

STAR SPANGLED TO DEATH - complete text transcript

IA

0:00:00

"Young man, you've got a lot of explaining to do."

0:06:23

Jerry cherishes the old songs. He's an odd duck.

0:17:06

Von Stroheim's GREED (silent, 1925): Two men, former friends but now bitter enemies, in Death Valley with no water, a dead mule and dead horse and no chance of rescue; the sun a blazing, accusing eye. Marcus, the shrewder of the two, grasps their situation and says to McTeague, "We're dead men." And then they fight, to the death, over a bag of stolen gold. Blood spatters on the coins strewn upon the desert sands. The coins reflect the sun, to look at them is blinding. Men had felt powerful holding them in their hands. Mined from the earth, measured and shaped to resemble the sun, now sand will drift over them, over the dead animals and dead men.

0:18:29

Black Gold

We run our cars to a measured beat
of tiny explosions of blackened dinosaur ooze
swirling in the decay of other ancient life forms.
Drawn from deep burial sites we release them
through our exhaust pipes, transformed again,
a ghostly presence in the air we breathe.

0:22:18

In my hi-rise city, developers would not be permitted to uproot and bulldoze the wilderness out of existence. New buildings would rise from bedrock, long stems lifting the terrain resting on that bedrock to the sky intact, rocks and ferns and trees and squirrels uninterrupted in their enjoyment of the sunshine. Building residents, office workers, would take the elevator to the woods, where a sign would read, "Walk on the grass, please."

There would be swings and seesaws and monkeybars for the kids, outdoor cafés, dancing allowed. Hidden nooks for lovers. But no shopping (a line must be drawn somewhere). Flying over the city, it would be indistinguishable from the country, and not appear abandoned, desolate, as it does now except for a scattering of penthouses. Flying over the city, you'd be able to follow the seasons.

0:22:41

Adam and Eve.

Noah's Ark.

Osa's Ark.

Three fresh starts.

0:22:44

Wilderness Trek

"Wilderness"

is that portion of the Earth

not yet in our control.

Unstaked and unclaimed,

not yet divided up among invaders.

Not yet cleared and sliced and diced

and become a bonanza in real estate.
We assume it's without order - just wild!
rather than there could be an order
beyond our grasp.

0:23:09

the insouciant Josephine

0:23:11

Josephine Baker, 1926, age 20, untrained
and undisciplined.

One thing you got to say for the old songs
is how the singers sound life-size. One hears
a breathing person standing before a microphone
and not some audio-engineered marvel,
a bionic troubadour that never was or could be.

0:23:15

Same as the pre-Code movies of the early Thirties,
cheap, off-handed, vivid,
allowing us to see people as they were
and not some freaky studio perfection.

0:25:29

STAR SPANGLED TO DEATH

A

Playtime

Production

0:25:33

May 2004: US torture practices outed
while more than half the electorate are
keeping faith with the proven fictions
concocted to justify unprovoked attack
destruction looting privatizing of Iraq.

0:25:37

CIA prefers captives "softened up" prior to interrogation.
American soldiers selected at random for softening duties
blamed for taking pleasure in their work, for taking pride
in their work as displayed in photos and videos.
Though some captives die, voices on the right say
the practice is no worse than college hazing.

It's called "prisoner abuse", suggesting these were men
and women accused of crimes, though many were not
and had nothing to confess or to inform, whatever the torture.
Taking Iraqis prisoner on a whim was part of the fun.

More apt than "prisoner abuse" is
torture of Iraqis

for the fun of it.

0:25:37

Surely the pain inflicted was no worse
than mass-produced by a bomb,
and there have been so many bombs,
many "smart" with even more moronic.

Spectacular overkill was intended as example
to others: Do not hesitate to bend to our will.

(I saw Baghdad before the bombs on Worldlink TV
looking like any pleasant and orderly contemporary city,
with pizzerias and discos, like an upscale Brooklyn,
young people strolling about dressed and behaving
like young people in Brooklyn.)

0:25:37

It seems we are blaming unlucky,
inconvenienced, threatened,
disenchanted, resentful
and bored young Americans
for applying imagination to our chores
and for personalizing the infliction of pain.
In return, brutality for brutality, some Iraqis
have put a video of themselves on the web
beheading a captured 26-year-old American.
(The mujahideen, holy warriors,
when bankrolled by USA to run the Russians

out of Afghanistan, skinned captives alive.)

0:25:38

Our leaders say they will "stay the course"
as we approach a "clash of civilizations"
in the struggle for control of world oil profits.
Bush may be a bluff but I don't think he is bluffing
in his readiness to provoke World War Three.

With the sheep led by the foxes
for the benefit of the wolves, what chance
do we have of getting out of this alive?

STAR SPANGLED TO DEATH

considers the astronomical odds against being alive
to begin with and suggests resistance. What the hell.

0:26:52

Jack Smith *plays* The Spirit Not Of Life But Of Living

Jerry Sims.....Suffering

Cecilia Swann.....Misplaced Charity

Gib Taylor.....First Evil

Bill Carpenter.....Second Evil

Laurie Taylor.....The Impulse To Order

Reese Haire.....Death and Himself

Bob Fleischner.....Himself

Jim Enterline.....The Future

Ken Jacobs.....Oscar Friendly,

Ringmaster And Janitor

0:27:03

CHAPTER ONE:

Jack Is The Spirit Not Of Life But Of Living

0:27:19

The ticket-taker,
avoiding eye contact,
returns my stub.

It reads,
Admit Nothing.

1:00:31

Living, unlike *life*, is not an abstraction born of
the mind. It includes, rather than opposes, dying.

Any pinhead can be "for life" which sidesteps the
inherent evil of lives-interrupting-lives. (Most of us
recognize evil only when it's ourselves being eaten.)

The Spirit Not Of Life But Of Living
celebrates actuality.

1:00:39

Living has its virulent side.
Heads get bit off,
things slither into each other
to eat each other from the inside out.

City living hides most grisly processes
from our delicate sensibilities.
It's unusual, for instance, to see herbivores
fed live to carnivores in our zoos.
We spare ourselves the sight of deer,
wide-eyed,
undergoing fanged dismemberment.

1:00:39

Horrorified, we aspire to the geometric.
Boxy packaging. Precise slices.
The hamburger patty.
We invent the sparkling kitchen,
dress it up with frills.
Place neat cubes into our mouths,
separate and subdivide
eating into an abstract ritual.

1:00:49

Manhattan! Big town!
A big mess of jostling greeds.
In the original native language
the word Manhattan
means Stolen Property.

1:05:28

We, too, thought we had futures.
Bob and Jerry had a title
for a movie, "Union City Blues".

1:06:33

My idea was a TV show "Sunshine for Shut-Ins."
Each week the gloomy stay-at-home gets a broad-
cast of sunshine from another high-class resort.
Biarritz. Nice. Monte Carlo. The Black Sea.
Glorious sunshine fills the screen, that before
the advent of mass media, had been the exclusive
reserve of the very rich and their servile minions.

1:06:58

Young Oscar Friendly,
getting along with difficulty.

1:07:10

Jack's idea was a breakfast cereal,
INSTANT,
to be poured directly from the box
into the toilet.

1:07:15

Jack gets up from his seat, turns,
chastises a movie audience

for laughing at Joan Crawford.

1:09:39

Corporations are formed
to escape personal liability for debt.
Nations, to get away with murder.

1:12:11

ABRAHAM LINCOLN DOES IT AGAIN!
THE WAGE SLAVE SMELLS THE FLOWERS

After WW2 we were sold on labor-saving devices.
So how is it we're lamenting the jobs are gone?
Those lousy jobs. Yo! We're free!
Now we can go out to play.
Work at what we want to do. At our pleasure.

1:12:11

No jobs is no problem.
Modern technology shoots out goods.
Radio Shack sells a great DVD player for fifty bucks.
We're rich! We're rich!
Only we got to share better.

1:12:11

The problem for close to a century now
has been how to dispose of excess wealth

as the technocopia
got into full swing and did away with scarcity,
threatening the arrangement we all enjoy
of rich looking down at poor
and poor looking up at rich.

1:12:11

Geniuses were hired to figure ways
to waste wealth. Fashion and war
and prisons served the cause mightily.
But might it be possible
we *could* adjust
to unlimited wealth with everyone rich
and garden cities with street crime a memory?

1:12:11

Rockefeller and Bush have shown us the way!
Did they need jobs to live well?
Be like Rockefeller and Bush!

You're just in time.
Centuries of human striving
have piled up incalculable wealth.
Wealth today and more tomorrow.
No need to grab, no locks on the fridge,
an unnecessary bother to hoard.

1:12:11

Ring those bells! Come and get it!
Everyone is rich now, everyone is royalty.
Goodbye lousy goddam jobs and good riddance.
Everyone is free.

1:21:16

A new beginning.

1:25:10

Starring
Kirk Douglas

(Isadore Demsky,
and before that,
Issur Danielovitch,
who came up
the hard way)

1:27:58

What was an American war-fleet doing
so way the hell out there, so far
from where it could protect our shores?
I suspect, after bumping Spain, taking Hawaii
and the Philippines -fueling stops-
they were intent on fulfilling the Columbus quest,

continuing on towards the riches of Cathay
and Hirohito, miffed, was saying "It's mine!"

1:28:10

The Myth of the Male Project

Two post-WW2 Hollywood movies

THE BEGINNING OR THE END?

ABOVE AND BEYOND

apologetics for the atomic bombing of Japan
(for which it's been revealed there was no need;
the war was won, the Japanese attempting to surrender
-see Alperowitz: ATOMIC DIPLOMACY). Both movies
resort to a mythology that seems to exist in all cultures.

1:28:10

Men come together in a special brotherhood,
a techno-priesthood barred to women.
No girls in the clubhouse! They participate
in a secret ritual, a secret technique
passed down man to younger man exclusively,
for manifesting God.

1:28:10

Each movie depicts the process of removal
from women, occupied with women's work,
nest and brats. Transcendence is man's work.

War offers the opportunity and excuse: protection
of the hearth when in fact what's happening is
abandonment of the hearth. What's happening
is abandonment of the Earth! "This is our break,"
they exclaim. "Boys leave home. Men continue
on and out!"

1:28:10

These movies depict men on a mission,
collaborating in a strict hierarchy to release
a bomb (in this purely male birth)
named Big Boy.

Giving birth to a bomb is man's work and
they go about it very seriously, even grimly.
No time for small talk now. The little woman calling?
No husbands here.

1:28:10

Mother Nature will no longer contain them.
Life for man is a succession of wombs
that he must break out of, becoming
ever more separate from woman,
ever more purely male. Male is what is born,
that which goes forth. In this cosmology a female child
arrives only to replenish the supply of males.
(Don't get me wrong, I didn't make this up.)

1:28:11

God must enter Mother Nature
to engender her to propel man
into a further, more expansive dimension.
Man must indeed be reborn, that's in *his* nature,
a command in the marrow of the bones,
but reborn *further, wider*.

1:28:11

It will be a breakthrough,
an eruption of a magnitude of energy beyond
anything known to ordinary people, anything familiar
and, really, there's no knowing what will happen.
It could be a new beginning or the end,
this reach for the above and beyond.
It will surely be unthinkable, otherworldly,
and when it happens nothing will remain the same.

1:28:11

Both movies climax with an atomic puncturing
of mundane existence -as the guys would say, they
fuck over Hiroshima good. As if from out of this world,
from some celestial superstud bull brought to arousal,
incalculable energy enters this feminine sphere.
And when it does these men know its name:
as the target disintegrates (in a rare if not unique instance

of pure white light filling the Hollywood screen),
Robert Taylor as Captain Paul Tibbetts speaks the word
"God".

1:28:31

Charles Higham and, more recently, Irwin Black
report how Ford, GM, Rockefeller, other major
corporations one might assume to be American
were in fact **international** way back then and,
both before and during WW2, hedged their bets
by answering to and profiting from the war-making
requirements of both USA and Nazi Germany.

1:28:31

Simultaneously with the rise of Hitler, the Du Ponts in 1933
began financing native fascist groups in America, including
the anti-Semitic and antiblack American Liberty League and
the organization known as Clark's Crusaders, which had
1,250,000 members in 1933. Pierre, Irénée and Lamot
du Pont and John Jacob Raskob funded the Liberty League, along
with Alfred P. Sloan of General Motors. The League smeared
Roosevelt as a communist, claimed the President was surrounded
by Jews; and despite the fact that they were Jewish, the Du
Ponts smeared Semitic organizations.

1:28:31

The connections between General Motors and the Nazi government
began at the moment of Hitler's rise to power. Göring
declined to annex General Motors and indeed received with
pleasure William S. Knudsen, General Motors' president, who
returned on October 6, 1933, to New York telling reporters
that Germany was "the miracle of the twentieth century."

1:28:32

By the mid-1930's, General Motors was committed to full-scale production of trucks, armored cars, and tanks in Nazi Germany. The GM board could be guaranteed to preserve political, personal, and commercial links to Hitler. Alfred P. Sloan, who rose from president of GM to chairman in 1937, paid for the National Council of Clergymen and Laymen at Asheville, North Carolina, on August 12, 1936, at which John Henry Kirby, millionaire fascist lumberman of Texas, was prominent in the delivery of speeches in favor of Hitler. Others present, delivering equally Hitlerian addresses, were governor Eugene D. Talmadge of Georgia and the Nazi reverend Gerald L. K. Smith. Sloan frequently visited Berlin, where he hobnobbed with Göring and Hitler.

1:28:32

On November 23, 1937, representatives of General Motors held a secret meeting in Boston with Baron Manfred von Killinger, who was Fritz Wiedemann's predecessor in charge of West Coast espionage, and Baron von Tippleskirsch, Nazi consul general and Gestapo leader in Boston. This group signed a joint agreement showing total commitment to the Nazi cause for the indefinite future. The agreement stated that in view of Roosevelt's attitude toward Germany, every effort must be made to remove him by defeat at the next election. Jewish influence in the political, cultural, and public life of America must be stamped out. Press and radio must be subsidized to smear the administration, and there must be a führer, preferably Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, in the

1:28:32

White House. This agreement was carefully hidden. But a secretary who was loyal to the American cause managed to obtain a copy and give it to George Seldes, liberal journalist, who published it in his newsletter, *In Fact*. The patriotic liberal Representative John M. Coffee of Washington State entered the full agreement, running to several pages, in the Congressional Record on August 20, 1942, demanding that the Du Ponts and the heads of General Motors be appropriately

treated. Needless to say, the resolution was tabled permanently.

1:28:32

From *Trading With The Enemy*

-Charles Higham, 1983

Delacorte Press/New York

Also see *IBM and The Holocaust*
and other writings by Edwin Black

1:30:01

Death of Mike Todd

(Abram Goldenbogen)

Producer of the 1956 movie spectacle
AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS and third husband of
Elizabeth Taylor; known as "the man who had everything."

Following Todd's death in 1958, when his private plane
crashed, Elizabeth Taylor then married his young friend, the
singer Eddie Fisher, breaking up Fisher's very publicized
'dream-marriage' to Debbie Reynolds.

1:32:47

Mike Todd's

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

may not have done much for cinema
but it did help popularize the world.

1:33:08

“What makes the grass grow?
Blood, blood, bright red blood!”
....USA military training chant.
More youngsters are lost,
emerge beyond recognition
from the death-and-rebirth
cult-indoctrination of boot camp
than will die on battlefields.

1:33:09

A person is taken prisoner
on becoming a soldier.

1:33:11

Other than Paths of Glory
the movies don't show
how often the “courage” of soldiers
(of men in the predicament of soldiering)
comes from a gun
against the backs of their heads.

1:33:13

War is defeat.

1:36:42

Islam.

**An elaborate excuse
for beheading the clitoris.**

1:36:46

Half of Muslim women illiterate.
Police states, torturers, tyrants.
Entire nations the private properties
of royal families. Oil wealth invested
in USA and Europe while youth remains unemployed,
impoverished, humiliated. Hungry!
Education a matter of memorizing
the ravings of the Koran, no questions asked.
Yes, the Jews are your misfortune, certainly.

1:37:04

Yasir Arafat
fits exactly
the classic Euro-caricature
of The Jew.
Osama bin Laden
is the spitting image
of The Man Of Sorrows.
Gosh, it's a funny world.

1:38:11

Billy Graham, Cold War warrior, of one mind
with Richard Nixon when they'd speak privately
of kikes and niggers and the need to put out a contract
on Abby Hoffman, was fond of reminding us
of how Jesus supposedly said,
"I do not bring peace
but a sword."

1:39:08

I learned early on that war forms its own culture. The rush of battle is a potent and often lethal addiction, for war is a drug, one I ingested for many years. It is peddled by mythmakers—historians, war correspondents, filmmakers, novelists, and the state—all of whom endow it with qualities it often does possess: excitement, exoticism, power, chances to rise above our small station in life, and a bizarre and fantastic universe that has a grotesque and dark beauty. It dominates culture, distorts memory, corrupts language, and infects everything around it, even humour, which becomes preoccupied with the grim perversities of smut and death. Fundamental questions about the meaning, or meaninglessness, of our place on the planet are laid bare when we watch those around us sink to the lowest depths. War exposes the capacity for evil that lurks not far below the surface within all of us. And this is why for many war is hard to discuss once it is over. *War Is A Force That Gives Us Meaning*, Chris Hedges

1:42:19

A fight to the death

1:42:23

over whose imaginary friend

1:42:26

is bigger and best.

