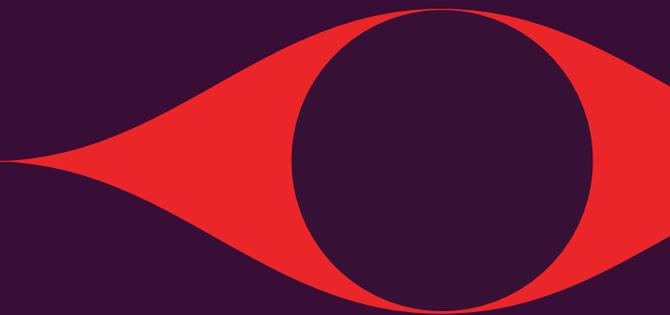


STANDARD DEVIATION

Issue #1 - Fall 2016



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I am honored to introduce the work of our creators in the inaugural issue of Standard Deviation- the diverse product of twelve thinkers, spanning a variety of media and queer subjects.

Our Spring issue has a great deal to look up to.

Dominic Burkart,
Curator/Editor
dominicburkart.com

MEDIA

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VISUAL MEDIA	Symposium: The Beginning
	Marsha

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[APPENDIX](#)
(with content warnings)

Assigned Sinner At Birth (ASAB)

when i measure
the distance between
the future my mother felt
my body owed her
and where i am now
i worry
that maybe
i was supposed to give her
churches, veils and baby
bumps
and the fact that i cant
and wont
is a sin i must pay for
every time i start to feel
safe

i played the part
of the golden haired
daughter
with the porcelain mouth
swallowing down flower
petals
when they asked for my
name

i wanted to be all
angles and bones
starve the curse
of puberty or
give this body to
someone more deserving

there is relief when i
cannot find my mother
in my reflection anymore,
when i risked my father
never looking me in the
eyes
again by filling the sink
with my own hair
i could feel her
grip on my throat
loosen

i have burned the body
of who my parents
had hoped they raised
but could not
in order to rise from the ashes
strange and unholy and whole

i gave myself a name
christened with
warm Fireball
in the park instead of
holy water
being my own witness
instead of the God my parents
argued that i was forsaking

i am growing into something
they do not know
the language of

i am not so sure
if they even
desire
a translation

Daliah Galvin

Scalp, Exposed

part of a longer series on gender dysphoria

Is this neither enough for you? -
I tore out all my hair how spiteful of me
to lay her redness like a tender offering
on your doorstep like garland or a wreath.
She used to tickle my waist inch with patience
carefully lower: anxious lover!
my veneer of uncut girlhood I will build her
a shrine and burn her at the altar that witch
that liar she who provided the curtain
that fell away in waves tangles fragments.
I want you to see for yourself please
see what she has distracted you from
the slick contours of my tired jaw
tired tongue tired lips from gloss and pretty -
understand this was performative at best
and a gold-faced lie (ha! ha!) at worst.

Olivia Woodard

Ugly Women Know How to Die

Afton Apodaca

Geography of Apology

Here are the ruins. Here are the
oil deposits, the body indent. Here are
the myths. Here is the proof.
Here is the outcrop. Here are the
foreign, liquid tongues. Here is
the sky. Here are the closed curtains.
Here is the time bending, severed
curvature. Here is the parade of
hands. Here is the nighttime.
Here are the streets going on
below. Here is the drained
grease and hazel. Here are
the old dreams. Here are the
softening cellar doors. Here
is the mountain. Here is the
tiger at the top.
Here is the blossoming
release. Here are the keyholes
blurring *contrapposto*. Here
is the mud dragged inside.
Here is the rain heard
from another country. Here is
the rain going back.
Here is no going back.

