith Reformed church in Traverse City, the home church of senior choir member Timothy Eitenga.

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**And the Student Congress Officer Candidates are...**

**President:**

Craig Kozler

Tom Kyros

Kori Levos

Sean Luckman

1st Vice President

Erika Anderson

Rhonda Bohannon

Bruce Brown

2nd Vice President

Mark Van Gendener

Jonathon Hoffman

Speeches TODAY AT 5:10 in Phelps.

Elections FRIDAY in Phelps, the Kletz and the Library
Van Wylen Library Dedication Schedule

The REVEILY will begin at 3 p.m. (after the fair draws to a close) and will last for a little over an hour. It will be the climax of a series of events planned, beginning at 9 a.m. on the main floor of Van Wylen Library, this program of singing, dancing, drama, and presentation of art. The Renaissance flavor of the Revelry captures, in particular, the mood of learning that enlivened the new Van Wylen Library symposium at Hope College. The program is connoted and directed by John Langford of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mr. Langford is a musician, dancer, and master of ceremonies; he is also one of the members of the Hope student body and faculty and the greater west Michigan community. The audience will be invited to participate in several numbers. Please do so with hearty enthusiasm and happy abandon.

Revelry Program

* Drawing for the beggar’s purse (see last page of program)
* Prelude (Hope College Brass Ensemble)
  - Four dances from Tarantella, by Michael Praetorius: Estremo, Velo, La Ca- tania, La Bruera
  - Street scene: folk singer, chair maker, rog smoke, opium seller: 16th and 18th centuries, English traditional
* “Some in Luxurio,” Middle English text, 13th-century music (Revelry Chorus and dancers, choreography by Linda Graham)
* Chorus, Prelude to the Canterbury Tales (created in Middle English by John Cowper)

When in April the sweet cresses fall And prove the strength of March to the rest, and all The sense is heightened by the liquid of each earth As brings about the ingenuity of the singer, When she displays with her sweet mouth Etheses he or she in every voice and task Turn the tender shoots, and the young root His half-crown in the signs of the Sun has run, And the old mind can making nobly That stay away the night with open eyes (In nature provide them and their heartMI.
Then people long to see playmakers And the players turn and the stronger stands Off in the sun, ballets in nearby loads, And especially, from every one’s end

9 Gymnastics demonstration, OAK performance teams. Directed by Diane Brink
Van Wylen plaza (rain plan: 2nd floor Van Wylen)
2:00-2:30
Van Wylen plaza (rain plan: 2nd floor Van Wylen)
1:30-2:30 and again at 2:30-3:15 (may only at 2:30 if indoors)
11. Psychology demonstration. Health psychology, early psychology, perceptual exercise, hands on computer terminal. Hope College
Van Wylen main floor
1:00 to 1:30
12. Student science posters. Sigma Xi, Hope science honor society.
Van Wylen main floor
1:00 to 1:30
13. Walking science. Sigma Xi. Hope science honor society
Van Wylen main floor
1:00 to 1:30
15. Wandering performers. Hope biology club. Directed by Greg Murray
Van Wylen, Graduate Room
2:00-3:00
Van Wylen, Graduate Room
2:00-3:00
17. Choral singing demonstration. Eugene Newton
Van Wylen main floor
2:00-3:00
18. Classical guitar mini-recital. Larry Malfroid, music major
Van Wylen, Graduate Room
2:00-3:00
Van Wylen, Graduate Room
2:00-3:00
20. Percussion ensemble: jamboree. Directed by Tom Langford
Van Wylen porch (rain plan: Van Wylen, 2nd floor)
2:00-3:00
21. Poetry reading. Katie Miller and Bruce Seidman, Hope students
Pavilion, north entry (rain plan: Van Wylen lounge)
1:00-3:00 and again at 2:30-3:30
22. Face painting. Wendy Vining.
Pavilion, north entry
1:30-3:30

Renaissance Feast
(noon to 2 p.m.)

Fair
(12:30 to 3)

April 21, 1988

What a lovely thing, if the children of the world Could dwell together in peace.

