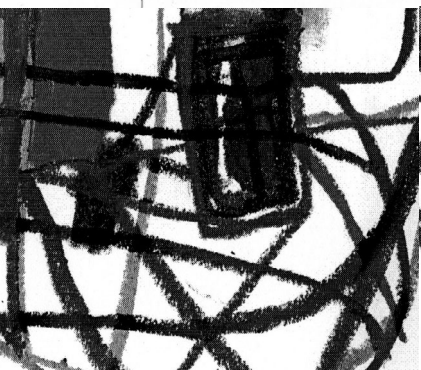
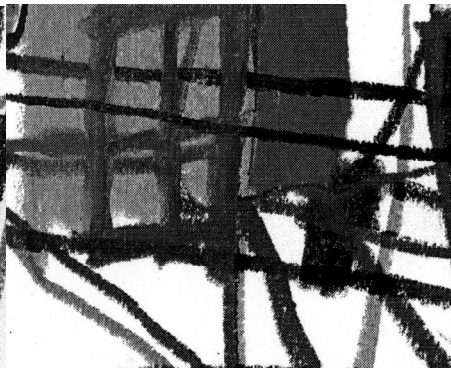
BABY GAY

A MANIFESTO & COLLECTION

VOL. I

It was especially
hard
hearing that
from my
mom.

This zine is dedicated to the brave brave fucking BRAVE people, who have faced themselves and their own desires. who have worked through stigma and social ostracization and harm and self-loathing in order to find a place in this world where they could truly breathe, dance, eat, sing, fuck, cry, and love with light hearts and desire in their lives.

BABY GAY

INTRODUCTION

The term BABY GAY has no correlation to age or numbers, but rather finds itself in the stretch of time, often self-determined, wherein a person finds themselves to be but a small toddler in the large world and consideration of queerness. Maybe it is seventh grade, maybe it is 45. BABY GAY has no relationship to "coming out," for as queer people, we come out endlessly, usually at least two or three times a day, and one can feel young and uncouth in their queerness for years after one "comes out" in the traditional sense. ("We come out of the closet only to realize there are more closets")

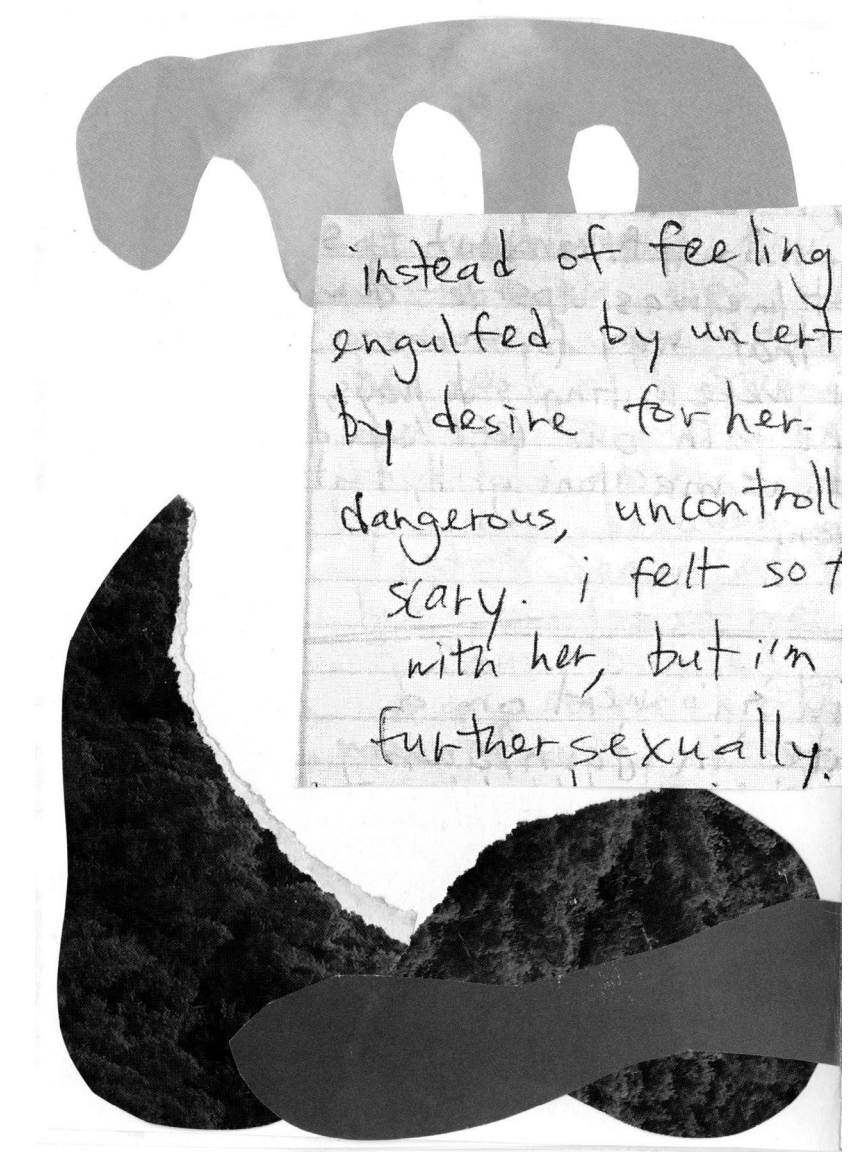
BABY GAY has no relation to milestone or faux-liberatory public-ness, or dyadic coupling. BABY GAY detests rainbows because they are just Refracted White Light.* BaBY GAY is a mindset, a way of being. BABY GAY, for me, is an undulation. Today I do not feel like BABY GAY but perhaps tomorrow I will again. BABY GAY is returning to visit family and being ill-equipped for the deluge of erasure and subseqvent qveer mourning that experiences like that bring. BABY GAY is everyone acting normal while your soul burns hot amber. BABY GAY is pain at the gap: the gap with straight

* Dark Matter collective,

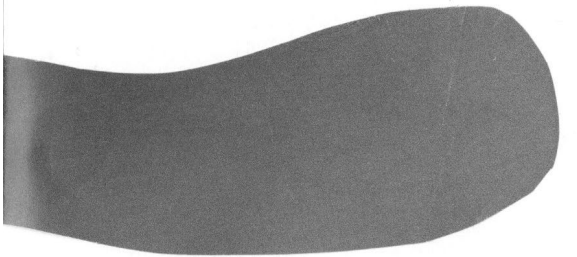
normalized society, the gap between how a person's life looks and how that person's parents wanted their life to look, it is the gap between a person and their straight siblings who have gone on to work professional or financially secure jobs with wives and children in uptown apartments, it is the gap of mismatched expectations, being unable to "fit in," to be wild with desires unshared or deemed "immature." BABY GAY is confused middle school longing and also webs and traps and suffocations. BABY GAY is being in love with your best friend and not knowing how to say "hello" in the mornings. BABY GAY is intimacy, is childish goof, is covers pulled

tight, is journaled fear, is locker room anxiety, is "I'M STRAIGHT I PROMISE," is lying, is surviving, is what we all go through, in one way or another, on our long looping journeys of queerness and actualization. whether you identify as "queer" or "straight," everyone lives, however they want to deny it, at least briefly, as a BABY GAY.