Afton Apodaca

The ground is a fisherman*****
The ground is / a hook*****
The ground is a citation of*****
*****melting*****
*****grief /

*****The ground says the wrong things / The ground is a citation
of daisies / a little black city / a panic attack / UNMETERED AND FRAGMENT *****

*** *****

*****Went down to the river Went
and put dirt on

Put dirt on
Put dirt on
Put dirt on
Put dirt on

Symposium: The Beginning

Rachel Wakefield





Untitled

Jacqueline Hsia



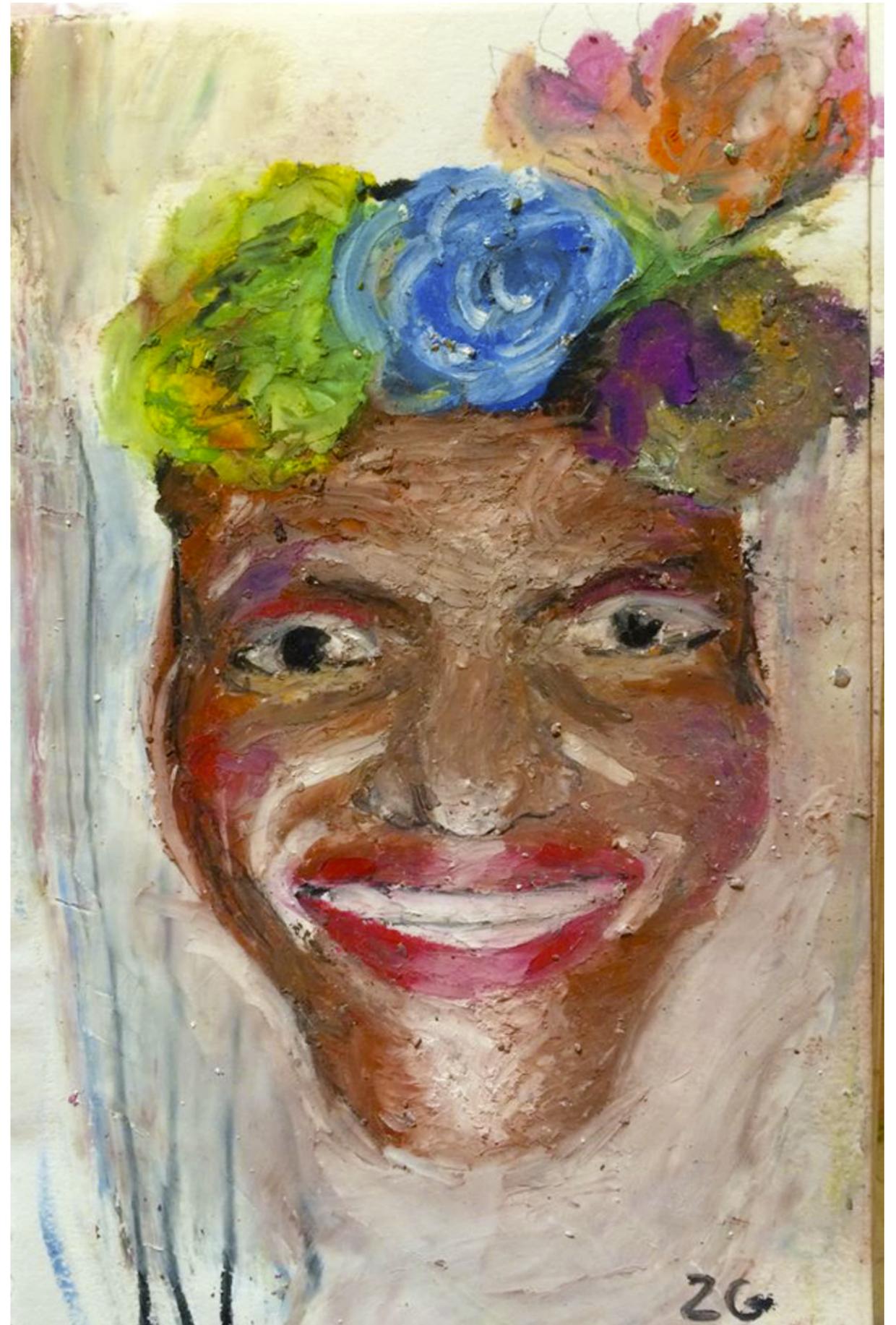


Toccata in E minor

Ahafia Jurkiewics-Miles

Marsha

Zephyr Garvin



A Wild Mystic Appears

1. An act of care counters an act of harm. Stop.
2. Tread Breathe Plead. Hop.
3. What used to be a houseful, a fistful, a mouthful H.

