

MOTEL #1



SUMMER 1989

**Lyn Hejinian3/ Douglas Stetar9/ Jeff Derksen
....14/ Julia Steele21/ Gerald Creede25/ Cover
by Tom Wren**

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MOTEL editors are: Kathryn Macleod
Lisa Marr
Julia Steele
Douglas Stetar

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MOTEL
Box 65402
Station F
Vancouver BC
Canada V5N 5P3

From under the cape of penmanship the
 person signs its name
Inability
It is not it
The daylight is a marsh and the
 clouds squat
The droning in my dreams that the
 cat kneads
Snapping when the ears are clear — events
 never pass enough
But half of persons have events
Waves are an itch
The churning of the clock on which
 seagulls float
It all comes back
A person exits a vagina
But all too comfortably when I'm comfortable
 I confess — or I'm candid in order
 to turn differently
Unconsciously grass are worries
My dream was a consciously unconscious repetition
Pressing the back of the bowl against
 some decorative corrugations

November 18, 1988

Firefighters going nowhere in a hurry, the
 whole sky wet
The entire green
To read it requires a magnifying glass
 from the OED
Words organized and more than likely
Not looking at the homeless person to
 whom I've given money
Not asking him to know me in
 addition to taking my money
Though I loved the music only a
 minute ago but was now irritated by
 it
Getting out of the chair again to
 set things just right where a corner
 of the carpet was turned under
A piece of paper on the floor
 — and yet this attention in no way
 lessens
The momentum of the practical helps
Echo
The manic concavity
Time in a spray and the person
 bare
I'd a spoon in my right hand
 with which I was making impressions
Time has the last word and explains
 nothing

November 18, 1988

Seeing as if seeing were solid in
itself, and repeatedly recent
So I look back in the outskirts
In water — there's no immunity from motes
As train tracks come naturally from a
trajectory a person can stay still
She (or he) gets mildly ill with
little commotion
Minutes shutter
There's no opposite — it's not imperfect to
die
Or with a pencil — that lengthening, fading
young stubble
Of a whole landscape there is a
rock to be seen
He, as one can see
One is a metonymic production of natural
history quivering
Remaining in my lessons at this rate
always more intimate
But quivering is an example of immovable
intonations
The banging of a train
Pedagogical memories
This must be it
Memory is the present faintly motivated

November 19, 1988

Inert wind through the trees and rain
 working wet on wet
In guilt one betrays philosophy
Good but random luck sustained my curiosity
 during the first 30 years
The action of brown birds
I don't know that this winter is
 beginning earlier and wetter than before
It matters however exactly as a book
It's in the satisfaction — the content of
 a satisfaction
A sexual one who remembers the wall
There are so many metonyms, none dim
But they are the opposite of qualities
 — yet there are no opposites
Recently someone credited me with saying that
 writing sees
But I never meant it
Writing is eyes but my eyes

November 22, 1988

All sentences about the sense of seeing,
the sense of embarrassment
It could all disappear — instead it appeared
My language
My language is a genital — let's say
that
My language, in part
Thinking is *like* the composition of things
Distinctions steering sunlight
A field of horses is a landmark
but not a particular horse stirring in
the terrain
Knuckles, or knocking from a train
A thirst produced by onion
You cannot concentrate on oblivion
The eye applies a visage to the
cloud
No thought of rain tonight though clouds
of provenance
How to write
There is bas relief
I see Marcus Aurelius and a water
buffalo
"Your American feminism is suggesting women's sex,"
he said
It could all disappear
Streets
With remorse for individualism, provoking scale
Dimension sinks
It's the event of hearing what I
said with someone's ears
The event of a carnality covered by
ear

A word is a panorama of a
thing
It's the eye's duty to tell
Night without along the yellow sides

November 23,29,
December 1,1988

govern

Because I'm worth it them that
have wop chink charcoal collar
tips total cost over-runs light
weight rapid transit loading
dock peep-show we the stay-
free boys of the art world the
black men who own property fat
fryer women crossing butter
kids licked behind bathroom
noises water

Salmon skin shit fall women's
budget the family government
ultra clean sheets Coper-
nicus/Kepler/Veebler even
loose Metis/Cree swollen
shoewash loosen the final pay-
ment spent waiting lost to pride
women's issues rabbit eyeloss
pressure posture

