

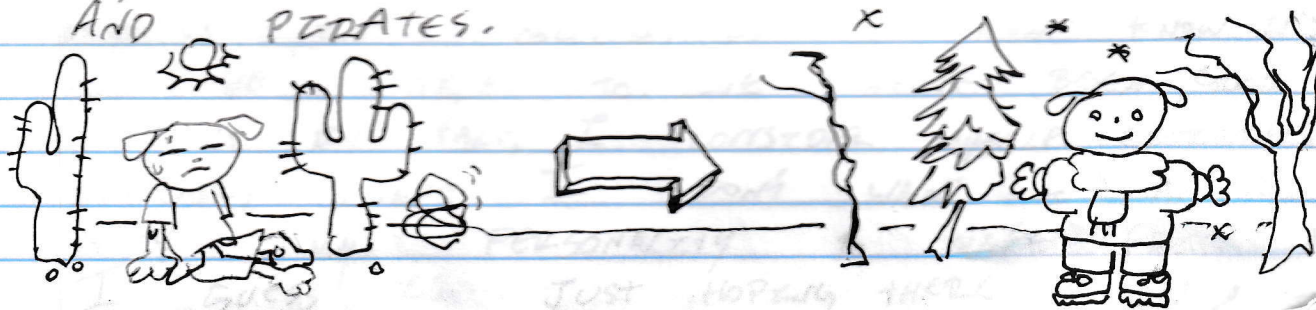
COLLEGE

~~LAST NIGHT~~ THIS WEEK, MY TWEN
SISTER MOVED OUT TO GO TO COLLEGE
ACROSS THE COUNTRY. NEXT WEEK, I'LL DO
THE SAME. DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES IN
DIFFERENT STATES, THOUGH. QUITE DIFFERENT.
SHE'S GOING TO A PRESTIGIOUS, TOP-20,
PRIVATE SCHOOL FILLED WITH RICH KIDS AND
I'M GOING TO A MASSIVE STATE
UNIVERSITY IN OHIO. THE COMMON
DENOMINATOR HERE IS THAT WE'RE BOTH
LEAVING AND WE'RE BOTH GOING FAR.

Now, you may be thinking I must
come from a very wealthy family to
send 2 kids to out-of-state univer-
sities at the same time... I do
NOT! WE'RE LOW-INCOME AND WE BOTH GOT
HELLA FINANCIAL AID (MAXIMUM FEDERAL GRANTS),
AS WELL AS HEFTY SCHOLARSHIPS. I'M
LUCKY TO SAY THAT I'VE BEEN AWARDED
ENOUGH MONEY IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO MAKE
IT THROUGH MY ENTIRE 5-YEAR DEGREE
WITHOUT STUDENT LOANS, ASSUMING I QUALIFY
FOR RENEWAL EVERY YEAR, WHICH I DON'T
~~ANALYZE~~ ^{THINK} WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT. I
HAVE TO KEEP MY GRADES UP AND DO
30 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PER
YEAR, WHICH SEEMS MORE THAN PLAUSIBLE.
I GOT FINANCIALLY CUT OFF BY
MY FATHER A COUPLE WEEKS AGO
AFTER HE PROMISED BOTH ME AND MY
SISTER (WHO ALSO GOT CUT OFF) FOR
YEARS THAT WE WOULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL
FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN COLLEGE.

OBVIOUSLY, THIS SUCKS AND I'M
PISSED AND IT WILL BE A
LOT MORE DIFFICULT THAN PREVIOUS-
LY THOUGHT TO FINANCE MY COLLEGE
LIFE. HOWEVER, I'M LUCKY AT A
SPOT WHERE I'M CHALLENGING WITH
IT BECAUSE LIKE THREE DAYS AGO
I WON A *BLOX* LOCAL SCHOLAR-
SHIP THAT BASICALLY ENSURES I WON'T
HAVE TROUBLE WITH THE COST OF
SCHOOLING ALONE. I'M CHALLENGING ON
TUITION AND HOUSING, BASICALLY, I'M
JUST GOING TO BE ON AN EXTREME
BUDGET FOR EVERYTHING ELSE. BUT
IT'S OK! I HAVE SOME SAVINGS FROM
MY PAST 2 SUMMERS AS A CAMP
COUNSELOR.

