



12-15-2018

## I Remember Rodney

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### Abstract

You admitted you'd abused your body

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### Recommended Citation

Vancil, David (2018) "I Remember Rodney," *Westview*: Vol. 34 : Iss. 2 , Article 11.  
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol34/iss2/11>

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# I Remember Rodney

by David Vancil

You admitted you'd abused your body  
in youth, destroying kidneys and liver,  
and said you wanted to pass your final  
days with your mother and close kin.  
The last time I saw you, I noticed you  
across the commons, eating lunch alone.  
In that space, where students congregated  
with friends, we nodded at one another,  
exchanging half smiles. We lifted our wrists  
and made a sign, not knowing then we were  
gesturing the last time. The next time I  
went into the campus bookstore, I missed  
you among the faculty books, where you  
once led me to a bookshelf to reveal  
my own slender volume proudly displayed  
while you grinned proudly as a brother would.