* "We Gather Together," based on English folk song (Sabbath Day Singers, Revelry Choir, Elizabeth Vanderwerf, piano)
* "The Lord's Prayer," with solo and choir (Hope College Choral Society, Brass Ensemble, everyone)

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; By charity and justice his will to make known; The folded offering comes now from everywhere; Sing peace to your name, by Joseph and by Pen
Be to us a guide, our God, with no injustice, Understanding, clemency, His heavenly peace;
By, from the beginning, the light we were unaware. Then, Lord, meet at our side, the glory of Thine. We all are led, then, through leaders in behalf. And you place them on our Kazier up your congregation songs tribulation, Try me in your presence, and Lord, make us fair

* "Some of Us"
* Community singers and instrumentalists, everyone:
  - Some of Us, Mr. We are the last, Z, 1 am to it, I am to it, I am to it, I am to it, I am to it

* "The Ballad of the Beggar"
* Community singers and instrumentalists, everyone:
  - Some of Us, Mr. We are the last, Z, 1 am to it, I am to it, I am to it, I am to it, I am to it

* "The Wild Mountain Thyme"
* Community singers, everyone (Revelry Choir, instrumentalists, everyone)

* "Tambourine Song"
* Community singers and instrumentalists, everyone:
  - Some of Us, Mr. We are the last, Z, 1 am to it, I am to it, I am to it, I am to it, I am to it

* "The Bells"
* Community singers, everyone led by John Langford

* "Seizing the Moment"
* Community choir and instrumentalists, everyone:
  - Some of Us, Mr. We are the last, Z, 1 am to it, I am to it, I am to it, I am to it, I am to it

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Dutch Softball Splits With Adrian

By Ben Hanneman anchor Sports Editor

The Hope Lady Dutch softball team inaugurated their new diamond Saturday, splitting their doubleheader with the Adrian Bulldogs.

Rhonda Buchanan pitched to just 18 batters, three over the minimum, and allowed one hit, one walk and one strikeout in seven innings.

Buchanan pitched to just 18 batters, three over the minimum, and allowed one hit, one walk and one strikeout in seven innings.

Barb Gras pitched well enough to win most games, hurling a perfect game through six and two-thirds innings.

With one out in the seventh, Dena Smith singled up the middle to spoil an otherwise flawless outing.

Smith went to third as Baker singled and went to second on a bobbled grounder. Freshman Jennifer Pouttu lined a single to center scoring Smith.

Baker scored the winning run when the ball popped out of center fielder Diane Brown's throwing hand.

"It was a tough way to lose," said coach Karla Wolters, "especially on a big day on our new diamond. But one run is not enough in our league."

CONCERNED?

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Sat 2-5

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In The Lounge
Mon-Sat

The Hatch
1870 Ottawa Beach Road,
Holland, Michigan 49424

Pregnancy can also be enjoyed....

We live in a society that emphasizes enjoyment of nearly everything we do. One exception, however, appears to be pregnancy. While problems and inconvenience are popularly identified with pregnancy, one rarely hears of the joys and satisfactions that can be found as well.

For expectant mothers, one delight is to discover how their child is developing within their body. Some are surprised to learn that long before they can detect the new life stirring within them, their child is already completely formed; all organ systems are functioning; and is actively engaged in the exercise of his or her muscles, joints and limbs, so necessary for their growth and development.

By 25 days the heart begins beating. By 30 days the child has an unmistakable human brain, eyes, ears, mouth, kidneys, liver and umbilical cord pumping its own blood. By 45 days brain waves can be detected and the child's skeleton is complete, in cartilage but bone, and buds of milk teeth appear. By 63 days he will grasp an object placed in his palm and can make a fist.

The baby moves with an easy grace in his buoyant world, and his position in the womb is dependent on what is most comfortable for him. He is responsive to touch and cold and sound and light. He drinks his amniotic fluid, more if it is sweetened and less if it is given a sour taste. He gets hiccups and sucks his thumb. He wakes and sleeps, gets bored sometimes and can be taught to be alarmed for something new. Even the child's personality is well under way and will be carried into infancy and childhood.

Though we understand the problems involved with some pregnancies, we at Birthright of Holland know the warmth, satisfaction, and personal joy the experience can be as well. If you're worried about pregnancy, give us a call. ... We listen, We help, We Care About You.

Free pregnancy testing and counseling, medical & financial assistance reference, personal service.

Birthright of Holland 396-5840 21 W. 6th
“Hey! I don’t believe it: we grew up.”