Voodoo succulent the lost
paper with some welfare
mother's tide and time table
valuable chisel the given in a
single parent home lost credit
ratio railway upstairs versus
basement tile become accus-
tomed bathroom ceiling wall
window bent livable affordable
custody price value worth trans-
fer cost ease regain apparent

Silent means approval rating
means test moral frontal partial
parent absolute means we the
people the polite boy scout
crossing guard locksmith
landlord apology applesauce the
one lost for that habit out of
whack playing card rupture lit-
tle boys with insect wheels

Because you're worth it
removal of what we feel like
removing suction needle nipple
problem the control valve rabbit
food force fed aloud the sound
of a women's waist the mark of
a good doctor mark of ease the
good gender control of tissue
removal of moral skinny mall
skipping lunch

The oral history of Roe vs
Wade collar dog to catch rice
breeders the New Woman at
front at certain angle I too like it
from front discharge on rebate
on full servicing assessment ac-
cruel soup spoon of value
reporting time on tattletale

Authorization for living al-
lowance for affordable poverty
the *real* cost of institutionaliza-
tion alliance black pillow grape
arrival and equality of exclusion
Responsible parent small
children walking home alone
walking toward role stand up
and be counted become pock-

eted assessment to place individual towards finger food career we *did* that gender millwright towards exude towards someone else's business opposition to appeal for fairness

Buttocks to powerbar the ease of fondle vs equity on original purchase the men in line fake applause false applesauce stains produce giggle sleeves lavish counterweight against oversight the true size of a man's grant report on progress in filing on flagging the drop cloth to underwater marks the skin removed by this hand remodeled by Dad's secret touch the age left open to appraisal on furniture exhibit quality time spent with children the horse play on the banister the loving hand catching sister's breast the quiet hour whose turn to mop up sponge dust a bigger allowance means better toys butter wad between teeth leaves bathtub ring not *our* funding cuts *our* gravy train to the late late show crossword puzzle afternoon equals someone else's squeeze show spill means bent over to watch means handle to absorb bait demand expenses towards personal continuity

Incinerate towards recovery
towards magic marker on young
flesh word puzzles owner reach-
ing subordinate sister flops over
for nightly dunking cause
empties woodshed daddy's little
blow-up apron string's fold to
hardware wooden spoon forms
to bend over for spanking opens
opportunity for unlimited ad-
vancement backstab equals a
good swift kick equals defense
of our own wetness respon-
sibility ends at closet door out of
sight remains lost to vision four-
teen month waiting list allows
our ignorance *our* community
versus substantial condition
documentation of an open drain
running nose indicates weak-
ness our collective sanction
towards board room approval
re: night time trip two doors past
bathroom did we watch and *then*
forget equals our own mudpud-
dle collective chase of diminish-
ing funds lends to re-release of
preventive photo-document
tomahawk proves worth on sub-
mission the fun of someone
else's expense woodshed trip
towards comic relief over-
weight equals fat joke I or you
scream when cash drawer closes
folded towels offered at peace
talks seminar promoting
trapline mentality suction
played out for ease of absorption
migrant worker lacks dental

qualification overworked
secretary equals easy target ease
of entry promotes lower stand-
ards reciprocal attention
prompts a great and lasting faith
ignorance in the seventh grade
becomes my authority leaning
over becomes satisfaction the
trip downstairs halo insists but-
tertart the convenience of lock-
ing behind doors authority
towards touch as opposed to
calling the perfect shot hours of
absorption given new meaning
musclemen given new lease
substantial publicity of *our* in-
terests the ease with which we
govern *our* concerns Daddy's
sweetest deal the girl next door
linkage to non-refundable items
the free trip to Mexico equity on
newest arrival chest withdrawal
sweatband funds applied to
newest project controlling inter-
est in the next people's brand
new tribe supports *our* interests
our policies towards those who
pay for *our* hair hidden interests
defend absolute equals motion
given new agenda the cause we
ingest how insistence equals
removal

“At Works”

ain't to

reflexology

a particular stigma

those staff contracts

thus team jackets

addition of horn section, in a time of “conspicuous thrift”

contact of tip

in time

cumulative count of blessings

“to consult my lawyer”

as an image of something to adore

good clean work

expository

extolls hair

get back to macro

they just throw them out

due date of social contract

ragtop

“what was I supposed to remind you of?”