Mystic has taken all our symbols
and drowned them in the river

Wading for the day when the factory anxieties
will hold hands with uncertainty and fall in love with her
embrace her curious, curious

Wading for the greatest minds to leave their mother's wombs
as their stubbornness falsely translated 'patience' are signs of abuse
patience is problematic
a neighborhood stir crazy and unattractive

Wading undistracted
by what's on the other side of the river
a jagged body is softened and smoothed by the current of minerals,
which collect into jagged spurs to be smoothed down again and again
the rinse cycle, the wash cycle, collecting shedding

Wading as we light our fires to both keep warm
and evaporate the specters of habit released into our wiring
a tool turned weapon

deep cuts in time and space and us

Opening fissures of caustic capitalistic infrastructure
like weeds we are invasive to oppressive spaces
overgrown and resilient
a tertiary yellow green violet
our stories are riches

wedges labored by witches
we wear our mother's clothes
our father's sometimes, too
clothes are just clothes and clothes can be metaphors
I wear your second cousin twice removed's clothes to the zoo

I am confused
definitions are tyranny of the mind and body
so we present offerings restructuring
former guidance deemed useless or misconstrued

training wheels and glue

as long there are unyielding hierarchies

there will always be you
me, my heart
we learn telepathy as a worldly art

LES

I just wanted to buy some fucking chard

My depression is a peoplepleasing monster that runs purple behind my eyeballs
It pulls me marionette limp from one place to the next
As long as I let myself be dragged hair long
I won't drown in my own lungs

I can get out of bed most days
I can put on my eyebrows and vestiges of womanhood
Cosmopolitan taught me safety in embodying white sex symbol but
Power fluctuates and resituates in my belly
and sometimes I want to morph into hipster boy with buttoned up masculinity
I want to be nothing
and other
and man
But all I can do is put on the snapback and shut off my brain

This guy at the farmers market yesterday told my roommate and I that we were
SERIOUSLY BOTH SO GORGEOUS LIKE I'M SO SERIOUS WOW
The part of me that forgot about rape culture almost said,
*"Bro I know I look good, why do you think I'm wearing this dress and hair and brows at a
farmer's market, shit.
I'm looking fine for me,
not for your greedy ass eyes,
I would pepper spray the niceguy right off your face
if I hadn't forgotten to order more off of Amazon
yesterday."*

But instead we did the thing where I pretended like she's my lover
and the guy lingered and I wondered if he could see how angry I was
That I couldn't play butch enough
That he couldn't read my queer clearly behind purple eyes
That I was feeling safe in my curves today
Woman
Not girlchild
or princess
but he brought the boy right out of me

and I'm starting to wonder if gender is the same as power
when your aesthetic is dependent on how rapeable you feel that morning
and what Foucault would have to say about that.

Be Honest

LES

Be Honest
Be Honest
We Don't Give a Shit

Beyond us is the way to calm
Love is the only
?????
oh,
way way way way!

Once a lonely road
Once a lonely road
Once a lonely road
We can beat off of the noise

Picking up the pieces
We go many places
La dee doo
Si! Na na na
We waste our gas
We waste our time

So, be honest
Be honest
We don't give a shit

Ooh, la la dee da

Beyond us is om

Wake Descend

LES

Am I Doing This Right?

Honestly, I have no idea if people accept bi people

Do people think that it doesn't exist?

Let me tell you

IT DOES!

It shouldn't matter who you love or how they self-identify

It is about the person, the being underneath all the layers

In fact, we are all onions

Because no one person is simply one thing, one memory

Each memory tells a different story,

The time I first realized I had feelings for a girl

But I still liked guys and everyone in between.

That moment when my heart was racing

Because I had no idea if I was doing it right.

I don't know what I am doing. Does this go here?

Is it different with a girl than a guy?

You have to get to know someone to learn about

All the things they are

What makes them them

Who am I is such a complicated question

And I wish it had an answer that made sense

How can I even begin to explain who I am

If I myself do not know

I only know what I am not

A straight line, a person who believes in the world being this black-and-white kindergarten place

I believe that people love who they love. Love doesn't have a face.

It knows no boundaries

No number, no name, no concept of time

It simply exists

Aviva Samuels

27,000 Points

By Emmeline McCabe

Cast of Characters:

MAXINE- A woman in her late 20's

ALAINA- A woman in her mid 20's

Time: Present

Place: Cleveland, Ohio. A business convention.

Setting: A queen sized bed center stage. Around it are four life sized, round pinball bumpers. They are not arranged in a perfect square. The upstage wall has a giant screen like you would find on a pinball machine.

