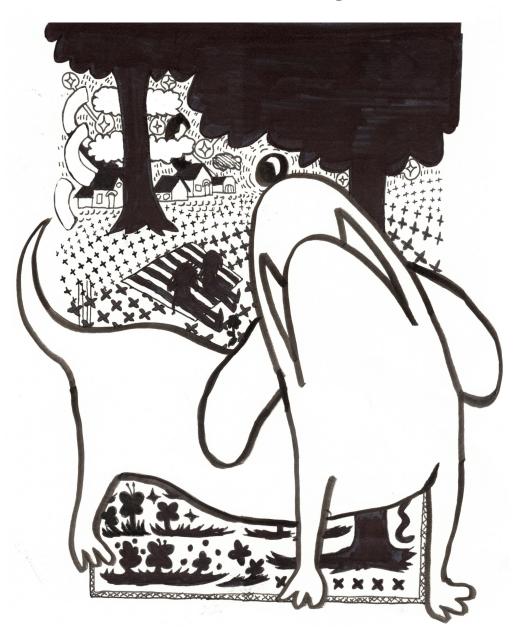




## a moment

the stl zine | spring 2024





Have You Seen My Dog?
I Hope So.
She Is Very Special To Me.
This Is Her.
She Is Nice And Good.
And I Know Where She Is.
She's Not Lost.
Just Not With Me Right Now.
If You See Her.
Say Hello.

-bugleague





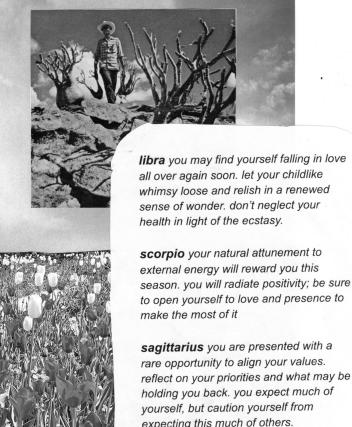
somewhere deep in forest park there is a small seed that falls out of a woman's bag at the farmers market. the seed spends all year giving a shit and through many tireless hours becomes a bud. the bud survives the cold and in the months

# breakthrough

of spring evolves into something we couldn't even imagine. deep within the folds of its petals lies a submission-based art zine from St Louis Missouri. deep within this moment you will find poems, opinions, visual art, experiences, tragedies, victories of all kinds of all kinds waiting, begging to be appreciated. we hope that as u pluck the petals off ceremoniesly one by one reciting the mantra "i submit art", "i dont submit", u will see ur own reflection in one of the shimmering pieces and it will inspire u to become a part of this moment, and even the next !!! spring is a time for blossoming, blooming, newness, color, life, breath, heat, passion, bugs, and most of all this moment with me and you.

we will always love you,
A Moment.

AN ISSUE WITH A WISH. A LIVING ZINE



expecting this much of others.

capricorn your goals will be met with ease this season and your driving energy is abundant. you may regret directing all

this energy inward, giving to others will

reward you in the end.

healthy romantic practices.

aquarius chaos may attempt to disturb your relationships this season. you will be well off to seek inner harmony, while also using this time of reflection to reconsider

pisces your charm and magnetism flows easily this season. supporting your loved ones helps you to support yourself. while love is aplenty, do not lose sight of your intentions as some truths will be revealed to you.



### how to submit

send anything and everything (poems, prose, opinion/ editorial, painting, collage, and all the cute lil else) to amomentzine@gmail.com, our email address. note that all accepted submissions will be printed and posted online

in black and white. you can go to issuu.com/amomentzine to view this issue and issues in the future. :P B) :->

NEXT DEADLINE: **June 28...** 



THAT WANTS TO MAKE A HUMAN WISH

## thanks to our contributors

bugleague
frank o'hairless
rowen conry
shiba dog xoxo
dawn cipher
eliza caperton
gabe raines
collin mack
bren
zach tbd

mere harrach
josiah mcelmurray
maura benson
ethan bradley
olli sure
katherine bishop
bethany cutkomp
claude numbus
cover by rowen conry

a question for the zine team... what's your coldest take?

olli — "sometimes ,,,,, things that are ugly ,,, are beautiful :^) #love"  $\,$ 

mere — "please forgive me, i stole your plums from the ice box that you were probably saving for breakfast"

lesley — "spring turns into summer which turns into fall which turns into winter"

catherine — "we are all just people in this world <3"  $\,$ 

bigassbug — "ice (specifically ice in my drinks)"

maxine — "salting my eggs every time"

rowen — "one piece is good"



mutual aid resources:

**Tent Mission STL** 

Instagram: @tentmission\_stl

Venmo: @tentmissionstl

free palestine

fuck wash u

find our social media & smallweb!

