

Queer Fungi!



Why mushrooms are

Gay

- BY
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1)

Introduction

Welcome!

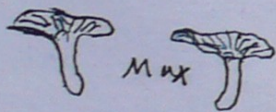
If you picked this up because you saw the brightly colored cover and assumed it was an ID booklet, you may need to look elsewhere.

If, however, you are here because you identify as one of the LGBTQA, and/or love mushrooms as well, this may ~~end~~^{end up} being just your kind of thing.

This booklet, or zine, is intended to spark interest and curiosity on the topic at hand.

It is a project I took on personally as an LGBTQA person who loves mushrooms.

That being said, anyone is welcome to read this, and while this project itself is small, I hope it can inspire bigger ones with more potential in the long run.



2)



③

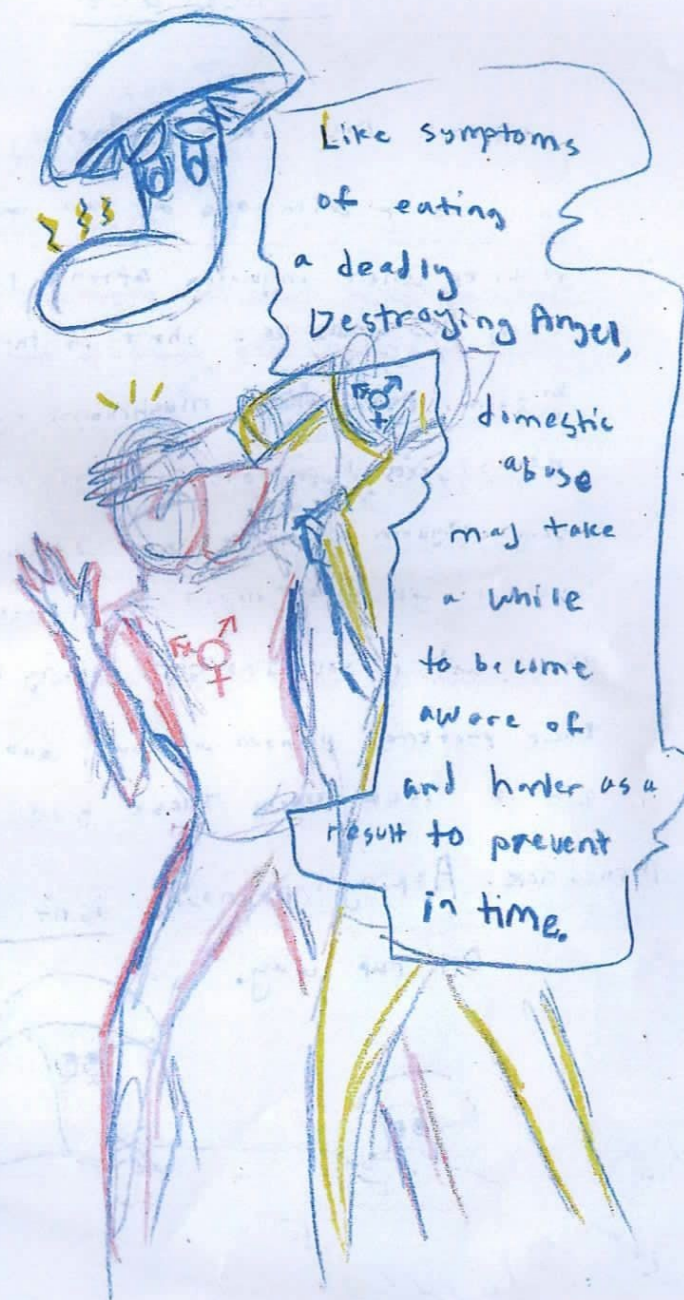
Gender as a Fungal Construct

While it may seem generally accepted to come up with one of two ~~sex~~ gender identities when inquiring after a pet or a child, this falls very short in the mushroom kingdom. As a whole, mushrooms have over 30,000 genders/sexes, with one in particular standing out. Schizophyllum commune has 23,000 sexual identities, so you will likely never come across all of them, and if you thought asking a person their preferred pronoun was hard, you'd be entirely out of luck among these guys.

Burner's note: Asking pronouns isn't hard, by the way.



④



Like symptoms of eating a deadly Destroying Angel,

domestic abuse may take a while to become aware of and harder as a result to prevent in time.

⑤

Ignorance and Intolerance breed Toxicity

It is common knowledge that people fear what they do not understand, and are given to harmful reactions as a result.