1:43:52

Pope Gregory VII had declared, "Cursed be the man who holds back his sword from shedding blood." The chronicler, Raymond of Aguilers, described the scene when a band of crusaders massacred both Muslims and Jews in Jerusalem in 1099:

Wonderful things were to be seen. Numbers of the Saracens were beheaded... Others were shot with arrows, or forced to jump from the towers; others were tortured for several days, then burned with flames. In the streets were seen piles of heads and hands and feet. One rode about everywhere amid corpses of men and horses. In the temple of Solomon, the horses waded in the blood up to their knees, nay, up to the bridle. It was a just and marvelous judgement of God, that this place should be filled with the blood of unbelievers.

-from Helen Ellerbe THE DARK SIDE OF CHRISTIAN HISTORY

1:44:44

Israel, a synopsis. Jews are forced out of Europe by recurrent killing sprees by Christian nations, active in the killing or on stand-by, with guarded borders preventing escape. A sort of dustpan and dustbroom concerted action. Only Denmark during World War Two moves to save Jews by spiriting them to neutral Sweden, willing (unlike USA, Canada, Britain, etc.) to absorb them, if only "for the duration". Survivors at war's end must go somewhere the hell out of Europe but invitations are slow in coming and few and they again find themselves rotting behind wires in Displaced Persons Camps. People without the right to be where they are! to be anywhere.

1:44:44

Declaring a legitimacy of **return** to land from whence Imperial Rome had first banished Jews (setting the long sad story in

motion) they gather to another place where they're not wanted. Forbidden by Arabs to buy property they muscle their way in on an assumption that they -Their People- were there first. If as individuals they can be murdered as a They ("I decide who is a Jew", Hermann Goering said knowing he was decreeing death arbitrarily), they figure they can in turn declare a right of eminent domain. Imagine: Jewish land. If the planet only knew. Well, if you buy that, you won't mind giving America back to the Indians. Other Arab countries refuse to absorb displaced Palestinians but instead punish "their Jews" by banishing them. To where? To Israel.

1:44:44

Victimization doesn't make people saints and Jews in a tight spot do what people do, terrible things. Muslim leaders had urged their Christian rivals to quicken the pace of extinction, their followers now attract a wrath others had more directly earned. Israel in the Twenty First Century remains the world hotspot. Much of the news of the day consists of what Israel did bad today, and it is bad, while we learn damned little about what Israel does and attempts to do good and plenty of Israelis are great partisans in the cause of Common Decency. Let's be straight with each other. How much do you hear about the Chechnyan cause and the hurts mutually inflicted with Russia? Say space travel had been available in 1945. Any doubt that troubled minds would be any less aggrieved today at the presence of Jews on the moon?

1:45:31

Israel is a crime
perpetrated by Christians
against both Arabs and Jews.

1:45:34

I see people lifting many neat signs
all alike: they show

the Star of David equaling the Swastika.

This must mean that Jews now
are capturing helpless people
in a methodical program of extermination.

This was definitely big news.

I was glad to learn of it.

1:45:41

Stanza #1

Fury with Israeli brutality,
I share it. But would I respond differently
if my own kids were murdered for getting on a trolley?
Here's something critics of Israelis/Jews seem to forget,
lamentable but true:
they're a mix of people, no more no less.
Placed in different situations
they do what people do.

1:45:41

Stanza #2

Fury with Palestinian brutality,
I share it. But would I respond differently
if my own kids were murdered for sitting in a room?
Here's something critics of Palestinians seem to forget,
lamentable but true:
they're a mix of people, no more no less.
Placed in different situations

they do what people do.

1:45:41

You have to marvel at the Jews,
so tiny a population of Jews,
the audacity,
to be grabbing up all those Arabs
-or is it the world's Muslims?
And forcing them into death factories.

I don't see how they can even tell
Arabs apart from themselves.
When we shop on Atlantic Avenue
people look my relatives.

1:45:42

I regret Israel ever happened
but don't see how it was to be avoided
in light of the few invitations to survivors
after the war and their well-founded fear
that it was only a matter of time
before their hosts would turn on them yet again.

1:45:42

World attention to Israel's failings, however,
seems grotesquely out of proportion
to the instances of hellishness elsewhere.

Say space travel had been available in 1945.

Any doubt that some troubled minds
would be any less aggrieved today
at the presence of Jews on the moon?

1:45:43

From Auschwitz To The Moon

Where might they have been welcome? Nowhere.
Where unnoticed? What place so arid or iced or wild
that it had been passed over as human habitation?

Perhaps had science advanced sufficiently
they might've become the first to colonize space.

"Hey, the Jews are going!" The Pope
hears the many-throated shout
and comes out to wave them off
from the balcony he'd shared
with Mussolini.

1:46:13

The Spirit Not Of Life But Of Living
offers its heart...

1:46:23

... but...

1:46:30

...the Church
turns it down.

1:46:36

Would you believe? a police car pulled up,
called by the offended Fathers.

The cops ordered Jack and I into the car, drove
some blocks away and stopped. An officer
said to us, "Get out. Don't do it again."

1:46:37

Cameraman grabbed from behind at this point.

1:48:12

This is a Black Hole.

1:48:13

A Black Hole is when light travels
faster than the speed of light
and eyes can't keep up.

1:48:14

Don't imagine nothing's going on here.
Take my word for it, it's wild.

In this movie the black spaces

are the really hectic moments.

1:48:15

All the same,
this could be a good place
to take a break.

STAR SPANGLED TO DEATH - complete text transcript

IB

0:00:01

The Oklahoma Kid, 1939

0:00:03

They're carving an empire out of a wilderness.

Yes, carving and hatcheting and blasting;

and then decimating, poisoning, abandoning.

Are they homesteaders? Or rapists? fucking over
one virgin territory before moving on to the next.

When they aren't allowed to buy a territory
they take it, and if they don't succeed in taking it
they make an object lesson of it by destroying it.

They like to think of themselves as irresistible.

0:14:50

Richard Steigmann-Gall, THE HOLY REICH,

quoting Hitler's mentor Dietrich Eckhart on World War One:

"This war was a religious war, finally one sees that clearly.
A war between light and darkness, truth and falsehood,
Christ and Anti-Christ."

Nazis fought "Godlessness," too.

0:14:50

Religion
is when adults
take a deathgrip
on a bedtime story.

0:14:51

Religions are bedtime stories
gone amok.

0:14:54

"God is famous!
But Evil
is practical."

- Jack Smith in BLONDE COBRA

0:14:55

28% of Americans say they believe in evolution.

0:14:57

I'm working my way up
to believing in Jesus. It isn't easy, because when I believe
I believe everything and Jesus is particularly challenging.
Virgin Mother, walking on water, fish from out of the skies,
died so we can live then rose from the dead.
Crucified by the Romans at the demand of The Jews.
This week I begin to believe in Zeus.

0:14:58

He's got the whole world in His....oops....

0:15:03

America features freedom of belief; we enjoy elevated,
gravity-free faiths of every kind, untethered to common sense.

It gives us, in foreign eyes, a certain nitwit charm.

Only a meanie would puncture our perfectly spherical faiths.

0:15:11

The millionaire vote alone can't swing an election.

Big money gets its numbers playing the race card

and making an ally of Christian fundamentalists

avid for fulfillment of prophecy. Odd marriage,

The Masters Of The World and those that want it

blown all to hell.

0:15:16

Shows you the spot

Israelis have been put in

when they must accept support

from religious crazies

intent on egging on Armageddon.

0:15:18

Advertisers,
picking up on religious practice,
further perfected
the downhill learning curve.

0:15:20

They think it's wasteful and a sign of ingratitude
not to eat everything on their plate,
all that Providence has provided,
now, quickly, with
the sky about to fall on us.

I think of *them* as high-function morons
deluded into thinking that all of life
came about to serve their appetites.

0:15:20

A good God,
with less sardonic
a sense of humour,
would've arranged the joining
of Adam and Eve
in a manner to ensure
mutual stimulation.
God knows
adequate foreplay
is an acquired taste.

0:15:25

Facts are so....unimaginative.

We are in a movieland where anything goes,
fed all sorts of comforting, exciting, fun ideas:
angels and devils, life after death, a watchful concerned God.

Compassionate conservatism, offshore-based corporations
that think only of our best interests, limited nuclear war.

Not to mention postmen and neighbours living
double lives as intergalactic travelers.

0:15:25

Those who believe they will be
happy-ever-after in the here-after
are known as Happy-Ever-Afterists.

0:15:26

God means business.

0:15:33

The bright side
of ecocide:
Jesus returns!

0:15:34

"Jesus was an Aryan."

Post-WW2 propaganda to the contrary, most Nazis believed
themselves to be fulfilling Christian purpose. For Catholics

(Catholic Hitler has never been excommunicated), Fascism everywhere has been the defense against Godless Communism and Democracy.

In the USA, popular Nazi radio-propagandist Father Coughlin was only suppressed by the hierarchy after Germany declared war against America.

0:15:34

German Protestants were realizing a higher state of Lutheranism, a still more nationalist, more specifically German Christianity. Luther's statement "The Jew is our misfortune" was a Nazi axiom. Neo-Nazi groups today affirm Christian faith.

Playing up the minority of Nazi paganists was a post-war ploy to distance the churches from the enthusiastic excesses of the regime. See Richard Steigman-Gall *THE HOLY REICH*, Cambridge University Press, 2003

0:15:34

Nazi excess, in fact, was not in defiance of Christian tradition, only unusually orderly and thorough, industrialized. Yes, countless Christian believers have been decent people, but let's not dream.

0:15:34

Helen Ellerbe in *THE DARK SIDE OF CHRISTIAN HISTORY* (Morningstar And Lark, 1995) quotes Thomas Jefferson: "Millions of innocent men, women, and children since the introduction of Christianity, have been burnt, tortured, fined, imprisoned; yet we have not advanced toward uniformity. What has been the effect of coercion? To make one half of the world fools, and the other half hypocrites. To support error and roguery all over the Earth."

0:15:34

See, darling,
how Pontius does it?
Washes his hands,
hangs the towel
back on the peg.
The man is famous
for washing his hands.

0:15:48

We're told that Pontius, representing Imperial Rome,
was forced by a subject people to take the life of Jesus.
Pictured as a decent chap (at odds with the historical record
of mass torturer and murderer), The Jews make him do it.
What isn't explained is his failure to say to his soldiers,
"Easy on the scourging, boys, I like this fellow. Make it
quick and painless, and let him keep his pants on.
Maybe he is the one true god and way to everlasting life."

0:16:14

"I do not believe in the creed professed by the Jewish church,
by the Roman church, by the Greek church, by the Turkish
church, by the Protestant church, nor by any church that I
know of. My own mind is my own church.

All national institutions of churches, whether Jewish,
Christian or Turkish, appear to me no other than human
inventions, set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and
monopolize power and profit."

-AGE OF REASON, Thomas Paine

0:16:24

There's a photo of Jesus in the papers.

This time he's an Iraqi.

He's balancing on a box with a hood
over him so we can't see and with
electrodes attached to his genitals.

0:16:39

Toss us the most far-fetched ideas.

"Jews were warned by their rabbis
to stay clear of the Twin Towers on 9.11."

That's easy! Watch folks step up to believe it
out of the park.

0:16:57

The Devil is the hindparts of God.

Belief in a *good* God
necessitates equal faith in
an equivalent voice for evil,
absolving God for this hell-on-Earth.
Devil worshippers think of themselves
as doing no worse than kissing God's ass.

0:17:07

"How long have you been *ish*?"

I mean when were you last simply a Jew?"

"I was never simply-a-Jew. Was anyone?

What would that be? Is it edible?

Like a knish? Is it knishish?"

0:17:10

Religion is the tax-free hustling

of shares in The Beyond.

A fire-sale in unreal estate.

Buyer, beware.

0:17:11

According to The Gospel of Oscar Friendly,

Jesus rises whole and hearty with a big yell

and goes and shows himself to *everyone*.

Because who would want to keep such news
exclusive to a few (proven unreliable) insiders?

0:17:11

The people gather and Jesus says,

"Look, folks, it's a miracle! I was dead and now I'm alive.

Wow, I really must be The Messiah! It's great to be back,
folks, and I certainly don't intend to waste this opportunity
by returning immediately and inexplicably to My Heavenly
Father instead of completing what I came here for, not after
all I've just been through. Because that would be

dumb dumb dumb. Can you imagine me leaving that task
to those feckless groupie disciples that left me
hanging there without once whistling to the multitudes
that believed in me to come to my rescue?

My erstwhile sunshine disciples.

0:17:11

So let's get on with it: are the moneychangers gone?

I didn't think so. Go! we know your tricks. Okay,
upper class Hebrew princes that have been entertaining and
dealmaking with the occupiers, you meet me in the morning
and I'm teaching you the carpentry trade.

A few months of building things with your hands
and you'll thank me.

0:17:11

And now we get to the main business of a messiah
as traditionally understood; we have to
get these Colonial soldiers off our backs.

Outnumbered and outweaponed, our other liability
is we're nice, so we have to go about this
using our famous Jewish brains.

0:17:11

Let's see....there's more of us....mmm....I've got it!

We'll marry them!

We'll win by absorbing our oppressors. We'll surround them,

infiltrate their phalanxes (Monica, you get out front).

We'll *intermarry* our differences away.

0:17:11

The babies will take it all in stride born into a world as weird and wonderful as any other; the little charmers will

reconcile their opposing sets of grandparents

and we'll have beaten them!

by making them us!

0:17:12

Jesus has been returning for 2000 years

His contemporary followers expected him

to return in their lifetimes.

Excuses became necessary.

The excuse of choice was that the Messiah has a price for returning, to be paid up front: conversion or death of the last unbelieving Jew.

0:17:25

Jews just don't get it,

some continuing to humble

themselves in prayer to The One God,

others remaining entirely indifferent

to the issue (think Seinfeld).

Their arrogance alone is what prolongs
Satan's hold on Earth.

Poverty, disease, war,
all misery is willfully Jew-inflicted.

0:17:45

Oh, thou smilyface fanatics.
You think Jesus dies for you
and George W. Bush lies for you,
you figure you're sitting pretty,
spared what we will endure.
In fact like the good folks
trusting in Jim Jones
you will experience
enormous pain, you will watch
your children experience enormous pain,
and you will die wondering
how you could've been such assholes.

0:17:47

A friend said to me,
"There's nothing Christians love
more than a crucified Jew."

0:17:50

"God is a placebo
with bad side effects."

Ken Jacobs

0:17:55

"The rhythm of the universe
is not three-quarters time."

Jack Smith

0:18:02

Aphorisms are pretentious.

0:18:04

A movie is an aphorism.

0:30:11

Jack frees the slaves.

0:31:58

SQUABBLE OF THE WANNABES

There are concepts to be saved from what became of Communism
(I always wonder *what might've* been without the Capitalist
attacks that brought forward Stalin and Mao; there had been
kind and decent communists, with ideas of the fair
distribution of the good things of life). Here follows a

concept in need of rescue from Christinanity.

0:31:58

It seems implicit in its root system, if rarely or ever said straight out. I hear an echo of it in the children's jingle Humpty Dumpty, about the egg "that sat on a wall and took a great fall, and all the King's horses and all the King's men couldn't put Humpty together again." That's one way of picturing matter contained before the Big Bang. Another expression is God The Father.

0:31:58

Gone, dismembered, in process of disintegrating into ever smaller fragments that will lose their eruptive force until there's nothing but suspended dust in absolute quiet. God is what people have called whatever was before the disruption and longing for God is for a return to that state. Life is the shards of God scrambling to get back, desperately struggling to reorganize. One monstrous and ironic result being that each of God's manifestations is at odds with the other, each wound up to fill the universe in its own likeness, with its own kind.

0:31:58

Each, of God, aims to be God, resulting in universal strife. The dream of The Peacable Kingdom puts in soft-focus that fact that the living live on other lives, by grinding up the

competition and converting it to themselves. Here's an animal you say that's content to graze? It's masticating and digesting (in an acid bath) a plant that itself is nothing other than pure will-to-live. The really successful species would fill the universe with itself to the brim, assuming it could survive on a diet of its own body.

0:31:58

I take God The Holy Ghost to be a poetic way of indicating the exploding cosmos, God now, on the skids.

God The Son is us, people. Animals with oversized freak cerebellums, that alone among all attempted solutions to the challenge of survival crossed over into reflective awareness. Among other projections of a collective self we picture a man suffering on an unpraised cross, lifted above the ground where he scans an enormous vista, seeing suffering everywhere.