Instagram: @amoment\_zine

&

https://amomentzine.flounder.online



To Whom It May Concern:

#### WANTED!!!!

This is an EVIL MAN known to have committed MANY Crimes.

He MUST be brought to JUSTICE.

IF you have ANY information regarding the whereabouts of this individual,

PLEASE contact me.

We will apprehend this VILLAIN and make him PAY for his CRIMES.

Love, bugleague



"dreamt that I killed a venomous snake with a shovel. and then went back to it's nest and it had babies in there which made me feel really bad but I was also really scared of the babies. later I was in a very wild west saloon like restaurant. it seemed like maybe there was another business running behind the scenes, like sw. but then someone was like no the guys here are just also bikers and will take you on a ride on their bike."

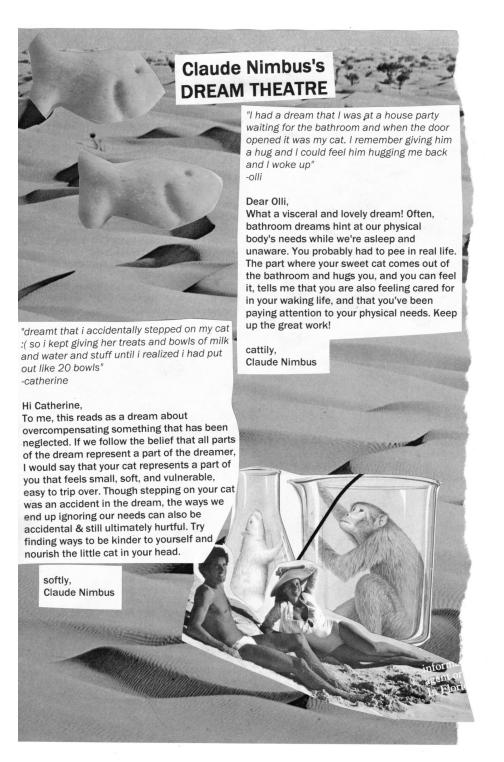
Hey Lesley,

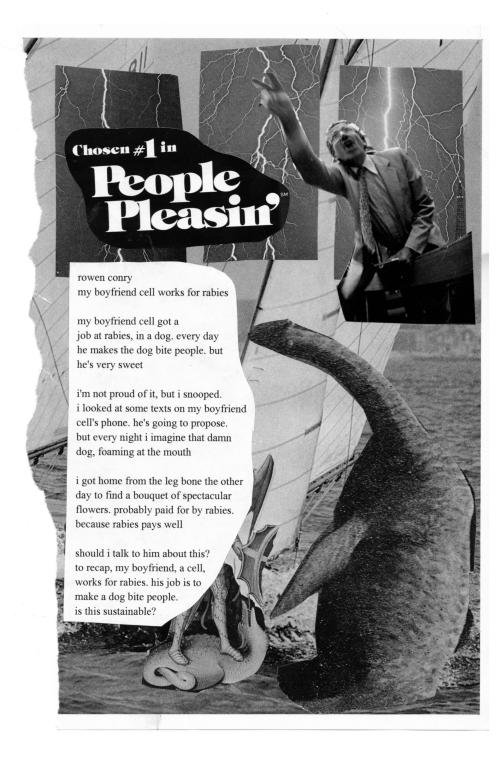
As of your submission, we are one week out from the eclipse, a time in our lives where we sever what we must let go. Maybe the mother snake is a job, a belief about something, a habit in your life; whatever it is, it is something your dreams are telling you that will be necessary to kill. The baby snakes could represent regrets that you'll have post-severance, it's never easy and it is scary! This is a good time to evaluate consequences and what your needs are regarding excess vs minimization.

As for the wild west saloon part of the dream, I'm getting the sense that maybe you're craving a little spice in your life but something is holding you back! You said you felt skeptical about the restaurant being a front, but then it ended up being a community of friendly bikers giving out rides. My advice is to take that risk on something you've been feeling hesitant to do, and you may end up having a lot of fun.

