



# the monitor

feb 2018



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# dear reader,

Welcome back to another semester here in Kirksville. This is our first issue for the spring semester and we're very excited that you have this in your hands! We received lots of great submissions and it's an honor to be able to share them with you.

As mentioned in the previous issue, **many of our active members in our organization are graduating this May**. So I have a proposition for you: please get involved. If you're a regular submitter or regular reader, we need your help keeping this publication alive and well! Our meetings are on Mondays at 6:30 pm in Baldwin Hall 303, though if you can't make that time you should join our GroupMe at [join.trumanmonitor.com](http://join.trumanmonitor.com) where you can find out when we're working outside of our normal meeting time. If you want to develop your skills with editing, proofreading, layout, or simply leadership then this is a great opportunity for a great cause.

Enjoy the February issue. Read and learn. Submit to the March issue if you make art. And don't forget to give this to a friend when you're finished so the paper isn't wasted.

Love,

Blake Buthod  
Editor-in-Chief

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# meet the staff,

"Can you feel the love tonight?"

ben wallis: "we're working on fixing that"

blake buthod: "Most certainly, if not now then when? (all the time)"

jacob omer: "Love is for the weak"

liam mcconolly: "I don't even know if I can feel the love tonight, and I don't even know If I have the capacity for love"

marc becker: "Not with the Republicans giving massive tax cuts to corporations while shifting the burden to the rest of us poor blokes"

will chaney: "50-50 chance is not even night right meow, so I reject ur ?"

**~ We meet on Mondays at 6:30 pm in Baldwin Hall 303 ~**

# submit

## Deadlines

Friday, March 9

Friday, April 13



## General Guidelines

Email submissions as attachments (any file type) to [trumanmonitor@gmail.com](mailto:trumanmonitor@gmail.com)!

## Words

We encourage submissions of original articles, essays, prose, and opinion. Due to space limitations, please limit pieces to 2,000 words. If you would like to publish something longer, please submit it and we'll try to accommodate your piece. Please include a short one or two sentence bio.

## Poems

Let us know if you have any specific printing or formatting requests. Please include your title (real name, pseudonym, or anonymous).

## Visuals

We encourage submissions of original art, comics, videos, and photography. Due to publication limitations, we print in black-and-white (except in the online issue). Keep this in mind when submitting your piece. If we like your piece enough, it may end up on the cover! Let us know if you don't want that.

Our contributors retain all rights to their works. Submissions will be published online. If you would like your work not to be published online or would like us to remove previously published material, send us an email.

# connect

email: [trumanmonitor@gmail.com](mailto:trumanmonitor@gmail.com)

website: [trumanmonitor.com](http://trumanmonitor.com)

instagram, twitter: [@trumanmonitor](https://www.instagram.com/trumanmonitor)

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# ads

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# contributors

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# The War on Education

## by the SDS Budget Crisis Committee

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Our university's financial situation is an escalating disaster. Last year the state lowered its funding to Truman by 9%, and this year the governor proposed a 7.7% *minimum* decrease. When we lose state funding there are generally two options — raise tuition and fees or cut spending on departments, programs, services and other essential components of our university. This round of cuts is part of a longer assault on higher education in Missouri over the past two decades. If the governor's proposal passes, Truman will receive 40% less state funding in 2018 than in 2001.

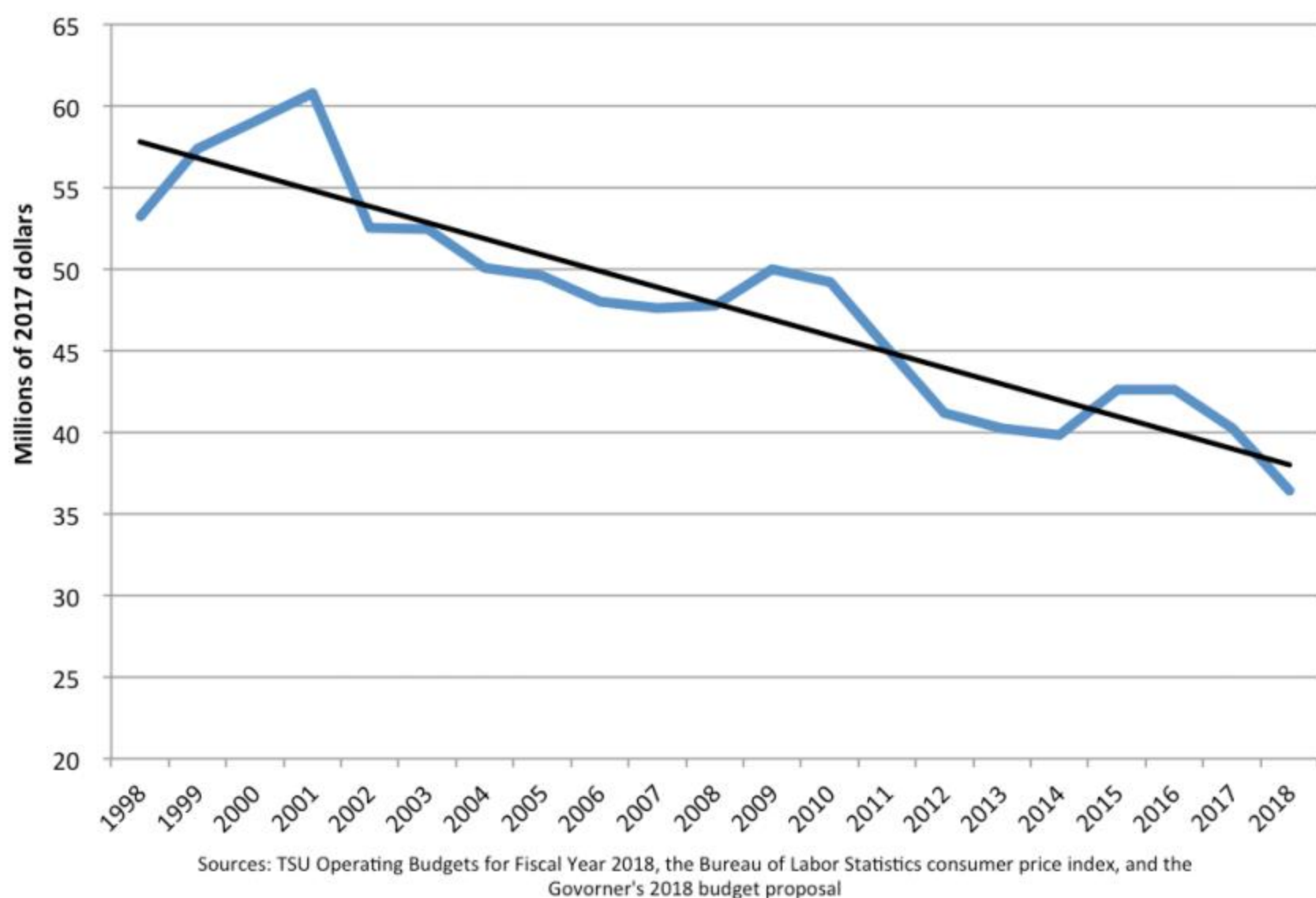
The governor defends his plan as a “common-sense, conservative budget.” While he acknowledges that we must “[make] tough choices,” he promises to “watch out for” and “[protect] every taxpayer dollar.” This proposal is worth these tough choices because it “increases funding for our priorities: infrastructure, education...” and aims to “make sure we don't burden our children with debt.” These words are empty and directly contradict the reality of his policies. Instead of offering a rational argument, Greitens is attempting to conceal the real reasons higher education is getting slashed in Missouri. His administration want us to believe the cuts are necessary to perform the simple task of “balancing Missouri's budget,” or that higher education is full of “waste” that needs to be eliminated, or — depending on his audience — that students deserve to pay more and faculty and staff deserve to be paid less.