0:31:58

He sees all The Father's horses and all The Father's men willy-nilly trying and failing to put The Father together again, each stupidly contesting in a global free-for-all, with each coming to a bad end. Take it from me, no creature ever died of "old age"; one is broken, or snapped up between jaws, or invaded by teeming microbes. One way or another one becomes a *meal* in this bizarre dispensation. He's an empathetic fellow, this God The Son, and what he sees disgusts

and saddens him no end. No wonder he hesitates to participate, to multiply. (He is generally pictured as of a somewhat undecided sexuality, no Azazel. Which makes sense since we are a species of bi-polar sexuality and he must represent all of humankind.)

0:31:59

The jingle faces up to tragedy but stops short of suggesting the possibility of salvation within that finality. Not afterlife-wishing salvation but justification for lives that make little sense as *efforts* to gather up a broken cosmos falling to ever smaller pieces, which is what Humpty/The King/God wants of us. Can't be done. Wouldn't be worth anything if successful: an eternity of energy held in perfect equilibrium unaware that it's there. What is saved, all that can be saved, is an awareness of what's happening, a feelingful awareness. Poor God, magnificent and pathetic and tyrannical blind Existence caught in a human snapshot between all and nothingness.

0:41:40

Ken Points Out The Obvious

0:42:07

Come To The Fair

George Gershwin

1939 World's Fair

0:43:31

Nixon's Conscience

0:45:01

The Fifties.

We had tedium *down* then.

To be young and full of juice
in the time of Ike and his Igor, Richard Nixon,
and wrestling on tv and supermarkets.
With leftists kicked out of popular culture
and precious little alternative culture
other than some great jazz
if you could afford the drinks.
People afraid to sign their name to anything.
Every day the Cold War threatening to turn hot
until you could no longer react
and it became life or death or so what?

0:45:01

Jack and I walking the streets dying for a movie
we could watch; shadow-hunger we called it.

Ike and Igor and Lucy and Vic Damone.

It was a decade-long rainy day
Movies had gone wide-screen and Technicolor
while real-life was drained of color.

You live in a Renaissance compared
to the Fifties, when USA was on top,
the internal opposition squelched
and populace benumbed.

0:45:01

We were artists
with no art market.
We were throwing away our futures
gambling on the present,
sticking with the present.
It was easy. Whatever promise
America might've had was now
bitter memory. It had come out of WW2
untouched. It felt good at war.
It would stay at war. It *liked*
to play with fire. What futures?
America had nothing to offer.
We only had the present and
-our good luck-
the present was another story.
It featured eccentrics.

0:45:01

A good eccentric is a zen marvel.
It isn't true eccentrics are dysfunctional.
They may be useless, of no use to the economy,

that's the beauty of them;
they're self-contained, a variant of existence itself.

They function like artworks, nests
of fascinating particulars. Once the present
coughed up Jack and Jerry into my life, for instance,
I felt I had nothing to complain of.

This movie is an arrangement
of found films and found personalities.

0:45:01

The Fifties.

Ah, that was corporate dominance
before it learned to slick up its act.
I thought you'd appreciate a specimen of tedium,
of the real thing before the Sixties
and graduates of the film schools
interfered with its purity of expression.

0:47:00

Nixon
looks into the eyes
of a big patsy nation
turns on sincerity
doubletalk
banks on the sentimentality
of a clueless people
voting their gut feelings

yearning but knowing nothing
not having done their homework
gut feelings
the residue of skilful bs

1:00:31

Nixon is appealing to our hearts.

He had contempt for those of us
opposing slaughter in Vietnam.

We were unmanly.

Kissinger assured him

we didn't have the big picture.

It takes a big man not to allow
the suffering he inflicts to get to him.

We were softies, bleeding hearts.

The story goes that Jesus
was a bleeding heart.

1:10:09

Approached during his run against General Eisenhower in 1952

Adlai Stevenson, an unmarried intellectual tabloided as
"egghead" and "pinko", was told by an enthusiastic supporter,
"Every intelligent person in America will be voting for you!".

"But I need a majority," Stevenson replied.

1:14:47

What is America to me?

The Brooklyn Dodgers.

1:15:35

I was ready to.

Nixon and Billy Graham were among the leaders of America's Anti-Communist Crusade. I figured I *must* be a communist, by nature, because I so despised *them*. I went to Communist Party headquarters in Manhattan to join.

Some men were coming down the steps to the street, continuing a discussion. A well-dressed and self-assured black man spoke, others turning to attend to his words.

1:15:35

A young woman at a desk asked what it was I wanted. This is what it must be, I thought, to take one's life in one's hands. I said: to join, to become a member. She explained it was late, a Friday. She told me I could return on Monday.

1:20:43

Nixon made a fortune,
after he was forced to resign,
for his criminal actions,
when he was made a partner
in a New York law firm.

Criminal? Law? Mmm.

We're to believe he returned
to law practice and not
that this was payoff time.

What practicing what law?
He maybe prepared briefs?
Harangued juries? Let's say
he facilitated contacts
far and wide, vacationed,
bitched("Goddam kikes!"),
stayed drunk weeks on end,
and after some years
made statesman appearances.
The murderer. Of many thousands.

1:23:52

Billy Graham, Cold War warrior, of one mind
with Richard Nixon when they'd speak privately
of kikes and niggers and the need to put out a contract
on Abby Hoffman, was fond of reminding us
of how Jesus supposedly said,
"I do not bring peace
but a sword."

1:24:03

It hurts to think that
democracy is enough of the people
fooled enough of the time
for con-men to lead all the people
anywhere they damn well please.
I was wondering about voters tested

on what they were voting about,
their individual test score,
the value of their vote.

Could the questions be fair?

The issues presented honestly?

The grading be fair?

So that most any person

who did their homework

could score a hundred?

1:24:17

TV flatters at the same time it imposes a conviction
of personal inconsequence. We're the ones *out there*.
Those bright people who appear on TV, who seemingly,
look into our eyes as they seemingly speak to us,
they pay no mind to what we say.

1:24:17

They couldn't care less when we moon them. We learn
personal inconsequence as children, as toddlers, when nice men
and women address us sweetly from the tube
and draw out our affections, but when we speak,
when we tell them our good news and bad,
show them our new doll or toy truck, they don't shift their
gaze, *they don't respond at all*. Nothing we do or say seems
to matter! We come to realize that they are *on*
and we are not. Only they matter,

those on the other side, the stars. Humbled,
catching on, growing up, we take our place among those
that watch.

1:24:18

Hating "America"

I do. Toto began to pull the curtain back while I was still a teen but what I saw was no loveable old fake. I saw instead a consumptive banshee, Greed personified. It was consuming lives by the thousands, the hundreds of thousands, yet complained it needed more. It told me it had the authority to recruit me to assist in feeding it. It expected absolute commitment from me: "You will kill or maim, or be killed or maimed in Korea or wherever I send you," it said, "and no backtalk". Or it would punish me with incarceration in a place where anything goes, where men are men. If I obeyed without question, however, I would be defending Freedom.

1:24:18

As a Depression-baby I'd grown up thinking New Deal amenities granted to most (white) Americans, Social Security and the right to unionize, a social net and public housing and so on had always been the going ways. And then learned they were a recent exception to what's been one long sweep of might making right on every level of social organization. Sweet-talker Ronald Reagan, a face of The Great Depression, began repeal of the New Deal and return to tradition "to make America competitive again". The poor saps bought it, with Bush continuing the return to extreme iniquity, now beyond recall without revolution and that won't happen so long as bullies can be hired and armed.

1:24:18

Jay Gould, "The Wolf of Wall Street",

1836-1892

perpetrator of mass poverty,
when asked was he afraid
the people might rise against him,
answered,
"I can always hire half the working class
to kill off the other half".
(see A CORNER IN WHEAT, D.W. Griffith)

1:24:18

It might be that The Still Greater Depression will swing politics the other way but I suspect it's too late: *they've taken all the money*. We're broke, deep in unpayable debt. Kids unborn are in debt, will stay in debt unless they're recruited by The Man. But *if we were to start again*, if a new day was to dawn, the debts would have to be renounced, a new currency issued, *a fresh deck placed on the table* in the form of an entirely open meritocracy with helping hands for those that need help, *and* a new name for mercy's sake. Like Jim, or Sally. Some unpretentious name that doesn't get dinned into our minds day in and out like a Coke commercial.

1:24:18

"America" has always been an excuse for stealing, not least of all from Americans, North, Central and South. Its cruelties are beyond reckoning. I've had "America" up to here.

"God is famous!
But Evil
is practical."

-Jack Smith in BLONDE COBRA

1:24:19

They were comparing the relative merits of carpet bombing to the earlier method of train transports to extermination centers. The music became hard to speak over. Nixon and Kissinger excused themselves. The others stood without speaking as they passed from the room.

1:26:19

Kissinger is well adjusted. After a difficult period growing up as a Jew in Nazi Germany, he recovered wonderfully.

1:29:01

funny animals

1:29:47

Mickey Mouse, like Bosco, came out of the minstrel show tradition, part mouse part "piccaninny".

1:33:56

overlapping of earlier text

1:35:47

The US pre-emptive invasion and destruction of Iraq allowed the looting of a defunct nuclear plant

by street criminals, by people simply desperate for something to sell, and very possibly by some who planned to use spent fuel to produce dirty bombs. The plant was known to the invaders but not a thing was done to secure it.

1:35:53

In fact there was no initial move to secure the known weapons of mass destruction given as reason for the invasion.

Not only was that a lie, chances are Bush-Cheney chose to invade precisely because they knew Iraq had no such weapons.

1:35:58

The looted nuclear materials are out there for purchase on the cheap. Or were. It's reasonable to think Al Qaeda's got them now, the *active* enemy Bush-Cheney sidelined, seizing their opportunity to get Hussein and Iraqi oil. Our moron president plays soldier while demented bin Laden aims to bring down The American Empire like he did the World Trade Center. "God", says one. "Allah", says the other.

1:36:07

The towers loom in memory. But the Pentagon hit was the more extraordinary one. More difficult to pull off not only because of its squat structure but the amateur pilot *had to have expected interference, expected that it would be protected*. High-speed military aircraft should have intercepted and brought down the off-course passenger plane; yes, with its doomed passengers. But the immeasurable failure to protect the supposed center of national protection is hardly ever mentioned. A non-stop repair replacement job was done and the pose is that we tossed off the blow. Islam knows better. Near-miracles of precise derring-do, the names of the nineteen that swung Allah's sword that day will be taught to children and celebrated in song until doomsday.

1:36:07

Meanwhile,

25% of children in Harlem have asthma.

You'd think traffic would stop.

This is plague!

When does it become news?

Must it be 25% white kids?

1:36:09

Why bother impeaching Bush-Cheney? Liars, crooks, murderers, fuckups. We're dead men, and dead everything else.

We're doomed.

We're free.

"It's test-time."

It's playtime.

1:36:12

Capitalism, unrestrained,
pollutes air, water, land
making life untenable.
Capitalism aims to convert
all of life to cold cash.
if the purpose of an economy
is to *sustain* life,
Capitalism
fails in practice.

1:36:12

Capitalists look ahead,
operating on a system of "cost-benefit analysis".
They figure the odds: possible cost to themselves
of the damage they do, criminality undertaken, taking
into account, for instance, the number of survivors
that might successfully sue.

1:36:12

They measure money to be got against risk of getting caught:
"Is it worth it?", they soberly think and consult lawyers.
Lawyers and accountants tabulate how much they'll pay out
if they get caught against how much they'll keep
from what they steal.
Lawyers know the law and how it can *protect* their clients.

They know the lawmakers and pay them to protect them.

Smart robbers don't wear masks;
they appear smiling on society pages.

1:36:12

Charles Manson, behind bars
these many years, is laughing.
He has tv privileges and it amuses him
to observe Normal Behaviour.

Preventative War
has him in stitches.

1:36:12

this is an appeal to the wives and children of the owners
no one can or wishes to threaten you
but you will not survive
a plastic bubble on a poisoned planet
won't be the fun you may think
the agonized faces of the excluded will oppress you
you may recognize resemblances to yourselves
they will have to be exterminated
the psychopaths among you
will make their extermination a national sport
their extermination will be televised
those of you inclined to empathy will be horrified
but you will be trapped
you will go stir-crazy

the pumped and recycled air will begin to stink
in the end a bug will get in and you'll be goners
mothers will not be able to protect their children

1:36:12

The sound

1:36:12

of blind greed

1:36:13

taking blind faith

1:36:14

for a ride.

1:36:17

Poor lard-ass poor folk of America
lifetimes of falling for bait-and-switch,
buying God, getting Mammon.

1:36:38

Of course the 2000 election was stolen.
The Seinfeld audience alone
was probably enough
to defeat Bush.

1:36:47

Republicans
dumped Abraham Lincoln,
embraced Vince Lombardi.
"Winning is everything!"
Sportsmanship? Over!
Fair-play? Are you kidding?
Democracy? Kaput.

1:36:55

Despair
is seeing people sold on
Ronald Reagan as The Gipper.
The Gipper is chipper
despite his lachrymose dying scene
in "Knutte Rockne". This must be
how Jesus got his start.

1:36:59

America doesn't have patriots.
It has movie fans,
who wouldn't recognize the real America
if it fell on them.

1:37:50

USA! USA! USA!

These people
are at the movies
and don't you forget it.

1:37:51

Star Spangled To Death
end of Chapter One

STAR SPANGLED TO DEATH - complete text transcript

IIA

0:00:46

The Pincushion Man,

the outsider
as movie-villain,

is a libidinous fiend.

Watch his erection
to read his emotions.

0:10:05

We met with a man getting along
with no visible means of support.
I don't mean hovering over the ground
but as regards livelihood.
It was in Berlin almost twenty years ago.
He had travelled a lot in Africa, a smuggler we thought
or something worse. Yet this knowing and cynical fellow
was not without some heart. "Africa," he said,
"is a basket case."

0:12:19

Big Commotion Pictures

Presents

A Playtime Production

starring Jack Smith and Jerry Sims

STAR SPANGLED TO DEATH

by Ken Jacobs

Chapter Two: Jerry is Suffering

0:12:31

The story so far:

The two evils (Gib Taylor and Bill Carpenter) burn with resentment. Capitalism sold them a bill of bads. It has made them into living garbage, addicting them to junk food, junk culture. Pretending to love them, it urged them to smoke. Facing a miserable demise for themselves, they would gleefully set the world on fire.

0:12:43

The Spirit Not Of Life But Of Living enjoys commotion for its own sake. Doing good deeds or acting out with The Two Evils is all the same to The Spirit.

0:13:38

Jerry is suffering. A sensitive artist and intellectual, he is beset by many fears; he thinks of all that happens to

people that can happen to him. It is the stagnant 1950's the Lower East Side before upscaling to East Village. A puny outsider forced by poverty to live amongst the brutalized poor, he longs to move to Dixie.

0:13:56

"Hi Laurie".

0:13:56

He has soured, and no longer expects a more humane and just, more socialist society. Privilege will remain, cheered on by suckers. To his thinking it is safer to be where the unjust system keeps its brutalized poor (along with its merely poor) under control. Don't argue with him if you aren't taunted and threatened whenever you show yourself in the streets. If you haven't been mugged.

0:14:40

Women do not find him attractive. He's puny and smells bad. There's his freaky behaviour; the aggressive begging, his open resentment that others have more. People keep their distance. "I'm a pariah", he told me at first meeting.

0:14:43

His compensation is the company of great books, great music, available free from The New York Public Library. A real if somewhat addled scholar, he spends his days in the calm of the Library.

0:14:47

He reads Jack London and is contemptuous of those who willingly support a plutocracy with their labours, doing the dirty work of state piracy. ("Don't you see, the rich don't go to the chair, and unless they choose to, the sons of the rich don't fight wars, actually shoot and be shot at. Never do they go where they can't change into fresh underwear".) And yet he complains there's no place for himself.

0:15:00

"I never found my niche," is the way he puts it. Yet, in my movie I place Jerry and his suffering at the center of things. How could he not suffer? He *is* repellent, *is* unemployable.

0:15:04

Stuck like a bug within the logic of things, escape from suffering could only be in defiance of reality, by opting for delusion, maybe religion (though he seems unwilling to make that first sacrifice required

of religion, that of independent judgment).

0:15:11

Last night as I lay a'sleeping

0:15:12

a wonderful dream came to me.

0:15:12

I saw Uncle Sammy weeping

0:15:12

for his children from over the sea.

0:15:13

They had come to him friendless and sobbing

0:15:14

when from tyrants' oppression they fled,

0:15:14

but now they abuse and revile him

0:15:15

until at last in just anger he said:

0:15:15

"If you don't like your Uncle Sammy

0:15:16

then go back to your home o'er the sea,

0:15:16

to the land from where you came

0:15:16

whatever be its name,

0:15:17

don't be ungrateful to me.

0:15:17

If you don't like the stars in Old Glory,

0:15:17

if you don't like the Red, White and Blue,

0:15:18

then don't act like the cur in the story,

0:15:19

don't bite the hand that's feeding you."

0:15:19

Tiny

0:15:20

Tim

0:15:20

Herbert Khaury

0:15:20

The Great Depression gave people Blue Moon,
It's Only A Paper Moon, Pennies From Heaven,
Ten Cents A Dance, Lullaby Of Broadway,
among any number of exquisite songs
and dance numbers.