Based on Shakespeare's Sonnet #27:

Weary with toil, I haste me to my bed,
The dear repose for limbs with travel tired,
But then begins a journey in my head
To work my mind, when body's work's expired;
For then my thoughts (from far where I abide)
Intend a zealous pilgrimage to thee,
And keep my drooping eyelids open wide,
Looking on darkness which the blind do see;
Save that my soul's imaginary sight
Presents [thy] shadow to my sightless view,
Which like a jewel hung in ghastly night,
Makes black night beauteous, and her old face new,
Lo thus by day my limbs, by night my mind,
For thee, and for myself, no quiet find.

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Center stage is a bed. Surrounding it are four, lifesize circular bumpers from a pinball machine. They are not arranged in a perfect square.

There is a huge flashing, neon sign on the upstage wall that reads "INSERT COINS"

Maxine enters SL, holding a to-go coffee and a Red Bull. She is dressed in office attire. Using a bumper as a table she takes the lid off her coffee begins to pour Red Bull in it. She takes a sip and the sign fades out as the lights come up, accompanied by power up sound effects.

The sign flashes "Launch!", then switches to 000000 score. Beneath that it reads "Credits: 3"

Alaina enters, also in office attire. She wears it much better than Maxine. She is holding a comically large pinball flipper like it's her briefcase.

ALAINA

Wow, rough night?

MAXINE

Oh, yeah.

ALAINA

You must go hard.

MAXINE

No... (Catches self and decides to change answer) No yeah, I do I love it. I'm a big drinker I mean good drinker, I mean I'm not an alcoholic or anything I am very stable and healthy. I can just hold my liquor no lightweight.

ALAINA

Good, yeah. (Beat) I didn't see you last night, did you go out with everyone from the office, too?

MAXINE

No, no, I know people...here.

ALAINA

From Cleveland? Okay, you didn't mention that.

MAXINE

I didn't think it was important, casual you know.

ALAINA

Are they friends? I'd love to meet them!

MAXINE

Well, um, we've only got one day left of the convention so..

ALAINA

That's right, damn. Well you didn't miss much at our office bar outing. It would've been more fun with you there.

MAXINE

Oh really?

As Maxine says this she tries to lean forward casually but her elbow misses the table and she falls to the floor.

This is accompanied by sad video game music. The kind you hear when you die. The credits drop from 3 to 2.

ALAINA

Crap! Are you okay?

MAXINE

Oh yeah yeah! I've had worse!

Maxine pops up and takes a big gulp of her concoction.

ALAINA

Are you still drunk?

MAXINE

No just...tired.

ALAINA

Okay.

MAXINE

Yeah a lot happened last night. Got, um, some numbers. A few girls' numbers.

1000 points are added to the sign.

Maxine pours more Red Bull in her drink.

ALAINA

Wow I should've gone out with you. I swear, we went to the straightest bar in Cleveland.

Maxine, surprised that Alaina is also gay, drops the Red Bull can in her drink. Most of the hot drink spills on her.

This is accompanied by the sad video game music. The credits drop from 2 to 1.

MAXINE

Oh god!

ALAINA

Crap, Maxine!

MAXINE

Oh that burns!

ALAINA

Here let me help.

Alaina crosses downstage of Maxine, pulling back the pinball flipper.

MAXINE

It's fine, really!

ALAINA

No really it's not a problem.

Alaina whacks Maxine in the chest. Maxine is flung back to the USL bumper, and bounces from there to the USR bumper, to the bed. She hits the mattress and melts with relief.

All of this is accompanied by pinball sounds and additional points on the screen. By the time she hits the mattress she has accumulated a total of 6000 points.

MAXINE

Ohhhh blankets. I'm sorry I was gone so, so long. Never again. I will never leave you.

She doesn't bother to take off her clothes as she curls up in bed. She maneuvers her shoes off with her feet and forms a cocoon of comforters.

Another 1000 points.

MAXINE

Yes sleep time. Gonna just go to sleep. Let darkness take me. (Pause) Goddammit take me darkness.

Maxine forces her eyes shut and for a few beats is seems as if she is sleeping.

The screen flashes "Extra ball". Alaina enters. She looks like the human equivalent of a bright gemstone.

She stands over Maxine waving a necklace with a large green gem pendant over her.