But behind these abstract ideas of “common-sense” and neutral budget balancing/waste removal is a harsh economic reality that Greitens doesn't want us to think about. Missouri public higher education is losing resources because the state legislature *consciously decided* to cut major sources of revenue. Most importantly, they changed laws that allow more tax loopholes for corporations, dropping annual corporate tax revenue by 45% between 2007 and 2016. The total lost revenue per year is about \$240 million — Greitens' proposed cuts to higher education this year is just under \$98 million, meaning the *lost revenue from corporate taxes could pay for more than twice the losses facing us*. These tax cuts value a few wealthy corporations more than the over one hundred thousand students and thousands of employees of public higher education in Missouri.

### *Complacency*

While most voices in the news, government, and school administrations aren't as extreme and irrational as Greitens, many are complacent with his policies and suggest that we should be too. Instead of demanding taxes on corporations and the rich — the root of the problem — they want us to use a hundred different short-term patches to get by. For example, they want us to spend more on marketing ourselves to potential students, so that enrollment and tuition revenues can increase. Or, they want us to start using more online classes to save on that pesky cost of hiring a professor who teaches and meets with students face to face. Or, they want students to just pay more in tuition. In 2007, the state legislature promised the public university system steady revenue in exchange for a “tuition cap,” where universities agree to not raise tuition above inflation

## With Governor Grietens' 2018 proposal, Truman's state funding will have fallen 40% since 2001



(the general rise in prices over time, measured by the “consumer price index”). Not only has the state legislature failed to deliver steady revenue, but some members of the legislature have proposed a bill that would raise the tuition cap to inflation plus 10%! Even leaders within the Truman community are beginning to support this idea, avowedly in the name of “flexibility” but likely out of desperation.

The problem with these patches is that they (1) don’t solve the problem, that corporations and the rich are dodging taxes and passing costs onto us, and (2) each patch wrongs at least one part of our community and has the potential to pit us against each other. If tuition increases are chosen to avoid layoffs, students may feel resentment against faculty, staff, and the administration. If online classes are chosen over hiring new professors, students and professors may resent the administration. If Truman hires a consultant to assist in making the “most efficient” cuts, most of the Truman community will likely see this as a waste of limited resources and resent the administration. All of these conflicts distract us from forming a unified reaction, and they serve the purpose of keeping us divided.

### *University responses*

The administration’s response has been described as “admirable” by some, but its decisions are inherently painful. One method of saving resources is to eliminate faculty and staff positions — between 2008 and 2015, 8% of Truman’s positions were eliminated. While most of these were through attrition (not replacing the positions of people who retire or leave), our university’s potential is significantly hindered and the



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burden on those who remain rises. Another strategy is to paper over current shortfalls in the budget with debt. Before Troy Paino left Truman in 2016, he noted Truman would have \$3 million in debt by 2020 (unfortunately a more recent figure is not available, but we expect the debt has only increased). The administration also embarked on a “capital campaign,” which essentially asks/begs alumni, businesses, and *even faculty* for donations and investments. None of these responses are sustainable and they all have extremely undesirable consequences. Truman also hires lobbyists who plead our case to the state legislature, but they face competition from those representing profit-making interests. As the past 17 years of decline show, their efforts have unfortunately failed. We believe the only effective response to the legislature must include all parts of our community, not just the administration.

### *Consequences of the cuts*

The budget crisis impacts every member of the Truman community and every part of our campus. Some of the consequences our community faces from these cuts include:

- The average Truman student has over \$24,000 in debt after graduation, which despite the lost cost of attendance is only \$4,000 less than the national average
- Professor compensation fell significantly between 2003 and 2015, the last year with data available. Full professors lost 11%, associate professors lost 8.8%, and instructors lost 12%
- The Greenwood Autism Clinic lost over 90% of its funding and has now been postponed indefinitely
- The average Truman student defaults (fails to pay off their loans after 3 years) at a rate of almost 3%
- The Art History and Russian majors have been moved to “dormant” status

Despite this short list, we do not currently understand the full effect of the budget cuts, because there is no existing record of everything that has been eliminated or reduced — such a record is against the interests of those in power. SDS is trying to catalogue the effects of the cuts, and we are asking for your help. First, if you have experience with or knowledge of a program/department/service/institution/position that has suffered from lost financial resources in the past decade, please let us know and we can set up a face-to-face meeting, or if you’d prefer you can send us your experience and information to [mobudgetmoproblems@gmail.com](mailto:mobudgetmoproblems@gmail.com). You may remain anonymous either way. Second, please come to the **budget crisis town hall on Saturday, Feb. 24th at 2:00 in VH1000**, where we will also discuss our university’s response to the crisis. Students have taken action in this kind of situation many times before with great successes, even within the past ten years. Our divided efforts have failed, but as a united campus we can send a clear message and demand change from the legislature.