FINANCIAL STUFF ASIDE, I'M
REALLY EXCITED TO START COLLEGE!
I'M SO EXCITED TO MOVE TO A NEW
STATE. IT'S NO SECRET THAT I HATE
THE PLACE WHERE I GROW UP. I'M
FINALLY GETTING OUT OF THE DESERT.
I'M MOVING SOMEWHERE WITH TREES.
AND SEASONS! I'M SO HYPE TO LEARN
WHAT FALL IS! IT'S SOMETHING REAL THAT
HAS ALWAYS FELT FAKE. LIKE DINOSAURS
AND PIRATES.



I'm ALSO EXCITED TO START CLASSES. I'm MAJORING IN GRAPHIC DESIGN, WHICH MAY SEEM STUPID GIVEN THE STATE OF THINGS WITH A.I. AND WHATNOT. BUT ACTUALLY I AM HOPEFUL THAT IT WILL BE A GOOD EDUCATION AND A USEFUL DEGREE IN SOMETHING I'm PASSIONATE ABOUT. AND ALSO HOW YOU MAY RECALL IT'S A 5-YEAR PROGRAM. THAT IS BECAUSE I'm REQUIRED TO DO 5 SEMESTERS OF CO-OP, BASICALLY PAID, FULL-TIME WORK. SO I'm HOPING THE EXPERIENCE WILL BE HELPFUL IN SECURING ME JOBS AFTER COLLEGE.

I HAVE 3 STUDIO CLASSES, I LECTURE, AND AN ONLINE SPANISH CLASS (I HAVE ALMOST 50% OF MY TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS FOR MY DEGREE FROM AP CLASSES, SO I'm THINKING ABOUT DOING A MINOR OR EVEN DOUBLE MAJOR IN SPANISH). I'm KIND OF WORRIED ABOUT THE 3 STUDIO CLASSES. IT MIGHT BE A LOT FOR ME TO KEEP UP WITH. BUT I THINK I'LL BE OK. IT'S ALL DESIGN CLASSES ASIDE FROM MY SPANISH 1002. I'm MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO MY TYPOGRAPHY CLASS!

SOMETHING I'm WORRIED ABOUT IS THE SOCIAL SCENE. I REALLY WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS IN COLLEGE, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ABLE TO. I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD AT IT; IN FACT, I CONSIDER MYSELF EXTREMELY SOCIALLY inept. I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO HIDE MY PERSONALITY TO MAKE FRIENDS, I GUESS I'm JUST HOPING THERE ARE PEOPLE

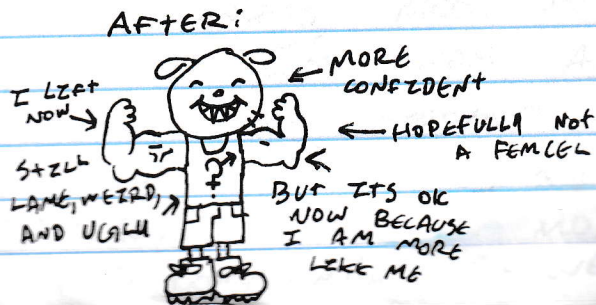
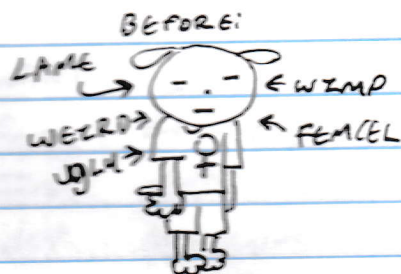
THAT WILL ACCEPT ME AS I AM. I HAVE A FEW FRIENDS NOW, BUT GENERALLY I AM A TOTAL LOSER.

I'M JUST GOING TO MAKE AN EFFORT AND PUT MY BEST FOOT FORWARD! IF I REALLY PUT MYSELF OUT THERE AND TRY TO SOCIALIZER, I'M SURE THE PIECES WILL FALL INTO PLACE. I ALSO HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT NOBODY KNOWS ME AND NOBODY'S OUT TO GET ME. IT'S NOT LIKE MY HOMETOWN. (NOT THAT PEOPLE ARE NECESSARILY "OUT TO GET ME," I WAS JUST BULLED PRETTY SEVERELY FOR MOST OF HIGH SCHOOL).

I'M GOING TO TRY TO IMPROVE MYSELF IN COLLEGE. I'M GOING TO TRY TO EAT BETTER AND WORK OUT. I THINK I WOULD BE MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE IF I HAD SOME MUSCLE, LOL. MY BODY WILL FEEL BETTER, TOO, AND MY MIND. I'M GOING TO TRY TO BE A BETTER STUDENT THAN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL. I WANT TO SPEND MUCH LESS TIME ONLINE. I'M GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS AND BE SOCIAL. I ALSO WANT TO TRANSITION.