MAXINE

Sleep sleep sleep.

ALAINA

Sleep, sleep, sleep.

MAXINE

Nothing to think about.

ALAINA

Well, except me.

MAXINE

AH!

Maxine bolts up and whacks her head on the pendant.

ALAINA

Alright, we can try that if you like.

She loads the pendant to strike. 1000 points.

MAXINE

No! God I don't need a concussion.

ALAINA

Okay, if you say so.

MAXINE

Why--I--why why why?

ALAINA

You have to learn how to use your words around me. It's starting to get confusing.

MAXINE

The necklace in front of my face why?

ALAINA

You wanted to get to sleep. I was trying to hypnotize you.

MAXINE

With my eyes closed?

ALAINA

Well that was all you.

MAXINE

Well yes people tend to close their eyes when they're trying. To sleep.

ALAINA

I'm just doing my job.

MAXINE

You're job is in marketing.

ALAINA

Not *that* job. This job.

MAXINE

Job what job?

Alaina gets close and handsy.

ALAINA

This. Getting in your head making you feel all--

MAXINE

Nope! Nope you're fired I'm going to bed night!

Maxine tries to bury herself in the blankets. Alaina stands. Waiting.

ALAINA

So--

Maxine bolts out of her blankets.

MAXINE

Can't I get one second! One without--this.

ALAINA

It's *your* head.

MAXINE

Yeah...I know. (*Beat*) This is worse than a nightmare.*Alaina sits very close to Maxine.*

ALAINA

Is it?

MAXINE

No.

Maxine leans in for a much awaited kiss but suddenly jumps back and out of bed.

MAXINE

God I'm a pervert!

ALAINA

Maxine everyone thinks about this kind of stuff.

MAXINE

Yeah okay but you're not everybody you deserve--(*Beat*) Are you...thinking of me?

ALAINA

I could be.

MAXINE

But are you?

ALAINA

I'll only say what you want to hear.

MAXINE

Yeah...I know.

ALAINA

Look I'm not *really* Alaina right? But you know her well enough don't you?

MAXINE

No not really...we're not that close.

ALAINA

Shut up! You've been working together for four years! And I'm in your head so I know the things that you know which are the things about Alaina that you know which are a *lot* of things.

MAXINE

Okay so you're keeping me up and giving me a headache thanks.

ALAINA

Maxine, you care about her that's why I'm here! I'm the nose scrunch she always makes when she drinks black coffee. I'm the eyes that peek over your cubicle wall at two o'clock. I'm the post it notes, the stupid puns and the angel tattoo. I'm the one that can't keep still in *any* meetings and dammit if that isn't so distracting for the most annoying reasons.*Each trait described gets 1000 points.*

MAXINE

God you're so annoying.

ALAINA

Yeah I know. (*Beat*) But you like it.

The hold each other's gaze for a long time. Alaina doesn't try anything physical here, but this moment is far more intimate in the spiritual sense.

MAXINE

I gotta stop doing this. This is too much you deserve better than crappy fantasies...

ALAINA

There's no use trying to figure out what I might or might not deserve. That's not really up to you.

MAXINE

Yeah.

ALAINA

So...

MAXINE

So.

ALAINA

Come here.

MAXINE

(She thinks about it for a beat)

No! No I just want to sleep and it'll make seeing you awkward--

ALAINA

You're not going to sleep while I'm around.

MAXINE

Oh yeah! Well--I can--shit--I--I can try!

She puts her hands over her eyes.

MAXINE

If I can't see you you're not there!

ALAINA

I don't think that's how this works--

MAXINE

No! No--la la la--I can't hear you.

ALAINA

Are you going to try and fall asleep like that?

MAXINE

...Yes.

ALAINA

So you can hear me.

Maxine uncovers her eyes.

MAXINE

No!

Alaina holds Maxine's eye contact. Alaina slowly moves closer, staying on the bed and playing with the necklace.

MAXINE

No no no...stay...there..

Alaina suddenly swings the necklace at Maxine. In an effort to avoid it, Maxine jumps backwards. She hits the bumper DSR and is flung into the awaiting arms of Alaina. The screen reads "Combo!"

ALAINA

Hello.

Alaina grabs Maxine's ass. 1000 points.

Crap.

MAXINE

They kiss. 1000 points. Blackout.