thus quick cuts

then market up

“goes soft”

circular counter

clockwise

get grid for purpose

image of

vertigo

donnybrook buying

hard as virtue

bleats ad doppleganger

in the purple pants

1950s greatest

became a paradigm, paratrooper

morphology of male melancholia

expected to have fun

but fails

putts the green

programs arms

eyebrows, skin, temples

the many weighted

I'd like to locate some

now his house burns down

subtle utilities

lies face flat

which to most of us speaks

use tutelage

the new ethnicity

but makes "best of" list

got matriarch

morphology of buried personal reference

got big grid

goes ghostly or gets going

industry hack

spoiled personality

utility of herd

occupational contract

I am Sears catalogue

language requirements to be president

a mild warning

prime minister

occurs in time

precedent set, persistant

asks the advisor

1970s

essential differences like imperialism

a whole warehouse

filled with "American stuff"

I call it my own industry

got girth for girders

problems implicit

my name here

hence hair

mass publics

thus goofy group dynamics I name a you
 "I'll take the fifty" timed up
 over modern how I entered your place of work
 thus I make you mine
 however, she speaks
 more an unspoken rule here
 break through
 to tell me what to do
 get them all
 crank attack
 idelect, timex understated, delightful
 to pay a price
 as an opportunity it is the Berlin wall
 squeezed in a speech but in my kitchen fifty years later
 made erased everyday
 I get up
 I hear about it
 becomes bottleneck
 possible possession some filming goes on
 and an island is annexed the then
 1960s
 hence dispersal
 trips on the ethnographer's notebook
 we buy it, we take it back
 Lester Pearson
 LBJ
 "that wimp"
 shell shocked, cross the border oil the order
 attribute to chiropractor
 late 1940s, king of possession
 in the bad sense and to call anthropology my own I must
 become industrial strength apply lip to lambaster
 land-locked Canada as negative space

and then order out I claim a history
 stunk up south the decade that made skirts
 sign to with this image I thee
 canker addict
 I am 1964
 specific and numerical, an optional gall bladder
 you're here and owned

Pierre Elliot Trudeau

JFK

"that asshole"
 form fitting and body functions in the leather pants
 to lift unity shut up neurology
 I'll privilege the past
 honky as in regionalism serving nationalism
 a disruptive reading would soft-code

first name

basis

aggressive agnostic the survival of the weasel
 hypno-pain
 the quality of sex
 the bargain

“Evens Up”

noun drop forged

sustained possession

and I have hand

for to me a bathtub

a cool and objectified pointilism ratchet cranked a co-op

we hulk the raw data

varnished boat, March

forced into European, torque

but they spoke to me with thumbprints on the lenses

and I prefer the formal flush left one more time,

one more time, I

to we ethnography

sensitive to a rubber match

“which is imperialism”

just a mode, mote

jig killing floor

grunion spectacle

static oracle

define us

quad seatpants at lunch

tawny dappled

squirt black ink as the only defence they have

goes to culture industry as squid

country paycheque instance

theory to airfilter

enforce class already

as suggested squint lip

early days in the glacial till with my parents

all three sections strike in unison
 wire back
 brown
 stigma enforcement
 tools of a third, purpose
 general give-away hoopla posed a non-contextual model
 happened in Spain
 worried third note
 an argyle
 projects for which the funds make a nest in spring
 lost control of the borders
 non-union
 gives me presentation of self in master narrative
 hyp-out
 in my movie who would cater?
 over-all cultural context speaks
 grumpy to go
 contingency within a too-small frame
 with happy hip wagging
 posits
 a reading that I'm eager to bark
 band saw hand
 shuffle cibachrome re-enactment
 it was an ambition of mine but was it considered work?
 described in opposition
 done dispersed
 my merchant number
 turned turbo into an attitude
 an anniversary for my appendix
 quartz
 rent
 the gender of history
 expository skeleton
 hot rush runs up and out — it's his
 consider it a service
 of a revolution in leisure wear
 retires, has a hoe
 two types of time torques narrative
 number lock

for a static core
I am a programmer in the purest sense
just how much work do other people do?
quality meeting
reference
on board
we will what we have,
what we
effect of third world economic revenge
on our shopping habits
change my path, root
clean, classical, almost street-wise vibram
cannot be edited hence
causes nap
if that is my hand at the end of that arm then...
careers accumulate like overnight until an
object questions us
got tons to tonnage in relation to the hero
at the interface of oil to the environment is skin
I tried to be proprioceptive
before body itself contracted out
if you are the many
then what about your pronunciation of 'roof'?
each member chips in \$2 at retirement
guarantees an under-the-table job
does reviews
then I switch with the object at instant of shutter
bootleg of oral culture
public in its subject creation
where site is mistaken for voice
I become my job
so I reread it for information