Howdily, Claude Nimbus

Enter the naked mole rat ... a sausage with teeth





i want to gi to make another please access dean where maybe enough more POY chance. can i please be born

"(②°ੂ₅ੂ°)。\*° ♦" by shiba dog xoxo

holes. but i'm still human. i'm the frog hopped away, then what they used to call The Perfo-turned back to look at the space rated."

honest, but the mystery sur- over." rounding the whole situation since the space ship had rotted sucked you in and made you away almost 2 billion years ago, want to keep playing. plus the they simply took off their space gameplay was really addictive. suit and instantly grew to be realplus there wasn't much else to do when you have to wait two bil- this was standard practice. but lion years.

anyway, since the game never there in the grass on this fancy really ended, eventually they green world stopped playing the game because the planet (the real planet they landed on) was now green and pretty. two billion years had passed. it was finally a time of organization had taken over most creatures. a deer walked by.

work." from their bag they took near the south pole, where an old out a funny object like an orb. woman lived with a cat. they pressed a button on it and it "come inside" said the old womhissed and said:

unfreezing commencing

after ten minutes, the orb opened she smiled. the cat did too and there was a frog in there.

"ok buddy," they said, picking up the frog and dropping him into the grass, "bye bye."

person. the frog winked (maybe).

that was a little off-putting to be "well," they said, "job over. joib

ly old and then died of old age. the video games lived on, sitting

eventually, a human being evolved and started to play the game. so much time had passed in the game world, and the evil of the land. except for one little "ok" they said, "time to get to splotch of land that was an island

> an, "i'll make you dinner and, afterward, i'll make you dessert."

-rowen

#### the planet

"crap, we got here too early" they bigger and bigger, and the evil said. the whole thing was molten freaks you had to fight got rock and lava still. so they wait- stronger and stronger. it must ed. they had to wait about 2 bil- have had some form of random lion years.

what do you do when you have to der if the game would ever end. wait 2 billion years? that's right, "when you finally get here" said games and games with stories the freakin movies." that make you cry. they even as the game progressed, the planplayed doodle jump.

but there was this one game they described a lot of things he was played most of all. it was called going to do to the player, when the planet the goal of the game he was finally rescued they was to save a guy named the ranged from light caresses of the planet from an evil organization. player's hair (of course in reality, all the time in the game, this guy they were bald. it was required named "the planet" would call to travel through space), to some you on the radio.

"psssh psssh. planet coming in. guy named "the planet" seemed you're going to want to go to the basement of this building. that's where you'll find the lever to people. open the central door. it's the "you can put it in this hole and only way to proceed."

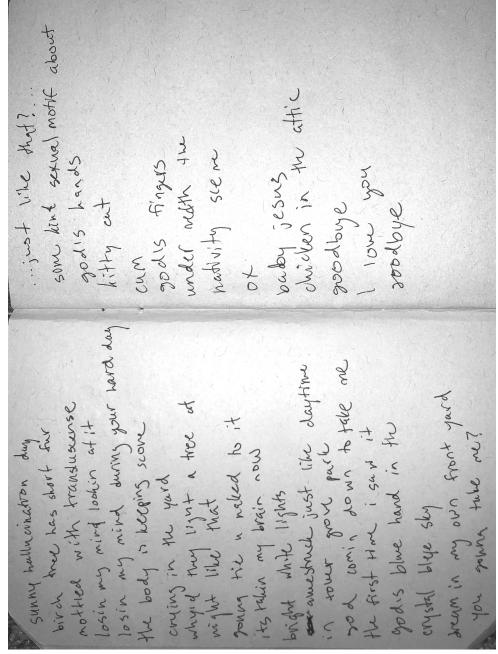
time, but the game never seemed

they got to the planet too early. to end. the evil organization got generation. they started to won-

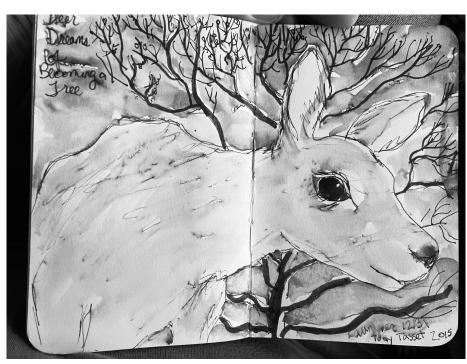
they played freakin video games. the guy named the planet, "i'm racing games. quest games. funny gonna kiss you. kiss you hard like

et, through this radio dialogue, really gratuitous descriptions of "the planet here" he would say. various sexual maneuvers. the to have a lot of holes. he seemed to have more holes than most

