

### Prewitt Field Note 7 Snippets:

“Man A sees that Man B is wearing a Duluth hoodie and asks if he is from there; Man A repeats this a few times upon a lack of response, before Man B takes out earbuds and actually hears the question (explaining his lack of response earlier). They briefly chat about Duluth before Man B asks about where Man A was stationed in Vietnam. As the conversation unfolds, I learn that Man A was stationed at the DMZ, whereas Man B's brother was stationed at a different location during the war. They talked about warfare, and mentioned that “we won every battle, but lost the war”. It is clear that they both have been marked strongly by their experience with the military, and begin to talk about how different it is now, with Man B mentioning that on Wheel of Fortune recently the prize was a vacation to Vietnam. I am highly interested in hearing more of this conversation, but my stop is arriving so I get up to leave. As I go, Man A calls after me and says “You be blessed, miss”, and I reply with a ‘thank you, you too’, and a ‘have a good night’.”

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Typing up my jottings started to get cumbersome as my hands grew stiff and chilled even in the relatively balmy 52 degree fall evening. Wind began to cut through my sweater and I wish there was some source of protection from the elements, like the stop across the street and at all other corners of this intersection has. I was glad to see the bus crest the horizon at 1817, and stood to stand down by the sign as we waited for the bus to arrive.

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When the older white woman got off, an older white man got up from the seats on the passenger side right behind priority and took her place; there was plenty of room for him to sit next to her, but he chose to wait until she left to take priority seating. I have to wonder if he wanted to maintain as much distance as possible from another person, and viewed sitting next to someone uncomfortable even when it comes at the cost of his own comfort.

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The bus itself smelled pretty strange, like cleaning fluids were utilized to cover the smell of pee or something similarly acidic. It is not only a sign of the efforts of metro transit to keep the buses sanitized, but also an indication of the wide variety of human traces and experiences which are contained on the bus, and the inability for it to be easily wiped away with some chemicals.