I'M PRE-EVERYTHING AND I'M NOT OUT TO MOST OF MY FAMILY AS TRANSGENDER. I'M BARELY OUT TO MYSELF, AT THAT RATE... UNTIL I TRANSITION, I'D RATHER REFER TO MYSELF AS GENDERQUEER OR SIMPLY JUST "GNC." BUT I KNOW THAT I WANT TO TRANSITION. I'M PRETTY MASCULINE-PRESENTING ALREADY AND

I'm often read as a pre-pubescent boy ~~by~~ strangers. I wish that I could be read as male all the time, or most of the time. I wish people didn't "correct" to "ma'am" as soon as I start talking. I have crippling gender dysphoria and I feel a strong, innate need to masculinize my body. So that's what I'm going to do! I feel like now that I'm moving out, I have the agency to do what I'd like with my body. So I'm going to look into starting HRT pretty soon after I'm settled into my new life. I just did some research and there are multiple clinics within walking distance *of my dorm* that offer informed consent HRT, so I feel confident that once I'm ready I'll be able to get what I need. I'm worried about the cost, but I'll feel it out when I get there. I want to transition and I'm excited to take the first steps. (In my social circles IRL and online I've been comfortably out as non-binary for several years, so please no emails telling me I'm being rash).



OK.

NOW I HAVE A WORD ON DORMS. I AM
NOT TOO PLEASED ABOUT MY DORM ASSIGNMENT.
THERE IS A COMMON THREAD EN, LIKE,
EVERY ONLINE AND IRL DIALOGUE I HAVE
WITNESSED ABOUT MY UNIVERSITY. MY UNIVERSITY
OF OVER 50,000 STUDENTS. WHAT IS THIS
COMMON ~~THE~~ THREAD? "JUST DON'T LIVE IN
[SPECIFIC, INFAMOUSLY TERRIBLE DORM
BUILDING]." DEAD ASS. IT'S BEEN
DESCRIBED AS "THE UNWASHED CARPET OF THE
UNIVERSITY." ~~DEAD~~ DEAD ASS. AND THE DORMS
ARE BASICALLY ASSIGNED ON A LOTTERY
SYSTEM. AND GUESS WHERE I'M LIVING.
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M IN [S.I.T.D.B.], IN
A TINY ROOM, WITH 2 BUNK BEDS
AND 3 ROOMMATES. BRO. BUNK BEDS ~~AND~~ AND
3 ROOMMATES. ONE ROOM. I HOPE IT
COMES WITH A SUCCOR NET. JUST KIDDING.
BUT WHAT THE FUCK.

I'M SURE IT WILL BE FINE BUT
COMPARATIVELY MY SISTER IS GOING TO
THE UNIVERSITY RANKED #1 IN THE U.S.A.
FOR ON-CAMPUS HOUSING AND HER DORM IS LIKE
A FULL FUCKING APARTMENT. FUUCK HER AND
HER PREPPY PRIVATE SCHOOL AND HER \$65K
SCHOLARSHIP.

OK. I THINK THAT'S MOST OF
WHAT I HAVE TO SAY. I'M HOME ALONE
FOR 4 DAYS WHILE MY SISTER MOVES
IN AND IN JUST, LIKE, CHEERING MY
LAST MOMENTS OF PRIVACY BEFORE 9 MONTHS
OF 3 ROOMMATES AND COMMUNAL SHOWERS.

I'm REALLY BORED, THOUGH. ALL MY LITTLE
HOMETOWN FRIENDS MOVED OUT ALREADY. IT'S
JUST ME AND MY WONDERFUL, ELDERLY CAT.
LAST NIGHT I FUCKING BROKE MY SPECIAL
BOWL, MY FAVORITE DISH EVER. I'M CONVINCED
THAT I WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CATCH
IT AND PREVENT THE TRAGEDY, HAD MY
ALERTNESS NOT BEEN COMPROMISED BY THE
EDIBLE I TOOK, SO I'VE SWORN OFF WEED AND
ALCOHOL FOR THE REST OF THE WEEKEND
UNLESS I DO END UP HAVING SOME COMPANY.
BUT I'M JUST ALONE AND SOBER AND
BORED. BLEH.

SEE YOU NEXT POST, AND IF YOU
READ THIS WHOLE THING, HERE'S A MILK-
BONE:

