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**Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society**

In this essay, Aimee Cox discusses her research on how the sexual identities of female residents are constructed. The main point of this article is to inform people that labels exists, and how a label effects the way people instantaneously view the labeled. The public assumes certain things based upon the label, even though it doesn’t fully define the person.

The women in the homeless facility are judged based upon age, class, race, gender and place, and are placed into three categories; diva, thug, or wannabe. The label that is most interesting is the thug label. The thug label carries a different persona than one that exists in hip-hop. Thug means that you openly claim a lesbian identity and have oversized clothes, close-cropped or unstyled hair, and are “hard”.

The flashpoint of being “hard” is ironically similar to societies definition. Even though this definition is in the context of an all women’s culture, the term still represents a heavy display of masculinity. This confirms that social labels, no matter what context, are consistent across cultures. Which brings up an interesting point. Whom defines theses labels? In this article, the labels are defined by the staff and residents, both of which have access to the outside world’s predefined norms.

Cox then later states that the labels carry little weight because they in “no way fully define the young women placed under each banner” (Cox, 2009). Societies labels, no matter in what context or who defines them, remain consistent in meaning, but always fall short in defining the entire person. This article exposes this fact, and shows that these labels carry little weight.