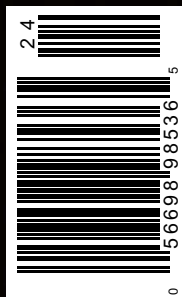


Cabinet

A QUARTERLY OF ART AND CULTURE
ISSUE 44 24 HOURS
US \$12 CANADA \$12 UK £7



INTRODUCTION

Rome was not built in a day, but could a magazine be produced in twenty-four hours? This was the question that the current issue of *Cabinet* was designed to consider. Inspired by literary precedents such as automatic writing, by the resourcefulness of the bricoleur making do with what is at hand, and by the openness toward chance that all artistic production under severe constraint must necessarily incorporate, the themed section of this issue includes contributions by twenty-four artists and writers who were given twenty-four hours—exactly—to complete a project that responded to a prompt sent to them by the editors.

On the one hand, this may seem like an exercise in editorial sadism, further exaggerating the time crunch faced by working artists and writers. Nothing could be further from the mission of a benevolent non-profit whose brief is purportedly to create the conditions for considered reflection. On the other hand, unburdened from some of the usual parameters for both evaluation (and self-evaluation), there is a kind of paradoxical freedom that accompanies such a radical constraint, one that encourages unorthodox forays in both subject matter and style.

Given the mechanical nature of the conceit behind this issue, it was clear that a set of loosely framed questions around daily time would be useful starting points, both for the contributors and for our readers. The staggeringly diverse responses to our prompts (reproduced at right) can be found on the following pages.

Dear "24 Hours" issue contributor,

Choose one of the three prompts below as the starting point for your project. Bear in mind that all kinds of approaches and subject matter are equally welcome, including those that draw on historical, scientific, personal, literary, phenomenological, philosophical, sociological, medical, legal, economic, anthropological, spiritual, zoological, and botanical perspectives and/or artifacts, just to mention a few!

As stated before, contributions that use text, image, or hybrids of the two are all acceptable, as are unorthodox formats, including diaries, charts, graphs, receipts, calendars, advertisements, budgets, menus, correspondence, and lists.

1. Consider different ways in which daily time is kept or administered—from the daily planner to the structure of mealtimes, from the ringing of church bells to our hygiene habits—and how they form and inform our experience of day and night. Specific episodes or incidents are as welcome as broader or more speculative considerations.

2. Depict a day in which dayness itself—its temporal structure, its specific length, form, or limits—was specifically brought to the fore. This can be a day from the past, or the very day on which you are doing this project. Feel free to draw on your personal life or on historical materials.

3. Choose one of the four following divisions of a given 24-hour period—morning, afternoon, evening, night—and create a project that considers or inhabits its particular "being" or "mood."

We look forward to receiving your projects.

Cabinet

I asked three participants to stop three times during the course of November 6th and note, on a piece of paper, all the stories that they had heard from friends or noticed in the media. At the end of the day, I tallied the stories and then asked each crier to retell the tales that were commonly noted among the group. These stories were recorded during Skype chats that evening.

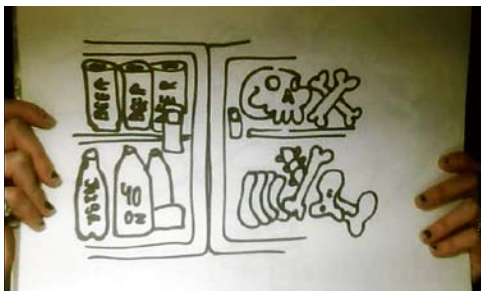
In each retelling, I requested that the participants omit proper names and assume that listeners did not share their knowledge of mainstream culture, in order that each tale might function in an allegorical way.

Morning stories: Aged commentator died, sleep apnea, leg cramp cure, cousin's marriage, ill-fated reality TV marriage, *Amazing Race* (participant one). Molestation case, financial woes in Europe, sports team may do poorly, short-lived celebrity weddings (participant two). Pop singer's paternity suit, outer-space tractor beam, people now friends on online social network (participant three).

