

WHO?

BYRON GAINES II

I am a young black man

I am a student

I am a photographer

A poet

I am the sparkle

In my own eyes

I am a bright future

Of unknown proportions

I am a role model for my

Younger family members

But before that,

I am Malcolm Little

I am Michael Luther King Jr.

I am a “radical”

I am a threat to society

I am not allowed to vote

Regardless of the law

I am in the wrong restaurant

I am in the wrong restroom

I am using the wrong water fountain

Am I allowed to live?

Perhaps not

I am the letter from the government

That tells MLK to commit suicide

I am every major mistake

The US has ever made

Yet somehow never rectified

I am one who reads between the lines

Of the many triumphs of the US

And fills in the blanks

Or maybe I'm just

Another

Dangerous

Thug