But what do we get? while sinking into
The Even Greater Depression:
Gangsta rap!

0:15:20

*As we return to our story, Jerry is angry at Ken,
who returned his ballpoint pen with the point
retracted. Now, Jerry says, he will have to expend
a portion of his limited energy releasing the point.*

0:15:36

We gamble on long shots and why not?
Considering the astronomical odds against being born,
and the unlikelihood of a universe to be born into,
or of being able to pass, on this tilted gyroscope,
a cup of tea without spilling a drop,
wouldn't any living person figure they're on a roll?
But not Jerry. He's Suffering.

0:16:08

"...and to keep Jerry Sims on the run."

0:19:53

HIS HALCYON YEAR

Some ten or so years earlier Jerry
had been given a medical discharge
out of boot camp.
Yes, it had to've been a desperate moment
in the war against Fascism
for the US to be drafting The Sims
(what kind of physical?)
and expect him to run obstacle courses
and snap to attention
and shoot the breeze
with the guys.

0:19:53

Looking at his soft small hands
he himself would sometimes
express amazement:
so small, so soft.
he did seem constructed
from chicken bones.

halcyon: calm and peaceful, tranquil

0:19:55

Afterwards he would speak of seedy 1946,
the year the Holocaust moved forward
from the bottom of page eleven
of The New York Times,
as his "halcyon year", when
for the very first time he felt among
people he could speak with,
among friends.

0:19:57

He could probably afford to be cleaner then
(he had no tub or shower
in his East Fifth Street place)
and it's easy to imagine Jerry being fascinating
to the generation just following
Pollock and Guston and Kline.

0:21:26

It's a rare dynasty
not
founded on piracy.

0:22:10

HEART OF GOLD

making money
moneymaker
a real moneymaker
was John D. Rockefeller
he didn't make money
from nothing
he converted
what had been forests
and seas
animals and people
in all their specific detail
to medium of exchange
his money
he would size someone up
on the spot and know
what they were worth
to the penny

0:22:13

Leonard Lopate, WNYC September 2003

0:22:16

Edwin Black, author

WAR AGAINST THE WEAK

Eugenics and America's campaign

To Create Master Race

Published by Four Walls Eight Windows 2003

0:22:57

Ludlow massacre, 1914

0:23:06

Movies tell us that money is no measure of success.

Money, in fact, is a *precision* measure of success,

to the penny.

Capitalists don't figure money to be the *reward* of success;

accumulation of money by any means, only get away with it,

is the success.

0:23:07

Nelson made his own way.

0:23:09

Capitalism is the name of the game
where getting around the rules
is the game.

It is a game most delighted in
by born winners:

Nelson Rockefeller,

George W. Bush.

"Good news, newborn, you won!"

0:23:15

Jerry, on the other hand,
is a born loser.

It may seem odd at first,
seeing Jerry and Nelson
inseperable.

In fact they were born
conjoined twins of a sort!

The irrefragable fact is
each born winner enters the world
accompanied
by any number of born losers.

0:23:44

Jay Gould, "The Wolf of Wall Street",
when asked was he afraid
the people might rise, answered,

"I can always hire half the working class
to kill off the other half".

0:24:05

The rich love the poor
and can never have
too many of them.

0:24:13

Nelson Rockefeller, the man was
a visionary.
"North America," he is saying,
"Trust me. Your middle class
is a drag on progress. It's wishy washy,
people don't know are they up or down,
coming or going, who needs it?
Let me take you where the classes have
sharp definition and each fellow *knows*
where he belongs. North America,
altogether now, here we go!
the *South American way!*"

0:24:13

We are, in short, drifting toward a situation such as exists in India, or Mexico, or Brazil, and nothing is being done to halt this. During the period from 1991 to 1994, for example, the number of Mexican billionaires went from two to twenty-eight. Ernesto Canales Dantos, a corporate attorney who has represented many of these men, calls it "the Aztec pyramid model," much of which was made possible by US investment, and

which, in turn, had repercussions for our own lopsidedness. Thus David Calleo (*The Bankrupting of America*) writes: "The advanced part of the 'American' economy seems a more and more prosperous enclave, barricaded within a deteriorating nation. Rather than providing a model for the third world, the United States seems to be imitating it."

0:24:13

"If anything," adds David Rieff of the World Policy Institute, "America, with its widening income gap, its vast, deepening, divergences in everything from education to life expectancy between rich and poor, is less democratic...than it was in 1950."

The effect of these trends, and of growing corporate hegemony, has been particularly devastating on children--not only in the United States, but in other parts of the world as well. Between 1979 and 1990, the number of American children living below the poverty line rose an astonishing 22 percent. A 1996 article entitled "India's Child Slaves," in the *International Herald Tribune*, notes that 15 million children in India work eleven to twelve hours daily in dangerous conditions, and are beaten if they try to escape.

0:24:14

Events such as these do not happen in a vacuum. Involvement of the World Bank, and/or U.S. corporations, is part of the whole fabric of oppression. Global corporate hegemony, multinational and transnational in nature, means by definition that these events are linked by a web of interdependent markets, investments, and trade agreements. The wealth of America's top quintile is implicated not only in the poverty of South Central Los Angeles but also in the slums of Buenos Aires. In 1991, the Nike Corporation made \$3 billion in profits, paying its factory workers in Indonesia--mostly poor, malnourished women--\$1.03 a day, not enough for food and shelter. (Just do it!)

0:24:14

By 1996, the 447 richest people on the planet had assets equal to that of the poorest 2.5 billion--42 percent of world population. What do we think it means when we buy a new sweater and the label reads MADE IN THE PHILIPPINES, or a transistor radio stamped MADE IN KOREA? What do we imagine the social and economic reality is behind these seemingly neutral words? Or behind the cup of Colombian (Brazilian, Angolan, etc.) supremo that we drink every morning, or the cleverly crafted decaf latte with 2 percent milk that we enjoy on a sunny autumn afternoon in a chic café with our friends? We hardly need Ann Landers to tell us to "Wake up and smell the coffee." The truth is that it is a bitter brew; that the affluence of a few is purchased at the misery of the many.

0:24:15

-from *The Twilight of American Culture*

by Morris Berman, 1999

see also: the chapter *The Twisted Cross*,
on Nazi religious mythology in Berman's
Coming To Our Senses, 1989

0:24:16

the swing of his arm
ends here
joined to the sound
of military pomp

0:25:36

The Republican Party is hard as nails, convincing.
It looks to be a tightly controlled corporation.
On the other hand, *is there* a Democratic Party?

It seems more like a bazaar
where an individual sets up a stand
to hustle to the cut-rate crowd some item
not so different from what Republicans hawk.
LeRouche cult followers run as Democrats
and the party does nothing about it.

0:25:36

I expect it behooves Republicans to
indulge the notion of a Democratic party.
Rulers *require* an opposition party
if they are to rule with "the consent of the people",
lawfully, with all the benefits that brings.

0:25:37

They get the law in their hands at public cost
and it's far less trouble and looks better
than out and out tyranny.
Criticism becomes badmouthing the will of the people
as manifest in their chosen representatives.

To achieve this, however, requires an offer
to the people of some semblance of choice,
if only for a brand name up for grabs
with no specific meaning.
Winner-take-all does the rest.

0:26:03

Poverty is a crime.

0:26:09

With a few exceptions these officials
are among the criminals perpetuating poverty.

0:26:14

The only punishment for most of them
will be boredom. Look at them,
bored out of their skulls.

The State Senate,
rings of Hell.

0:28:14

In the old factory town
the factory owners expected loyalty
from their workers.

steady workers,
but when the crunch came
of free-market overseas competition
they moved their factories
first to the non-unionized South
and then offshore.

0:28:14

Went over to the other side,
to where their competition
had taken advantage of beaten
and desperate people,
aligned themselves with the manufacturers
that had undersold them
through deals with local tyrants
that sell out those they control
in the form of below-market labor.

No doubt the tyrants speak to their people
of loyalty, they expect, they exact
loyalty. "Kiss my ass," they say,
"and like it".

0:28:14

Now what happens when the bargains
are there but the money to buy them isn't?
When jilted employees go broke
and the famous cycle of demand and supply
and salaries and demand
creaks to a stop because the salary factor
has been extracted from the formula?
So that finally the bargain people overseas
get laid off. And the only people with money
have all the money and the only bargains

interesting to them are the factories,
police states and continents
that can be bought for a song.

0:28:15

OFFSHORING AS TIME TRAVEL

When manufacturers and other bosses send jobs overseas
they are sending them back in time,
to the Nineteenth and early Twentieth centuries
when they had things entirely their way
and workers in America had no protections.

Cops and state militia and criminal goons
could be set upon people struggling for a living wage.
Children did the work of adults for a fraction of the pay.

0:28:17

How reconcile
maximizing profit
with the fair shake?

What more evidence needed
than the offshoring of jobs
that capital is no friend of labor,
is not to be trusted
to preserve American opportunity?

0:28:17

Not that American opportunity, the opening
of borders to the poor of Europe,
was entirely a torch held high,
out of compassion.

It was the importing of cheap labor
before the bottom line decreed
there was now more profit
in exporting the jobs.

0:28:18

Desperate people took what they could get,
undermining union demands by laboring people
that had preceded them to America.

Ethnic and "race" rivalry had less to do with bias
than it was the beating off of scabs.

0:29:35

Louis Menand "The Unpolitical Animal," New Yorker 9.30.04,
writes that social scientists figure that 10% of us,
at best, understand what we vote for.

0:30:41

Don't put it past the owners to maybe one day tell us they've
sold us to China, in the market for cheap labor and a place to
dump industrial waste. "Enough with that stars and stripes
bullshit, next week you talk Chinese. Yeah, yeah, well life
is full of surprises. Think of it this way, it means jobs.

Lots of work for everybody, fifty, sixty hours a week. We're packed, we're going, ta ta. Oh yeah, you might as well know now: There was a class war, all along, from day one."

0:31:06

The Clinton-Gore policy
of "ending welfare as we know it"
was ending welfare
to the degree it could be ended
at that point in time.

0:39:56

I wonder if long range plans of our masters include terminating consumer culture. It's a recent development, after all, coming about in the late 1800's. Why not have it ebb out? They own the board, they don't need all this turmoil and waste and further fouling of their planet. They could use a lot less of us, now with uncomplaining machines doing more and more of the chores. We threaten privacy of their beaches. It is conceivable they may opt for return to the landed gentry model, featuring castles segregated from hovels, North America going the South American way. There will be royal families, their retainers and courtiers, and us, and the cops and priests and lawyers to contain us.

0:39:56

There is a war
I'm all for,
with the Cayman Islands,
our offshore occupiers.

0:40:15

Nelson Rockefeller was dedicated to the service of others.
Loved to serve others. "Jeeves," he would say, "You rest.

I'll clear the things."

Any number of times a visitor would drop in
to find Nelson waiting on the servant girls.

0:40:16

Capital

Loves

Poverty

so condemns the great majority
to live in hunger and want
war is useful
in destroying wealth
lest it get around
and defeat privilege

0:40:17

a secure middle class
in alliance with a lower
can compete effectively
to thwart an upper
in its depravations

the Democratic Party

used to function that way
until civil rights became the wedge
to break middle and lower apart

0:40:18

the necessity of insecurity
keeps us on the go
willing to take any job
or even to sign up
for clean warm clothes
a bed, three squares

poverty is 7.24 torture
physical and mental torture
try hunger for three days
looking for a safe place
to sleep

0:40:18

tote that bale
fight that war
go to hell

now close that door
quietly behind you

0:40:30

Put yourself in the place of the downtrodders.
Our individuality -personal quirks and proclivities-
does not impress them. From where they are
we appear as so much stuff. Tonnage. They think of us
when they think of us providing planetary ballast, functioning
-as did those of our ancestors that came over as steerage-
to smooth the ride for our betters striding the decks.

0:40:30

We are so far out of their league. Look at the prices they
pay for the things they buy, their winter and summer homes,
and see if you don't begin to think of them as another
species. They tolerate us. "Someone," they sigh,
"has to do the shitwork."

0:40:30

From where they are we lack individual distinction.
We are the flocks that feed on burgers, television,
tele-heaven and elections in the bag. We are
more of the same: same language clichés, facial expressions;
meet with one of us you know us all. We are the stuff
of actuary tables, our grief as quantifiable as mother love.

0:40:39

Thyssen and Krupp and the I.G. Farben conglomerate
and other Nazi backers and war-criminals and war-profiteers

survived and went on from the Nazi defeat exactly as Ford and Rockefeller and those friendly folks at IBM and GM would have, had it been the Nazis that won. They knew each other, were inter-invested with each other. Most kept their own kids out of the mayhem and stayed alert for further opportunities to profit from it.

0:40:39

Nelson Rockefeller of Standard Oil, supplier to both Allied and Axis sides of WWII (Charles Higham, **Trading With The Enemy**), a winner with the other royal families no matter which side won. Yet he lost the Republican nomination to Nixon. His presidential aspirations were shot down by newer, less accommodating Western wealth at the Republican convention.

0:40:51

Could he be trusted to promote the new Southern Strategy (a promise to block racial integration)?

To first win the office of Governor of New York it had been necessary for him to run as a liberal, and even his brutal drug laws couldn't turn that around. The Rockefeller Drug Laws didn't work.... even to get him the presidency!

0:40:59

Many consider Nelson's speech challenging Goldwater for the 1964 Republican nomination his finest, most courageously liberal public statement. And perhaps it was, but he was in no position to challenge Goldwater on conservative grounds and was also getting much flack for his divorce and re-marriage; the speech was not without self-interest, it was quite possibly all he could do to hang in. He of course lost the nomination as he'd lost against Nixon in 1960, and would again lose to Nixon in 1968.

0:40:59

Nelson Rockefeller and Barry Goldwater

San Francisco, 1964

Nelson Rockefeller, the liberal Republican governor of New York, was given five minutes to address the convention. He warned, before a hostile and frequently booing crowd, against making the conservative Barry Goldwater the Republican candidate. Goldwater was nominated in the end, but not before Rockefeller confronted extremists within the party.

0:40:59

"Some of you don't like to hear it, ladies and gentlemen, but it's the truth. These extremists feed on fear, hate, and terror. ... There is no place in this Republican Party... for such hawkers of hate, such purveyors of prejudice, such

fabricators of fear. Whether Communist, Ku Klux Klan or Birchers!"

The crowd boos and begins a continuous cheer of "We want Barry!"

0:40:59

"There is no place in this Republican Party for those who would infiltrate its ranks, distort its aims and convert it into a cloak of apparent respectability for a dangerous extremism. And make no mistake about it, the hidden members of the John Birch Society and others like them are out to do just that."

Goldwater, in the famous conclusion to his acceptance speech, seemed to respond directly to Rockefeller's criticisms.

0:40:59

"Now, my fellow Americans, the tide has been running against freedom. Our people have followed false prophets. We must, and we shall, return to proven ways - not because they are old, but because they are true. We must, and we shall, set the tide running again in the cause of freedom. And this party, with its every action, every breath and every heartbeat, has but a single resolve, and that is freedom - freedom made orderly for this nation by our constitutional government; freedom under a government limited by laws of

nature and nature's God; freedom - balanced so that liberty lacking order will not become the slavery of the prison cell; balanced so that liberty lacking order will not become the license of the mob and of the jungle. ...

0:40:59

"I would remind you that extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice. And let me remind you also that moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

-Is This Thing On? By Peter Edidin, The New York Times, August 29, 2004

0:41:00

Kid Millions will save us.

He will deposit us to his account.

0:41:05

The millionaire vote alone can't swing an election.
Big money gets its numbers playing the race card
and making an ally of Christian fundamentalists
avid for fulfilment of prophecy. Odd marriage,
The Masters Of The World and those that want it
blown all to hell.
Tells you the spot
Israelis are in
when they must accept

support of Christian crazies
intent on egging on Armageddon.

The fun part of Osama Bin Laden
is how he's a dead ringer for Jesus.

0:42:04

Jerry the pariah.

0:42:24

No-one equals Boris Karloff
as the Frankenstein monster.

The monster was a pariah, too.

But he was big and powerful,
and could lash out at his enemies.

0:42:41

Don't put it past the owners to maybe one day tell us they've
sold us to China, in the market for cheap labor and a place to
dump industrial waste. "Enough with that stars and stripes
bullshit, next week you talk Chinese. Yeah, yeah, well life
is full of surprises. Think of it this way, it means jobs.
Lots of work for everybody. We're packed, we're going, ta ta.
Oh yeah, you might as well know now:

There was a class war, all along, from day one."

0:43:45

Al Jolson (Asa Yolson). Hired 1923 by D.W. Griffith

to star in Mammy's Boy (uncompleted), his big movie moment came in Hollywood's first talkie-feature when, as The Jazz Singer, he spontaneously spoke the words, "You ain't heard nothin' yet!"

Never since then have those words been spoken spontaneously.

0:44:52

Jerry's worst fear was of being buried alive.

0:44:56

Jerry's worst fear (he lived in fear)
was of being taken for dead and
buried alive.