# visuals



by Jasmine Ye

*The  
Freestyle Joey  
Show*



Wednesdays  
6-7pm





*by Jasmine Ye*





**on fire with a great love of god**  
*– a 411 collaboration*



*by Ashley McCrea*



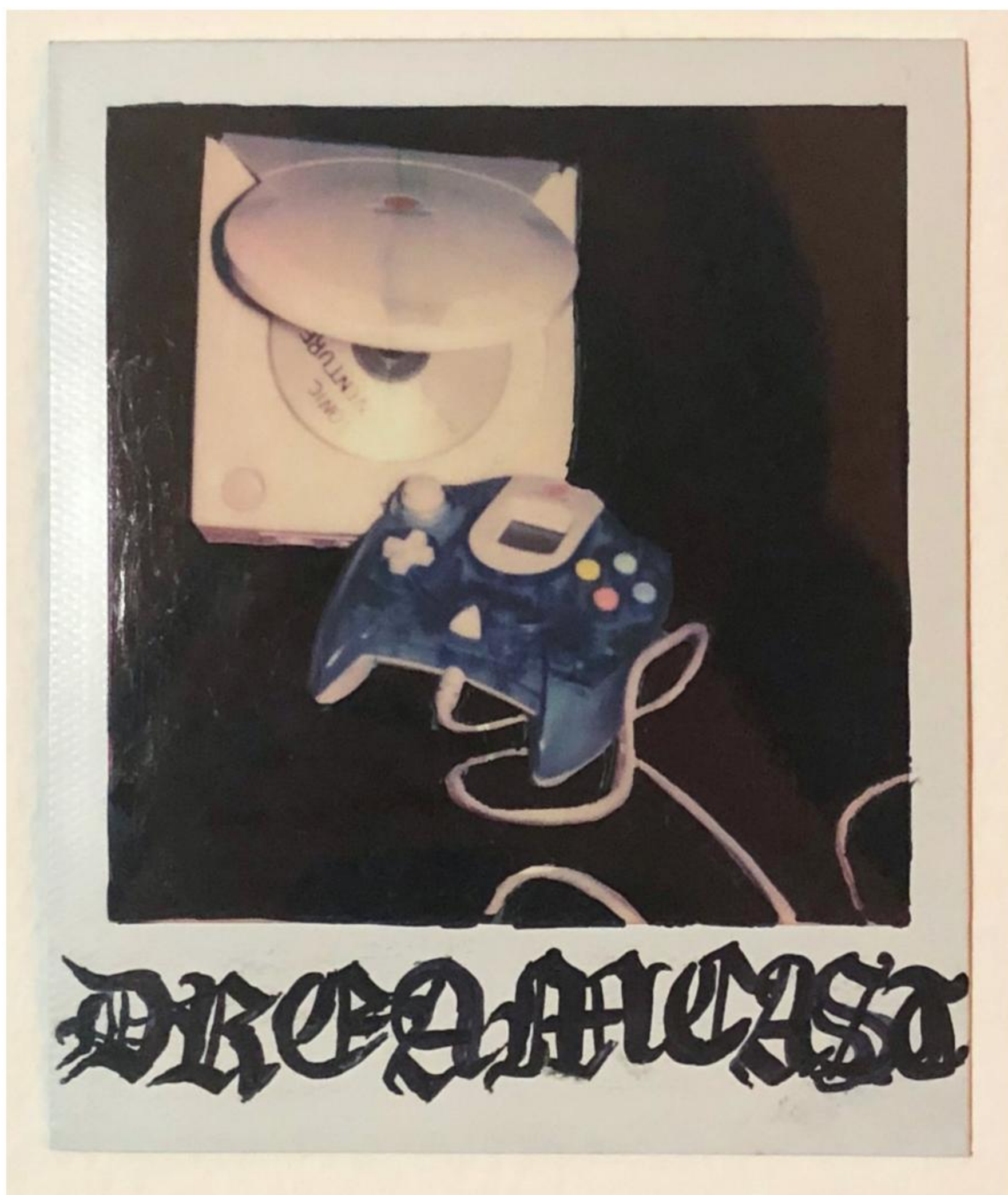


*by Ashley McCrea*



*by Jasmine Ye*





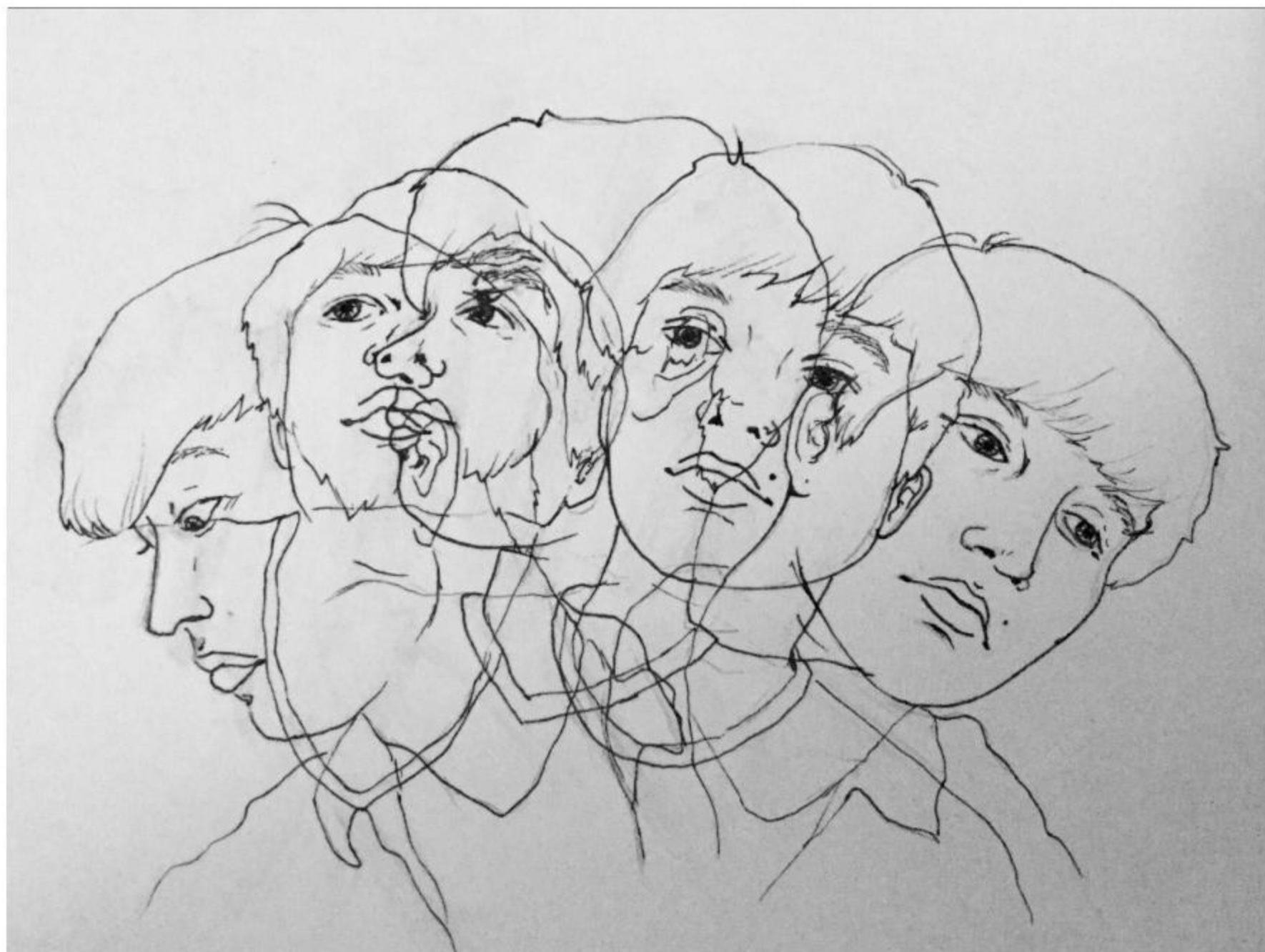
**dreamcast**  
*by Hannah Gibbons (2018)*  
Sharpie on Polaroid 600 film