FIRST
KISS,
AGE
16


instead of feeling
engulfed by uncert
by desire for her.
dangerous, uncontroll
scary. i felt so t
with her, but i'm
further sexually.

like i'll be
ainty, i'm engulfed
it feels insatiable,
able, raw and
urned on making out
so afraid of going



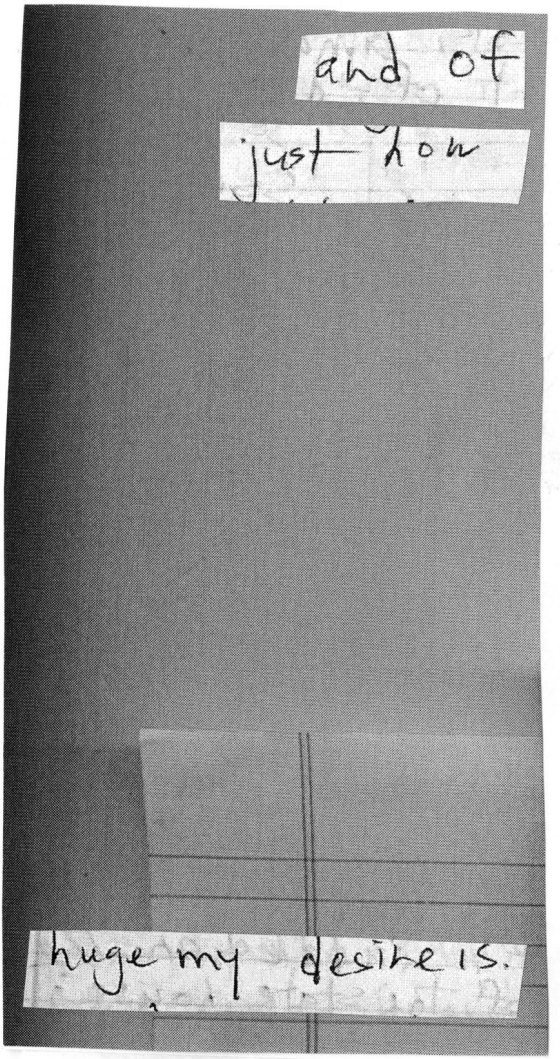
11-10-99

tonight we kissed. (those three words just about say it all.) a [redacted] & i watched her copy of chasing amy over at my house & held hands for most of it. i think. after i stopped the movie and turned off the TV the basement was pitch black (i was glad a [redacted] had turned off the light over the stairs) and mom & dad had gone to bed. christ. i guess it started with the usual cuddling, me using her hip as a pillow, and little by little, shifting positions, we ended up lying lengthwise on the couch with our legs woven around each other, my arm behind her head and hers around me. at first we were just comfy; i put my head on her stomach, but our breath started getting short & heavy & broken up as we stroked each other's ears and necks and hair. i couldn't see her face in the dark but i knew roughly where her lips were and wanted to kiss

christ, i guess it
started with the usual
cuddling.

herbut didn't have the nerve for a little while. finally i just smooched her on the lips & there was a pause, then she leaned closer and we were kissing with our mouths open and ~~[illegible]~~ our breath very hot and our toes curling. i sucked on her ears and she went crazy moving around and i don't know if i'm a very good kisser but at least she seems to know what she's doing. we kissed a lot more and too soon it was midnight & n[redacted] was calling down that we'd turn into pumpkins if we didn't get home. so dizzily, woozily, weakly, flushed all over, thirsty, & confused was how we finally got up from the couch, had one last goodnight smooch on the front porch, and parted. i told n[redacted] i don't know if

i'm more confused or less confused. instead of feeling like i'll be engulfed by uncertainty, i'm engulfed by desire for her. it feels insatiable, dangerous, uncontrollable, raw and scary. i felt so turned on making out with her, but i'm so afraid of going further sexually, and of just how huge my desire is. it's not exactly being horny, you know, it's the kind that make it hard to breathe and it's all wrapped up with questions like do i love her and what are we going to do? it feels too good to be true even though it's scary. i love our jokes and cuddling and trust and kissing. ok, well, goodnight. ☺

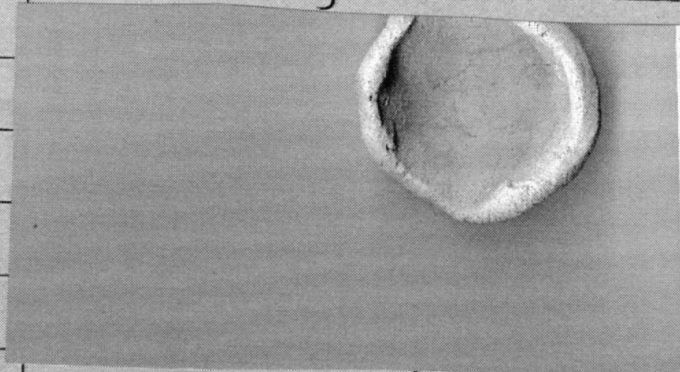

and of
just how
huge my desire is.

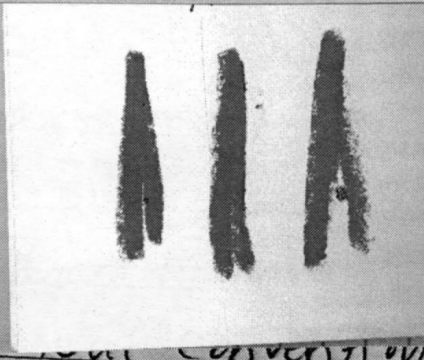
i can't say it,
age 17
And when
what shall
For whom
disaster

ALSO
I haven't smoked in forever, at least a month.
I want to say that I feel better, but I'm not really sure.
I do know that the last 2 times I smoked, I FLIPPED OUT. I got so paranoid and self conscious and introspective.
ok I'm going to tell you something that I haven't even dared to say out loud.
I think I might
I can't say it. ok, I'm not sure if I actually am... it, but I think that alot of my complexes stem from the fears of being it.
like I don't want to be too clingy, or sexual, or manly, or ferocious, or obsessed b/c I don't want to seem like I'm IT.
that is all understandable, ~~curious~~ sort of, b/c socially it is awful to be IT.
BUT what is troublesome is WHY do I care so much - does that mean that I am IT?
I honestly think (hope) that I just am not restricted by social sexual conventions and am uninhibited to be attracted to

anyone! thing I want.
I have thought about calling Les Youth Hotlines just to see if other ppl think about this stuff too.
I'm SURE they do
(no I'm not)
I want to tell D. Cohen, but I couldn't. This is like a DIRE secret.
We are never going to mention this again. Until, of course, I'm at college and "accidentally" hook up with a girl.
OK STOP.
But really though, it's annoying how concerned I am that ppl will think I'm a lesbian. I think it is really inhibiting to me being who I really am. I'm so concerned with being attractive and straight → which obviously just means I doubt I am, right?
I hope not.
maybe it has nothing to do w/ lesbianism, and I'm just really insecure - self-conscious, + not bolsy enough to be who I really am.
and I'm blaming it on this.
OK, hannah, from now on, I really am going to try to do ✓ justice. If only I knew how. -