As I write my roommate talks to old friends. One of them makes bricks, only lighter.

I grew up. I’m sitting in a college dorm 360 miles from home, at 9:30 at night and I’m wearing sweats. The sweats are normal and so is the time, but who’d have thought I would ever grow up.

It seems like yesterday or the day before that I was four feet tall and pedaling furiously down a steep driveway out to prove I could do it. I was doing. I just did it and I bet you did, too.

Maybe when we started thinking about safety, we started to lose our invincibility. When you stop believing that your untouchable, you stop being invincible.

What amazes me most about being invincible is that even when I was dropped kicked in the face by reality, I still managed to retain that feeling that I couldn’t be touched.

This time we’ve traded bikes and I’m last on Doug’s. The other three take off in a single file. I go speeding down the driveway, but I hit the uneven corner of the human cannonball. I sprawled, bleeding, crying, hurting and worrying about Doug’s bike which looks as bad as I do laying there in the middle of the street. Weeks later Doug notices I’m gone, turns around and comes back.

After stitches and some impatient weeks I’m ripping my knee open again climbing on a bike we rode from kissing the shed. Soon the others skid to a stop next to me. We had looked death in the face and now we laughed. Mounting up again we rode up the lawn and headed back up the hills. We were invincible.

Somewhere, somehow I lost my invincibility.

My radio turns on in the morning and every cell in my body screams, “ACH!!! Not yet! I ain’t ready yet!” I usually role over and wish I were on a sailboat somewhere else.

My body doesn’t feel like it once did, wanting to jump out of bed, scarf down breakfast and hit the circle for the morning baseball game. Instead I stagger through breakfast and off to class. I hit the uneven corner of the Palette and Mask Society.

I’m not complaining that I’m spending every penny I make on pizzas. I have grown up.

I’m sitting in my room studying so that I can take my test and then I can go around and come back, talking to old friends. One of them makes bricks, only lighter.

I’m sitting in a college dorm 360 miles from home, at 9:30 at night and I’m wearing sweats. The sweats are normal and so is the time, but who’d have thought I would ever grow up.

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Maybe when we started thinking about safety, we started to lose our invincibility. When you stop believing that your untouchable, you stop being invincible.

What amazes me most about being invincible is that even when I was dropped kicked in the face by reality, I still managed to retain that feeling that I couldn’t be touched.

This time we’ve traded bikes and I’m last on Doug’s. The other three take off in a single file. I go speeding down the driveway, but I hit the uneven corner of the human cannonball. I sprawled, bleeding, crying, hurting and worrying about Doug’s bike which looks as bad as I do laying there in the middle of the street. Weeks later Doug notices I’m gone, turns around and comes back.

After stitches and some impatient weeks I’m ripping my knee open again climbing on a bike we rode from kissing the shed. Soon the others skid to a stop next to me. We had looked death in the face and now we laughed. Mounting up again we rode up the lawn and headed back up the hills. We were invincible.

Somewhere, somehow I lost my invincibility.

My radio turns on in the morning and every cell in my body screams, “ACH!!! Not yet! I ain’t ready yet!” I usually role over and wish I were on a sailboat somewhere else. My body doesn’t feel like it once did, wanting to jump out of bed, scarf down breakfast and hit the circle for the morning baseball game. Instead I stagger through breakfast and off to class. I hit the uneven corner of the Palette and Mask Society.

I’m not complaining that I’m spending every penny I make on pizzas. I have grown up.

I’m sitting in my room studying so that I can take my test and then I can go around and come back, talking to old friends. One of them makes bricks, only lighter.

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It seems like yesterday or the day before that I was four feet tall and pedaling furiously down a steep driveway out to prove that anything, a fourth grader could do I could do better at second grade.

This time I lead. I push off on my black and white bike. Pumping hard and screaming, I rocket down the driveway, still picking up speed I head down the long hill of the street. At the bottom I jump the curb and go airborne down to the lawn where the bike bounces dangerously as it continues down the slope. Between trees, over grass, alongside the house and finally I turn suddenly and brake to keep bikes through traffic without worrying about whether or not the brakes were going to keep me from becoming a hoop ornament. As a kid it was innately obvious that the cars couldn’t touch me. I didn’t need to think about what I was doing. I just did it and I bet you did, too.

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