*by Ashley McCrea*





**untitled**  
by Hannah Gibbons (2017)

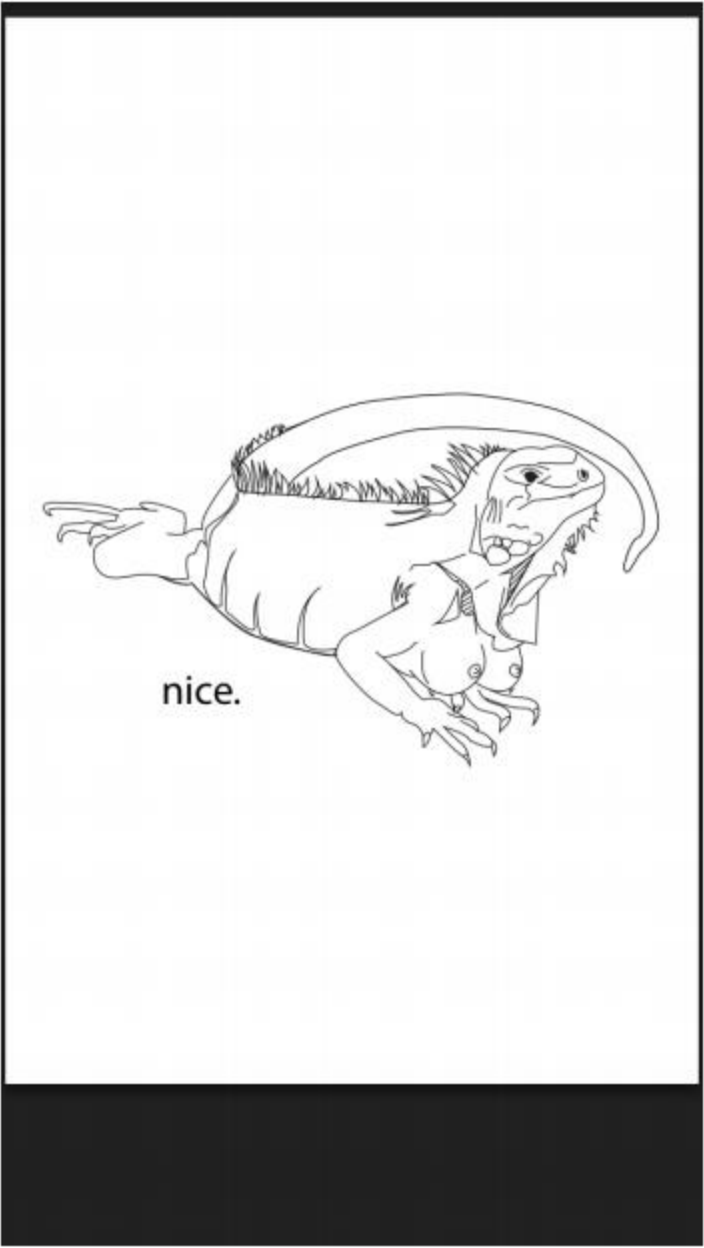


by Jasmine Ye





by Jasmine Ye



by Ashley McCrea



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# 69 Thoughts

*by anonymous*

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1. Everything starts out happy. And normal.
2. I'm so trained. So dull and polite. All that I do just to get what I want.
3. To them, I was shy and unnoticeable. But to the ones I loved, I was an entirely different person.
4. Your fucking sarcasm is getting old. If your only sense of humour is a lack of humour, no, you're not that funny. You're just another fucking moron who lacks originality. Fuck off.
5. It's weird. People advise you to be yourself. Then when you're boring, they advise you to step outside of your "comfort zone" and try something new. Then they accuse you of trying too hard. And then they tell you to just be yourself. It's weird.
6. I'm just a trash can of human observation. People throw away some pretty valuable things too.
7. The political is personal. The personal is political.
8. You're a whore to your heart.
9. Sometimes I feel like these people are all simple-minded shallow idiots. But then I'm starting to realize that maybe I'm an idiot myself.
10. Girl, you're starting to get on my nerves. I don't want your attention, nor need your assistance. Don't want your passive aggression, your 5-year old mind, nor your awkward compliments and affection. You're tall and have an ugly face like Courtney Love. I don't want to be your friend. I never acted like I did. Now get a fucking hint and leave me the hell alone.
11. A walking contradiction, sure. But I can be so composed. So marvelous. I like myself when no one likes me.
12. Crying so hard gotta bite my hand to keep from screaming
13. Did you see my dad today? I haven't seen him in two years but I recognized his face as soon as our eyes met. An immediate anchor in my stomach..
14. Run through the rain. Get dry in the sun. Pet someone's dog. Eat a hot dog bun.
15. "Caring is sharing," says the person who receives more than they'll ever give.
16. When I saw that, I wasn't too shocked. On the ride home, I just thought about putting it in my book. I want to pour everything into my book like it's my baby. But just like with a child, I may love it but the rest of the world may find it intolerable.
17. Not every thought needs to be a novelty. Just write from the heart. It feels better that way.
18. Internet addiction is real. It's not in the DSM yet, but it will be. It's a drug that more than a billion people use a day. Do you know what a billion people look like? All hunched over on their phones, their tablets, their laptops, Apple watches, Smart Tv's, etc. Fuck.. Look up Sean Parker, ex Facebook president, on his thoughts on Facebook. It's real. People are sapped of their energy. People are terrified of real-life social interaction. People are hungry for useless information, for likes, for notifications, for something new. We have cocaine in our back pockets and snort a line each time we log in. This

- is from someone who is on there too much myself.
19. Parked on the side of the road. Wondering, "is this fear or courage?"
20. People will shit all over you. You use their bullshit as manure and grow. They want to come around the corner later and claim that was their intention. Then they want a slice of your mango. Man, fuck you.
21. It's okay to lose sometimes. Does that make me a loser? I don't think so. Imagine if I won all the time. My wins would start to lose personal meaning each time.
22. I'm tired of you. You're tired of me. I kept trying to revive a dead thing. Anyway, I hope it works out, I guess. I really don't care anymore.
23. Academic probation sucks. Sometimes, I just want to drop out of school and move to California. Fuck.
24. People will preach self-love then turn around and call you a narcissist. Shut the fuck up.
25. Let's connect. [A-lonedom.tumblr.com](http://A-lonedom.tumblr.com)
26. I don't understand why celebrities are automatically assumed to be role models. Shouldn't your kids be looking up to you as their parents? Not some entertainer in the box.
27. I'm so cold and moody. So lonely. So fascinated with intellectuals, sadness, and tragedy. You're this witty gentle-natured poet. Baby, I didn't even know you wrote poetry until you shared your blog. Underneath your surface, I read about a lost soul who is asking a lot of questions but can't find the answers. Who grips too tight sometimes and breaks their own heart. When you think no one's looking, you try to pick up the shards but cut yourself. You suck on your finger like this is normal for you. And I really admire that about you, little flower. I see such a beautiful tragedy etching itself into your existence. But in your head, you're just this gremlin with secrets you swear you'll take to your grave.
28. Together but separated by skin and mind. You are a complete individual. With or without me or another person. Unlike what society advertises constantly, you don't need love to complete you. You don't need money to prove your value. You don't need a god to guide you. You are a complete person all on your own. Realize this.
29. My thoughts without the fences of organization seem so.. scattered. Feels.. nice.
30. The circumference of your imagination is limitless. I think we study you in math class. I wrote your name in my journal just as the teacher asked me a question. I forgot I was even in class.
31. Hey? Don't sweep me aside like trash, okay? Have a real conversation. You don't have to pretend with me. You don't have to be polite or politically correct with me. Show me respect by offering me the liberty to experience the real you. And if you don't know who that person is exactly, then we can practice being ourselves when we're together.
32. Want to build something between another person. I sometimes feel this urge to find a mate. A schoolmate, a playmate, a soulmate.
33. Don't be surprised when you knock on the door and no one answers.
34. Holding back tears as we video call. So dead inside. No motivation to move my mouth at all. You don't seem to notice. You asked me if I was tired. I told you yeah. But physically, I wasn't tired. I was just tired in general. I am tired in general. Just want to sleep.
35. I refuse to submit to PC culture. I refuse to lay down my logic to blindly accommodate another's. I refuse to be a good person for the sake of coming off as a good person. I refuse to make