He smelled dead:

fetid feet, fetid socks.

Microbes of rot would emanate
from his body, grab onto things
and not let go. One day,
before we could protect it
with something disposable,
Jerry hit the sack on our couch.

It was redolent,
stomach-turning.

We had to carry it down
into the street and dump it.

0:44:56

He was
forever quoting the Count (Lugosi):
"To be dead! to be *oh truly* dead!
is an *oh wonderful* blessing!
Renfield! my friend!"

I heard that
a thousand times,
and yet here it is that
I'm the one to immure him,
not in a coffin but in a movie.

0:47:30

The others
have their troubles
but they have
each other.

0:52:52

Jerry Sims
in
A Luncheon Date
With Death

0:55:29

Jerry says we're up against the nescient and benighted

on the street level, where we live, and you can't beat 'em.
Their stupidity is settled, they are Gibraltors of stupidity.

You can hire them, induct them,
aim and release their resentment
as you wish; appealing to their good sense
and common decency is a mistake. You will waste breath
attempting to explicate the system that's cheated
and brutalized them.

They want to beat their chests, flex muscles and to hit.
They want to be paid and be given permission. License.
Rape, you want rape? rape's their specialty. Release them
on college protesters and you can save your money.

1:03:51

Had there been no Civil War,
no President Lincoln,
who's to say
ownership of human beings
would not be legal in USA today.

Who's to say
doing unto others
whatever you damn well please,
property rights being sacred,
would not be

a Constitution-protected **freedom**
along with stocking up on AK47s
in USA today.

1:31:24

General Colin Powell, and his lousy son
heading the FCC, eager to consolidate
the public airwaves in the hands
of a few private corporations,
presented as examples
of how Blacks can rise in America
from their former humiliation as slaves,
do not look Black to me. Black African.
Only if you go along with old Mississippi
believing that "One drop of Black blood
makes a person Black!"

Colin Powell and his lousy son,
I don't see slaves, or just barely.
Like with a lot of Blacks in America,
one sees the genes of slave-owners.
Not only the raped but the rapist.

1:31:35

Too many high-fives
the day the jury
dismissed the evidence
against O.J. Simpson,

deciding against justice
and in favor of getting even,
injustice for injustice.

1:31:54

Black cat.

1:32:07

The late Seventies
and prospects for a white world-champ looked bad.
America The Movie* needed to invent Rocky.
In the movie-America many Americans inhabit,
their cheer-up fantasy just this side of Heaven,
the thing that is most taken to heart *is* most real.
Rocky the inarticulate (like GWB, all heart) was a hit.
Rocky would then slide further Right to appear as Rambo,
military killing machine at loose ends, who tears up
a comfortable American town with the audience's approval.

*LIFE THE MOVIE, How Entertainment Conquered Reality,
By Neil Gabler.

1:32:07

In essence, the movie-makers succeed in moving the
audience to cheer on Rambo as he upsets and demolishes
themselves! The immediate motivation provided is the brutal
Southern bigot Sheriff running the town, a stock-villain

drafted for the purpose of triggering Rambo's righteous fury regarding those comfortable home-bodies that chickened-out (US soldiers commit atrocities in the midst of war, now isn't that just terrible) and pulled back and prevented Rambo and his good buddies from finishing the job they'd begun in Vietnam.

1:33:11

Albino.

1:33:56

In the early Nineteen Fifties, African-Americans in the civil rights movement adapted Ghandian principles of non-violent protest: "We are human," they insisted and demonstrated a nobility that startled the world. The Sixties anti-imperialist and social justice movements began at the lunch-counters and bus-boycotts down South.

Many Jews were among the whites that could not stand by. They supported the civil rights movement with time, skill, money, some joining African-Americans in putting their bodies on the line. And so the historical shift began.

1:33:56

Jewish involvement in the civil rights struggle aroused the Antipathy of Black Muslims. Jews were frustrating *their* Ambitions. Equal rights and release from poverty would not advance their cause, *inclusion* was exactly what they didn't

want.

They still hate Jews for their liberalism, at the same time that the example of Israel (and how they hate Israel) lights up their lives. They want blacks to give up on America exactly as many Jews became convinced they had to give up on Europe, and to go for a Zion of their own.

1:33:56

Take them at their word: they want to rule
an exclusively **black**
fundamentalist **Islamic**
separate **nation**.

Common cause with the KKK comes natural. Empathetic Jews screw up their plans.

1:33:57

The NOI still hates Jews for their liberalism, at the same time that the example of Israel (and how they hate Israel) lights up their lives. They want blacks to give up on America exactly as many Jews became convinced they had to give up on Europe, and to go for a Zion of their own. Take them at their word: they want to rule a

1:34:55

Jerry refuses to multiply.

1:39:55

ROUTINE

The six million wait in the wings.
They've been appearing all over town.
Unthinkable a Jewish affair
without their trooping onstage.
In a minute the rabbi
will say the word for them to rise,
shake out clothing, again
take the kids in hand and step out.

1:39:55

As a kid in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, I liked everything I met
with of what it was to be a Jew and to this day value it all.
Later I would experience more middle-class and Americanized
ways and that was a turn-off. I never felt any pressure to
believe, any criticism when I didn't, and for that I'm
grateful. God went even before the Shoah.

1:39:55

Visiting the Shul with my grandfather was fascinating. I
never questioned why there were no women. Women would be at
the temple, where as a little boy I would sometimes enjoy
sitting with them, thrillingly high in the balcony,
indifferent to their petting, peering through a parted curtain
at the ritual activity below. It was at the temple that a

young smooth-shaven rabbi told the following modern-day story, placing an image in my mind as vividly unforgettable as the seven bony cows eating the seven fat cows, a prediction that came in a dream of seven lean years to follow seven prosperous years and my first conscious meeting with metaphoric speech and it blew me away.

1:39:55

The young rabbi's anecdote, spoken in the Nineteen Thirties to a congregation of East European immigrants well aware of what was shaping up for loved ones still in Europe, translated from the Yiddish: A boy stands on a street in a big city holding up a mirror before him. A man sees him do this, standing for hours until dark, and then returning at the same time the next day to again take his stand. The man wonders: why is the boy doing this? the silent boy with his mirror, always the same hours standing in the same place, head tilted back, always looking in the same direction. He didn't seem crazy, only very determined. Finally the man approaches the boy and speaks to him: "Young Fellow," he says, "I see you here on the street every day. You come and you go and all you do is stand here

1:39:55

holding your mirror looking towards that big building. Please, if you don't mind, tell me why." The boy, eyes remaining fixed on the building, answers the man: "My brother

is sick, very very sick. He's in this hospital. We are very poor and he's been placed in a small corner room with only a little window that the sun never reaches. All day he was lying in the dark. I am reflecting the light from the sun into my brother's window."

1:40:05

Short break here, please.

STAR SPANGLED TO DEATH - complete text transcript

IIB

0:00:57

Jerry attempts to convince Vince
to give up smoking.

0:04:44

Jerry attempts to convince Reece
to give up smoking.

0:11:48

"Your own kind
are others that look like you."
OK for ducks and swans.
I'll take Manhattan.

0:16:44

Sidney Greenstreet, "The Fat Man".

0:22:57

Eddie Cantor (Edward Israel Iskowitz)

Ethel Merman (Ethel Zimmerman)

KID MILLIONS 1934

0:32:20

Eddie gets the shiksa!

Section II: SEX

Item #6. Miscegenation (sex relationship between the
white and black races) is forbidden.

from CODE TO GOVERN THE MAKING OF MOTION
AND TALKING PICTURES

*as dictated to the frightened Jews of Hollywood by
the Catholic Church.*

June 13, 1934

0:38:14

Three takes of Jerry asking Bill,
"Didn't you once love something?"

0:40:39

Evil Bill sees his beloved bike
ravaged by time.

0:41:52

The question was:

Will Evil Bill relent and return Jerry's dolls?

The Spirit Not Of Life But Of Living looks on,

concerned that Bill may be moved by Jerry's appeal, and that Jerry will be unlawfully happy again, disrupting cosmic integrity.

0:45:07

Oscar Friendly
is interviewed
by the press.

0:45:32

Every little kid is a genius, taking in language
like it was milk. The questions they ask!
And just try to prevail in an argument
without resorting to authority.
Their every misapprehension
is arrived at through perfect logic.
We have to go to great trouble and expense
to *make* them stupid.

0:46:05

I could be ordering trespassers off *my* oceanfront but
Hollywood Reds made me love the people....who would've
voted senile Ronald Reagan in for a third term if allowed.
Compassionate Conservatism. Governor Schwarzenegger.
To *persist* in loving The People you need an anal fixation.

I was a 15 year old soda jerk when my boss Phil Feigelman

said to me, "People will buy shit if you tie it with a ribbon." The man was prescient, this was years before Warhol. But I, deep in the throes of Red Hollywoodism, objected!

0:46:10

Oscar Friendly has big money schemes. He is hustling corner plots in all-white neighbourhoods in Heaven. He is seeking investors in microscopic sperm mortuaries, sperm coffins and individual gravesites, with an entire emission fitting into one square foot of cemetary land.

0:47:09

BUFFALO
It's down!
on its knees,
the fight
gone out of it,
resigned
to endure
the last of it,
the hordes
from Europe, Asia, Africa
teeming into every opening,
over 500 million
by current count,
eating it alive.

0:47:10

He claims to be writing
an all-inclusive
History of The Jews
going back to when
the first circumcised penis
emerged from the cave.

But now he says
it's become increasingly difficult
to designate a specific "Jewry",
who and what that means.

0:47:10

Edges are blurring
into a nebulous entity
and he regretfully agrees
with those who say
a Jew is whomsoever
is thrown in to share
the predicament of Jews.

He seems to be nodding
agreement with Hermann Goering,
who said, "I decide who is a Jew."

0:47:16

The people can't be beat. Not at the polls. Those who do their homework and understand the issues can never out-vote them. Bloomberg coming from nowhere but his marketing empire overwhelms, with vacuous tv ads, serious contenders like Mark Green and Alan Hevesi to become Mayor of New York. The people the people. Give me a break.

0:47:17

I can't believe my luck.
A lifetime of free thought
and a big mouth
in what may've been
only a momentary break
between Dark Ages.

0:47:22

SELLING "VOTES"

Tyrants insist on a vote
to legitimize their tyranny.
Colonialists race to call elections
to legitimize their local puppet
and get his thugs into uniform.

Is the vote legit?

That matters far less
than the charade is held
and predictable winner
officially recognized
by The World Bank.

0:47:23

American democracy
is a farce of fixed results.

That after 2000
the 2004 vote
should so be in doubt,
and the bias of fuckups so consistently
favoring Republicans (who voted down
a paper trail!),
is purposeful and controlled
inadequacy.

Let USA count its votes like it counts
its money and you'd get
numbers you can count on.

0:47:24

Tom Paine had problems with authority.

0:47:30

"There is a Turkish proverb that says: 'If Allah gives you authority, He will give you the brains to go with it.' Like many proverbs, this one is both dangerous and false....the acquisition of authority more often than not leads to a loss of brains, to an atrophying of the mind, to a chronic state of stupidity."

-Paul Tabori

from *The Natural History of Stupidity*

0:47:49

Just think,
if not for Tom Paine
and his penny pamphlets
we'd be Brits.
Awful cooking.
Terrible weather.

0:48:21

In SUV America one thing is one thing
and another is another, so they say,
holding hands, parked before
a spread of livid green sunset.

0:48:27

In the main program
that is History,
the real long haul,
America is no more than
a commercial interruption.

0:48:29

"This penny is for you."

0:48:58

Robert Taylor
as Col. Paul W. Tibbetts, Jr
in
ABOVE AND BEYOND
MGM, 1952

0:49:01

"Above And Beyond" and "The Beginning Or The End?", also MGM and of the post-World War II period, seek to **sanctify** America's atomic bombing of Japan, of entirely unprotected civilian targets, mostly containing women and children. It was a time when the enormity of what had been done in our name had begun to trouble many people. Gar Alperowitz, "Atomic Diplomacy", argues (as Eisenhower himself regretfully stated) that the bombings were not necessary to the winning of the war or, as insisted by all Presidents since Truman, to spare American soldiers the losses they would suffer invading a fanatic enemy. The Japanese had nothing to fight with, and had begun making bids to surrender: they would agree with Roosevelt's demand for "unconditional surrender" with the single stipulation that Emperor Hirohito, Sun-God, remain.

0:49:31

Two different bombs were dropped, bombs with name, Little Boy and Fat Man. Many doctors and scientists had been prepared to rush in, not to save people but to measure effects of the new super-weapons in actual circumstances rather than the mocked-up movie-sets built for that purpose on desert test grounds. The oncoming end of the war had almost robbed them of the opportunity, and, as demonstrated by Alperowitz, of Truman's chance to impress Stalin with our new arsenal, now that our wartime alliance "with the Devil" was giving way to pre-war capitalism-communism contention. After the bombings Truman had no problem with the Emperor staying.

0:49:55

What is God *for* if not to sanctify infamy? The sharpsters at MGM picked up on an enduring, deeply wired world-myth, a root misapprehension rising from what it is to be born. Men believe, deep down beyond rational argument, that they pass from one to another of expanding wombs. Life moves towards more life, bigger and better and cleaner new beginnings. (See Lloyd deMause, *Foundations of Psychohistory*, for what's *under* our minds.)

0:50:08

They fulfill their male duty, as pictured in these movies, via exclusively male rituals designed to invoke God, to summon God The Father to enter Mother Nature, this sphere now containing us, and inseminate Her with His divine energy, so that A New World shall come forth. Male *is* what is born, so they believe; a girl-child is only a passage to more males; real

women are kept at a distance when more-than-human reproduction is involved. That this sphere collapses is expected.

0:50:24

"Dutch" (Reagan's lifelong nick-name) "splits her wide open" for Taylor/Tibbets to seed with superpower, "her" being the prostrate and defenceless city of Hiroshima. The atomic release of energy is pictured as from The Beyond. Seeming to destroy our world, on the mythic level it fructifies it. Taylor/Tibbets looks on and gives the audience that help to recognize it for what it is: "God."

America was The New World, but now, diseased whore that's been made of it, cheated and letdown people want it wiped away. "Four more years! Four more wars!" Jesus's feet settling to Earth will make it afresh.

0:50:46

Crazy people. Reminding me,
what can The Spirit Not Of Life
But Of Living be up to now?

0:50:49

I Am Trying To Explain

This is a story about knowing your place and staying in it. In which people are taught to beat off enlightenment, when

offered, with a stick or worse. A thrilling story of two sacrificial lambs, one beloved, the other despised, and of a royal benefactor from on high betrayed by the lowly creatures he comes to uplift, not Jesus in this instance but Azazel.

0:50:49

It seems the Sons Of God, angelic creatures made of God's light, were cavorting in Heaven, going out for long passes, whatever, when they chanced to look down to where the daughters of men caught their eyes. Now these were lowly creatures of another altogether, made of clay, of earth, humble humans *as-from-humus* slapped together by God, on one of His whimsical benders, God knows why.

0:50:49

One doesn't hear of the Daughters Of God supposedly because God in his solitary glory was not about to reproduce Himself in figures of a feminine likeness, so it's understandable that these surprise beings would look *good* to the Sons. (It's a story! don't demand that it make sense! don't ask why *Sons?* which implies penises, and no proper mates for them in all Creation, because what kind of *good* God hangs up his own Sons like that?)

0:50:49

Understandable they would fall bigtime, fall hard, for these beckoning lovelies singing Down, Down, Big Boys, Come Down To

Earth. And so, led by Azazel (seems the Ancients couldn't conceive of a leaderless cohort), they *disobeyed* their Father (unthinkable, right? there's your Big Bang) and descended to the level of the receiving women in a great Revolt Of The Angels, something you can easily picture in your mind, the sun glinting off their widespread wings like sword clashes in samurai movies.

0:50:49

"There were giants on the earth then," the scriptures say of the issue of these miscegenations, proud straight-A kids infused with God's light. The parents might have been pleased but not God, weird irascible Lord of land, sea and air and of upper and lower firmaments: **My light?**, He says, **mixed with the shmutz?** God was now besides himself: **Not kosher!**, He screams. **Where's that goddamn Azazel?**, He roars. **Uppity little shits, that's it, I'm bringing on The Flood.**

0:50:49

Two by two (He whistles)
they come marching through,
sweethearts on parade.

0:50:49

We're having a New Beginning, He announces, **with nothing but docile beasts that stay in line**, and with that he drowns all the others, horrible swirling deaths, children pulled from

mothers, drowning, drowning.

0:50:49

I wish the story ended there. That's bad enough. But we have to speak of God's people (the ingrates) who curse Azazel to this day, the Jewish Prometheus, offhandedly as a commonplace of speech and ceremonially at the most crucial of holy days, Yom Kippur. In the traditional ceremony two perfect/virginal/innocent animals are selected to be sacrificed in a purification ceremony designed to cleanse the tribe of its sins, its unavoidable transgressions of God's many laws, not all of them known (Moses dropped one tablet and it shattered). I have to wonder was authority and infractions of authority's dictum invented to justify guilt, like the folks couldn't take on enough guilt.