A pinball machine alarm is heard from an Iphone.
Lights up on the disheveled Maxine, still wearing her
clothes from the day before, in bed. Her hand moves
around looking for her phone.

Nooooooo...

MAXINE

Alarm continues.

Noooooooooooooo...

MAXINE

She finds it and throws it. This does nothing to stop
the alarm.

Stoooooop.

MAXINE

Maxine rolls out of bed. She crawls over to her phone.
Sharp gasp.

Crap crap oh crap crap on a fuckstick crap.

MAXINE

She digs under the bed for her suitcase. She pulls out
clothes that don't really match. She smells her
armpit.

Okay not good. Okay. Crap.

MAXINE

She puts on two different shoes. She goes over to the
DSL bumper where a coffee waits. She uses the

bumper/table as a crutch. Maxine struggles to keep her
eyes open. Alaina enters looking radiant.

MAXINE

Hi.

ALAINA

Hi.

MAXINE

...Hi.

ALAINA

You already said hi.

MAXINE

Oh yeah...yes.

ALAINA

So, another wild night?

MAXINE

No I'm, just, tired.

ALAINA

Oh come on I'm not going to tell Jerry or anything.

MAXINE

Does he care?

ALAINA

I mean, he might if you do this every night.

MAXINE

Yeah.

ALAINA

So...get any more girls' numbers?

MAXINE

No. I, uh, didn't go out last night.

ALAINA

Oh, you were serious. I'm sorry.

MAXINE

No no it's not you--

She stops herself. Beat. She sips coffee.

ALAINA

So, you just couldn't sleep?

MAXINE

Yes. Yes that's all.

ALAINA

That's awful. Do you know why? / You couldn't fall asleep?

MAXINE

No. No I do not.

ALAINA

I'm sorry.

MAXINE

No it's--it's okay.

ALAINA

Well, maybe on the flight back you can catch up on sleep.

1000 points.

MAXINE

Yeah.

ALAINA

Oh! You weren't here earlier. They switched our flight. There was something wrong with the plane I guess, I don't know. Anyways, Jerry gave me your new ticket.

Alaina fishes in her bag and pulls out a ticket.

ALAINA

Oh! You're sitting next to me!

MAXINE

Really!

1000 points.

ALAINA

Yeah!

MAXINE

Oh wow...really.

ALAINA

Don't worry, I won't keep you up. I'm going to catch up on sleep too.

MAXINE

Oh, good idea.

ALAINA

I should warn you, I'm sort of a subconscious cuddler. There's a chance you'll wake up to me spooning you or something.

Alaina laughs. Maxine tries to.

MAXINE

That's...that's fine.

ALAINA

Okay well, um, I need to get going to a meeting.

MAXINE

Oh, yeah, me too.

ALAINA

Do you want to have lunch?

1000 points.

MAXINE

(A panicked beat)

Sure.

ALAINA

Okay! Well, let's just meet here at noon.

MAXINE

Sure.

ALAINA

Okay, see you!

Alaina exits. Maxine watches her go.

MAXINE

Sure.

*Maxine drops herself on the bumper with such force it bounces her back into the bed. With the hit the points quickly rise to 27,000.
All lights go out except the flashing sign.*

Socio-Economic Separations Within the LGBT+ Community

Nikki Knupp

The 1969 Stonewall Riots were started and organized by poor transgender women of color yet that is the exact social group who has yet to reap the benefits of the LGBT+ activist movements. Marriage equality has been treated as the end goal for the entire community when, in reality, it has only been fought for so adamantly because it had also affected the rich LGBT+ community and would also benefit the United States economically through the industry of weddings. The many social issues that affect the poor majority of the community, such as homelessness, lack of job security, targeted abuse and murder, as well as the detainment of transgender immigrants into detention centers that do not match their gender which results in their rape and murder, have been ignored while the more privileged siblings in the community celebrate this one activist accomplishment. Currently, the United States' focus has shifted to the transgender community. In reaction, the elite, some of the queer elite included, have ironically enough responded to transgender existence with the same opposing arguments that straight people had used against queer people during the McCarthy Era. To discuss these topics, I have utilized Sherry R. Arnstein's *Ladder of Citizen Participation* and John D'Emilio's *Capitalism and Gay Identity*.