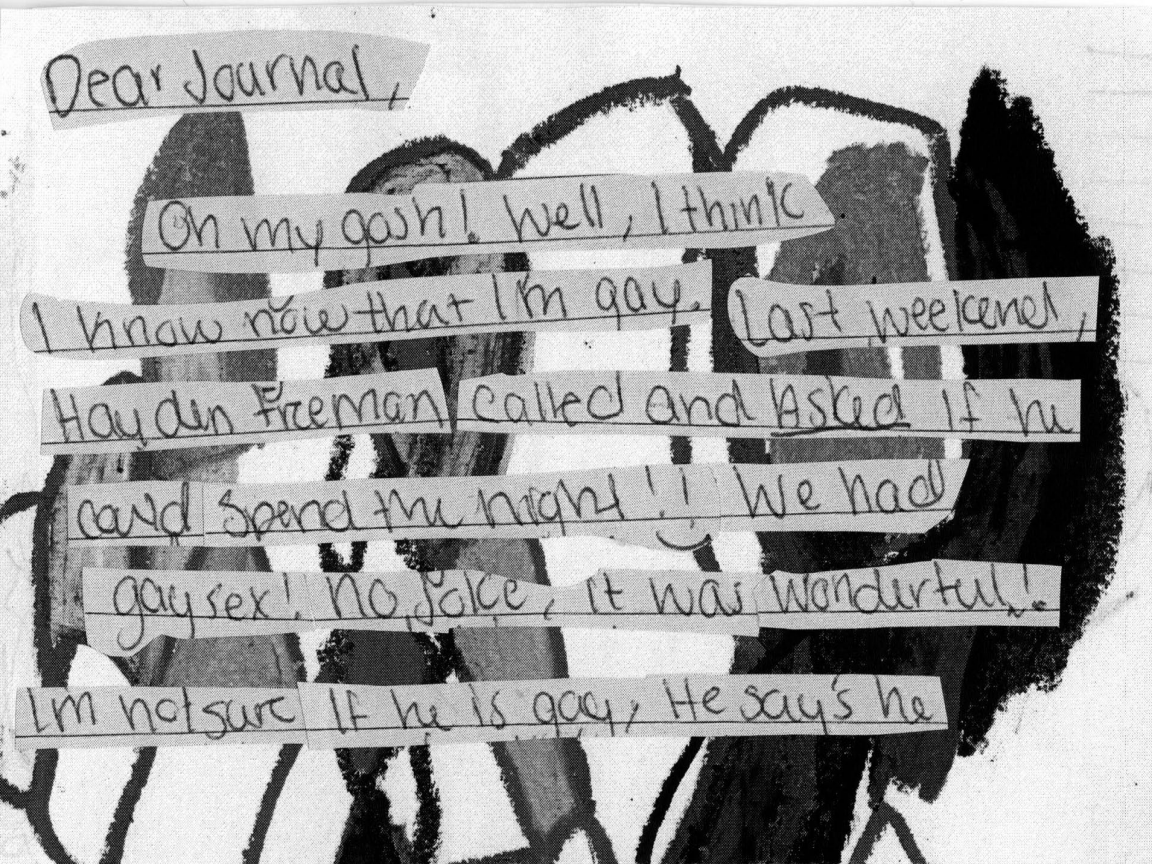
complexes stem from fears of being
like I don't want to be too clingy, or
sexual, or manly, or ferocious, or obsess
b/c I don't want to seem like I'm IT.
that is all understandable, ~~simple~~ sort o
b/c socially it is awful to be IT.