0:50:50

Two spotless white lambs or goats that in their innocence (oh, people, let them gambol!) that in their innocence have the capacity to absorb -like dry sponges- the tribe's black sins. Their deaths will serve *because* they are undeserving of punishment. While almost indistinguishable from each other the two animals receive very different treatment. One is killed quickly, burnt, a savory trail of ash rising to God's nostrils. The other, *named Azazel*, is released....to seek its redemption in the wilderness, meaning truly inhospitable terrain, often after having a leg broken to push up the ante. The wilderness is called the place of Azazel and when the folk mean each other ill they say *Go to Azazel* the way others might say go to hell.

0:50:50

The ceremony marks the bifurcation of history, with the sacrificial lamb that returns immediately to The Creator signifying Jesus and those identifying with Jesus, and the wandering lamb, Jewry. In fact both Christians and Jews identify with first lamb, with Christians *forcing* Jews to the position of Azazel, so that, historically speaking, Jewry is Azazel. Odd, the lamb signifying a virginal Jesus, who defies both Nature and God's edict to **Multiply! damn you**, call it The First Law Of Life, gets lauded to the skies and the horny beast true to its nature, punished.

0:50:50

"A stiff-necked people" my ass; this paeon to their submission is their core story (not that Jew-threateners shouldn't be seriously considering the story of Samson). My irreligious take on it? Well, we named our son Azazel. When he asked me to tell him the story, virgin Jesus glorified, priapic Azazel condemned, me working up a fury at the injustice of it all, his comeback was, "Yes, Dad, but who had the most fun?"

0:57:12

The Future decides
this is no place
for The Future.

0:59:48

Another day without a future,
but what the hell, another day.

1:07:31

Then, just as everything was
perfect, Cecilia (bleeding heart!)

RETURNS Jerry's dolls!

1:08:36

Star Spangled To Death
end of Chapter Two

1:09:03

The story so far:

1:09:18

Jack said, "I'm over six foot two and blond.
I was given the ticket."

1:09:25

Jerry was not six foot two and blonde. Gaunt and undersized Jerry looked like one of Christiandom's deathcamp victims (with Nazis commandeering the death squads of the moment). The stereotype of the Jew on the run, set apart in his thinking and wary of becoming scapegoat victim to the brutalized unthinking; it was irresistible, I had to picture this living caricature in his contradictory real-life complexity.

1:09:46

Afterwards I felt I'd made a serious mistake, a reason to put the film aside. Picturing Jerry as The Jew having to suffer in keeping with a cosmic logic was not an idea to be reinforced. Suffering as something obligatory for Jewry was a bad idea. Between that and no money and bitterness between Jack and Jerry and myself, the film stopped dead in its tracks.

1:09:55

The film had already stopped dead within itself, end of Chapter Two, when Cecilia gave in to Jerry after his promise to never again complain - to be happy! - if only he could again embrace his dolls.

1:10:06

Jerry's and Cecilia's lunar willingness to deny reality had jammed the works. Forget Jews; was one to believe that impoverished puny and whacked-out and loveless Jerry could, in his right mind, in this world, be happy? playing at make-believe? maybe convincing himself that his dolls loved him in return?

1:10:15

He had been dealt lousy cards. Including being afflicted with the smarts and sensibility to acutely

suffer his situation. He was marooned in a moron lemming culture, the music and movies and literature he appreciated had been buried alive under soulless trash. His kvetcharama made sense, Jerry happy did not. The Spirit Not Of Life But Of Living does not celebrate unreality. This show was over.

1:10:26

Or was it? Chapter Three, The Height Of Folly,
opens in Limbo.

1:15:51

I had an uncle in show business. Vaudeville.
His act was to speak slightly out of sync.

1:16:33

He was making the case, I thought unconvincingly, that nothing could exist. Walking home afterwards, I lifted my eyes from the city noise to what could be seen of the stars. "You can't fool me," I said, as they wheeled and spun and threw off planets, helpless against a superior argument.

1:16:49

Americans were designated by international controllers of wealth to fight Vietnamese opting for self-government. The Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington commemorates only some of capitalism's recent victims. It needs

extending, perhaps a mile, to include Vietnamese and Cambodian dead, wounded, mutilated, sickened, made desolate and impoverished. Extend it to place the names of all of capitalism's victims and it will put the Great Wall of China in the shade.

1:16:49

Limbo (NO WHERE)

Limbo is where

1:16:50

where out-takes drift

out-takes drift

1:16:56

in no apparent order.

1:17:14

Doctor Harlow demonstrates the psychological mechanics of love as they can be seen to operate in the rhesus monkey and invites us to apply his findings to ourselves, other machine things, perhaps -only perhaps- with more moving parts. Advertisers, the military, cult leaders and politicians love this guy. They're about triggering responses

Do This Now!

and Harlow is showing just where in the pulpy, dreamy substance of ourselves the triggers may be found.

1:19:35

We wouldn't be in Limbo
if it wasn't for
Misplaced Charity.

1:19:53

Cecilia is kindness personified.
If kindness was catching
our corporate rulers would have to
send their (our) armies against her.
Cost-Benefit Analysis and the place
of the Bottom Line on top
wouldn't last long against
a lot of kindness.

1:19:57

The Communist Revolution scared
the bejesus out of the owners,
our land, sea, and air-lords;
if Cecilia was to set off a
Kindness Revolution
they'd just die.

1:20:41

Maryann, down from Boston
and disapproving.

In the morning there was a note:

"You and your friends were reveling in the dumps...."

1:21:34

How many shopping days
till the end of the world?

1:23:59

What is this thing called
mother love?

1:25:22

One day on Fifth Avenue midtown
I saw The Spirit Of Jack
(Jack Smith 1932-1989).

1:26:35

George W. Bush
has nothin' up his sleeve
and he wants us
to see it.

1:26:45

RR and GWB, ranchers. Oh yeah.
Readers of scripts written by others.
Posturers at photo ops. Punk actors.
But Americans are charmed. They love

their movies. Americans are at the movies.

1:26:46

GWB says he's 6 feet tall.

In fact, he's 5 foot 11.

He puts on a business suit,

then pulls on cowboy boots.

Wears two inch lifts, that is,

adding two inches of height.

1:26:56

Drop

1:26:56

Bush!

1:26:57

Not

1:26:58

bombs!

1:32:48

Only in the first few days after 9.11 did the press reveal a bottom floor of one Tower was NY CIA headquarters. Given the 1993 bombing, was it not irresponsible to maintain a CIA presence there, legitimizing the Towers as military targets? And to keep noncombatants in the buildings as unknowing hostages?

That revelation was ordered out of public consciousness along with Mayor Giuliani and the quasi-public MPA's culpability for Building 7's collapse. They defied NY fire regulations regarding placement of an oil tank, placing it on one of the floors rather than below. A friend reports seeing from close-up how Building 7's fire spread from that floor.

1:34:15

My batteries died before the riot police attacked only a moment later, clubbing and macing protesters. A second wave of mounted police quickly entered, horses trained to wheel about knocking people over with their rumps.

1:34:28

"Up the block."

1:34:29

"Let's go up the block."

1:34:30

You wanna get locked up?
You wanna get locked up?"

1:34:30

"Up the block. Let's get up the block."

1:34:31

"Shut your fuckin' mouth!"

1:34:31

"You wanna get locked up.

Right?

1:34:32

We were a good-humored compliant crowd of very age and condition, some in wheelchairs, and this despite the cold and our disappointment at not being allowed to gather with others to the UN, many travelling in from other states to do so.

Mayor Bloomberg had made the choice to not allow an image of the actual number of protesters to be available to media and employed his police to illegally pen most of us out of news-camera range. However, even in the pens it had been a pleasure to meet with so many others sharing one's feelings, who didn't require post-invasion commissions to tell us the pretext for invasion had been lies.

(Kerry, Clinton, Schumer, every official that voted to give Bush war-making powers and afterwards were shocked simply shocked to learn they'd been lied to is lying. Bush now says he was "misled"!)

1:34:32

What could have provoked such fury in the police?

Was this a special contingent of psychopaths?

Some protesters had engaged in civil, even affable discussion with some of the cops assigned to pen us in.

The warning I recorded was all the warning we got.

From the get-go these cops moved in wanting to hurt and to maim.

I learned afterwards that US attack pilots are prepared

with government-issue bennies of some sort that induce a rush of aggression; could it be the nutso cops were on drugs? Can it be our War On Drugs is over?

Did we win? switch sides?

1:35:01

They don't show it in the movies

(**Paths Of Glory** being the exception)

but the courage in battle of most soldiers proceeds from a gun placed against the backs of their heads.

1:35:01

It takes a lot of bullshit to win a war.

1:35:02

SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S TOWN MEETING
WITH THE TROOPS TWO DAYS BEFORE
ABU GHRAIB BECAME CAMP REDEMPTION

"I've stopped reading the newspapers." (Huge applause.)

I completely understand Secretary Rumsfeld's feelings. The NY Times alone is too much for me. Modern communications is a heartbreaking deluge of things one can do little about unless one is some modern saint like Helen Caldicott, or an Amy Goodman of Democracy Now. One reads the bad news of distant places: a school bus breaks through a bridge railing in Italy; a fire has broken out not across town (people once could do something about a fire, step into a bucket brigade, give a hand, the news was local news), it's a fire on another continent.

1:35:02

Exotic genocides. Israelis, Palestinians.

Droughts and children starving.

A million land mines left buried, spitefully, after military pullouts. On and on. It becomes unreal, becomes The News;

our agitated sympathies are converted to a form

of aimless entertainment;

we become unreal.

I can imagine Secretary Rumsfeld's heart,

big as it is, getting to where it says "no more".

Naturally our popular appointee

might then decide to cut the news off at the source. Oh.

He's referring to the news of the tortures he and Bush

set as policy (Operation Iraqi Humiliation).

He's stopped reading the expressions of outrage and disgust.

Our boys and girls over there are applauding this decision.

1:35:03

Himmler's SS was a

band of brothers.

The big boys

on the block

enjoy inspiring fear.

A band of brothers

can be hell on wheels.

1:35:03

Draft-Dodgers For War!

1:35:04

SHANGHIED BY THE STATE

Boot camp we're told makes men of boys when in fact it conditions childlike unquestioning obedience. The individual is conditioned, harshly, to be operated in unison with fellow soldiers. Lined up alphabetically or by height or some other arbitrary individual-denying system, he is punished for less than a trigger response to command. He will march, eat, sleep, defecate in rows, at a fixed distance from his identically uniformed fellow trainees (shit, it should be added, without privacy on a line of toilets themselves "at attention" with mouths fixed wide open). with identically shorn hair he will sing and shout in cadence, on beat, merging and losing himself in collective patterns.

1:35:04

The whole point of boot camp as with any cult indoctrination is to first of all kill off the sensitized probing questioning and deciding ego, feeling and thinking its own way into life, struggling to take charge of its own life free of parental and other authority control. The military assumes ownership of the individual, the inductee is not free to walk away without huge and designedly demeaning punishment. The brig is an institution dedicated to humiliating and breaking the resistant will and it is always there, the threat of it, backing the absolute authority the inductee has signed allegiance to.

1:35:04

The military takes body and mind from the self with the aim of honing it to a machine part meshed among other machine parts at the ready for service ("The Service") as ordered. This thing will now, on command and without hesitation, in its team

function, betray and abandon its former self, to kill or to mutilate or allow oneself to be killed and mutilated.

The happy soldier is a perfect communist in accord with the worst caricature of the communist. This thing, with its indoctrinated contempt for "soft civilians", is now supposed to protect us and our freedoms from "those that would enslave us". Slaves will protect our freedoms, you bet.

1:35:04

Boot camp does not make men of boys.

It is designed in fact to un-man the individual and make of him a thing, an obedient and unquestioning, tethered thing, trained to turn off thinking. Saluting superiors, eating shit as ordered. Supposed compensation is the license given to be a conduit for humiliation and death, passing it through oneself to inflict on and devastate others. Boot camp transforms the individual into a clean gun barrel that can be aimed by superiors in the interest of their superiors.

1:35:04

To induce normal people, not psychopaths,
to do acts of unspeakable cruelty,
like Heinrich Himmler exhorting his SS troops
you must appeal to their best instincts,
their most loving selves,
tap into their protective responses
and enlist them in the fight against Evil.
Of course it always helps to allow them
to cloak their individuality in a uniform.

1:39:20

Jerry could not sell his paintings.

He had to panhandle for subway fare, a failure and a bum.

Not that all failures live the life of a bum.

1:39:22

George W. Bush, Twentieth Hijacker

George w. Bush failed at everything he attempted,
yet through family connection, was lifted from each failure
to a still higher position. Failure, ever greater failure, is
his accomplishment. Imagine, it took him *only two years* to
bring down a towering economy. It's as if the twentieth
hijacker had been placed on the White House throne.

1:39:30

The Nation pegged him right:

Our *What? me worry?* president.

No Lincoln-like brooding for this Commander-In-Chief.

A photo op at a VA hospital doesn't faze him.

He's got the world's attention on him; *others worry*

what stupid move next; he's happy.

He likes to strut in a flight suit, with codpiece,

straight out of the movie ARMAGEDDON.

That's W's picture of himself, W and a lot of dodos

with their minds at the movies.

1:39:30

It seems the statute of limitations for a stolen presidency runs out before lunch. That the fix was in is proven now but Democrats remain good sports.

The winning formula, Florida style, Exclude the retired Jew and African-American vote, rage at a true count (why not a re-vote when the first vote is this questionable?), pass a message to your confederates on the Supreme Court and the machine pays off to where the economy can be turned inside out like so many empty pockets.

1:39:30

Seeing is believing?

("Wag The Dog")

Our gullible believe

what they're *told*.

1:39:30

Colin Powell, "black" Secretary Of State,

next to whom I look swarthy,

defending US attack of Iraq before UN

(with bogus charge regarding

Weapons of Mass Destruction),

insisted Picasso's GUERNICA be covered

while he spoke; a confession that he understood
the parallel, the rhyming of atrocities.

1:39:31

No Lincolnesque brooding for this bozo.

1:39:32

After close observation of Reagan, Bush the elder
could size up Chickenhead and still say, "Why not?"

Picture George W. Bush without the dynasty.

Maybe on *his* own he could've risen to be
the gabby manager of a franchise restaurant,
less in the office with the books than out there
shooting the breeze with customers.

An affable and forgettable lightweight.

Maybe, if he could stay sober.

1:39:32

The Sieg Heil Folks

USA! USA! USA!

Are At The Movies

And Don't You Forget It

Cowboy movies explain the Bush appeal. It's frontier-town
USA, where men are men, women are either virgin-mothers or
dancehall whores, and there's rule by the six-shooter. The
sheriff and his thug deputies, the sissy mayor and drunken
judge take orders from the slickster owner of the
dancehall/gambling hall. Rough men drink and carouse and piss

away their earnings from grubbing for gold, from sheep and cattle herding out on the lone prairie.

1:39:32

Just when they should be sober and watchful, at the gambling table they're enticed to "Drink up, boys!" A sub-human black or shiftless injun or jolly Chinaman might appear for comic relief.

Never are the good, churchgoing, but uninteresting and intimidated townsfolk shown to organize against their oppressors, while the narrative often requires a lone hot-head to be quickly dispatched by the thug-deputies to demonstrate the futility of resistance. Effective redress only appears in the person of a federal marshal (government wickedness is only local; going higher in government one approaches Heaven, the face of

1:39:32

The Law becomes less ethnic and elected officials are shown as sober and upstanding direct descendents of The Founding Fathers) or by way of a quick-trigger loner passing through, a man on a mission who routs the bad guys and sets things straight before moving on to secure still further territory for homesteaders. The lesson to moviegoers is the old lesson: Endure, be patient, keep low; a savior is on his way.

1:39:32

(Homesteaders are the nails driven to fasten America to the globe. Free land beckoned them from the Eastern territories and from Europe, lands thoroughly carved up before they could claim a share. The prior inhabitants of the New Lands, marvelously, do not count. However developed their arts, their calendars and languages, they are strangers to Jesus. They are wilderness, and it is only necessary to clear them away along with rocks and trees before the seasonal planting, thanks to God. Tobacco pouches made of Indian scrotums and vaginas are tokens of Providence every bit as much as lampshades made of Jews.)

1:39:32

Bush effects a cowboy persona. That's enough for this crowd. He can speak gibberish, no problem, they don't *know* anything; facts would only make them uncomfortable. What's important is the cadence of what's said, the two-gun stance, the sashay to the podium as if to the climactic showdown.

1:39:32

Not heaven but the license afforded by war
is the true reward to the faithful.

1:39:32

Bush Cheney Rumsfeld Wolfowitz Perle
are dead people, walking talking dead people,
untouched by the misery they bring to living people.

Bad news doesn't faze them, they go on.

Their mission
is a grand sweeping conversion of living to dead.

Really smart bombs
would be troubled bombs, capable of reversing course
that might object to how they're used
and return with a vengeance, reminding USA
as did Malcolm X, "What goes around comes around."