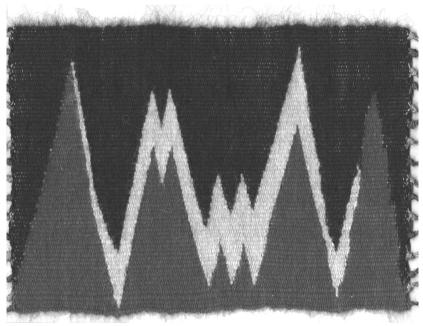
this hole and this hole" the planet now, two billion years is a long muttered, kind of seeming distracted, "yeah, i've got a lot of



cunt" by shiba oxox gok euphemism for



"Deer Dreams of becoming a Tree" by Dawn Cipher



by Eliza Caperton

movie had me like :0

there's something so simple and beautiful and effective that this movie is able to do. The way that it remains honest the protagonist, however the to the reality of the characincredible acting from the very few actors in the movie, while maintaining this super effective. The way that the sound design makes you feel was so impressive. as someone that grew up seeking out spooky and scary media on the internet as a kid, I definitely related to the protagonist's desire to enter into this online curse. if I was the age of the protagonist I definitely would have fallen for the same thing. I think the narrative of the protagonist shows us the kind of loneliness and isolation that she feels, while also showing her gradually spiraling into her fantasy. I feel like the movie subtly hints at her having suicidal ideation (bringing up her dad's gun) which makes you really wonder what the world's fair game means to her and how it might be exacerbating her mental health. The acting of the sec- to illustrate to me the mental ond character, the middle age dude, was also so well done. I in. feel like the movie adequately explained the complicated relationship of him both caring for the well-being of the protagonist while also fetishiz-

ing and encouraging the protagonist to play the game. at the end I feel like they are implying that the middle aged dude did genuinely care about monologue of meeting up in ters, driven especially by the person years later definitely seems to make explicit that he had romantic feelings for her, which I feel complicated eerie atmosphere is so goddamn about. feels icky to know that he was ultimately obsessed with the protagonist for rosimultaneously calm and uneasy mantic or sexual reasons, however I think that is part of playing into the movies feeling of unease. everything is both innocent and sinister, harmless and incredibly dangerous. this perfectly captures the feeling of being a young child on the internet and being exposed to all sorts of ways of thinking and people who encourage others through that thinking.

> my favorite parts of the movie were definitely the long walking videos that the protagonist records while quietly memoring to themselves. I loved seeing the protagonist's town explored through their eyes while being given their inner monologue, and those scenes definitely did the most space that the protagonist was

Great movie unlike anything I've ever seen!

lol not the Lion King

okay I'll admit I put this shit on because I needed something relaxing in the background that I didn't have to think too much about. movies are great for that imo and it definitely didn't disappoint, it was definitely similar enough to the original Lion King while still having some distinctions. All in all though it was a pretty big stinker, I feel like the changes they made to the original Lion King script wound up leaving most of the characters feeling super lifeless and devoid of personality. it is specifically shameful what they did to the

hyenas, who felt so flat compared to Whoopi goddamn Goldberg back in the day

The songs were there but like they were all shorter versions and they didn't really hold up to the original. I'm not saying it needs to be a direct replication of the older movie, I get that they were going for something different here, but I feel like they chose the the fuck they crank out bethe movie having charm and whimsy might not have been a good choice. Working as a teacher I've watched a lot of movies with talking animals, and while I feel like thev animated the live action animals well, I almost feel like they should have made them

The Lion King (2019)

\* \* \*







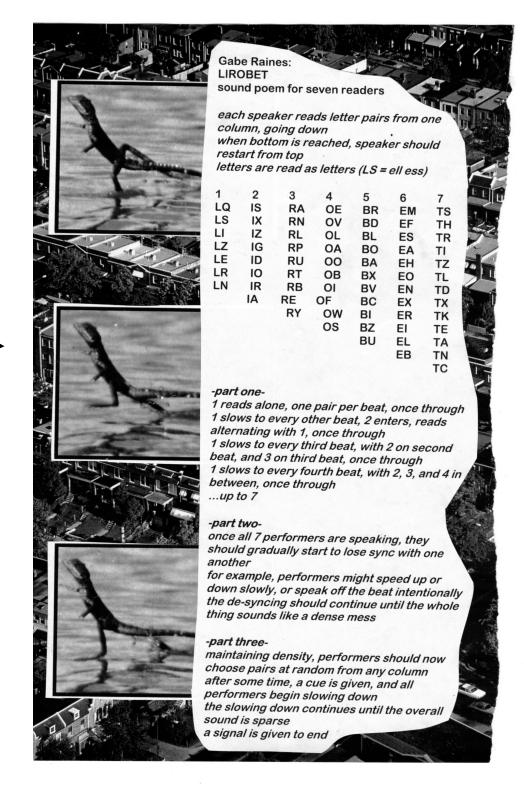
We're All Going to the World's Fair (2021)