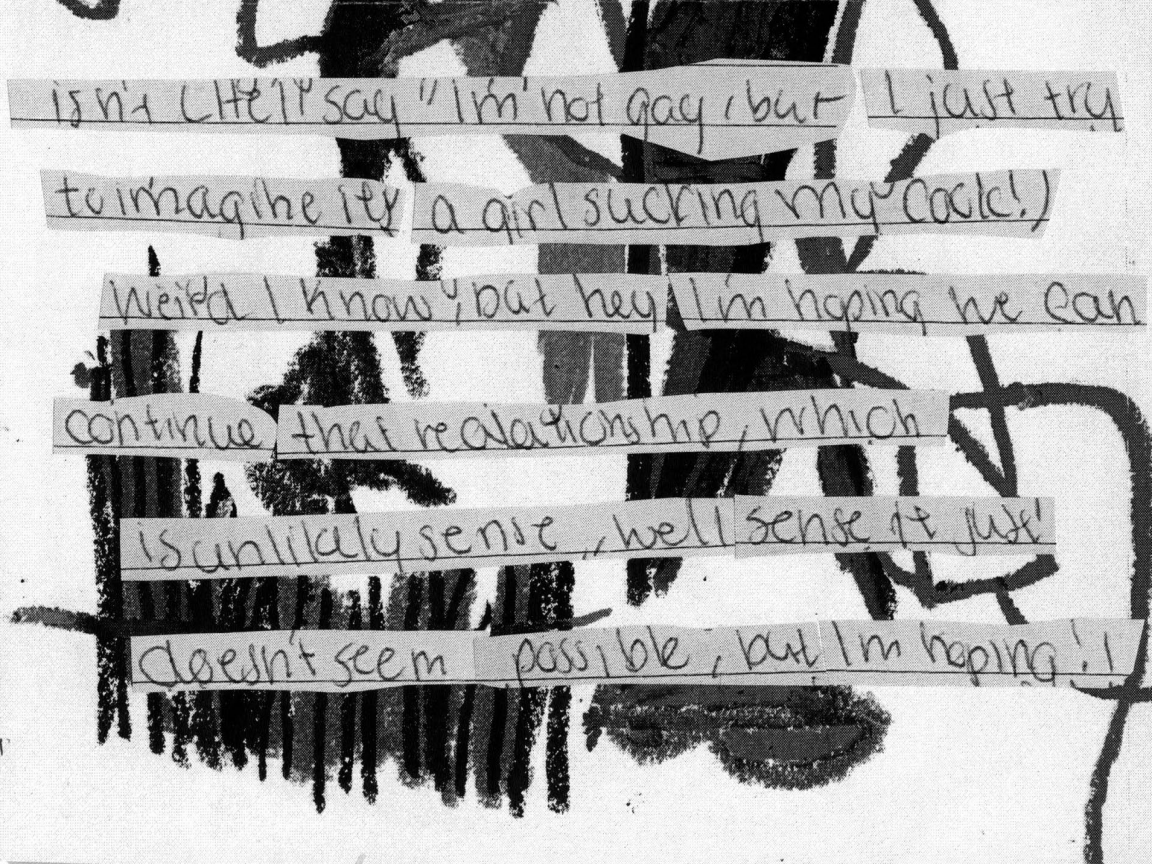




and am uninhibited to be attracted

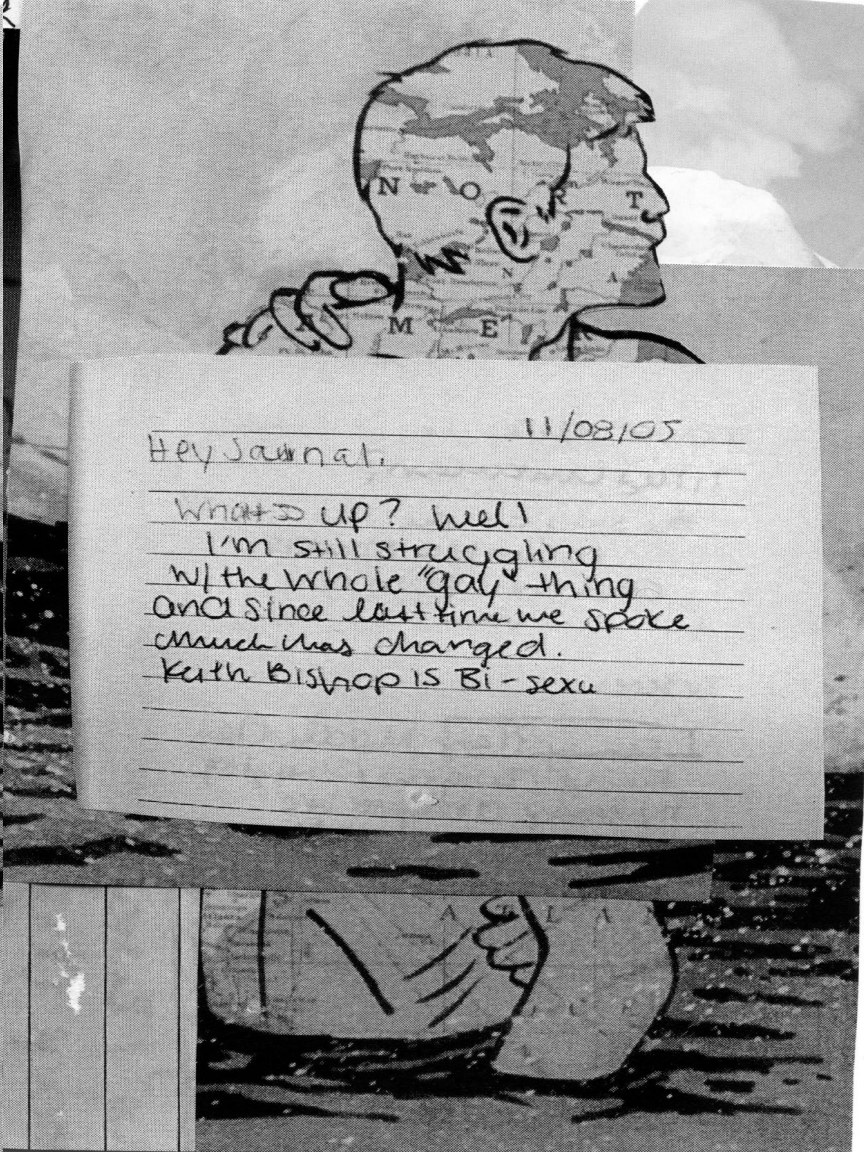
NO JOKE !! , AGE


Dear Journal,
Oh my gosh! Well, I think
I know now that I'm gay. Last weekend,
Hayden Freman called and asked if he
could spend the night!! We had
gay sex! No joke, it was wonderful!
I'm not sure if he is gay, He says he


is n't (He'll say "I'm not gay, but I just try
to imagine it's a girl sucking my cock!)
Weird I know, but hey I'm hoping we can
continue that relationship, which
is unlikely sense, well sense it just
doesn't seem possible, but I'm hoping!!

Dear Journal, Feb. 2005

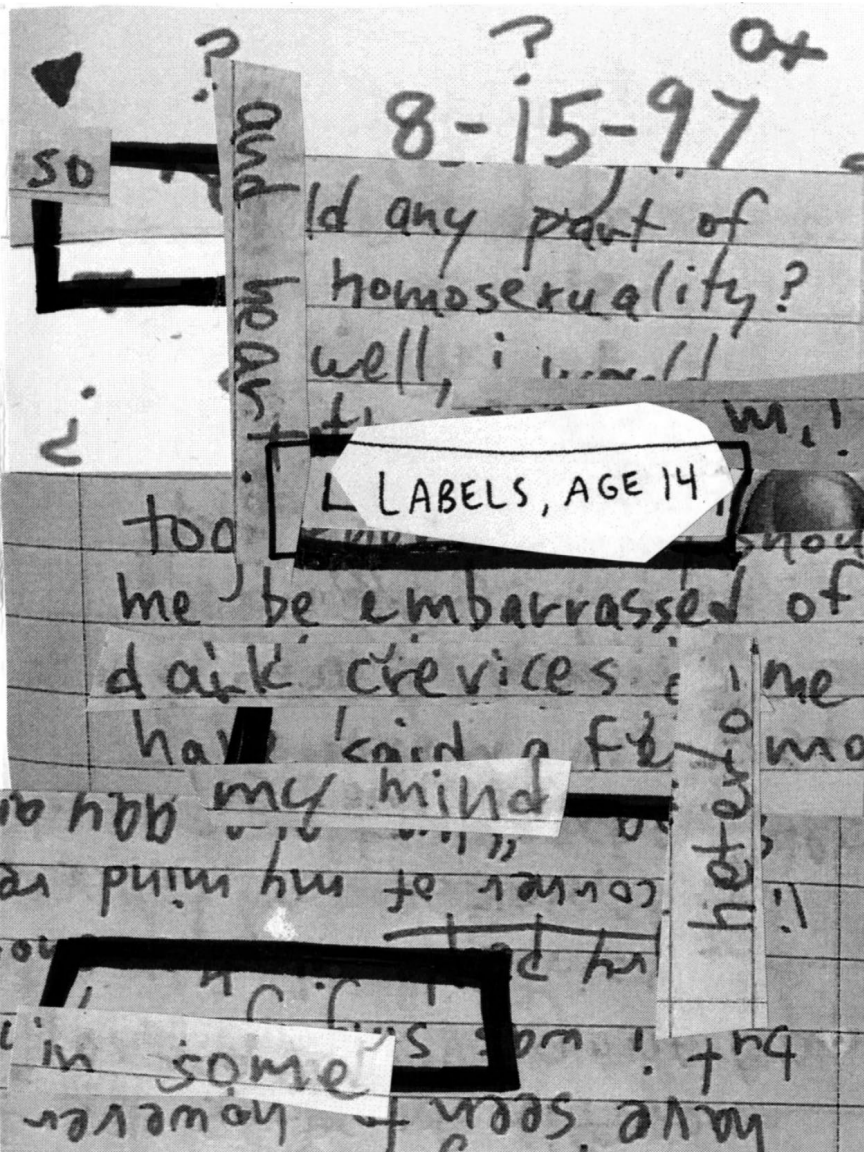
Oh my gosh! Well, I think I know now that I'm gay. Last weekend, Hayden Freeman called and asked if he could spend the night!! We had gay sex! No, Jake, it was wonderful!! I'm not sure if he is gay, He says he isn't (He'll say "I'm not gay, but I just try to imagine it's a girl sucking my cock!) Weird I know, but hey I'm hoping we can continue that relationship, which I sincerely sense, well sense it just doesn't seem possible, but I'm hoping!! Anyways, I'm a bit distracted right now b/c my dad said we could go skiing/ snowboarding, but he forgot about Cassie (our dog) who needs to be taken care of and the fact that he has to move all his stuff to the new office. Which is kinda cool, but still I'm a little, well a lot disappointed about not going, sense it's nearly March and we most likely won't be able to go this year like we always do



11/08/05

Hey Journal.