We can't really object can we? to getting some
of what we give?

1:39:32

The methods of the stupid can be ingenious.

Stupidity is not a matter of I.Q.

It's a psychological condition,

as Sigmund explained;

an emotional problem.

1:39:33

A cat isn't stupid because it doesn't read.

A child, someone who just got here,
isn't stupid when it misapprehends reality.

Real stupidity is a brilliant mind working

to ensure a bad end for itself;

the wrong move carefully repeated;

it is losing in order to be steadfast

to how the twig was bent.

"Loyalty and trust" is what the stupid call
their inflexible stupidity.

1:39:33

Freud was not sex-obsessed.

He was trying to understand

the place of sexual trauma

in the puzzle of stupidity.

"Look at this marvellous animal,"

he was saying (I paraphrase),

"turning away from pleasure, employing

its super-cerebellum to hurt itself.
What in hell is jamming the works?"

1:39:33

Marx had said "property"
and the value it had placed on patrimony
in the passage from monkey to man.
Mystification of authority
stupified minds.
Imposed codes of behavior
gave rise to shame and guilt.

1:39:33

Slow maturation of the human brain
for all its benefits
also allowed for the tabooing of impulse
in the soft brain of the child
and the inculcation of stupidity.
"I know not what I think.
I see not what I do.
He, she, they are guilty
and deserving of punishment.
God punishes. I punish.
God is good. I am good."

1:39:33

Man's vaunted adaptability also meant adapting
to the knots and twists to the psyche introduced
by your average childhood.

Bodies don't necessarily show these grotesque disfigurements.

They become evident in the cultural production
of a group, its fanciful mythology set in stone as religion,
as nationalist lore, and pride of race.

1:39:33

I'm disappointed because I made the mistake
of identifying America in general with modernism
and the falling away of tribal rigidities
in the new cosmopolitan mix, abetted now
by the internet. That happens

but not for everyone and the cultural divide between Americans
is now being spoken of as our generation's equivalent
to the Civil War.

1:39:33

Forward thinking people are astonished
by their stubborn compatriots and the word "stupid"
is in the air. The Heartland blames the tv pornucopia on East
and West Coast liberals (holding Republican corporate sponsors
hostage, one supposes). Some are wondering might we
actually go to war, Blue States against Red,
before this is over and wouldn't that be stupid?

1:39:33

Forget
"far-right ideologues"
they're crooks.

1:39:33

Dick Cheney

1:39:33

John Gotti
understands
Dick Cheney.

1:39:33

John Gotti
sees Dick Cheney
and says,
"My kind of guy".

1:39:34

On one hand:

"Bush shmush.
It's not like this is
the first fascist regime."

1:39:34

On the other:

“It is the first
with nuclear weapons
and stated intent to use them.”

1:39:53

The natives are restless.
The natives are rising!
In any number of odd and exotic places
the natives are refusing
to go the Native American way
or to agree with our protection.

1:39:56

We bring them progress!
We bring them jobs!
Supply the women with surgical masks
and white uniforms, train them to be useful
on hi-tech assembly lines.
We open our arms
to take them into our steely embrace
and they say we make them uncomfortable.

1:40:03

“I want to give you something.”
We offer them beads:

"Check out these cheap imports from China.
See, this is how much we paid for Manhattan
but for you, sharp boys like you,
we're piling on another shitload of TVs
plus all these unsold Michael Jackson overruns
from ten years ago
and you get to convert to Jesus,
the one true God and way to everlasting life."

1:40:13

The natives are rising
the way they've always risen
-over there, over there-
to be crushed by other poor people
inducted into armies
but now in the age of bargain flights
and suitcase weapons of mass destruction
we are vulnerable to their fury.

1:40:33

Zasu Pitts
and
Gibson Gowland
stars of GREED
together again

1:40:34

Back to Jack:

1:40:34

Jack asked,
"Why can't a fellow
sit down at the counter
and order a bowl of gravy?"

1:40:49

Jack didn't survive his early training in
Christinanity (God punishes).
He said he thought he *should* get AIDS.

1:41:23

In the original plan for *Limbo*, we, the other cast members, voices in the dark, would argue the logic of the situation to Jerry: "Let the movie wind-up properly, Jerry, you know you can't be happy!"

But he wouldn't listen. He wouldn't talk! He now refused to even consider that he was - in his own words - a hopeless pariah. "You will only get older and more rattled," I would've told him.

1:42:12

"It's not for nothing you identify with the Frankenstein monster. No-one has and no-one ever will love you."

But there was no budging him, no appealing to altruism.

Here was I, Ringmaster And Janitor, providing a starring role for this nobody, with the whole world wheeling about him as led by the famous Spirit Not Of Live But Of Living, and he says No.

1:42:57

You will have to imagine our talk.

And assume that Jerry eventually sees reason and hops back onto his cross so that the rest of us may proceed out of Limbo and on to The Party On The Set.

1:44:45

Give Me the Fact, Man

The irrefragable fact, Jerry, if you really want to know, is that this lovely moment, this kitten, this pup, couldn't exist without every other moment preceding it, accompanying it. Sure you want to embrace it? That sunny smile has the Shoah clinging to it. History is what's irrefragable but to get through your day you want to be spared being mindful of that fact every moment of your day. Concentrate on your painting. Your high culture and extensive vocabulary and kind friends won't save you, the fact is, but distraction helps.

1:46:24

Jerry's compensation

1:47:47

Bush-Cheney haven't damaged the country.
They've ruined it. The 2004 election matters
only if it means a New Deal.

It's been a crooked game.
A new New Deal, a real New Deal,
would also require
a new distribution of chips.

Kucinek may have it in him
but he's too short
to be president.

Robert Reich may be even more prepared
to do right but he's not running.
Even shorter.

1:48:36

The new Civil War is on,
less North/South
or East/West
than between sentient and nescient
individuals.

1:49:09

I ask Jerry's forgiveness.

1:49:42

We expected Cinder Planet.
We didn't expect The Sixties.
It was a mixed bag, to be sure,
but it shook the owners.
It looked for a while
like the real New Deal.

1:50:03

The Mafia calls its enforcers *soldiers*.

Of course there are soldiers and soldiers,
those that defend and deserve all honors,
and those that pretend to defend
while invading and pillaging.

1:50:05

SOLDIERS DROVE THOSE NAILS

Even Mel Gibson has to show Jesus
beaten and crucified by soldiers

(of an occupying army).

Might it be the attention on Jews
has been an error? And that
we might think more about soldiers?

That this is what soldiers are more likely to do?

1:50:13

American boys and girls do it
in the role of soldiers
(our top leaders assure us
they do it on their own).

Want a better world?

Forget Jews.

Less soldiers is the ticket.

1:50:20

A regular soldier can serve years in the Army and hardly ever hear the word "kill" outside of bayonet practice, a vestigial relic of the days before the use of assault rifles. (No American soldier has participated in an organized bayonet charge since the Korean War.) Army manuals and drill sergeants speak of "suppressing enemy fire," "engaging targets," and "attrititing" the enemy. "We attempt to instill reaction," said Captain Tim Dunnigan, who trains infantry in the woods of Fort Benning, Georgia. "Hear a pop, hit the ground, return fire. Act instinctually."

1:50:20

Captain Jason Kostal, a twenty-eight-year-old former commander at Fort Benning's sniper school, says that, even in a unit whose motto is "One Shot One Kill," explicit discussion of the subject is avoided. "We don't talk about 'Engage this

person,' 'Engage this guy.' It's always 'Engage that target,'" he said. "You're not thinking I wonder if that guy has three kids."

-by Dan Baum, *The Price of Valor*

We train our soldiers to kill for us.

Afterward, they're on their own.

The New Yorker, July 12-19, 2004

1:50:23

Wars and a growing crater in the Middle Class
has been Compassionate Conservatism.

2004 Bush takes the gloves off.

No more Mister Nice Guy.

We invade Canada.

Because it's there.

1:50:28

There is only one conflict
that matters, between
cruelty and kindness.
All those practicing cruelty
are on the same side.
The Kindness Revolution
is the only revolution
that means a thing.

1:50:30

Give Socialism a chance.

1:50:34

I mean another chance.

1:50:37

No profit!

No more "One man's pain
is another man's gain."

No more goddamn
sweatshop bargains!

1:50:38

Hired hands of the world, hold hands.

1:50:38

Jack borrowed my copy
of The Communist Manifesto.

"Lucky Landlords
of Rented Planet"
was how he described
the owners.

1:50:40

Labor must globalize along with capital.

1:50:43

The base wage must be a living wage.

1:50:44

No more bargains at the cost of child labor.

1:50:45

No more killing each other for the job.

1:50:46

No more killing ourselves on the job.

1:50:49

SURELY THIS PICTURE HANGS CROOKED

I am assailed by a simplistic image of history, a nasty caricature. Imbalanced. I need reminding of the *good* news.

I grew up believing in Captain America, tri-color opponent of bullies. Then learned there was hardly a racket he didn't control, alone or together with other bullies. Turf wars sometimes break out between them and he then enlists us to fight for him, puts us on parade, a sea of spiffed up nobodies. Generations written off the books, no matter.

1:50:50

I read where everyone fears Captain America. Perhaps more ultimate a disaster than the Black Plague is the Red White and Blue. How did this happen?

America is Europe on a rampage. An extension of Europe that declared itself free of the obligation to split booty with original investors. Don't be fooled by the change of flag from skull and crossbones to stars and stripes. The appetite's the same, vociferous, wanting it all the whole wide world for themselves. The brutality's the same. Pillaging east to west and then on out to sea, the Columbus grasp still reaches.

1:50:55

Consumer society may be a flash in the pan.

People may soon be reminiscing about the great toilet paper in the days before permanent war required permanent sacrifice.

1:50:59

Coincidence Is The Precision Of Narrative

Gib (the Evil with the moustache) belonged to a college fraternity that somehow bagged Elizabeth Taylor as single preciding female at their yearly stag banquet. Gib, their football star, found himself seated next to her. Here was the exquisite profile, the flower petal skin. She was spiffed out like a princess but saying nothing, her presence had to have been a contractual obligation. But what the hell, Gib figured, they're the same age and he also thought formal occasions a chore; he'd speak to her: "Hi, my name is also Taylor." "Fuck off," the princess said and turned away.

1:51:25

Cinema seemed the democratic art, assuming one might wrest the making and screening of works out of the exclusive grip of studios and banks. We made a splash with Underground Cinema. We made it possible for commercial movies to break free, to a degree, so that soon audiences could get sexy outspoken entertainment without having to deal with innovative form.

Even before Reagan a friend was calling this territory Ground-Under Cinema.

1:51:25

I would eventually have second thoughts regarding an aspect of cinema I thought emblematic of its democratic character, how we each get a center seat on the action; rich and poor from every seat in the house enjoy the identical camera perspective, the world laid out to left and right for each of us. Problem there (as with computer games, The New World of movies) is the delusion that movies confer importance to the individual viewer. Making for a crash as one emerges from the movies to find oneself adrift in the noise, many of us only a Social Security number away from total anonymity, with the result that many become movie-addicts and never entirely emerge. TV facilitates the addiction. And then these bleary ones vote; minds reduced to pulp they are assured they do their patriotic duty by selecting the most effective contender for their movie-addled know-knowing gut-reaction. They decide who they like. Sigh....

1:51:35

Movies are for everyone to see
how young everyone was
and how alive.

1:51:44

I dug Jack and Jerry in large part because
they were beyond my understanding.
Why and how they did what they did eluded me.
They suggested, in their distinctive complexities,
that *personality* could be a breakaway excursion
from ineluctable cause-and-effect; at the least

a show of defiance against all "that makes us tick".

I knew there was no escape but the impression
of the unfathomable the two gave off
intoxicated me.

1:52:12

I watched a Palestinian woman on Worldlink TV
describe the loss of her son. Her clothes and manner
and figures of speech, her little apartment and its contents,
got in the way of what she was saying.
She looked and spoke as if she were in Brooklyn, the apartment
could've been in Brooklyn, and it happens that
I love Brooklyn.

1:52:12

Next year in Israelstine!

1:52:16

Letter to *The Nation*, April 12, 2004

....in those cases where Western leftists advocate a vague,
naive anti-Zionist binationalist--where their intent is not to
subordinate Israeli Jews in an Arab state but to express an
idealistic commitment to egalitarianism and post-nationalism
as a practical program for Jews and Palestinians here and now--
the real-world effect of their beguiling fantasy is to lend
aid and comfort to coercive binationalism.

1:52:16

Their blandishments stoke the frenzy of resistance to genuine
two-state peace efforts, accelerating the transformation of

Israel into a pariah state, fueling the campaign to realize a benign binationalist nightmare. Such misbegotten noble intentions will help pave the road to perdition, bolstering the Israeli right, feeding Jewish fear and paranoia and Arab chauvinist triumphalism. If successful, they will sweep Israelis and Palestinians down to the next rung of the raging Middle Eastern inferno, engulfing them in the great and intimate flames of civil war.

GIDON D. REMBA

President, Chicago Peace Now

1:52:25

Let Rollo The Robot do it! We want less jobs!

1:52:40

Oh say, can you see
the various States
across the globe, in this era
of global-everything-else
moving to form
The United States of Earth?
See how Europe is shaping up
as a lawful organization
from what had been
a sinkhole of enemies.
I long to see EARTH,
with Earth citizenship a birthright
for everyone.

1:52:43

More tennis!

1:52:55

Operate the machines on sunshine.

1:53:08

Every child an heir or heiress.

1:53:30

Wars and a growing crater in the Middle Class

has been Compassionate Conservatism.

2004 Bush takes the gloves off.

No more Mister Nice Guy.

We invade Canada.

Because it's there.

1:53:54

Freedom for the taking.

1:54:18

"Centrist" Democrats,

1:54:21

you don't resist fascism

1:54:24

by meeting it halfway.

1:54:46

Jack Smith was performed by
Gary Cooper and Slim Summerville,
voice supplied by Sterling Holloway.

1:54:55

It was a time when Jack had put aside movie-making. He eventually showed me what he had been filming, an indoor color-scene of a costumed young woman directed to look longingly across a lagoon (built of bricks by Jack in a loft on 26th street). She was painfully overlit and in sharp focus and what came through was mostly a study in unfortunate skin texture. It was a reach for an ideal of beauty that had struck him as a teenage moviegoer, Sheherazade come to Kansas, but in fact the film was as unseeing as it was humorless. His movie was all in his head.

Now he was developing his skills as a photographer, with hopes of getting commercial jobs and pulling out of poverty. He showed me fashion magazine photographs, saying, "Look how abstract they are! And they get printed in the thousands and into the hands of regular people. Movies may be lousy now but this is also popular art and it's great!"

1:54:55

I didn't buy it. I lent him a copy of The Communist Manifesto and afterwards he thanked me and that was the end of Jack adapting to the market. (Years later he would say to Diana Bachus, "Kenny taught me to hate America.") His photographs began to genuinely picture his fantasy world and they really were great, in my book the best because most creative, each staged picture of yearning costumed seekers evoking an entire if non-existent movie.

On a shoestring he opened The Hyperbole, a storefront photo-studio on 8th street. This was The Lower East Side years before it became East Village, with artist types very marginal. It was there one day waiting out front for Jack to return that I first met Jerry Sims. He clutched my arm and laid on his desperate case and that's how we got married.

1:54:55

Jack later told me his first meeting with Jerry was through smell. He'd been in back of the studio in his tiny living area when the smell spread over the partition. He came out to see a runty derelict in oversized clothes and imagined he could see fumes spilling out from under his trouserlegs and curling up to fill the space. He was delighted at seeing his new catch (the studio, a flop as money-maker, now existed mostly to lure performers for his own photographs) and ecstatic to hear his rant, eventually adapting many of Jerry's zany ways as his own. One thing had to change, though. Jack said, "I showed him how to wipe his ass."

1:54:56

Cool It With Abstract Art (Nuance Will Save Us)

Sensitizing to art in its more abstract forms is imperative

if we're to survive our own hunger for thrills.

We're hard-wired with a capacity for thrills,

to internal adrenaline flushes,

that can make us crave brutal and shaking events.

Many people, for instance, think back to war as

"when they really lived".

But following even very slight changes of form

from place to place in an artwork can offer equal adventure,

living experience of enormous intensity

when we learn to sensitize to the changes.

1:54:56

The trouble with stories is they're usually
the troubles of people
and tend to feed and promote sado-masochist inclinations.

Most of our entertainments brutalize, which is why
the violence must always get more shocking.

Abstract forms and their interactions,
as in instrumental music, can substitute for the havoc
we're conditioned to enjoy.

1:54:56

I advocate sensitization,
more experience from the subtlest changes
of color and shade and direction and weight and so forth.
Dance is one play on gravity that can satisfy atavistic
instincts that have outlasted their usefulness,
so we don't need to see cities falling.

Abstract art is way out of fashion now, young people
are not learning its languages;
the ferocious computer game is hot
gangsta rap is what's hot, bloodbath movies.

Arnold Schwarzenegger is Governor of California.