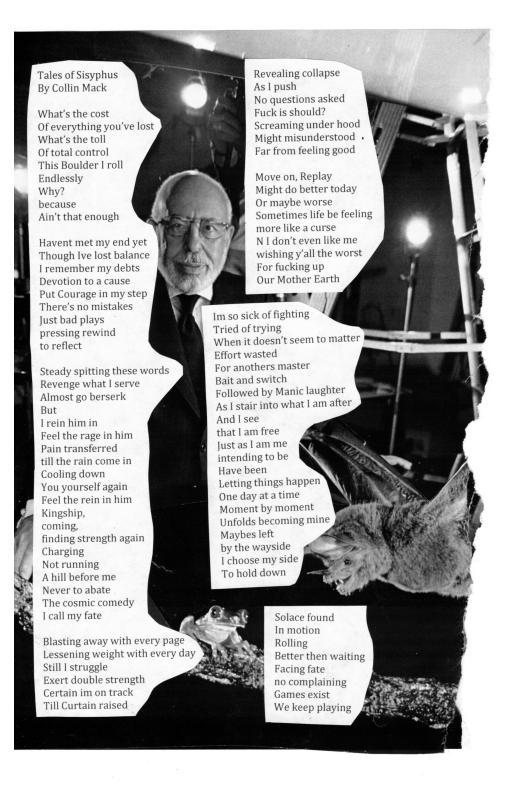


more cartoony to better have the same charm as the original movie. and I'm not just being a hater, I saw the live action jungle book back in the day and really loved it, though I admit I hated the jungle book animated movie lmao

All in all pretty mid but I'll probably still see the new live-action Disnev whatever animals looking realistic over cause I am a zeitgeist chasing shill with no moral compass, though I think I missed the Little mermaid remake with Chloe Bailey lol







not mention that about half of this movie is horny hand drawn animated ladies trying to have sex with live action men. like I'm not even kidding that is most of the mov- through the whole film was ie, and while I think sexual- probably all of the little ity is a big part of the film, as it is the tool for and no longer cartoon, it definitely feels like the animators of cool world the movie I was watching itself were super horned up the enthe movie was rated PG-13 lmao like we literally see one of the cartoon babies from the movie have sex with a live-action dude and we watch her put it in. PG-13! fun for the

like all in all I understand that the movie is supposed to be reminiscent of '90s independent comic culture, which was a super

whole family!

dude-centric horned up subculture, and I can appreciate sex!!!! and the main emotion how a lot of the artwork in the movie was hand drawn and somewhat smoothly blended elements in the movie, it was ly see it being a cult clasdefinitely a feet. visually

it was a great movie to watch, I definitely wish I'd take some acid before watching it but what are you going to do ∑♀ the highlight for me background cartoons that were just wilding out the entire the antagonist to become real time. it seems like the animators made a movie and then wanted a jazz it up so they just drew a bunch of random cartoon nonsense superimposed it on top of the other tire time. and I shit you not scenes. which honestly I'm so here for, I kind of wish the whole movie had just been a bunch of animated cartoon violence nonsense, but it seemed like the movie every 10 minutes was like don't



forget this movie is about you should be feeling while watching it is horny!!!!

together with the live action goofy flick I could definitesic lol

### olli movie page

I present to you, humbly, 3 movie reviews featured on my letter-boxd account: olli lehmann $^{\text{m}}$ . Please enjoy my steaming hot takes, coming to you from a bitch who watches too many movies, thinks about shit too deeply, and got B's in my English classes in college lmao. They were all written using speech-to-text in my car so like try to imagine that if ur reading this. If u disagree with my takes feel free to flame me!!!!!!! <3

Soul too Dig for

My body

Go
Tip out to Me

like one of those

bullfrogs that eat themselves

2 death

"The Most Extreme"
by bren

cool world (1992)





ok wowwwww lmaoo

so I watch a lot of movies and real love language of mine is showing movies to people I care about, so I've made my boyfriend watch a lot of movies with me. I started to feel self -conscious though and encouraged him to pick a movie for us to watch together that he likes and this is what he picked. this movie was a fucking trip I want to start with that. The plotline moved in such bizarre pacing that it was really hard to know what the movie was trying to say was important and what was just background flair. As soon as we're thrown into cool world it's just cartoon nonsense and every direction, however I would be remiss to



by zach tbd

## THOUGHTS ON **QUITTING SPOTIFY,** WHY I'M OUT

It's so easy to listen to whatever you want, whenever you want, for the past However while I was using tidal, there idk, 15 years due to the advent of "the streaming service." Music, podcasts, books on tape, sound effects, pretty much anything can be found & pulled up so long as you have an internet connection & a subscription to youtube, tidal, spotify, or any others. For the most part, I think this rules. I think it's awesome I can listen to independent bands like Little Mazarn, Living Dream, and Algae Dust in my car any time I want. It's so cool that I can just pull up Butthole Surfers '86 album Rembrandt Pussyhorse while jogging to the YMCA without having to go find a physical copy on tape for a walkman like you would have had to in the 90s. What's not cool is that for all this ease & convenience, the artists who have shared their music on these streaming sites are not being paid fairly for their contribution.