Participant one: There was this old guy, he was kind of mean and he had a bad temper. He had the bushiest white eyebrows and hair and sagging skin. He was round in the face and he always stood behind a desk and complained. So he had this job on TV where all he had to do was complain about something. And he was perfect at it. He just complained and complained. But some of the topics he talked about were kind of ridiculous. So this



Commentator who was on a show that lasted about sixty minutes, every week. Drawing by Allan Espiritu.



Famous disliked leader left in freezer. Drawing by Kat Dee.



Sad European nation that must sell its islands to pay off its debt. Drawing by Hugo Bastidas.



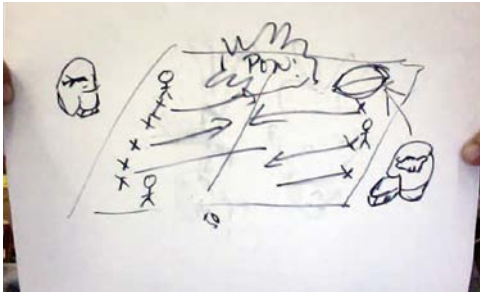
Ill-fated reality television wife. Drawing by Hugo Bastidas.

guy died. He was ninety-two years old and it was about time that he died. But some people are really sad about it. But he was old, he took up enough space on this world, and he had to go. My sister is really upset that he died. Especially because he just retired two weeks ago. And I was like well, what else was he going to do anyway?

Participant two: This story is about a country in the southern part of Europe. Their credit has been blown to pieces and they are struggling now to pay back the money that they owe. And they borrowed a lot of money and kept spending it like it was free, not really thinking about the day that they would have to pay it back. So now they have to pay back all the money. And a lot of their businesses were running because of a flow of money that wasn't really theirs. Now these businesses are also going to close.

It's rather tragic. A new political figure in the country is now proposing to fire many government employees and he is planning to sell off beautiful islands that this country owns in order to pay for this borrowed money, this free ride that they have been on. It's really sad.

Afternoon stories: Sports match, cousin's wedding behavior, pledge-drive channel, best man's speech, pop singer's pregnancy, Dad's new iPhone (participant one). Sports win, European nation to sell islands, foot race through NYC (participant two). Financial woes, TV suicide saved by cute girl, witches on TV (participant three).



top to bottom: New television station begging for funding all the time; It's like war, every weekend; Teen idol contemplates parenthood. Drawings by Allan Espiritu.

Participant one: So there is this crazy family with three crazy daughters and one son. I feel so bad for the boy because his sisters are nuts. The three girls have a TV show that documents everything that they do—from running a store to getting a bikini wax to farting. So the middle sister, who probably has some type of middle-child syndrome, decides to get married to a famous basketball player. She has this lavish wedding and it's televised and lots of celebrities attend. Then, seventy-two days later the marriage is ended and she gets a divorce and now she is in Australia telling her story.

Participant three: A male pop singer who is probably seventeen years old is being publicly accused of impregnating a twenty-year-old woman, who is now suing him for paternity and child support. But the story gets more complicated. It turns out that she had previously accused two other men of being the father of this baby. Both of

these men claim that she assaulted them. And the young man in question claims to have never met her in his life.

Evening stories: Multi-car pileup, swarming birds, sexual molestation case (participant one). Sports team victorious, old-guy commentator dies, government-agency cuts (participant two). Famous disliked leader left in freezer (participant three).

Participant three: Well, a very famous man who was a leader in another country, who people have mixed feelings about, was executed. His religion dictates that he be buried in a short span of time. But, because he was a political leader and a lot of people don't like him, his country can't agree about where to send his body for burial. And so his body has been sitting, for the last couple of weeks, in the cold-storage locker of a grocery store, waiting to be handled.

Participant two: There is this branch of the government, this agency, and it has never had its funding cut. This agency usually receives blank checks from the government. But now they have received a demand to cut their budget. This is astounding because I've never heard about this agency ever having to cut its budget before. I suppose it was time because, quite frankly, this country is the only one that has such a large budget for this type of agency. This office now has to cut its budget by 450 billion dollars. That's billion with a *b*. So, it's an amazing amount that they have to cut. And it's not going to sit lightly with elected officials because they will be trying to protect their respective states from the ramifications of these cuts. But let's hope that these monies can be used for something better.

Special thanks to gdloft PHL and Joseph Schiavo.



Young pop singer paternity suit. Drawing by Kat Dee.