

J. Jerome Cruz

## Basic Training

In dreams I have trouble  
sleeping in jeans younger

than me. After the summer  
I washed the domestic

off my chromosomes  
I never thought I'd miss

my Sunday clothes the most.  
At orientation they spoke

of the apes who were castrated  
for being unable to sign

*I love you* & I started crying.  
When the barber asked if

I wished to donate my hair  
I pictured all the different kinds

of wigs I could wear so no one  
could figure out my name.

