

The Absence of Keeping

I believe that time is strange. Upon reading a book I found a quote which has become one of my favorites for its application to life. Mitch Albom writes, “Try to imagine a life without timekeeping. You probably can’t. You know the month, the year, the day of the week. There is a clock on your wall or the dashboard of your car. You have a schedule, a calendar, a time for dinner or a movie. Yet all around you, timekeeping is ignored. Birds are not late. A dog does not check its watch. Deer do not fret over passing birthdays. Man alone measures time. Man alone chimes the hour. And, because of this, man alone suffers a paralyzing fear that no other creature endures. A fear of time running out.” My perspective of time changed forever after reading this, I actually chuckled at the human race when realizing how strange, and completely accurate this description was. Time and timekeeping are man’s creation, and while it would be silly of me to ignore time all together as if I were a bird or a dog or a deer, I strive to slow down and really experience life. As I quickly learned, college is full of challenging schedules and due dates, without them we would not be pushed to our highest level of achievement. However within those hectic days of class, work, sports, clubs and all the other activities available to partake in, setting aside the “time” to ignore time altogether has, and will continue to be, something I strive to do. It is in these moments that I can, relax, think, or sometimes not think. It is a brief period of reflection, or of thoughts of the future, it is a time for nothing. Timekeeping is a valuable thing but a lack of timekeeping is something that should also be cherished.