

Untitled

by Nathan Nielsen

He wore a Nixon watch and Saucony kicks
Lived In hotels and hospitals
Used nicotine and caffeine
Liked BHO and IPA
Food stamps and an SRO
Must survive the wait list
OHP and MCJC failed me
BHU with Silverman
Left to pick up pieces
To a DNR

Granny

by John R. Brown

My left-handed, blue-eyed grandmother,
born in Kalamazoo in eighteen eighty-seven,
raised in Battle Creek by abolitionist Republicans,
she was sixteen when Wilbur and Orville first flew
and attended the Michigan Normal School
where she learned to think for herself.
She started her family during the World War
and finally won the vote when she was thirty-three.
She raised her two little girls through the Jazz Age
and the Great Depression.
Granny saw her youngest, (my mother) volunteer for
and help to win the next World War.
A dame with a backbone, my Granny,
she lived through the Red Scare, (not scared)
the Cold War, (stayed warm)
the Civil Rights movement, (about Goddamn time)
and voted for Senator McCarthy, (Gene, not Joe).
She read Cummings and Steinbeck and James Baldwin,
befriended refugees, beatniks and hippies,
and her left-handed, blue eyed grandson
is grateful for any of her D.N.A.,
and of her influence.



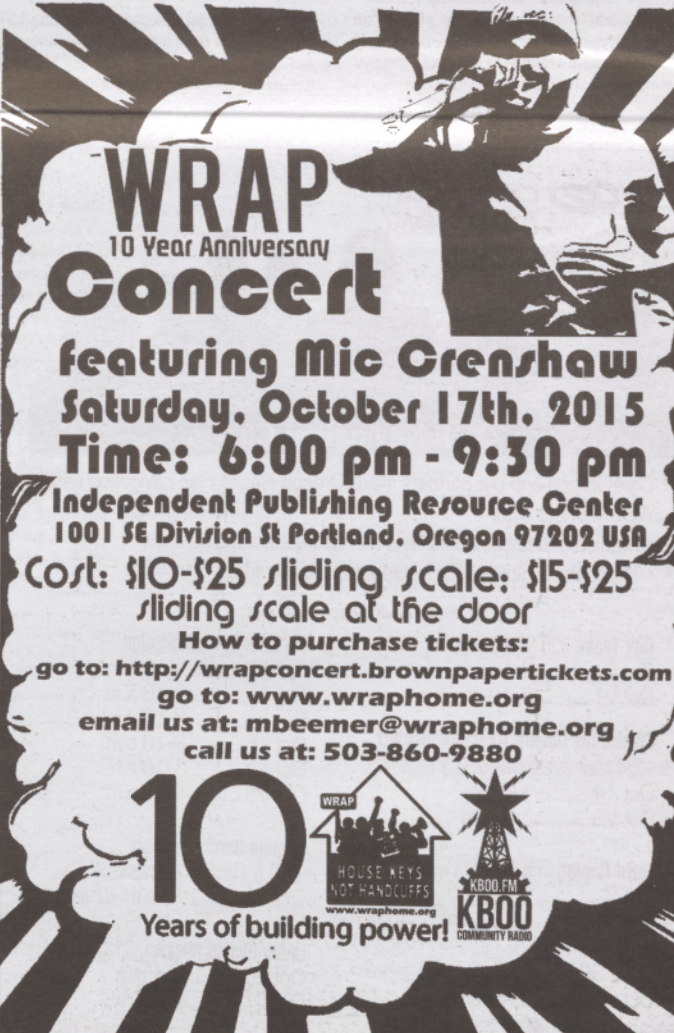
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