qya november zine

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Cover art by Jesse/Finch (they/he), pg. 9
Dear reader,

Welcome to the November issue of the Queer Youth Assemble monthly zine! This month we're focusing on the end of fall and all things and feelings that come with it. Inside, you will find beautiful pieces of art, writing, and poetry created by Queer Youth Assemble members. We acknowledge the intersecting elements found within the content of this zine, and encourage you to read with both compassion and understanding.

Due to our strong belief in uncensored creativity, we decided to not put content limits on our creators for this publication. However, we understand that some of the content within this zine may be triggering to some readers. In this and future QYA zines, a list of specific triggers can be found at the top of each page, and any potentially triggering themes can be found at the beginning of each zine. There are no potentially triggering themes listed for this issue. If you find yourself struggling after reading, we encourage you to reach out for support.

We hope you enjoy this publication, and are inspired to create whatever your heart desires.

With love and care,

Esmée Silverman (she/they)
Queer Youth Assemble Co-Founder

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what is qya?

Queer Youth Assemble is a non-profit youth-led organization dedicated to serving queer youth across the United States and its territories. We are committed to nurturing the joy, interests, and talents of queer youth, and giving queer youth the resources and support to create positive change within their communities. We envision a day where all queer youth are happy, supported, and able to reach their fullest potential.
Anyone you talk to who's been through the college application process will tell you it's a tough one. They're not necessarily wrong, but what some people leave out is that there are ways to make it easier for yourself. It doesn't have to be difficult just because it's made out to be an arduous quest, and there are multiple things that can help ease the process significantly.

For one, picking out colleges to apply to is quite straightforward. You may have a dream school that you desperately want to attend the moment you complete high school. However, some dream schools can be hard to get into, and that's when you need to look for alternate options in case you get waitlisted or rejected.

- If there is a certain field you want to major in, make sure that program in the colleges you're applying to has sufficient resources and is considered to be more than satisfactory.
- Always check how accepting colleges are of students in minority groups. Check how diverse the student body is, if there are any clubs or student alliances for different minority groups, how diverse the staff is, and anything else that can give away how diversity is treated.
- If you are neurodivergent or disabled and may need accommodations, make sure to check how accessible the school is, and if the department that specializes in accessibility provides enough for students.
- Think about what is most important to you when it comes to your college experience. How close to home would you like to be? Do you want to thrive in a smaller school or a larger school? Where does nightlife play into your experience? Figure out what the most important
If it bears any significance to you, search for schools that not only satisfy what you want, but also don't require standardized test scores to be submitted. Some colleges have made test scores optional or recommended, and if you feel like test scores may not affect your credibility or would make things worse for you, then you may not have to worry about them.

Try to come up with at least 10-15 schools you'd be interested in based on the criteria you've come up with for yourself and the information you've gathered on them. If the amount you have seems like overkill, find ways to narrow down your options. Websites that feature reviews from current students, such as Niche, are great resources to refer to if you'd like to dig deeper into student life at any given college. You can then decide if that school is a good fit for you based on what you hear.

When it comes time to apply, early applications are often the best way to go, and if possible, save early decision for your dream school. Schoolwork is typically lighter at the beginning of the year compared to the end, so it's usually better to get applications out of the way instead of pushing away the stress for later. Look into the topics for application essays early as well, and plan out what you want to write for them. Don't overthink it or get too uptight about how you write it, because the objective is to convince a school that you're a good fit for them, not to get a good grade in an English class.

One more thing: you know best about which colleges are the best fit for you. Your guidance counselor may give you advice and suggest alternatives of their own, but in the end, you're the expert on you, and that is one of the most important parts of the college application process.
monster mingle!

Our first-ever Monster Mingle was a wonderful party full of impressive, spooky, and fun costumes.

Around 30 people attended! We played games and ate a wide range of snacks, candy, and pizza (yum!).

We also had pumpkin painting, apple cider, dancing, raffles, stickers, and pins.
Perhaps the most exciting part was the costume contest, which had a combination of guest judges and audience voting to identify the most spectacular costumes and award them with a certificate and 10 free raffle tickets each.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Monster Mingle!

Donate using the donate button on our website so we can continue to host these free community events!

Click here for image descriptions
November is National Native American Heritage Month. For this year's observance, focus is put heavily on the collaborations between U.S. National Parks and the Indigenous communities surrounding them. There are 573 federally recognized Indigenous Nations in the U.S., as well as many others who are recognized within the individual states. If you wish to learn more, many of these nations have websites that provide resources and/or facts about their history. Note that many of the terms used to describe Native culture or even groups of people are outdated and no longer used. It's important to ask someone what terms they use for themself and how they wish to be referred to. In addition to this, many of the tribal names we use today are general and often not specific. For example, what was once called the Iroquois is now officially the Haudenosaunee. There are six nations that make up the Haudenosaunee and they span from Canada to northeastern United States. The Six Nations are: Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora. Today, the largest tribe in the United States is the Cherokee Nation. In addition to the focus of the year, it is encouraged to expand your knowledge on Native American histories, art, and culture. Resources are linked below for you to explore and learn during this month of recognition.
Native Knowledge 360° Education Initiative
NK360° is a great place to start for young kids or people who prefer interactive lessons. It is best suited for students and teachers but there are also educational materials accessible by the general public. Teachers have access to virtual field trips which are a great way to keep kids engaged and learning. It is easy to sign up for and understand how to use, so it is encouraged for students to show it to their teachers and add it to their lesson plans.