I have had a Spotify subscription that I've been considering terminating for a while now. Two years ago for a period of about 6 months, I switched to tidal which was honestly an "ok" alternative. They pay out musicians at a /slightly/ higher rate than spotify &

the sound quality is undeniably better. weren't podcasts available & you couldn't do collaborative playlists which were ultimately the reasons I decided to switch back to spotify. And I've felt some amount of buyer's remorse ever since.

When it was announced last Nov/ Dec that Spotify would no longer be paying musicians for songs with less than 1,000 streams, I knew that my time as a Spotify subscriber would be permanently coming to an end. With this new clause announced, they had hinted that they would be paying out at an increased rate for streams that DID accrue more than 1,000 listens. but I can't find any record of the payout increase anywhere online if they have. Spotify is still paying around \$0.003 - \$0.005 per stream. with plans to increase their listener subscription rates by \$1-2 sometime in April 2024. On top of all this, spotify owner Daniel Ek has \$114 million in investments in Helsing, a war technology company that contracts with the US military. To me, this makes a hard choice into an easy choice. I ended my duo spotify subscription last week,

I lowered the phone from my ear and crept back to the pipe. The insect didn't move, didn't lower its blank gaze from my fatty flesh. Collecting my wet laundry. I scampered toward the stairs and threw one last glance at my enemy. Guess I'd be vocalized their presence with a somber smelling musty this week.

"So what do I do about this?" I asked vou. "I can't afford an exterminator."

"Too late for that. I say you burn the place while you can. It's the only viable option."

"What? No, I've got a security deposit." You sighed. "Don't know what to tell you, friend. Looks like the only option is war. Either that, or start packing your bags."

"But-"

"It was nice knowing you." Click. Silence. Not even the usual field crickets chirped in the company of that mon-

Would they all barge in at once? I imagined an ambush, a wave of creatures breaching the walls they'd meticulously gnawed through while I had my back turned.

I was not a coward. This called for a fight. I wouldn't let those puny beasts consume my brain matter or my cat.

Preparing the house for catastrophe, I locked the doors and sealed the cracks with rolled-up towels. No time to shower or do dishes anyway. I flipped furniture on their sides and scooted them across the carpet to form a fort. High ground, I needed the high ground. Wasn't that what the history books preached? Those brutes would have to climb to me if they wanted a taste of my skin.

After careful inspection of select closet finds, I layered up into makeshift armor that I immediately sweat through. Who cares if it's warm in the house? I've got larger problems on my hands. To complete the look, I add a kitchen pot helmet. Try eating through metal, motherfuckers.

Night melted into day and then night again. I had the blinds drawn to ward off

window access. My living room became a dim extension of the originating basement. Slumber flirted with my eyelids but I wouldn't let down my guard.

Somewhere within the house, my cat

It's day three now, and I swear I hear the munching. No visible sign of offense—the soldiers haven't breached through yet. They're in the walls, I swear to God. The sentinel has not moved from the sewer pipe. I will not fall for his apathy. He's waiting for me to crack, I know it. My eyes may be gummy, but I am deliriously awake, surviving off of raw adrenaline and energy drinks that taste radioactive.

I'm in the middle of texting my landlord about the situation when a knock at the door startles me. I lower my flyswatter and crawl from my tower. A dining chair topples and the whole infrastructure shifts. I curse. I'll have to make architectural revisions.

When I unlock the door and ease it open, I immediately shrink back at the light of day. You're frozen in place, gaping at the state of my distress.

"Holy—whoa. Look at you."

"No time." I toss you a can of Raid and a lighter. "Take this."

The weapons clatter at your feet. You hesitate, gaze flickering between my outfit and living space. I scratch my scalp, swallowing an electric-flavored glob of saliva. It hurts to blink.

"Come in. Listen," I whisper. "You can hear them chewing."

"Hear what chewing?"

"The sprickets. They're after me, re-

You open your mouth and let it drop closed. Finally, you shake your head, kicking my items aside.

"You do know I was just...y'know what? Godspeed, soldier."

With a brief salute, you back out the front door and break into a sprint.

They're after me. I hear their mandibles chewing through the drywall. Through the curtains. Through my ear canal and brain tissue if I'm not careful.