What's up? Well I'm still struggling w/ the whole "gay" thing and since last time we spoke much has changed. Keith Bishop is Bi-sexu

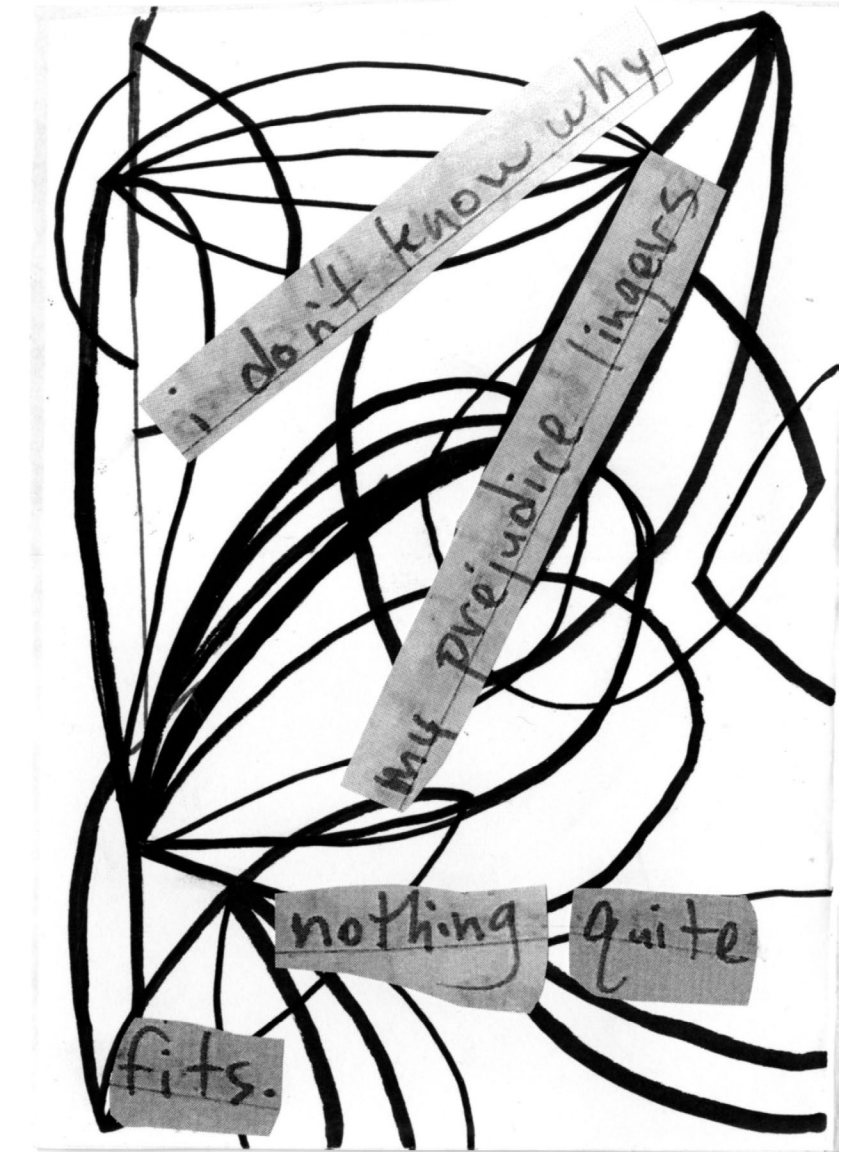

8-15-97
LABELS, AGE 14
my mind
some

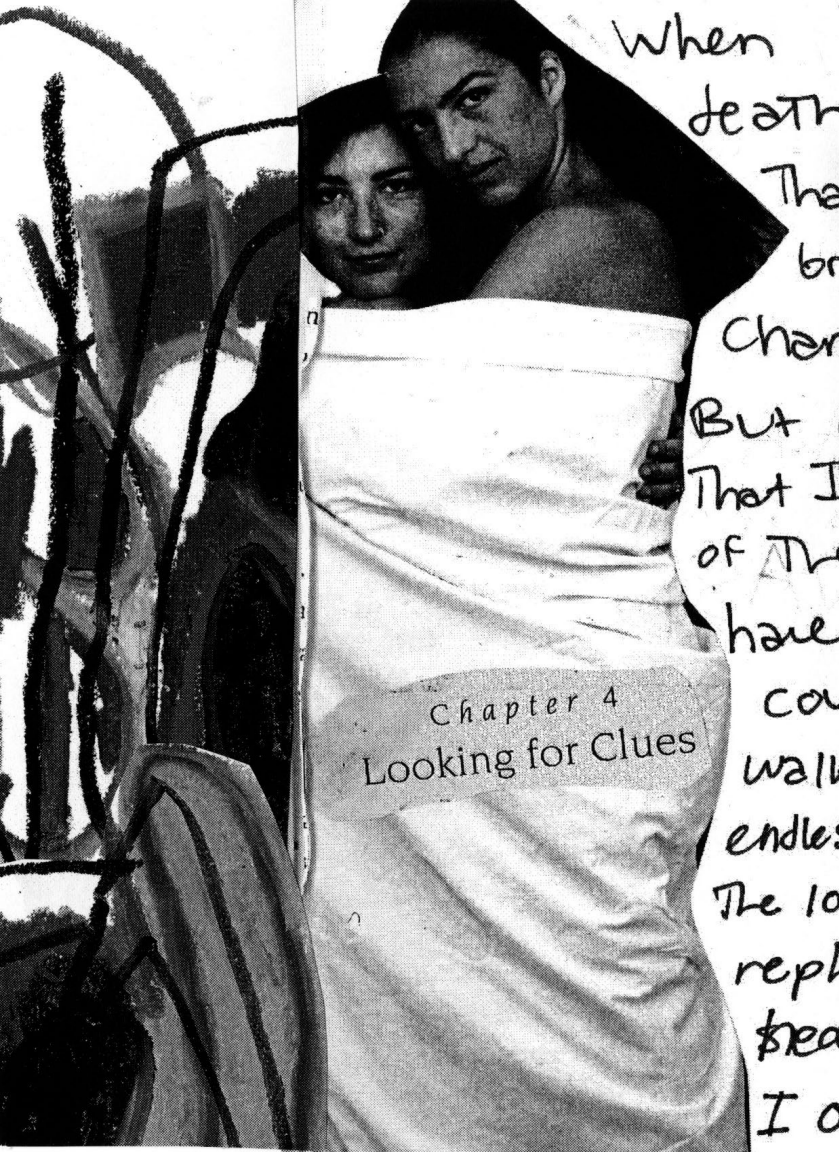
8-15-97

today is friday, i think. you know, this summer i've gotten comfortable enough with my identity as a woman to start wearing some simple dresses voluntarily and to write in pink now and then. i continue to search for the equilibrium between masculine and feminine.

what scares me is that i still harbor a secret homophobia somewhere inside me. consciously, i am quite accepting, as m[redacted] and cons have seem to, however inadvertently. but i was singing holly near's gentle, angry people in the shower and a little corner of my mind recoiled when i sang, "we are gay and straight together". why should any part of me be embarrassed of homosexuality? society has taught me well, i would have said a few months ago,

but i can't blame everything on mass media. it scares me to realize that i am in fact a hypocrite. i wear rainbows on my backpack, defend my beliefs (sometimes) to people at school, and pose the very possible question of my own sexuality outside of hetero-. so i don't know why my prejudice lingers in some dark crevices of my mind and heart. this summer, i've tried out all sorts of different labels for myself. i've gone from trying straight, to bicurious, to bisexual, to lesbian, to queer, to gay, to transgender, and back again. today in the shower, i had to face up to the fact that nothing quite fits. i'm more


i don't know why
my prejudice lingers
nothing quite
fits.