Smithsonian Museum Online Exhibitions
For more in depth research, the Smithsonian has an online exhibition focusing on Native American history and culture. This is recommended for older youth or adults looking for well organized, online exhibitions.

Hood Museum Art Collection
For those more interested in art, the Dartmouth Hood Museum contains dozens of online images and descriptions of Native American artwork. There are images of clothing, bowls, woodwork and more. It is beneficial to turn to this source if you are looking for a diverse view of Indigenous artwork.

Facing History
Facing History is a more general resource with updated information on a number of issues. There is content for teachers, students and the general public. It is encouraged to check out their blog which has recommendations for books as well as recent issues regarding Indigenous rights.
autumn snails
by Jesse/Finch (they/he)

Image Description: A digitally drawn image is shown. Two snails sit on a leaf floating in a light blue puddle. One snail is green with a red shell and the other is brown with a gray-blue shell. Surrounding them is grass bordered by bushes of varying shades of green. Behind the snails is a small, orange-red snail-sized home, with a small door and window, and a chimney with billowing smoke. Behind that, imposed over a reddish sky with grey clouds, is a much larger house that is orange-brown in color. It has three windows and a door, green plants growing from window boxes, leaves climbing up the sides, and a chimney with billowing smoke.
finding resources on college campuses as a queer student

by Hop (they/they)

1.) My first piece of advice is to ask around! This can include classmates, your advisor, your Student Activities Director (whose email should be on your college's website), even your Chancellor/Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs! They may be able to point you to a counseling center or to a queer student center, if your college has one. They may even point you to IT support, if your college has a software to declare your name and pronouns!

2.) Go to office hours with your professors. Most of them are generally willing to assist and support you on campus in any way they can, but you have to ask for that support.

3.) Definitely keep in touch with your advisor, and if you two don't mesh, see if you can request a different advisor. Your advisor will be your point person for a lot of different things on campus, including keeping you on track with courses and involved in student life, so it's important that you at least know who they are.

4.) Go exploring in between or after classes. Each college is set up differently, and you never know what you'll find! At the very least, you may discover a new club or have an idea around the building for future courses.

5.) If your college doesn't have a queer student center, reach out to your student activities office! If you have the capacity to do so, and you have some friends at college who would be interested in helping you with it, you could very well start your own queer student center!
Wednesday nights at 8
Pit rehearsals til late
Photoshoots at the lake
Hearts that bend not break
Navigating across New York to New Haven
3 year old AirPods that I won't be trading
My ticket into a different mindset
Playlists of handpicked Sounds and stimulations
Singing my heart out in the shower
In that moment I am power
Music can describe what my mind cannot
First love to heartbreak to anger to doubt
And in these moments I am alive
I scream from the morning sky to the setting sun
I feel for the first time
How lucky I am to be alive

I crave feeling
The top of the Harley Quinn that takes you right to the bottom
Life is the constant rollercoaster
On which I screamed I crave life

I crave Wonderwall
I crave interlocking rhythm
Inside jokes in 9/8
They'll forget but I still appreciate

I want to live a life with no words left unspoken
Except the lyrics of the band beloved
To keep fighting the good fight
And keep on every single light

Sporadic poetry as the rain drips down
Can't let myself go down with it
It may not make sense to most
But it makes sense to me
And maybe that's okay.
queer fashion

by Nicholas York

Fashion has always been a pillar of the queer community; a form of self-expression, a creative outlet, and a way to build community. As the weather turns colder and layers become essential, looking at upcoming fashion trends and recent fashion weeks shows how queer creativity continues to impact the mainstream fashion industry.

A combination of masculine and feminine silhouettes has been ever present in this year's trends. The mixture of structured blazers with a looser skirt and trench coats over blouses shows the versatility of fashion as an art. Clothes are inherently gender neutral, taking on the shape and needs of their owner. When we remove the biases and boxes that limit our fashion choices, it becomes clear how this medium is a perfect form of gender-expansive expression and activism.

In high fashion, queer expression has become more and more prominent. Runways and fashion weeks have always been a unique opportunity for LGBTQ+ designers and models to experiment with a more androgynous form of self expression. No event this year has emulated this experience quite like dapperQ magazine's fashion show kicking off 2022's New York Fashion Week. Designs by eight queer creatives took the stage with a focus on "ungendering" fashion and showing queer perseverance and joy through the art of fashion. Designers played with different structures and silhouettes, not just setting the trends for fall streetwear, but showcasing the resistance and bravery necessary to be part of such a movement.

Applying this to everyday life can be daunting. Recreating an exact look from a non-gendered runway like dapperQ's isn't as simple as it might seem, but keeping in mind the principles of fashion as a gender neutral, queer art form can lead to a boost in confidence as you put together your fall and winter wardrobe. Fashion has been essential to each era of queer history, and continues to shape identity as a community to this day. This fall, as gender neutral fashion becomes more mainstream, learning more about the rich history of clothing as an art form can help inform your clothing choices. Something that may seem simple can turn into an incredibly powerful form of expression.
thank you!
Stay tuned for next month's edition & QYA Zine announcements!
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