- 
- friends with people I abhor. I refuse to give up my individuality for your nonsense. I refuse to play pretend. I refuse.
36. I think people just want something real for once. Up close and relatable. That's all.
37. Your smirk is the spark that brings me back to life when even the music stops working.
38. I think the scariest thing about living is not having a sense of purpose. Walking on a cloud of apathy.
39. Your pat on the back reminds me what it feels like to be touched as I haven't been really touched in years.
40. I'm a young antique speaking in pointless metaphors that no one understands.
41. Don't waste your tools on me, doctor. I'll just breakdown again. Just salvage the important parts and back away. I have no use. My brain is mushy, but can you reuse that? My body is just weakness. My bones rub against each other. My eyes are lazy. My heart is full of fat and mini heart attacks.
42. You... actually.. like me...?  
Wha...t..? How...?
43. I hear you say my name wrong. Like the wrong chord in my favorite song. Here's a precious penny for solid effort though.
44. Stop reading this.
45. I think that's why I like Tame Impala. Their lyrics and sound are so relaxed yet equally introspective. They don't take themselves too seriously but still strive to put on an excellent show. The human condition undergoes all sorts of experiences. Silly, sad, frustrated, etc. life is one big circus. I intend to stay for the whole show.
46. Marriage is not for everyone. Just like college is not for everyone. Valid life paths, nonetheless, but no way superior to other life paths.
47. You fucked me so hard, I had an out-of-body experience.
48. I appreciate a bit of hate and anger. Beats all this boring happy shit.
49. Sometimes just talking feels surreal.
50. Jesus, why would god make a supermodel like Gia Carangi a lesbian? That doesn't make much sense. Do you have the answer?
51. Touch your tongue to it
52. Plain jane is laughing all the way to the bank.
53. You're not four years old. If you can use your mouths to eat each other's pussies out or suck dick, then you can use those same mouths to have a conversation about trust, values, boundaries, and other important topics. Otherwise, I guess you can both metaphorically shut up.
54. Realizing it's okay to be sad, emotional, and dramatic. If nowhere else but in my writing.
55. Truman is a suicide trap. Where individuality is choked out by conformity.
56. Gotta be honest, if only here. I fucking hate suburban kids.
57. You are not a problem. They just don't know how to handle you.
58. We will get what we want. Trust me. Don't worry so much.
59. Don't tell the therapist about my book. Don't tell anyone.  
I know you want to, but don't. Please.
60. My climax feels like mere pokes now.
61. Writing is all i got. I'm practically a mute in the making. My extreme fear of people - yes, a phobia I'll admit it - is just bringing me down. Wanna sing but don't want anyone to hear me. Want to laugh but don't want anyone to laugh at me. Won't leave my room; I'm just too terrified. I trust nothing like I'm a stray. Don't pet me either. I'll only bite you with my ghost canines. haha
62. Hollywood and New York City - like going to a place with a lot of mushrooms. You don't get in line trying to be in a recipe. You make
-



mushroom soup.

63. They should come out with sex-flavoured jelly beans. Each jelly bean tastes like a different pussy and dick. Or breasts. Or ass. And they could have a little pube hair in the center.
64. We die twice. First by body. Then by name.
65. You have sight, but no vision. You can walk, but lack direction.
66. "You may love me like a saint but you will lose faith eventually."
67. Let's paint our bodies blue and red. Then lets fuck on the sidewalk. Make purple together. If passerbys stare or say something, we'll tell them to jump in or fuck off. Either way, they're fucking.
68. I met you so briefly. Last summer in an online chat room. We talked. You told me so many important things. Told me that if I said all the words I wanted to say, I never wasted my time. If I did all that I wanted to do with someone, then my time was well-spent. That if I truly stopped caring about others' opinions, I could really free myself from their judgement. I don't have to be the good person, the bigger person. I can be myself, do the things I want to do, be selfish, and enjoy my life. At the end of the day, when I die, I can smile and say I did something not a whole lot of people can claim. I stayed true to myself. I spoke when I wanted to. I stayed in my room all day when I wanted to. I let myself be pissed, be sad. I forgave myself for being human. And because of that forgiveness, instead of worrying about what others think, I worry about what I think - what a future me will think when they look back at the past.
69. And after I cry, I just go back to normal.



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# poetry

**Girl scout sells 300 boxes of cookies outside dispensary**  
*by Rose*

Viral child pornography video  
Threatening  
Agent's mysterious death

Reclaim who we are as a country  
Retreat

Bomber unleashes  
'Treasonous'  
Super fan

Cheer mom helps catch criminal  
Black history box lunches

Indoor skydiving as therapy for  
Dead lizard

Community bands together  
School mourns  
Mother killed  
Caught on camera

Immigration arrest  
Two women die digging for  
Coyote with jar on head  
Parents come to rescue  
Dad dies

Net neutrality  
Alleged torture  
'My shithole'  
(words gathered from headlines of CNN 2/7/2018)

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## **Letter to the World**

*by anonymous*

Dear World,

Why am I even writing to you? You are too big and you have too many other things to worry about.

But, if by some luck, you do have a free moment, I'd love to talk.

Love,  
M

## **Train Ride**

*by Tim B*

The blanket holds me tight  
as my mind lets go  
Its frayed edges  
soothe my tattered nerves

The songs ease my burden  
and weigh my eyes  
The tracks keep time

My glasses are set neatly aside  
like tomorrow's worries  
An inky sky is smudged against parchment walls

The sheets smell like home,  
a silken siren calling out  
"Closer"



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## Computer Screen

*by anonymous*

I saw you through a computer screen  
Five hundred miles away and a piece of glass  
Too many layers  
To see through your head

## “ouch/oops”

*by Scout Sale*

ha

i still like you but sometimes i dont

oh sorry im not doing it for you anymore

im gotta go

ill see ya around i guess

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## Students for a Democratic Society

*SDS is a radical, multi-tendency, all-inclusive organization working to build power in our schools and communities.*

—events—

\*Budget Crisis Town Hall—Sat. Feb. 24, 2:00—VH1000

\*Erik K. Olsen—Marxian economist—cooperative businesses—  
Thurs. March 22, 7:00—BH Little Theater

\*Mike Veale—union leader—Right to Work legislation—April 12—  
time and place TBA

\*Mimi Soltysik—2016 Socialist Party presidential candidate—  
date, time, and place TBA

—meetings—

**MC210, Thursdays at 7**

***Dare to struggle, dare to win!***

trumanstatesds@gmail.com @tsusds



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# Sewage Line Under the Laugh-In

by Rowen Conry

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*Apologies for taking up whole MINUTES of your time, ma'am,  
Apologies for the, oh god, entire MINUTES of your life I've STOLEN,  
Apologies for – no, you know what, this was the LAST STRAW, ma'am, and,*

I ought to get the pantleg tear patched. I'm used to sewer water seeping in by now, but I shouldn't be. It's still a bit weird to only feel it in the right leg, and not the left – unless I'm working over in one of the big drains off of Jackson and Main where the waterline gets really high and it fills the right pantleg all the way up to the join and then the sewage spills over into the left leg, and so I have it in both.