I haven't slept in three days since sharing that picture with you. The initial night, catching up on laundry in the corner of my dank rental basement, I fumbled a load of wet clothes at the sight of a cricket-like creature lurking on the sewage pipe above my head.

At two in the morning, I figured I was running on fumes and black mold festering along damp concrete walls. The insect bore little resemblance to the black field crickets that scampered between cracks. This beast was all legs, spanning the length of my index finger from antenna to hind legs. It crouched in a stance ready to strike, staring with pinprick eyes that dared me to look at it funny.

Flopping my laundry on the dusty dryer lid, I tilted my phone lens to capture an accurate perspective of its stance. *Check it out. Cricket on stilts.* Within seconds of sending the photo, my screen lit up with a phone call.

"You're screwed, my guy," you laughed over my greeting. It was odd to hear your lucid voice at such an early hour of the morning.

"What?"

"That fucker is a spricket," you said. "Goes by many names. Spider cricket, camel cricket, cave cricket—all the same. God's most diabolical experiment."

A vulnerable chill rippled across my undershirt and bare feet. "What does that even mean?"

"Means they're going to *get* you, man. Those guys fear nothing. Nothing. Most animals carry the primitive instinct to flee in the face of danger, but not those dudes. Their legs are ready to pounce. One slip-up and you're dinner."

"That's stupid," I said, but my esophagus betrayed me. I couldn't swallow without choking. I abandoned my laundry and cowered in the opposite corner.

"I'm telling you, watch your back. If you have one spricket in your living quarters, you already have an infestation. They'll eat anything they cross paths with. They're most likely hollowing out your couch cushions as we speak. They're dining on your shoelaces. You might want to check on your cat if you haven't heard from her in a while."

started paying for my own dental (i had a dental/spotify trade agreement with a friend), and am pledging to spend those 15 or so dollars a month on buying digital albums and releases from artists through Bandcamp.\*

I'm acknowledging, this is going to suck for me for a little while until I get used to it. I will have to endure some youtube ads if I want to listen to older music that hasn't been released on bandcamp. I will finally have to figure out how to use the bandcamp playlist feature. I will have to dub my friends a physical mixtage or burn a CD if I want them to listen to all the songs I really like right now (cool guy shit in the year 2024 tbh). And of course, I will not have an algorithmic overlord casting new music my way, I will have to seek it out on my own willful time. Recently I've been reading essays by philosopher Byung-Chul Han who would suggest that ease of access does not = simplicity of life, leaves us with higher expectations of comforts that can fail & leaves us feeling in lack, with dismissal of general empathy for others, & that these extra steps and hurdles to seeking out new digital music will ultimately be more rewarding, yada yada, let me get off this tall horse. But I will also not have the guilt of enabling a hugely exploitative company to continue ripping off artists & actively making it harder for small musicians to make a

living or even a sup-

plemental income from all their labors.

While I know ending the spotify subscription isn't a choice that comes easy for all, this is one facet of my life where I feel it is important to be in control & mindful in my consumption, as both a musician and listener who loves local/small artists. Even if you decide you don't want to break off ties with your streaming service just yet, I would encourage everyone interested in musicians' labor rights to sign the United Musicians and Allied Workers' Justice at Spotify petition which can be found on UMAW's website. They are asking for at least \$0.01 per stream no matter how many streams a track already has and financial transparency from the more than \$52 billion dollar company.

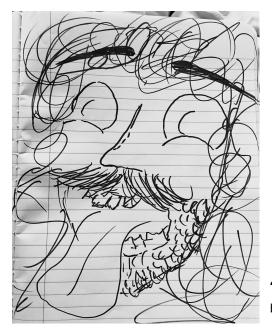
\*i knooow bandcamp is still a bad corporation, this just seems like the only active alternative right now. Local musicians releasing music digitally should check out ninaprotocol.com and maybe we can all switch over there this year instead of relying on things staying functional at badcamp.

