

Michael Kerszewsky

Selections from *The Adjunct*

1.

How did I get here, sorting out the voices and names of people whose histories I will forget, or not care to remember. They gave me leave or more correctly I asked for a leave and it was granted. I didn't have to show up for one year. I would be asked next Spring if I would like to teach in the Fall. The preference form would be mailed because I asked for my email account to be shut down. They said they could do this, but it seemed like I was asking a lot, so I reminded them of my accomplishments as a teacher, and they said it will shut off by the start of next week.

2.

At the bank in the drive-thru lane a teller appears on a screen. I came through the drive-thru so I didn't have to see a teller. I don't even need to hear their voice. Don't need the fucking how was your weekend, and any plans for the next weekend. I'll tell them next time what my plans are.

3.

I'm often in the car. I think about the failed documentary about the unfair wages of adjunct workers. There was going to be a collaborator on this project. Then there was going to be another collaborator to score the project. I can't seem to contact these collaborators. I've decided to go on without them. The two schools won't know what I'm doing. There are rumors of my leave (recreational drug use, breakdown, habitual drug use, lack of understanding, and political).

4.

I'm writing from a place where they can't recognize me. There is an apartment building in a city I know little about. They say it is best to return to your birthplace after so many years. When I first started teaching I prided myself on my oration. Over the years I developed new ways to teach. The classroom became more hostile, or more lackadaisical. Sometimes I didn't know their intent when they looked at me. I had a solution, I walked to my neighbor's house.

5.

My neighbor made objects from wood and metal. I walked up his porch steps. He was smoking and looking at his orders. So you going to add to my list of objects. Sure am, can I put on rush on it. It depends, how fast, and how much you want to pay. How about next Monday. That's fast, what do you want again. A podium with these dimensions. I show him a sketch of it. You think you can get away with it. Nothing in the rulebook. Ok I can do it for 300. Alright.

6.

The Educational Integrity Committee contacted me about a year ago. This was one of their many duties. Not only were they in charge of making sure teachers stayed for the exact time their class met, they were also responsible for monitoring how teachers behaved while on campus property. The Educational Methods and Curriculum Committee was in charge for everything that takes place in the classroom. I was in the parking lot standing and thinking about how I would shoot a hypothetical short film. A committee member passed me and asked what I was doing. I said I can't tell you it would ruin my entire process. A process for what he said. I can't tell you, I'm going to be late for my class.

7.

I would often go to the church on campus. The janitor was there sometimes. He would mop in another section and tell me what part of the floor to avoid. I let the stain glass talk for me. I pray. And then sit and put the kneeler back. There are images I'm contemplating.

8.

Relatives asked me how I was going to live without working. I said the money saved and some of the inheritance. Do you think that is wise they all seemed to say. I said it is important to get away from all the voices and people. That is what is concerning us, how you keep saying voices and people. I don't have anything against anyone, I just don't want to interact with them anymore.

9.

There was an exhibit that caused some problems before I left. One screen of a teacher. The second screen of his boss. When the tour comes through the room they are stopped by two big screens. The two screens are so large that the men on the screen are actually behind them facing away from each other looking at their camera. The tour then goes out the door and after a brief walk has a decision to make. Do they want to meet the men behind the screens. They will be entertained with a lengthy discussion about how to write a thesis statement.

10.

My boss enjoyed being part of the exhibit. I asked if I could do another one in the future. When I have the plans for a new piece I will call you. Don't you need your time away. Time away from here, but not time away from working. I understand, I took a year off in 1998. I have a diary of it, if you ever. Sure not this year, but when I come back in Fall.

11.

I stayed in my car too long. He came up to my window. You waiting for someone. No. Then what you doing up here. I'm waiting. For what. I can't tell you. Have you been drinking. No. I would advise you to go somewhere else in a few minutes. Why. Because it doesn't look good when teachers are out here in parked cars, it looks like. What I said. Just hurry up and get out of here.