JULIA STEELE

Two Poems

flagrant hose

mary mary

fey berry branch wrist

my dear scented

horseman boldly belly

rooted wherewith unworn

sarily festoon coarser fibres

pilgrim pearl wrought outskirts

torrid shawl

rare swollen nelly

garden drawer dither

stolen brawn beatrice

remorse wednesday

shining angels hover

forborne bosom rent

bellicose

flatmirror fishbowl goat

incendiary craft

rosey rosey

2.

lost hunter tawny stain

wanton ruses

with ragged great tenderness

soever carolina

mattress cotton corn

bowels weep susanna

dutiful child

rigorous psalms

hell hound hood

trowel witherspoon

rustic pain

flourishing shirley poor lamb

tempting bundle hamper linen

sudden carnival

immoderate broach fiddle flea

cousin

3.

mighty december ruth

mine iniquities softly and alone

will all haste similitude

boiled pork to the knees

merit's expenditures

hottest cigar petticoat cloak

increase

herds a note of direction

the real little lucy

swearing in a disgusting manner

sylvia wrangling

lorn fray

bellowing caboose

4.

starving hope scape

sweet migrant

deliberate bleat leak bow

ministrative bowl honey forehead

florida florida

darling cake rice pudding jowl

dwelt explicit purse

basin dear stile

naked greed cartwheel
relished painfully walter
familial challenges raised rigorous
death sends her head his own

several encounters between violent peasants
shows starkly followed
tee hee critical fancy
rural objects closes little much closer

treating various coin grows
powerful as that sought
not he hotel cream
past ladies
anxiety towards sequence

constricting pressures
and even troubling possibilities
hardly one of private joy
underlined by quite distant
undeveloped mention
the blame
suggestive action
potent summary
one hell of a dither

movements house
absorbing turpitude
that terrible conflagration
this last letter wishes to warn you
less enthusiastic ample

GERALD CREEDE
boy soprano

A blanket line
's the inside
of my side
of the bed
I tried to
turn & slow
down but she
pulled the
squirt
out of me
Hold me in your arms
feel my temperature
drop
Turn the pockets
out & lean
up against the car

Flowers part and pussywillows. Wheat winnows in ground cover. The pillow burrows. The lovers fade down fond in facade. There's something funny about everything. You're funny too.

*

Because she wore the same dress to work 2 days in a row. 1989. What a laugh. Counting the clouds before they break. The winter exhaled and carried on. Cancer of the teeth. How the flaw's solution. How the fuck is it. I riffle through the thinning calendar. October — still untouched by human hand. I am a so hamed shh. You can't win them all. I got to get home I might have left the stove on. If it weren't for the junk I'd never know the mail came.

*

Detail middles the layers.
A fine clear morning but sharp and cold.
There goes the nicotine patina.
There goes the palatial fellatio.

*

2 guys watch from a porch while movers carry the futon frame to the side entrance. Her hand was in mine but she wasn't holding it. I am so exhausted. A shadow fell back on part of her face like the beginnings of or remnants of a veil. Her steely eyes set off the metal detector of my heart. Getting ready to have been scared. Dan hiss by my window. Gerry pedals into a head wind. Kevin seize the means of projection.

*

But the absent cigarette: Without tobacco enhancement the bank smells like a toilet, the video store like a movie lobby. And those scents behind the Gents door.

*

Our fondest keepsakes are replaceable

I tried to

slue and turn down

so one foot

dirtyes the other

so water is thinner than blood

Contributors Notes

LYN HEJINIAN lives in Berkeley, California. Her books include MY LIFE (1980,1987), THE GUARD (1984) and REDO (1984).

GERALD CREEDE is from Vancouver BC. His most recent book, LIKE FLIES, was published in 1988 by Archive Revisal Press.

JEFF DERKSEN is the editor of WRITING magazine, and a member of the Kootenay School of Writing. His book, UNTIL, was recently reissued by Tsunami Press.

JULIA STEELE is on the editorial board of MOTEL. Her work has appeared in WRITING magazine and other publications.

DOUGLAS STETAR is on the editorial board of MOTEL, and is a member of the Kootenay School of Writing.

MOTEL
BOX 65402
STATION F
VANCOUVER BC
CANADA V5N 5P3



4
Larry Bremner
1727 William St.
#3
Vancouver, B.C. V5L 2R5
Canada

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