Although the LGBT+ community has succeeded in obtaining marriage for all, this is still not one of the biggest social issues that has harmed the community. LGBT+ workers can still legally be fired for being queer in twenty-eight states and transgender in thirty states. Undocumented queer and transgender immigrants are detained, deported, and abused within detention centers. The LGBT+ youth are disproportionately homeless and have even less access to resources than heterosexual and cisgender homeless as many housing facilities and rehabilitation centers are church-run. The intersections of poverty, racism, homophobia, and transphobia have

caused transgender women of color to be the most targeted and murdered social group in America. In fact, there is an entire cycle that many of the working-class and poor LGBT+ are forced through: Trans and queer youth are thrown out of their homes yet cannot gain access to many religion-based homeless shelters. When applying for a job in most states, they have no job security if they are even hired. Therefore, they are left with no other way to gain money than criminalized activities like sex work. "Sex work has always been relevant to queer and trans communities, both as a livelihood option and as an issue that critically informs the space between social and political margins, the centralities of queer and trans communities," writes Svati P. Shah, in *Scholar and Feminist Online*, a Web journal of the Barnard Center for Research on Women. Because they must resort to criminalized activity, many transgender and queer people are sent to jail, where they face abuse and sexual assault. In a 2012 study it was discovered that 40% of transgender prisoners in the U.S. are sexually assaulted. When they are released, they have absolutely no way of being hired and are thrown back into this prison to poverty cycle.

Today, straight and even some cisgender queer people use similar arguments against the transgender community that had originally been used against queer people (primarily known as "homosexual" at the time) during the McCarthy Period. Just like they had called queer people during this time period, many right wing conservatives scapegoat transgender people as "sexual perverts" (D'Emilio 108). Transgender and queer people are still affected by Eisenhower's ban on the employment of gay men and women that he had imposed during this time because this scare tactic had been so successful. Now in North Carolina, similar to how urban vice squads had invaded private homes in a kind of witch hunt against queer people during the post-World War II era, police are able to follow transgender people into public restrooms and somehow check to see if they are transgender. Many Republican politicians have claimed that

transgender people are “pedophiles” seeking to attack in public restrooms, however this is the same exact tactic that had been used against the queer community in the early 1950’s.

The rich members of the LGBT+ community have a significantly different experience with homophobia and transphobia than their poor counterparts. However, the most popular discourse surrounding the LGBT+ experience in the media is around the queer and transgender elite’s experience. For example, Caitlyn Jenner’s coming out story has made the transgender community vastly more visible. This has possibly benefitted some as it has sparked some awareness, however transgender women of color have been killed at an increased rate. In 2015 alone, twenty transgender women were murdered on the basis of their gender, which is the largest number on record. This, however, is not the take-away that most people have learned from listening only to Jenner’s experience. Caitlyn Jenner has a unique transitional experience as she has an extreme amount of wealth available to pay for transitional surgeries, which she scolds other transgender women for not having. “If you look like a man in a dress, it makes people uncomfortable,” says Jenner while talking about fitting cisnormative values. Many transgender activists have felt marginalized by this because not every transgender person is able to pay for such expensive surgeries or hormones and surgery is not a necessary element of gender identity. However, it is important to note that Jenner is not responsible for the transphobia she or any other community member faces. Instead, notice that she benefits from white, class, and passing privilege and, in those divisions, she has been stepping on the poor transgender women of color who do not have access to the glamorous transition experience that the public associates with Jenner and now the entire transgender community. Transition has been glamorized by the cisgender public in response to Caitlyn Jenner’s coming out story while 21% of black transgender people and 23% of Latinx transgender people have been refused medical care, one in five transgender people experience homelessness, and

more than 41% of transgender people have attempted suicide. In response to this, many transgender activists online have shared this sentiment, “Rich trans people get hashtags when they come out. Poor trans people get hashtags when they're dead.”

Recently, Republican Caitlyn Jenner walked into the Trump Tower to use the woman’s restroom as a way to both support the transgender community and Presidential candidate Donald Trump. However, this ended up becoming a prime example of the separation between rich and poor LGBT+ issues. Donald Trump has spoken directly against marriage equality, the poor, and immigrants which displays Jenner’s lack of intersectionality. Jenner had also previously supported anti-LGBT+ Ted Cruz, who had supported conversion therapy, before he had dropped out of the election. Jenner’s adamant support for a candidate who displays both manipulation and support for a heteronormative therapy, the two bottom rungs of Sherry Arnstein’s “ladder of participation”, is proof that she does not and cannot speak on behalf of the entire LGBT+ community.