I ought to be seeing the valve now, if it was like they said and is just under the Bar and Grill, but I don't see it. And I don't want to have to turn and pass under the Laugh-In... I don't wanna pass through the sewage line under the Laugh-In...

*Very well, ma'am. If that's the way you see it I suppose we simply CANNOT reconcile our differences.*

*Very well, ma'am. If you refuse to see reason, I suppose there is for nothing – I mean, there is simply – how did they say it? Right, like: – I suppose there is simply nothing for it. I suppose,*

I ought to mention to Dr. Mannings about the necklace. I was afraid to talk about it last time, but I shouldn't be. I've always wondered what it really is that scratches on the inside of my head at the apex of every punchline... that makes me wince every time I hear them...

I've always wondered what it was that was scraping over and over again in little scritch on the inside of my head until last Thursday, the day just before my previous appointment. I had been on the highway out to the long line that takes the sewage from the suburbs over to the west wastewater plant – I had been driving for some time and was very tired, and very out of it, and I changed lanes almost directly into another car (an SUV). They honked – I jerked quickly back into my lane. The woman flipped me off. She was screaming something, too. But around her neck was a small silverish string on which had been strung what looked to be three teeth. They were long, and sharp; crocodile teeth or shark teeth or the teeth of a big angry dog.

Dr. Mannings will be interested to hear about my discovery, I'm sure – that these three teeth are the root and riddle-solve of all my problems. Someone has been sneaking into my head at every punchline, at the very moment of every setup's payoff, at the very point during which the first rumblings of laughter or laughtrack or slapknee begin, and they are scritch on all over the inner side of my skull with that necklace with the teeth.

Dr. Mannings will nod and say, "Yes, yes, yes. Miss Valerie, I believe you've finally cracked it."

*If only you'd stopped to talk, ma'am. I am by no means opposed to a civil discussion. We busy people today are too impatient. We have ample time in our lives to reconcile our differences, and yet we choose to simply move along, nose upturned, and so,*

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The sewage line under the Laugh-In is long, and, right beneath the Laugh-In, takes a strange little twist for seemingly no reason. I ought to have found the valve by now, if it was right under the Bar and Grill like they said. They probably mixed up the report sheet again. I have told them a number of times I wish never to take an assignment that sends me through the sewage line under the Laugh-In. I have presented them with a signed notice from Dr. Mannings: *Do not allow Valerie any more exposure to the comedic medium. She is at the moment unfit to endure even one more pun or punchline unmediated by a trained professional.*

I can feel the three teeth – crocodile and shark and angry dog - unsettling from their slumber inside my head. They are readying themselves as we speak – as I think. As I pass closer under the Laugh-In.

I can hear the beginnings of a set starting up. I can hear something like an introduction: *"without further ado: LESTER HOLMES!" The audience claps. The sound travels right down into the pipes.*

I can feel, as my knees buckle, the sewage creeping up my right leg.

Lester starts out with a few simple zingers. Works the crowd. Moves into a bit about how his kids have grown up so fast. Segways from that into a longer section concerning fast-food drive-thrus with some audience interaction thrown in.

Down in the sewage line under the Laugh-In, I have begun to scream.



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# Praesidium a Terra Aequus (Defence of a Flat Earth)

*A Treatise by Tim Weaver*

*Discussion by M and N*

*Special Guest Appearance by Mi*

*Court Stenographer: Samantha Matthews (Radke)*

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T - The Earth is flat.

N- No. Earth exists as a non-euclidean shape. Do you reject the existence of spherical objects?

T - I mean, Spheres happen. That doesn't mean the earth conforms to that spherical space.

N- That's just how the fucking math works out. I'm just saying man. It's just how it is.

T - You know why they call it the great planes, because it's flat.

*\*Thinks of another example\**

T - You know what else is flat? The great planes.

M - The oceans pretty flat. You can skip stones on that shit.

T - Sarah Palin can skip stones to Russia.

N - What is the solution for flat earthers if you go up high enough you can see the curvature of the earth.

M - My explanation is that the windows conform to a spherical geometry so they distort the image of the earth as we look down.

T - My flat earth explanation is that your eyes can only perceive light from a given distance, they're really good, but the light doesn't travel to them from everywhere. You're going to see a circle around you. So when you're up in a plane, you're going to see a circle with a radius of x miles around you. It has to be a circle. Thus, the earth is flat.

N - But that's called triangulation, so don't you see in a triangle?

T- No, it's an arc.

M - Unless you increase the, uh, texture loading to ultra.

T- Not all of us have twenty five hundred dollar computers that they bought for gaming. Most of us are operating at medium at best. When you get into minecraft, and you change your render settings, it proves that the earth is flat. That doesn't mean the earth is round.

T - (To Sam) Are you going to take an erasure of my flat earth lecture?

S - Yes.

N - What about the pictures of the earth?

T - Those pictures are bullshit, they're doctored photos.

M - Fucking NASA.

T - Have you been in the ISS?

N - Yes

T - No you fucking have not. Buzz aldrin is a fraud, you wanna know where he went in 1969, a film set.

N - It still utterly rejects the z plane

M - It's like a deep dish pizza.

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T - The distance from here to here on a deep dish pizza is not the same as if it were a sphere

N - I'm gonna fucking get pissed off.

T - Douche. Typical round earther just closing out of the truth when it's presented.

N - So why wouldn't the water on the bottom of the earth fall off?

T & M - Exactly

N - No, the fact that we have - has all the water - there's no water on the bottom. So is China on the same face as the U.S.?

T - Yes

N - So if we just started to drill....