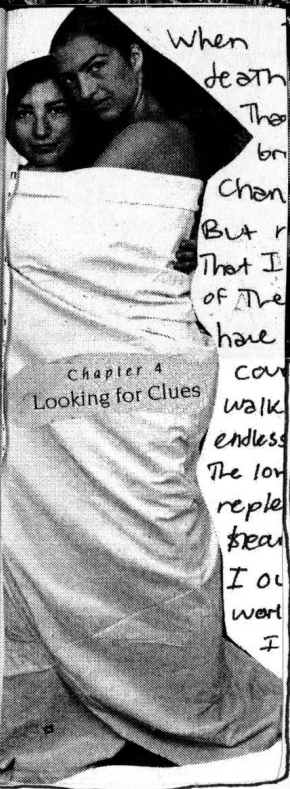


Chapter 4
Looking for Clues

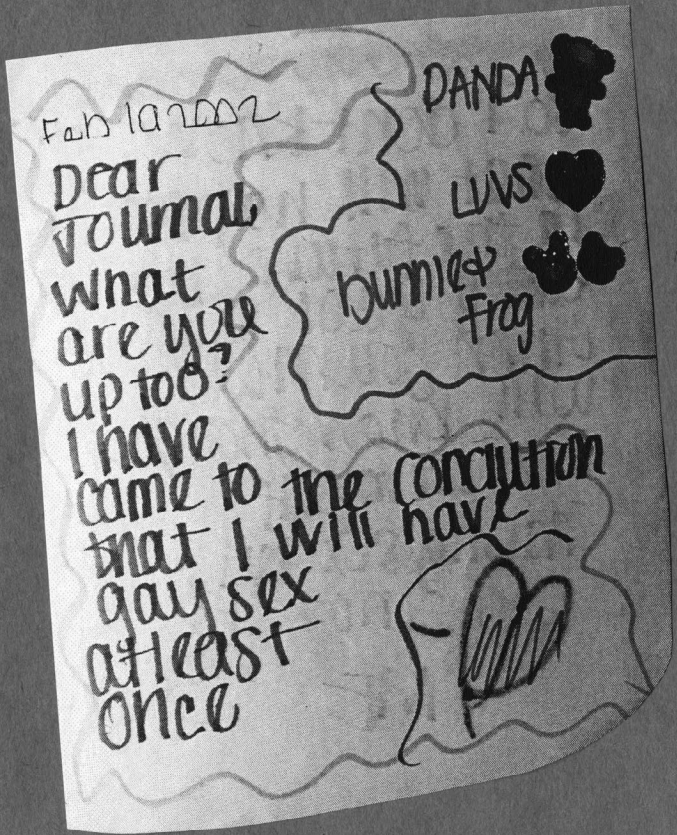
sexuality

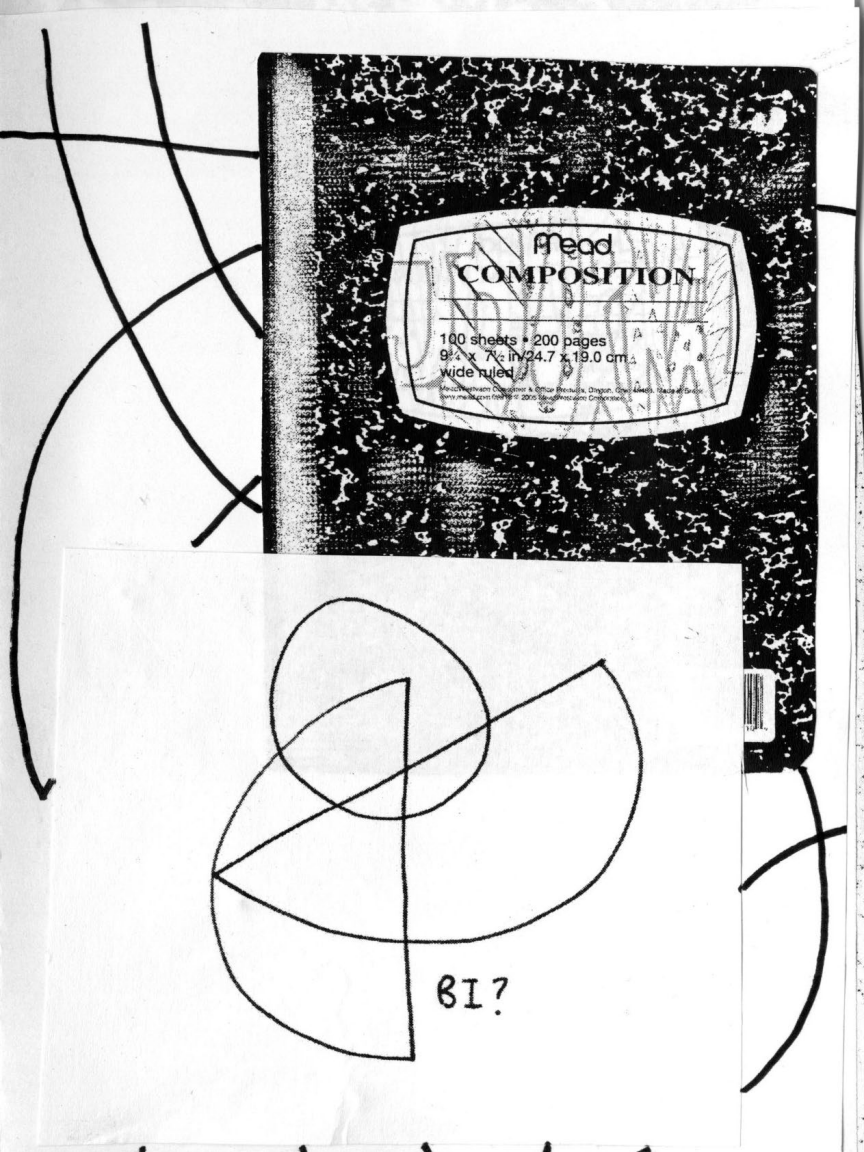
sexuality

Is it? I don't want it to be. I want it to be - I crave stability. It terrifies me that I have felt so strongly, intensely for men and yet recently I barely glance at men. Women were cute and tempting but now I crave them deliriously.



When
death
Tha
br
Chan
But r
That I
of The
have
cou
walk
endless
The lon
reple
hear
I ou
wort
I


Feb 14 2002
Dear Journal,
what are you up too?
I have came to the conclution that I will have gay sex atleast once
PANDA
LUVS
bunnie
frog


Mead
COMPOSITION
100 sheets • 200 pages
wide ruled
BI?

Told Kelly. Should I tell Sydnie? I'm totally
situation. It's like when I like someone. I get
can't eat cause I feel sick. That's how I feel r
this might help me deal:

im bi im bi im bi im bi im bi im bi im bi im b
up!

I'll come back later after shopping.

peace.

Back. So dress shopping for Kelly was very
I found a pink dress for Kelly in some store
leggings. It looked so cute and so did Kellste
since it is her party, but she loved it and that

So I like basically zone out at random times
possibly being bi. This isn't gana b good for
me zoning out in French and Madame Bodn
gana suck!

getting myself worked up about this whole
sick to my stomach and get nauseous and
ight now, like I wana throw up. Ah! Okay,

i im bi im bi im bi im ni im ahh I messed

successful. We found…let me correct that…
and matched it up with some black sparkly
r! I don't think the outfit is special enough
's all that matters. Yay! I can't wait!

for no apparent reason and ponder on
me in school tomorrow. I can just picture it,
ar yelling at me to snap out of it! Huhh that's

I've also realized that it isn't that I like Alanna is really cute and sweet. It's like how I am wit like yeah he's cute. Now I can kinda do that w

The idea of maybe saying something to her ha because once I say something to someone, ev I'm scared of my parent's reaction. Especially were talking about how we think its guys to b with her usual stupid statement that really ma minded, dumb people ever; "God created Ad YOU KIDING ME! DO YOU SEE THE WO mad and upset cause if I really am bi, is this t

All I know is that being with Kelly today ma paranoid zone I've been in for a while. I thou was feeling, they'd treat me differently and a that it's a normal thing. The day went on wit feelings. It was perfectly normal. Now I'm th gana care. I'm still the same person I've alwa nervous bout people's reactions to that. Now all be fine. I really gata hu with a girl to mak wrong, I'm sooooo screwed! Woww, don't e

