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SECTION INTRO: (un)Common Ground

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(UN)COMMON GROUND

Nam and Wilmore, SECTION INTRO: (un)Common Ground

Layout by Berri Wilmore. Photograph by Hannah Frankel.

Stop and take a second to think. Just think about the kinds of people in your life. *Who exactly are they? Are they family members? Friends? Close relatives? Far relatives? A person on the street? What are your relationships with them? Are they good or bad relationships? Clear as day or cloudy as miso soup? How do they feel about you? How do you feel about you? How do these feelings feel? Has there ever been a time when they felt...wrong?*

There often comes a time in our lives, whether it occurs early on or far later than we expect, where we find ourselves to be in the midst of a conflict. It might involve those closest to us or be tied to an issue we relate to. Whether it be in the form of a mild disagreement or a larger social issue about a particular identity, we are sometimes faced with the reality that conflict, be it internal or interactive, can reach us with great force. What matters more are the actions we take to deal with it. The following pieces are those written by authors who tell the stories of their own actions, their deep thoughts and arguments. Head-on, they display their experiences, turmoil, and achievements.

In “Being a Minority at Syracuse University,” Pamela Flores describes her experience transitioning from her home life in Peru to her college life at Syracuse and her first interaction with microaggressions. “Autism Pain,” by Johanna Chojnicki, offers a personal insight into the medical conditions that individuals with autism face. The remaining two pieces are written by the same author, Annie Shi. “Pride” is a poem that describes her journey coming out, and “Open My Mouth” provides a deep, personal look into her life—from the strict childhood school system she experienced, which segregated students and punished them for speaking, to her movement across the world to SU.

All of the stories have something to share on the subject of personal and/or social issues. You may find yourself feeling the same sort of feelings that these authors express through their tales: the feelings of empathy, relatability, and self-possession. Perhaps that is what conflict ultimately drives us towards. Common or uncommon, the ground is right beneath our feet—the feet of each and every one of us.

—Jung Won Nam and Berri Wilmore