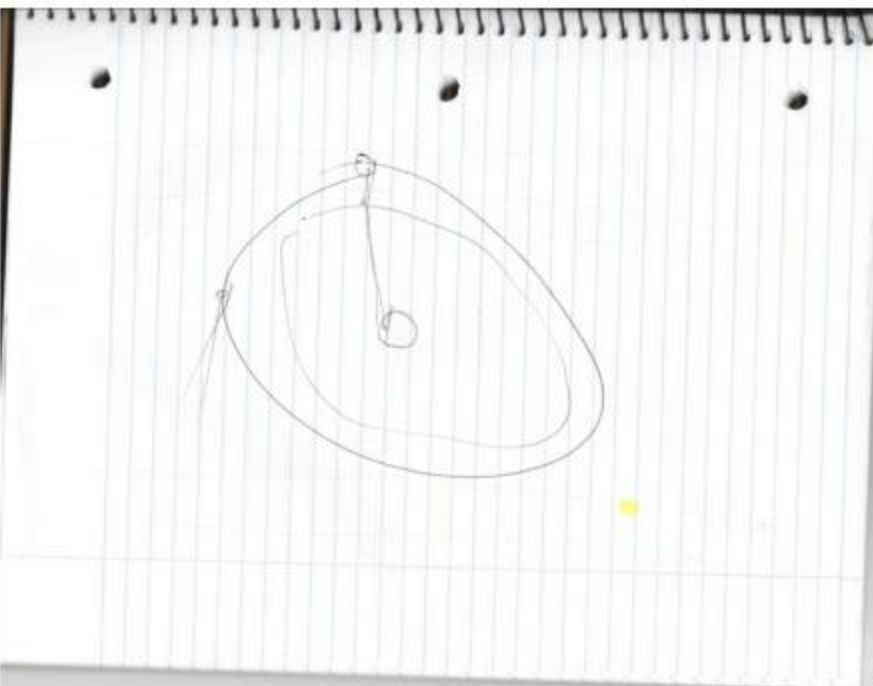
T & M - We would fall through.

N - A round earth... The shit right here in the middle would be unbelievably hot.

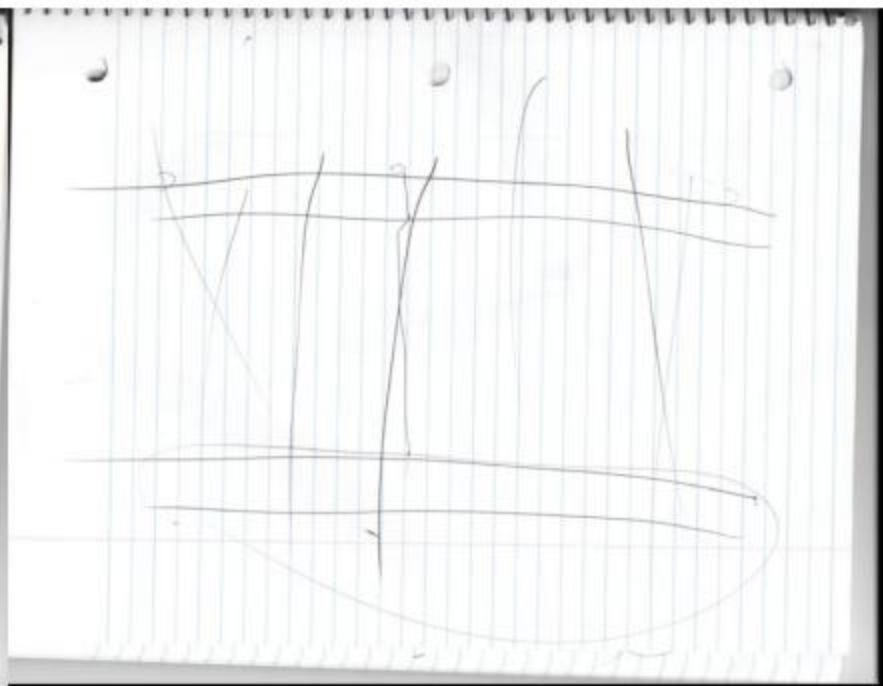
T - I'm gonna illustrate what we're talking about.

*\*Tim grabs a notebook and draws two examples. One of a round Earth and another of a flat earth\**

### Round Earth



### Flat Earth



T - Here is the round earth narrative.

*\*points at round-earth\**

T - We have the earth, a perfect circle, let's say we have this layer, the crust, and then it's a bit lava and then it's a bit core...

*\*There's a rustle in the corner, a former sleeper emerges in a confused haze. It's Mi\**

N - Did we wake you up? (murmur) Are you chuckling at us? (murmur) We'll try to be quiet.

T - As I was saying...

M - The earth is fucking round tim!

*\*Mi turns and goes back to sleep\**

T - This is what the earth looks like, this is not going to be to scale because I'm not a fucking geologist.

N - If you were you'd believe the earth was round!!!

T - That is an ad hominem fallacy and will not be tolerated. I have illustrated the point he's making.

N - God

T - Stop, God isn't real; that's a different issue.

M - Wait, are you a flat earther who doesn't believe in God?!

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N - That proves you aren't a flat earther!

T - I believe in Hindu!!!!!!!!!!!!

*\*laughter erupts in the room\**

T - Let me make my point!

*\*Points at round earth illustration\**

T - Okay, so right now, if we were to drill straight down, we would reach the core, the cake filling, so to say. So say we drilled "down" ... We're gonna use fake numbers because I don't know the actual numbers. So theoretically with a round earth it doesn't make sense because you'd fall off

*\*Demonstrates his hand falling off the paper\**

T - Whoops I'm off.

*\*Exasperated sigh from Nolan\**

*\*Tim points at flat earth model\**

T - N, look this is where I explain everything. You dig down and reach the core. Ok. and so you say this is how the earth works, right?

*\*blank stare from N\**

T - This is how the earth actually works! Ok you start here. *\*points at illustration\** China or Russia or the freaking moon, it doesn't matter!

N - Woah, I'm sorry, the moon?

T - Obviously we can't start digging on the earth from the moon! It was a joke! Why would you bring this bullshit into a scientific conversation.

\*\*\*

T - Ok so you start digging here *\*points at illustration\** you go down and you've reached the core. It's the exact same, you're going to reach the cake filling, it's evenly distributed!

*\*Tim smiles because he thinks that he's made a valid point\**

N - How does antarctica exist?

M - I'm sorry, what. Wait wait wait wait wait wait wait wait wait. That doesn't make sense. It's all got to do with the distance to the sun, nothing to do with the core and so we know the sun goes around the earth, it makes sense.

N - I'm sorry, no, it's not math man, it's not science.

*\*N thinks for a moment\**

N - Wait, so, how does the sun go over?

T - It starts...

It rotates...

It goes over... and under. There's a sunrise.

N - Is the flat earth tilted?

M - No the sun is tilted.

N - So are all celestial bodies flat?

T - Definitely not. A lot of the problem with this rhetoric is that people assume that the earth is not the center of the universe. Which is not the case!

M - Look if we're going to make America great again-

T - *\*To M\** Stop! This is not a place for politics!

*\*To N\** What people think is that if the sun is the center of our solar system. It looks like cardboard props on a plate. So, we have the earth that Hindu created years ago, the sun, other planets, other stars centered around one flat earth. The only known place where life exists! That is why the Earth is flat.

*\*drops notebook\**

*\*Silence\**



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M - You know what's funny, five hundred years ago, someone had this same fucking debate.

N - Yeah, some fucking cardinal in a butfuck town in Rome talking to Isaac Newton like: "Gravity man, it exists."

T - Wait, gravity does exist, otherwise water on a round earth would just be able to stay. But it doesn't because the earth isn't round. Why doesn't Mars have water? BECAUSE IT'S ROUND! Nowhere else in the universe has life because Hindu created the other celestial bodies as spheres and earth is flat, being the only one that allows life. Hindu created Earth to be special. He created a literal baseline.

*\*interjection from N\**

N - You know what's really sad, if you made a nice powerpoint of this you can present it to some people and they'd believe it.

*\*Silence\**

N - What about quarks?