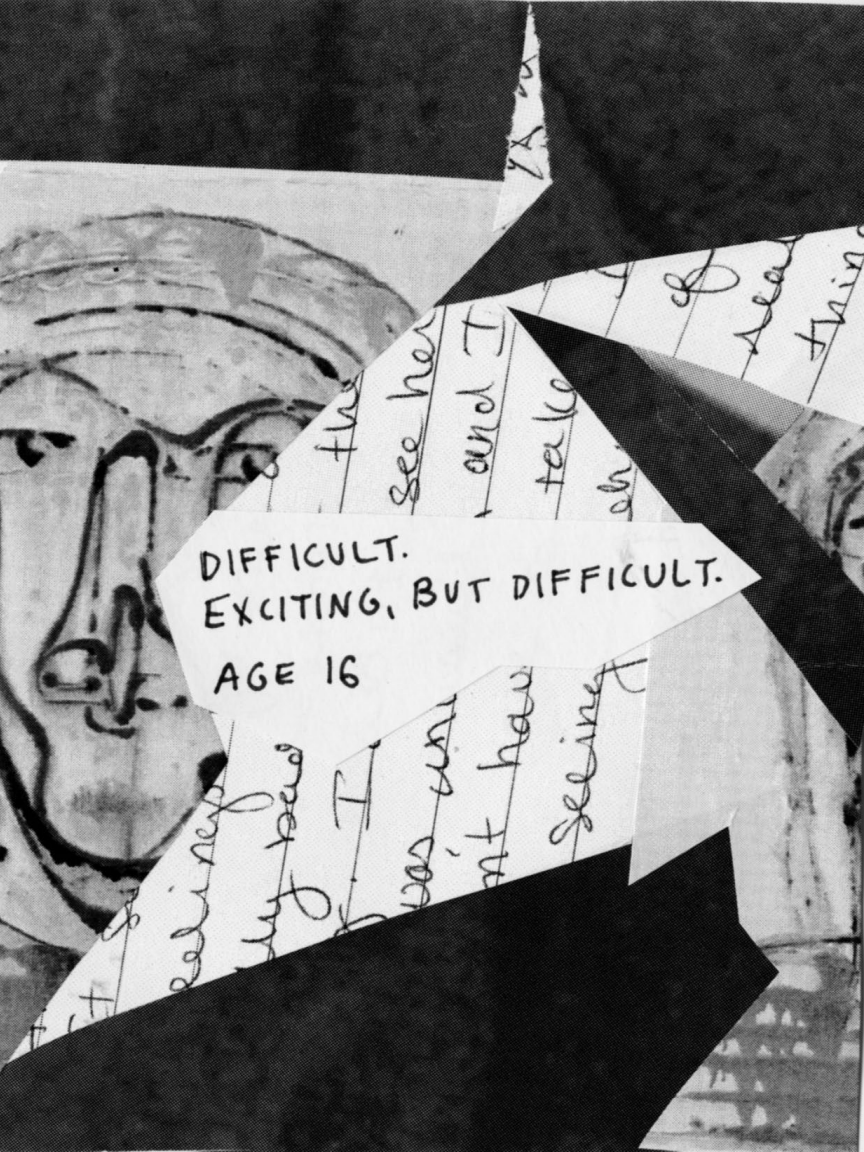
peaceee!

a; I'm just like attracted to her. I mean she
th boys; I can look at one of them and be
vith girls, only a few though.

as crossed my mind but I'm hesitant on that
erybody will know. If this is true about me,
y my moms. The other night me and Bennett
e bi but not girls. Then my mom came in
kes me think she's one of the most close-
am and Eve, not Adam and Bob". ARE
RLD WE LIVE IN! Ughh!! That made me
he way she'll think??

de me feel so great and it took me out of that
ght that if I told one of my friends how I
sk me questions or whatever. But I realized
hout any negativity or uncomfortable
inking that if this is true about me, no one's
ays been. I feel a little stupid for being
all I gata do it tell a friend at a time and it'll
e sure of this, cause if I wind up being
ven wana thik bout that. Hafta go read now.

Mead
COMPOSITION


DIFFICULT.
EXCITING, BUT DIFFICULT.
AGE 16

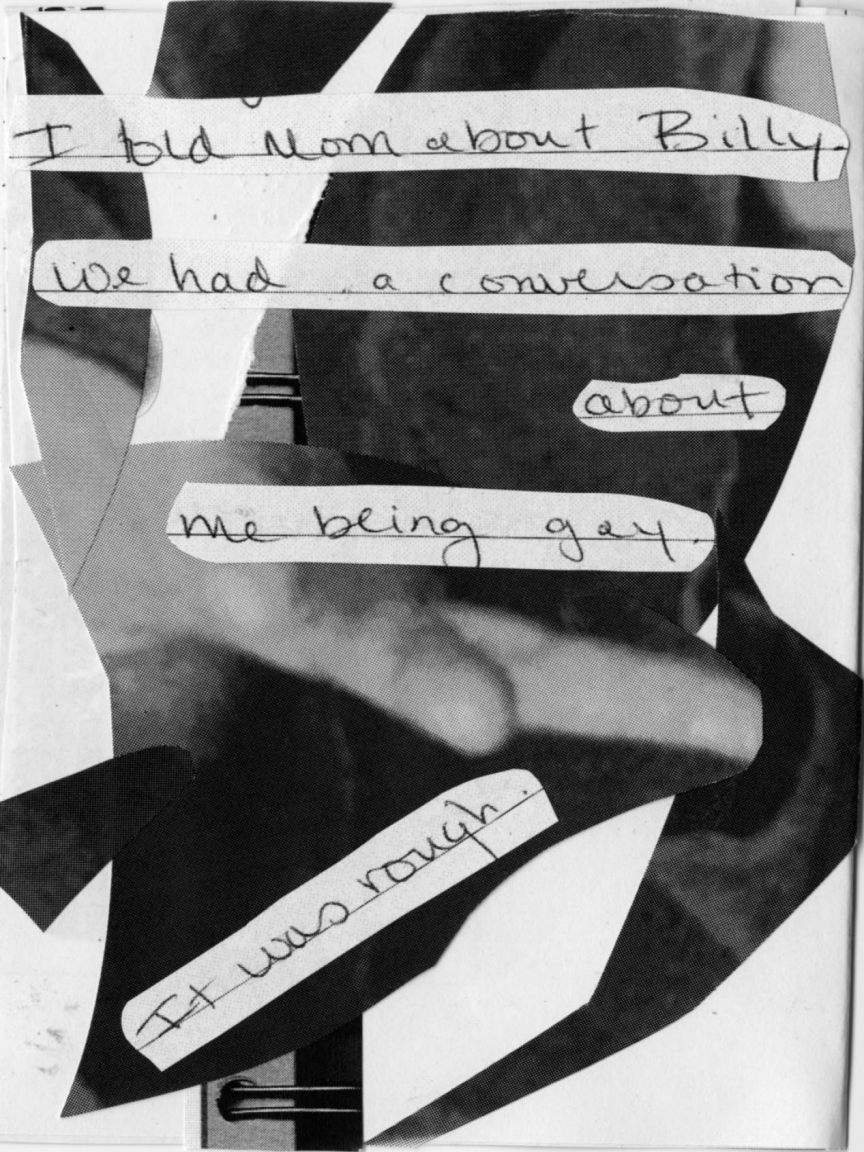
DAY/DATE: July 18, 00

~~[illegible]~~ I've had such a full day. I'm worn out emotionally and physically. Billy and I had a great conversation on the phone last night and he's looking for the same thing I am — to be friends w/ benefits. I told [redacted] how well things are going w/ him and she didn't say much. She told me she's upset about it, really down about the whole thing and I had no idea. It seems she still has strong feelings for me and I feel really bad about the whole thing. I didn't see her tonight which was unusual, and I hope we don't have to take a break from seeing eachother. It

DAY/DATE:

might be the healthiest thing to do, not for me, but for her. I don't want that to happen, I love being w/ her, she's my best friend.