**—MERE HARRACH** 

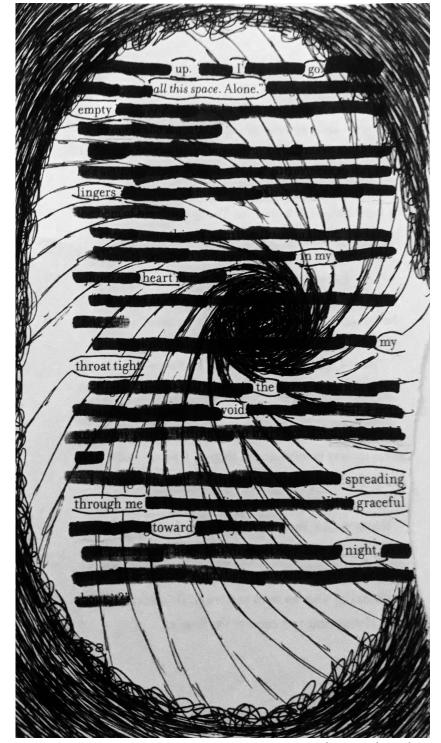
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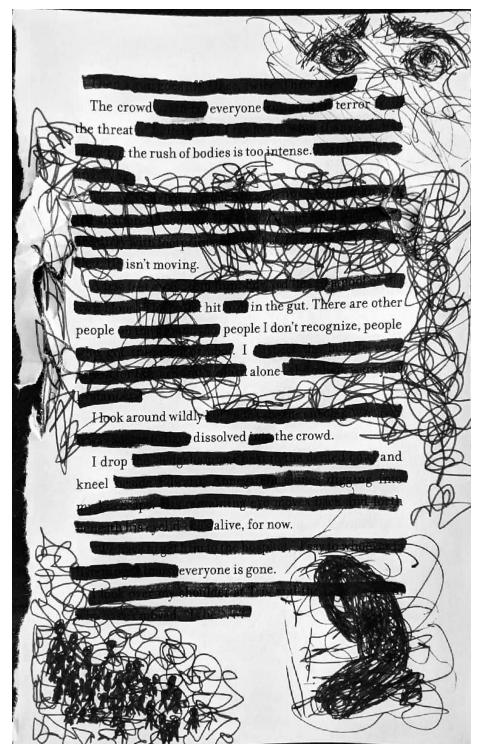
drawings by josiah mcelmurray



"selfie in red sharpie, March 8/24" by bren



by Katherine Bishop

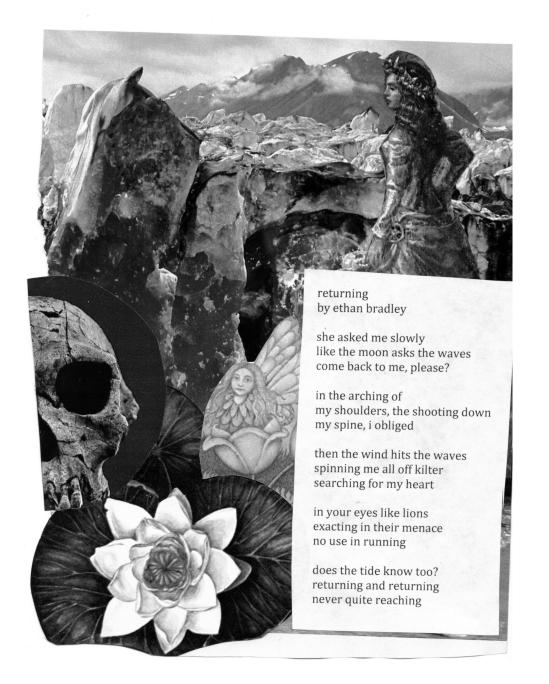


by Katherine Bishop





photographs by maura benson



"city air"
by olli sure
[march 21st 2024]

it's in the hair we breathe you are more your hair than you are you

when the large man stands posted above you at the quiktrip on kingshighway he's looking at your hair you are more your pills than you are you

you've been breathing in dust not the kind that can be blown away but the wet kind the sticky kind perpetual dust of moving this is a prayer to to the hair to the pills

it's the noise in your ears
it's the ambience of the city
it's the smoke of the city the good kind
a prayer to the noise
a prayer to the smoke
and the space that's between you and me

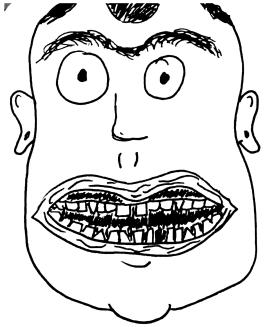
an old woman carries groceries at 1:39 a. across South City every church burns down why would we think ours would be any exception? when the notre dame went up you were probably cozy in bed you were probably scrolling twitter or telling someone you loved them how selfish, how cruel

the thin hair is difference between you and everyone else but thin hair difference tickling the back of your throat with difference with difference with differentness do you get tired when you see her walk up the hill?

do you offer to take the bus with her?

a step forward for one as a step forward for all in this city you wouldn't guess it, you wouldn't guess it you wouldn't guess it but i'm here for you, i always have been





i lost my retainer and now there's a gap in my front teeth and i realize that my orthodontist really meant forever

by ethan bradley



"Crows Nest" by Dawn Cipher