T - Corks? Why can't wine have corks? I don't get it, that doesn't prove the earth is round.

M - I don't understand why quantum physics affects our discussion at all.

N - Also time wouldn't pass the same man

T - Why not?

N - Because time is affected by speed. Things on the edge would be going faster than the middle.

M - So wait, it's relativity not quantum mech-

T - Also, I would like to clear up one more issue. You brought this up earlier with "flat-earth rhetoric". What is below the earth? Well, when Hindu created earth as a baseline, and I do mean baseline, he created walls, the polar icecaps and there was a portal! You would go off one side and be transported to the beginning of the other side.

N - So the world is pacman?

T & M - YES!

(Tim's yes was in agreement, M's was in excitement about  
Where the conversation was heading.)

T - Yeah, so you would go out this side and BOOP you're on the other side.

*\*laughter\**

T - There's a bit of time stasis going on, there's some science stuff that doesn't make sense. When a sun goes in, it comes out twelve hours later and it's day then it does it again and it's dark again.

N - *\*exasperated\** Fuck it I'm a Flat-Earther now.

*\*Tim picks up his notebook with a smile\**

T - I also believe, *\*points at illustration\** down here is hell. That's where the sun goes at night and that's why hell is so hot.

N - Alright.... I believe in your 'hypothesis'

M - Confirmed theory.

T - So there's seven layers of hell.

M - Dante had it right

T - The lower you go down, the closer to the sun you are the lower in hell you are.

*\*silence\**

M - Can you believe people waste their time getting astrophysics degrees?

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# our anthropocene has not yet begun: notes

*by ben wallis*

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“considering these and many other major and still growing impacts of human activities on earth and atmosphere, and at all, including global, scales, it seems to us more than appropriate to emphasize the central role of mankind in geology and ecology by proposing to use the term “anthropocene” for the current geological epoch. [...] because of the anthropogenic emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, climate may depart significantly from natural behaviour over the next 50,000 years.”

(crutzen and stoermer, 2000)

/1

words fail us more often than they used to.

they fail to grasp the planetary event that consumes our future. we hear of rising seas, of mass extinctions, of human displacements on scales not witnessed since the last event. everything is in flux. now, as something/anything new is named we cannot help but anticipate its obviation. attention is brought to bear on the lateness of our words’ enunciation—they track the world in slow motion, describing forms that have already been superseded. all this because we cannot speak of anything outside of collapse, which is the regnant state of being.

/2

now, for the first time (and this is unmistakable to anyone with the guts to look), our social-historical trajectory poses itself as a yes/no referendum on existence.

/3

in the process of unbecoming and/or becoming-other, old/familiar objects are made new/strange. the words that once signified old objects are rendered empty and void, as are the discourses that emerged from them. so today we hear many jarring, nonsensical conversations about “the vanguard party,” “the labor movement,” “the national question,” and so on.

this has led us to conclude that many revolutionaries are possessed by ghosts.

we say: any programme that does not root\* itself in collapse is an irrelevant programme. reckoning with ecological meltdown is not “part of” revolutionary strategy—a plank in a platform or a section in a manifesto—it is revolutionary strategy. there is no “ecological question.” there is only collapse and all the questions formed within it.



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/4

one (misguided) attempt to confront this state of affairs:

in certain circles a story of the “anthropocene” has gained recent prominence. humankind, it is said, has become the active driver of climate change. whereas we used to live within the narrow parameters set by nature-the-king, now nature-the-slave exists (if at all!) at our sufferance. but our intervention in the primordial order has brought with it all the predictable catastrophes. on this the best scientists are agreed.

in this story the progressive narrative of modernity is revealed to be an illusion. humankind has been playacting a classical tragedy all along, our genius revealed as hubris. we all know how these kinds of stories end.

/5

“humankind:” our distorted reflection.

judging only by appearances, it has our face. but because we are narcissists, gazing into mirrors so often, we know that this face only ever copies our movements. it has no mind. it doesn’t build cities or dam rivers. it doesn’t go to war or carve up continents into nations.

we’ve never encountered “humankind” on this side of the glass.

/6

the story of the anthropocene being recounted in universities across the globe is one of modernity’s self-immolation.

from the enlightenment we gained reason. applying reason, we cut off the head of the king, sacked the city of heaven, and pushed nature back into untrodden forests. we conquered our diseases and our hunger. we disenchanting the world.

but somewhere between building the steam engine and the nuclear holocaust we upset a balance, finding out that the earth is very fragile.

so say the tragedians of the anthropocene.

in truth, just as we have never been human, we also have never been modern.

/7

the story of the anthropocene we have come to know is the lament of a dying class, dimly perceiving its own obsolescence.

preparing to leave this mortal coil, the bourgeoisie looks back on its life and finds its

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conscience once again. tearfully making its last confession, it presents itself as “humankind,” who, through no intent of its own was led into sin. it presents its unceasing pursuit of profit as the unfolding of universal “reason”—a process that it admits went too far. “the fully enlightened earth radiates disaster triumphant.” who could have guessed?

in its last will and testament, the bourgeoisie implores any surviving generations to: mind the balance, live modestly, and fondly recall the brief period of its dominion.

before it is assumed body and soul into heaven the bourgeoisie still has time to make a final buck. ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

/8

axiom: “each thing, as far as it can by its own power, strives to persevere in its being.”

/9

appeals to moderation, to the balance, are fundamentally appeals to suffer the continued rule of capital—and to follow it meekly into non-being. contra the story of the anthropocene we have been told, it is not humankind’s intervention in the natural order that has brought about collapse—it is capital’s. and capital is unreasoning.

the world has never known a period when we steered the climate. it has never known a period when reason existed independent of class rule. this is because reason—carried to its ultimate end—is consubstantial with force, as the abolition of unreason. this is the secret of bourgeois enlightenment: it contains its own limit.

if we are to persevere, we must break that limit.

capital, having brought us to the brink, seeks to undermine our confidence in our ability to change the world. in the midst of collapse, it seeks to instill in us a new theology of restraint.

/10

being done with religion, we welcome the real anthropocene—the comic anthropocene, the anthropocene the bourgeoisie can never see.

it will go by different names (and as of now is unnamable). but, a gesture:

our anthropocene has not yet begun.

/Notes:

\*[n.] “the part of a plant which attaches it to the ground or to a support, typically underground, conveying water and nourishment to the rest of the plant via numerous branches and fibres.” (OED)







120 S. Main St.

[theaquadome.org](http://theaquadome.org)



Community Meetings every Sunday at 2 pm!

### **~ Upcoming Events ~**

Thursday, Mar. 1 – *Open Mic [free]*

Saturday, Mar. 3 – 3, Oh 3, Show *[7 pm]*

Thursday, Mar. 8 – Jam Session

Thursday, Mar. 15 – *Open Mic [free]*

Thursday, Mar. 22 – *Open Mic [free]*

Saturday, Mar. 24 – KTRM x AQUADOME Show *[7 pm]*

Thursday, Mar 29 – Sticker Nite! *[free]*

Saturday, Mar. 31 – Our Creators Show *[7 pm]*

***Rent our community space for your next event!***

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