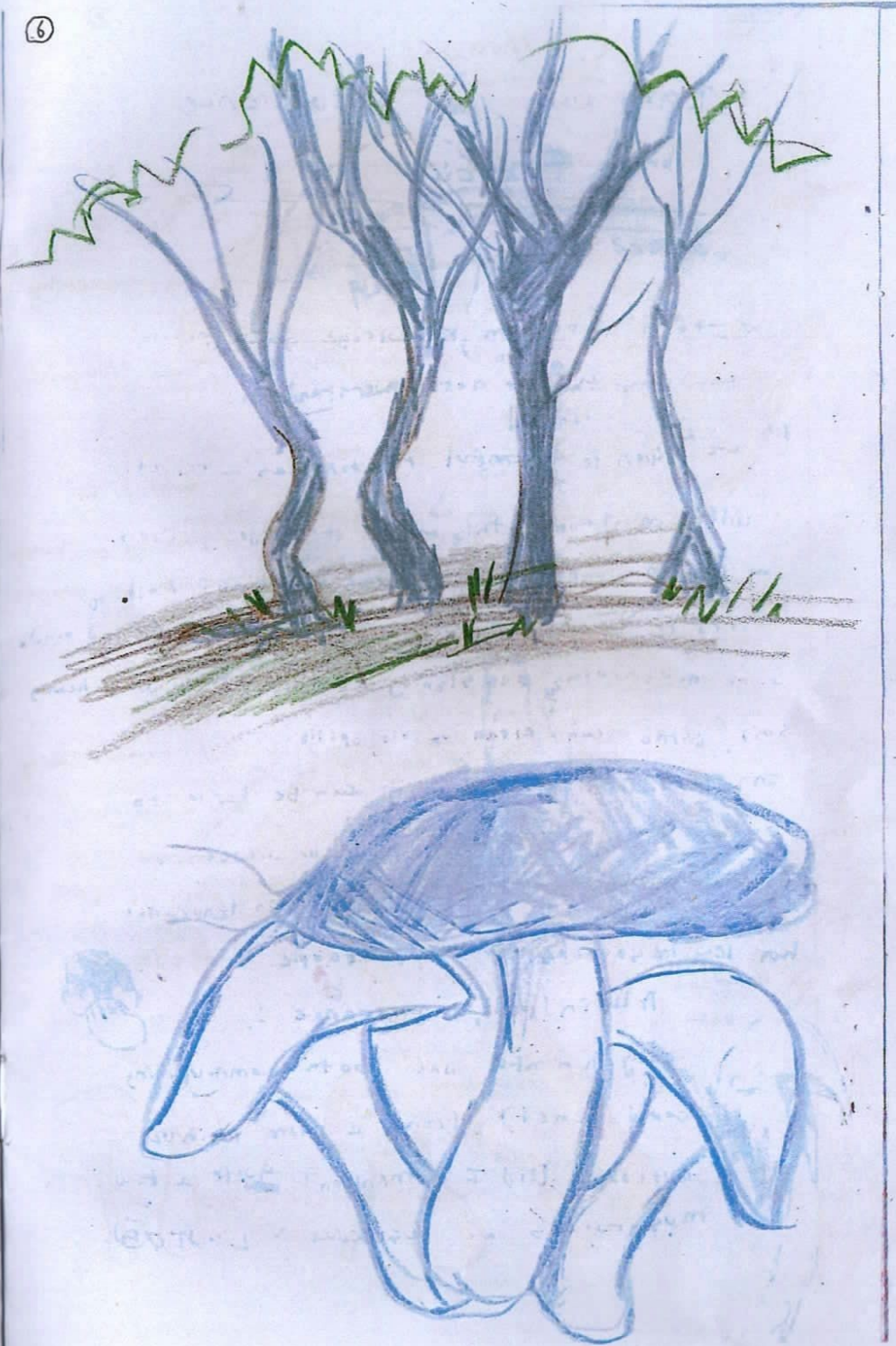
With mushrooms, this can be stereotyping them as all poisonous, despite some potentially holding cures to disease, or seeing them as drugs, the bad kind. Some mushrooms can signify death in times, or upheaving soil, some can clean up oil spills.

In the LGBT community, it can be harder to escape abusive relationships or abuse in general, because a system built on ignorance has less resources for these people.

All in all, ignorance is only harmful, and both communities could benefit from a more positive outlook. Did I mention quite a few mushrooms are uscum? LGBT (B).



⑥



⑦

Community

From the 1950s, secret clubs, to the most recent gay pride parades, LGBT folk have found their way through the cracks of an unaccepting society for a long time.

Community is very important here, and likewise in fungi.

The largest living organism in the world in fact, is literally underground as a honey mushroom grows under a forest in the Blue mountains of Oregon.

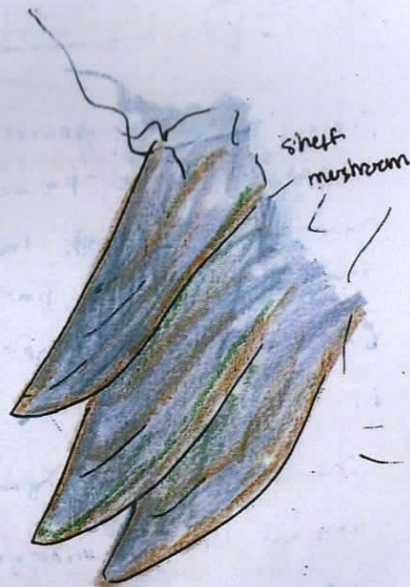
Close to home, yet rarely considered, fungi are responsible for decomposing matter so plants may grow, supplying food to wildlife, and communicating over thousands of miles below ground with each other. They are able to warn others, and ~~also~~ rely useful information through their mycelium, much as LGBT people develop secret codes, and formed secret clubs, to survive.



⑧



Chanterelle



shelf mushroom



fungi mushrooms



amethyst

Bolete



polkbun

9

Diversity

From thousands of genders to none,
with every color of the rainbow on display,
I truly think that mushrooms can be —
no, already are, a queer / LGBT icon.

They are beautiful and deadly, strong
and fragile, they endure through unity
and togetherness and embody success
despite their multitude of diverse
natures and ways of being.

In short, mushrooms are a neat
place to look for inspiration regarding
the LGBTQA community and humanity's
future as a whole.