I told Mom about Billy. We had a conversation about me being gay. It was rough. She told me she totally supports me and asked me about how I reconcile it w/ me being so religious. I told her that it isn't my choice. God wouldn't make me this way [redacted] w/out a reason. She agrees but she has trouble w/ it just b/c she doesn't believe it was part of God's perfect plan. It's not what was totally meant to be. She's confused about


I told Mom about Billy.
We had a conversation
about
me being gay.
It was rough.

DAY/DATE:

it and of course doesn't really know the truth, nor do I. Maybe it wasn't God's plan but what am I supposed to do? I can't help it and I wouldn't be being honest if I dated girls, with them or myself. She compared my situation to her divorce -- maybe God didn't have that in her life plan but she had to and she's only human. I agree but I don't have a choice in my decision, it was given to me. She didn't have a choice either I guess. I guess it was just hard to hear her say that. I know she didn't mean it in a bad way and she is so proud of me and loves me,

DAY/DATE:

but I don't like to think I'm not living my life the way I should be. It was especially hard hearing that from my mom; it was kinda discouraging.

Then, my grandmother called and said Pop needed to go to the hospital. He was real congested and was having trouble breathing. Thank God he's fine now and at home.

I'm gonna call [redacted], it would be good to have professional advice for all of this. I'm just scared b/c I think these next few years of my life may be difficult. Exciting, but difficult.

-Ben

it sort of looks like Keanan + I won't be best

lik I can accept tha

are world who I shou

e nd trust. Guys wh

ind- well. I'll still b

w ing to try to b

clos ing to try in m

wh up being good fi

e t including senio

til ear. I still think

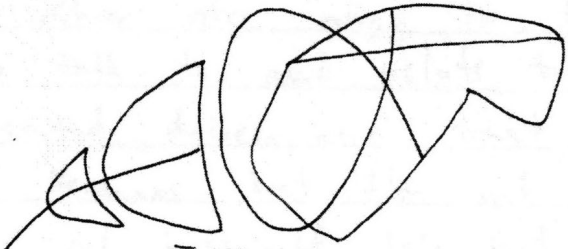
hir orks out b/w us.

a drives me. However

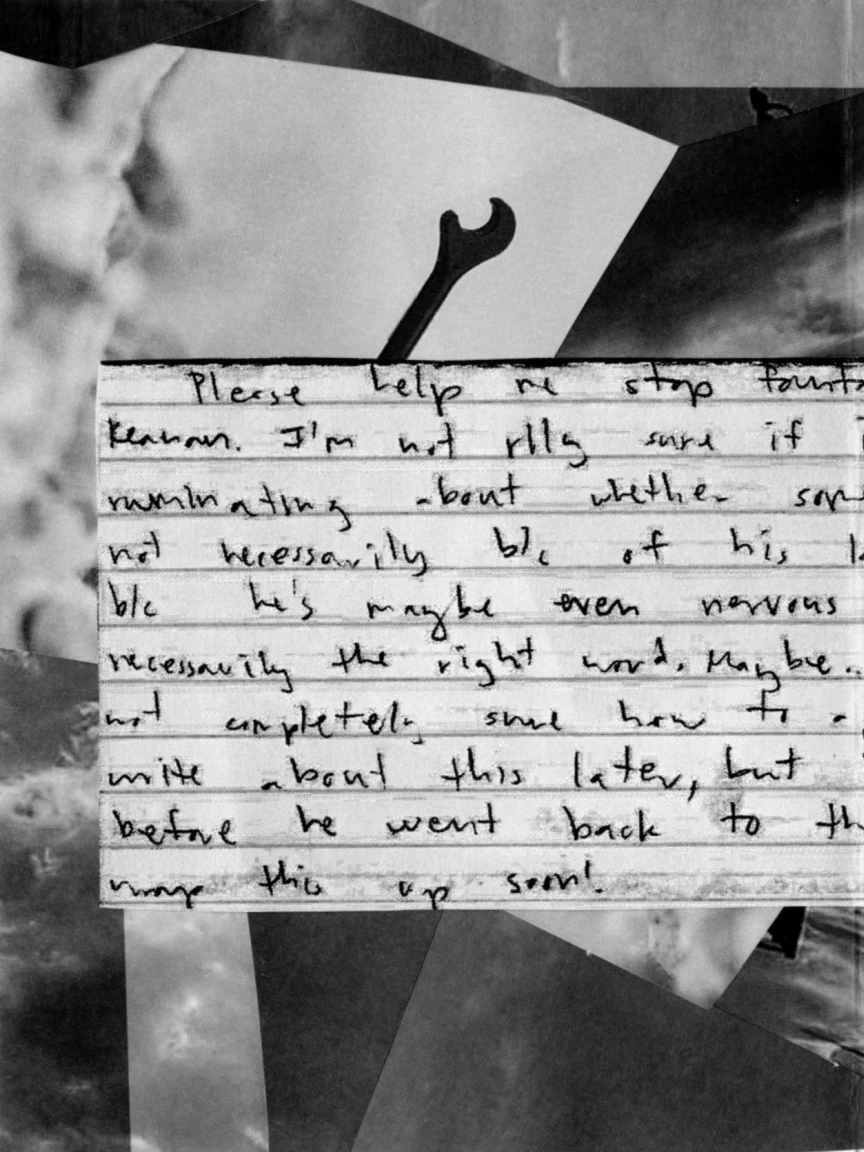
better at accepting reality.

Feel like I can open up to people better now,

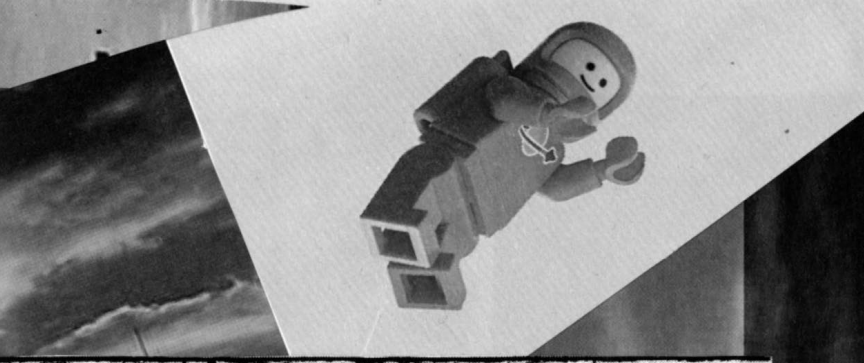
as I allow myself to do so. People can sum



FRAGMENTS OF A FIRST INFATUATION



Please help me stop fount
Keanan. I'm not rlly sure if
ruminating about whether sor
not necessarily b/c of his l
b/c he's maybe even nervous
necessarily the right word. Maybe..
not completely sure how to
write about this later, but
before he went back to th
wrap this up soon!



...dizing + obsessing about
...t's good or bad to be
...e of the things he does is
...ack of interest in me, but
... around me. Okay, nervous ish -
... reserved. Like bad b/c he's
...pproach me. I'll probably
...he didn't wait for me
...e gym... okay, it's time to