Elected by a landslide, indeed.

Forget the propaganda that sensitivity is sissy.

Only a turn to delicate nuance can save us.

1:54:56

I Didn't Raise My Boy To Be A Soldier
arranged and sung by Ian Whitcomb

www.ianwhitcomb.com

Scene of Jack waking in Nofutureland
to discover the appearance of a paper flower

filmed by Bob Fleischner

La Cucaracha

performed on the organ by Anne Leaf

1:55:06

Jerry, eating, fifteen years later.

1:55:52

Jerry did go South.

Then West to Frisco.

Then South again to Texas,
prisoner execution capital

of the nation.

1:57:58

They tell me
that I gotta'

get back
on the
airplane.

1:57:59

Republicans are campaigning to change the Constitution to allow Schwarzenegger to run for President in 2008. Assuming there's any history after the moron now in office, you can bet on this perfect match of superpower and superstar, the perfect apotheosis of America The Movie (seeing as Reagan never rated more than second billing other than in B-pictures). Government by spin couldn't do better than be announced by someone still capable of pressing two hundred fifty pounds. **Over-the-hill Nazi-ideal occupies White House, bestows Oscar on himself as populace applauds.** Intellectuals call it a day and depart for Canada, leaving USA to its perfectly ludicrous destiny.

1:58:00

This has to be
THE WORLD'S
GREATEST
COINCIDENCE

1:58:04

Acknowledgments

The unpaid cast of painters and (Cecilia Swann) musician.
Alan Becker urged me to film the extemporaneous street-theater
Jack and I fooled with. My thanks to Mr. Bartosch, refugee
architect, owner of the West 75th Street brownstone, where, in
return for light janitorial duties, I was allowed use of the
basement apartment with access to the inner courtyard that
served as our film-set (1957-1959). He protected the filming
when Mrs. Bartosch and surrounding neighbours complained of
Jack and Jerry's mad cacklings.

1:58:20

Hy Adelman, my next landlord (25 Ferry Street, alongside
Brooklyn bridge), gave me his Karlart-Victor 16mm. sound-
projector. I used it to screen a rough edit of the film in
hope of raising finishing-funds (1960). Reese Haire had
provided space to edit the film (atop the porcelain-coated lid
to his bathtub) in his heated East 5th Street kitchen.
Margaret Cunningham helped prepare the loft for the screening.
Bob Stewart contributed his only two dollars, the entire take
for the event.

1:58:33

65 cent lunches in Chinatown.
Unsold fish for the taking at Fulton Fishmarket.
St. John's University and S.U.N.Y. Binghamton took me on

without academic credentials.

Much thanks to Jim Otis for inclusion of his film,

ON YOUR OWN

Opinions expressed in this movie are those of Ken Jacobs and not necessarily shared by any other person involved in its making.

1:58:41

Completion grant from National Endowment For The Arts.

Nisi Jacobs was video line-editor.

Aza Jacobs, friends, urging that it be done.

Flo Flo Flo Flo.

STAR SPANGLED TO DEATH © 2003 Ken Jacobs

1:58:46

American Conscience

I don't hear or read expressions of concern from other than the Left for what's been done to Afghani and Iraqi people. What's with Americans? Many feel loss of American soldier lives, but Iraqi lives? Iraqi children? They remain unreal.

1:58:51

Americans by and large are not feelingless dolts like George W. Bush. I see up-close the depth of their

feelings when visiting the WTC site near where we
live. They cry. I cry.

Is it patriotism, team loyalty? Is it fear that's short-
circuiting empathy?

1:58:56

Is it our tv that's benumbed conscience? It doesn't show what
we do. Having declared close-ups of damage to people *obscene*,
it shows green fireworks and staged press interviews with
speakers in military drag.

Shown the cluster-bombed families, I think Americans would be
less out of touch. But look what we allow to be done to
ourselves. Since Reagan, for instance, we accept a class of
people in America called Homeless. Then there's the 2000
election swipe.

Home of the free and the brave? or Patsy Nation?

1:59:09

there is a child
one child
and this its voice
in Iraq in 2003

1:59:17

I read of an Enron executive who, seeing he'd made
a bad business deal, built on it, made things worse.
"You lose a hole," he explained, "in a bigger hole."

This is an Enron administration.

Is Iraq a bigger hole?

1:59:20

Is Iraq a bigger hole?

It's test-time.

I'll give you a hint.

The name of the crooked auditing firm making headlines was

Arthur.... ?

1:59:20

....Andersen.

Name twenty top-name financial and corporate institutions

shown to be stealing billions from small investors.

Who went to jail?

You got the last one right.

1:59:20

Pay or die.

1:59:20

The Nation, May 12, 2003

from

The Right's Grand Ambition:

Rolling Back the 20th Century

by William Greider

....the movement's grand ambition--one can no longer say grandiose--is to roll back the twentieth century, quite literally. That is, defenestrate the federal government and

reduce its scale and powers to level well below what it was before the New Deal's centralization. With that accomplished, movement conservatives envision a restored society in which the

1:59:20

prevailing values and power relationships resemble the America that existed around 1900, when William McKinley was President. Governing authority and resources are dispersed from Washington, returned to local levels and also to individuals and private institutions, most notably corporations and religious organizations. The primacy of private property rights is re-established over the shared public priorities expressed in government regulation. Above all, private wealth--both enterprises and individuals with higher incomes--are permanently insulated from the progressive claims of the graduated income tax.

1:59:20

....All in all, the right's agenda promises a reordering that will drive the country toward greater separation and segmentation of its many social elements--higher walls distance for those who wish to protect themselves from messy diversity. The trend of social disintegration, including the slow breakup of the broad middle class, has been under way for several decades--fissures generated by growing inequalities of status and well-being. The right proposes to legitimize and encourage these deep social changes in the name of autonomy. Dismantle the common assets of society, give people back their tax money and let everyone fend for himself.

1:59:21

Election Mystique

Tyrants never fail

to call for elections ASAP.

Elections

allow winners to claim *mandates*.
That is, to *legally* tyrannize
in the name of the tyrannized!
The tyrant epitomizes the triumph
of the will of the people, get it?
See how ecstatically they fall in line.
They've been given their places.

1:59:21

Winning elections
by whatever means necessary
is all that is necessary
to assume the right
to order uniformed goons
to imprison and torture and murder
individuals
that won't fall in line.

1:59:21

Crooked elections,
American elections,
may be monstrous travesties
of democratic government
but once a winner is declared
nothing can be done;
a mysterious code

comes into play
whereby the call is irreversible
no matter the chicanery revealed.
So we're given to understand.

1:59:21

Because we have rules;
because heads have nodded
and media has spoken,
and so that's the way things are
until the tyrant has a notion
to change or go around the rules.

1:59:21

Kerry/Bush debate
September 30, 2004

1:59:23

You've seen the movie.
Now read the flash-texts.
DVDs from
starspangledtodeath.com

1:59:26

"....unaccountable judges...."
as he declares his own actions
beyond accountability

1:59:30

There you have it.
Bush will keep us safe
from the reach of the law.
He proclaims USA an outlaw state,
the American ship of state (on his watch)
a pirate ship.
Seen nothin' yet?

1:59:35

What's good about America?

Innumerable things

or were until recently,
diminishing as we speak
(Guantanamo Bay....).

Above all,

despite the signal given to cops
to break protesters' heads, to shoot
(see Bill Moyer's report re Florida police treatment
of people protesting the IMF meeting 2003),
people speaking their minds.

1:59:43

THOU SHALT TORTURE

White House counsel Alberto Gonzales advised Bush

that Geneva Conventions anti-torture provisions
are "quaint" and "obsolete",
unleashing horrible treatment of people, 70 to 90
per cent admittedly picked up at random,
exactly
as the Japs and Nazis were shown to treat people
in the movies we saw when each matinee
began with hands over hearts
and a heartfelt salute.

As I write Gonzales is being elevated to Attorney General.
Republicans plan on placing him on the Supreme Court.

1:59:43

This is an extraordinary moment.
Someone **known** to represent Gestapo repression tactics
is being made top cop of the nation
with no denial of his cruelty and disdain for law.
Provisions against torture? only redefine the word.
Republicans want us to recognize the new reality.

This is a sea-change all the more terrible
because it isn't making waves across America.
Have you registered the fact that any citizen of USA
can now be picked up and incarcerated however long
with no explanation, no contact to family, no legal
representation? Are you entertaining an idea of America
that jibes with current reality?

1:59:42

You bigmouth malcontent, should you expect to be tortured?
those close to you.... your kids.... I'm afraid
the America we pledged allegiance to in school
and at the start of each saturday matinee is equally quaint
to these bastards. So what is this thing that's replacing it?

Doesn't look good

but does look familiar. Does allegiance require
sticking with a thing that's turning into
the very thing it once pictured
as the detested enemy?

Weren't we swearing allegiance to the *principles*
America stood for? affirming **common decency**,
and not some mystical geographic entity, some
enchanted real estate. (Say, does God's Country end
exactly along our borders with Mexico and Canada?
and then resume a skip away in Hawaii, in Alaska?)

1:59:42

The title Star Spangled To Death
is a downer
but probably true.
We have an enemy
and its name is Bottom Line.
Bottom Line rules
through the power of stupification.

Recognized, the thing can be resisted.

There is plenty of reason to despair.

We can't despair.

Despair is collaboration

with the enemy.

1:59:48

"Evil is practical,"

Jack says in BLONDE COBRA.

Choosing when to recognize evil

can be practical.

Saddam Hussein was our monster

until he interfered with oil profits.

1:59:48

Capitalists pimp the planet.

Disease?

A dead Earth?

Forget it.

They will have had *their* lives.

Capitalism ("Greed Is Good")

can excite virulent activity

for the short run

like a terminal disease.

1:59:48

America, I'm disappointed in you. Comic books taught me
mobsters say dese and dose. The movies
showed government whitening as it ascends
from the thugs in local command to the feds,
noble and resolute narrow-nose patricians, all shmutz
falling away on the final ascent to The White House,
just below Heaven.

1:59:48

In fact,
the white mob had the country in hand from the beginning,
bullies and wiseguys proving themselves among the locals
moving up to state control.

The very wised-up rise to the very top positions
because they can work smoothly with lesser gangsters.

I was sold a bill of goods and they turned out bads.

1:59:48

They pretend to be American corporations,
subsidiaries of America.

In fact, they are an off-shore based invasion of America
taking it for all they can. Nations are their prey.

Soon as the shit flies here they'll be gone.

1:59:48

A massive deception has taken place. America has been rust-belted by an unannounced hostile takeover followed by the looting of assets. The "service industries" (the counting and assigning of money earned by others) are now crossing the seas. Bollywood movies have begun to speak with American accents.

1:59:48

Old

1:59:48

Bush is their man, having enabled a looting thorough beyond their dreams. They've taken our money, pulled it out of circulation and our economy is drying up. They distract us with abortion as the big issue, gay marriage.

(Straights have had it with marriage, so now gays want in on the act. Church-folk should be kissing gay asses for renewing faith in contractual love.)

1:59:48

Iraq has been a great success. Our dollars are now their dollars. We've been taken good.

The operating principle of capitalism
is cost-benefit analysis.

Cost benefit analysis

determines what can be got away with
at whatever cost to others.

1:59:48

There's no getting our money back.
They've got the law. They will turn our own military upon us.
That's how it's done. A classic maneuver.

Jay Gould, "The Wolf of Wall Street",
perpetrator of mass poverty,
when asked was he afraid the people might rise,
answered,
"I can always hire half the working class
to kill off the other half".

1:59:48

For ruler convenience we come
color-coded for easy divide-and-conquer.
Religion divides us, gender, national origin.
Eating habits. Hair style.

Jay Gould knew one more thing:
The people,

with exceptions that can be dealt with,
are sheep.

1:59:48

And should the people begin to wise up
it will only be necessary to once again point out
those among their exploiters
who happen to be Jews.

1:59:48

Communism is dead and socialism
has taken some drubbings
and the unions are kaputt.
The system is secure in place
and there's no longer the need
to restrain capitalism's inequities
as Roosevelt attempted to in the Thirties.
Capitalism with a human face
(and the furthering of the middle-class)
has been triumphantly replaced with Reagan's face.
Will we go the South American way?
Grotesque disparity of wealth together
with martial law and disappearances?

1:59:48

man

1:59:48

Capitalism

leaves behind too much garbage.

The heroic Western trek; how much was it
of pioneer despoilation of land and water?

Why replenish when you can exhaust

and move on? God wants us

traveling West to where

more "raw" land can be cleared of "Wildlife"
with rifles and sixguns and scalping knives.

A continent is not enough.

Think globular.

1:59:48

This land-mass named America,

like some great living thing brought to its knees,
a swarm of parasites eating it alive.

Today its cities and towns look like hell.

Waters poisoned. Criminally abused, really,
by criminals that get shown to the best tables.

You come back from a visit to Europe,
after a look at the care given places in Europe,

and you see the decrepitude here

and you can cry. New York

is an abandoned city.

1:59:48

Old Europe
sadly observes
its American progeny:
Oh, say, dear chap, do you see
the bombs bursting in air?
Ever more bombs
bursting in air?
On land and sea
and everywhere?
Is this young nation
a nut-case or what?

1:59:48

David Frum and Richard Perle

An End To Evil

published 2004

Like "the war against terror",
a title to chill the heart of
the Spirit Not Of...,
who recognizes
a call to extinction as insane
as by any of the other
convinced believers.

1:59:48

Question:

Is counter suicidal readiness
as national policy
the challenge to Islamic extremism
we want?

1:59:48

Fascists were all God and Country,
forbidding talk of class division,
and Communists sang The International, of
their faith in a fair and science-based future.
Team identities may be less team-jacketed today
but the same antagonism of disposition exists,
more than between Haves and Have Nots,
between hard-hearted and bleeding hearts.
I intend to learn the words to The International.

1:59:48

Old man, that will have to do.

2:00:05

from WAIT FOR ME AT THE BOTTOM OF THE POOL

The Writings of Jack Smith

Edited by J. Hoberman and Ed Leffingwell

Capitalism of Lotusland

Could art be useful? Ever since the desert glitter drifted over burnt-out ruins of Plaster Lagoon thousands of artists have pondered and dreamed of such a thing, yet, art must not be used anymore as another elaborate means of fleeing from thinking because of the multiplying amount of information

2:00:05

each person needs to process in order to come to any kind of decision about what kind of planet one wants to live on before business, religion, and government succeed in blowing it out of the solar system.

Let art continue to be entertaining, escapist, stunning, glamorous and NATURALISTIC - but let it be loaded with information worked into the vapid plots of, for instance, movies. Each one would be more or less a complete exposition of one subject or another. Thus you would have Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh busily making yogurt; Humphrey Bogart struggling to introduce

2:00:05

a basic civil law course into public schools; infants being given to the old in homes for the aged by Ginger Rogers; donut-shaped dwellings with sunlight pouring into central patios for all, designed by Gary Cooper; soft, clear plastic bubble cars with hooks that attach to monorails built by Charlton Heston that pass over the Free Paradise of abandoned objects in the center of the city near where the community movie sets would also be; and where Maria Montez and Johnny Weismüller would labour to dissolve all national boundaries and release the prisoners of Uranus. But the

2:00:05

stairway to socialism is blocked up by the Yvonne de Carlo Tabernacle Choir waving bloody palm branches and waiting to sing the "Hymn to the Sun" by Irving Berlin. This is the rented moment of EXOTIC LANDLORDISM OF PREHISTORIC CAPITALISM OF TABU.

-Jack Smith, 1978

2:00:15

380 tons of super-explosive material (*one pound* brought down the Lockerbee passenger jet) has fallen into possession of Iraqi insurgents. It became news after months of suppression by the Bush-Cheney gang. It was a cache known to and successfully contained by UN inspectors. What is amazing, and ominous, about this election is that there's a *question* of a Bush-Cheney defeat. I have read WHAT'S WRONG WITH KANSAS?

2:00:15

Sadly, we seem to be embarking on another Civil War, "North and South" now less a geographic divide than intellectual or, more accurately, psychological (see DeMauss, Foundations Of Psychohistory, re psychological-evolution levels). Our emotional retards are pawns in big-money hands just as they were in Nazi Germany. Poorly educated, economically expendable, systematically bewildered, they are unable to recognize their actual oppressors and betrayers. But somebody must be punished for their humiliation. Bummed out as they are, they are flattered at the idea of "a world of enemies".

2:00:15

The election is the dirtiest ever in USA. The 2000 Florida theft set the style for Republican machinations nation-wide, with Carl Rove the man of the hour. Republicans prefer to *take* power, so much more masculine an action than currying votes from working-class inferiors. These are not, after all, the people they consult running their businesses, and isn't America their business, their corporation-of-corporations?

2:00:15

Chapter Three, *The Height Of Folly*, has come to an end.

This saturday-afternoon-serial breaks off at this point.

The date is 10.26.04, only a few days before the election.

Unlike competing studio's cliffhangers, our's concludes with the audience left at a precipice. we will be watching

to see how you get out of this one. What am I saying?

I just looked down. We're dangling alongside you....