A big reason why marriage equality was supported by the elite was because the industry of weddings and the convention of marriage help to boost consumerism and America’s overall economy. While the fight for marriage equality was still ongoing, many companies slapped a rainbow filter on their logos as a way to both show support but to also maintain and gain their LGBT+ customers. This became a way to commercialize and profit off of the LGBT+ community through a process known as “LGBT+ marketing”. Many companies make huge profit at events like Gay Pride, which has become more of a festival for the elite members within the community as the many homeless LGBT+ are pushed out of the area as to not disturb the fun. This festival acts as a spectacle that distracts from the real issues still faced within the community.

Recently, I have been lucky enough to march with LGBT+ activists such as Jennicet Eva Gutiérrez, Eli Erlick, and Bea Esperanza Fonseca at the Fight for \$15 March. This is a prime example

of intersectionality as these and many other queer and transgender workers have fought not only for marriage equality but also for job security, acknowledgement of the harm transgender women face in detention centers, and overall justice for the queer and transgender people murdered at the hands of homophobia and transphobia. Bea Fonseca, a Whittier College graduate and influential transgender activist, has taken me along with some other students to Anaheim city council meetings where residents of all walks of life have spoken to officials about their creation of "The People's Map", a redistricting plan which will better allow Latino residents to elect a candidate of their choice to City Hall. Fonseca had discussed with me that she was aware that this was a form of placation, the fifth rung of Arnstein's ladder, because the elite were still able to choose whether or not to listen to the "have-not's" speakers. However, she and many other activists work hard for our society to reach a level of citizen power. Jennicet Eva Gutiérrez, for example, took a risk during President Obama's speech at the LGBT+ White House Pride event when she interrupted him to bring attention to transgender women whom the U.S. detains in men's immigration detention centers. Many people, including fellow members of the LGBT+ community dubbed her as a "heckler" and some even yelled insults like, "This is not for you, this is for all of us" after she had interrupted the elite queers' celebration of marriage equality to shed light upon the transgender community's suffering. By refusing to participate quietly, she made headlines and brought visibility to the suffering of transgender immigrants, many of which are seeking refuge in the U.S. only to be sexually assaulted in detention.

By listening to the voices and needs of working-class transgender women of color, the same demographic that had begun all of LGBT+ activism, we as a society can become more intersectional and see more dimensions of social issues than simply catering to the elite members within the LGBT+ community. There is still much work to be done but if we as citizens participate and listen to oppressed

groups instead of repeating history with the same bigoted rhetoric and scare tactics used in the past, we can create a more accessible and liveable society.

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APPENDIX

Economics:

[Socio-Economic Separations Within the LGBT+ Community](#)

Depression:

[I just wanted to buy some fucking chard](#)

Eating Disorder

implied:

[Assigned Sinner At Birth \(ASAB\)](#)

Gender

gender conflicts:

[Assigned Sinner At Birth \(ASAB\)](#)

[Scalp, Exposed](#)

[Ugly Women Know How to Die](#)

[Untitled](#)

[Toccata in E minor](#)

gender positivity:

[Toccata in E minor](#)

[Marsha](#)

Health:

[Untitled](#)

Histories:

[Socio-Economic Separations Within the LGBT+ Community](#)

[Marsha](#)

Love

other:

[Symposium: The Beginning](#)

[Am I Doing This Right?](#)

[A Wild Mystic Appears](#)

[27,000 Points](#)

self:

[Am I Doing This Right?](#)

Music

referenced:

[Toccata in E minor](#)

with lyrics:

[Be Honest](#)

without lyrics:

[Wake Descend](#)

Self Harm (mention):

[Scalp, Exposed](#)

[Ugly Women Know How to Die](#)

Panic Attack (mention):

[Ugly Women Know How to Die](#)

Parental Conflicts:

[Toccata in E minor](#)

Sexuality:

[27,000 Points](#)

Sexual Violence or Discomfort

referenced:

[I just wanted to buy some fucking chard](#)

brief discomfort:

[27,000 Points](#)

Substance Use:

[Assigned Sinner At Birth \(ASAB\)](#)