

Future Career Reflection

COME 468B

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The Tony G Show

When I was a younger boy, in grade school, my dad would take me to my grandparent's house very often. While I was there, any time of the day or year, Frank Giordana would have sports on the TV. The thing was, that the game on the TV would be muted, and that same game would be on the radio. With his advanced age, a 2016 death aged 91, his eyesight had heavily declined. Blurry objects and vague colors interrupted his sight of the game. He could see enough to watch and follow along, but our family got used to telling him score, time, and other information that was unavailable to his vision throughout the course of the game. I can remember watching with him, TV muted and radio turned on and wanting to be the voice telling him the action of the game. We had a special relationship, him and I, every Ryan Braun home run for the Milwaukee Brewers would result in us racing to the phone to give each other a call and ask if we were watching the game. Thus, Tony G was born. Through this writing, I will describe my future career aspirations, the experience I have, and what I will be doing to ensure success in the professional world.

I remember thinking to myself in early September, that I love prepping for a broadcast. It was a Friday night, and while most people, especially around my age, were out enjoying a college weekend, I was hunkered in my apartment on campus with papers and highlighters sprawled about the counter. My computer had near-double digit tabs open, all with information regarding the first Saint Norbert College Football game since late 2019. Maybe that is how I

differ from most other people my age, working on a Friday night. I could not have been more content. This occurrence was the first thing that came to my mind when reading Three Key Questions. This reading states the first question or center is joy and whether a career path or activity makes you feel joy, conviction, and immense significance. So what are my future career aspirations? I know it has to be sports, I have always known that, but the specific job title is unspecified. The top of the list, of course, is to be a play-by-play broadcaster at a national level, but along the way, I wouldn't mind being a sports-talk personality on radio, or even continuing to grow my strengths and podcast of the brilliantly named, "Tony G Show," as well as persisting my work as a public address announcer. However, I know that getting to a national level is a difficult thing to do, I am not naive to the subjectivity and sparse opportunities of that goal. But here's the thing, I am not sorry about that. Oftentimes, telling people you want to broadcast for the Brewers or call football games for the NFL on Sundays gives the vibe of a child telling their parents that they want to be an astronaut or the president. I might as well be telling people I want to play for the Packers. But like I said, I'm not sorry for my desires. I continuously wrestle with the balance of high hopes and realistic expectations. Before I can achieve my dreams, I have to gain experience and hone my craft.

Life works in strange ways sometimes. With my religion, consistent with St. Norbert and the assigned reading for this reflection, Catholicism says those are the strange miracles of God. I played baseball my entire life and was basing my college decision on which baseball programs I had mutual interest with. I was denied from Ripon College and was committed to play for Lakeland University before a mutual friend introduced me to an assistant coach, now the head coach for Saint Norbert, which led to me de-committing from Lakeland and recommitting to SNC. As I said, it is strange how life, or God, works sometimes because looking back, coming to

St. Norbert was the best decision for my college career. I have been gaining experience as a broadcaster, public address announcer, and sports-talk host since my freshman year and have had incredible opportunities, skills, and experiences come my way because of my different involvements around campus. The connections I have made and the resume I have built for myself will give me a jump at achieving my high hopes. Furthermore, I am gifted with the voice and speaking ability that makes this career choice a perfect fit. I have never feared public speaking or radio. I get anxious of course, I mean I am still human, but speaking has always been natural to me. But like I said, that's God for you. As our reading states, "For reasons that are as mysterious as the wellsprings of the self, each of us is predisposed to be good at certain things."

I'm excited about the future and have plans to execute as time rolls on. I have had an established resume and LinkedIn page for a while now and even have a template for cover letters in my files for when I apply for jobs. I also have had The Tony G Show for years, as season 7 is winding down with over 130 episodes in the podcasts' history. However, my plans for the future include some bold and strategic adjustments and renovations. Upon graduation in May, my co-host and I will part for geographical reasons, which will cause an entire switch of the podcast formula. The show name will switch from "The Tony G Show" to a new and modern brand which will also result in a new podcast cover. Another portion of my plan is to release my website, launching in early 2022. On this website, you will find everything pertaining to Tony G, from pictures to demo tapes and even a portion of the website dedicated to advertising some professional acquaintances of mine who have earned my trust and respect and are also trying to pursue careers in the broadcasting industry. I had this website idea in motion before ever reading the assignments for this paper but was struck by the mentions in the textbook about broadcasting students putting together a portfolio online with work samples and examples of professional

work and abilities (Chapter 11, pg. 263). As for a set job, I have no leads for a full-time position but am not worried because, as mentioned, God works in funny ways sometimes. All I can do is continue to put myself out there, perfect my skillset, and continue to push the envelope to the top.

In conclusion, I have always pursued a sports broadcasting career and will continue to after graduation in May. There is a strange sense I have that I will make it. This sense comes from the people and opportunities God has given me and will continue to give me. It also comes from the profound confidence and determination that I feel within my spirit. I will close with this, the popular saying about your dreams is to shoot for the moon and land amongst the stars. But I don't want the stars. I want the moon.