

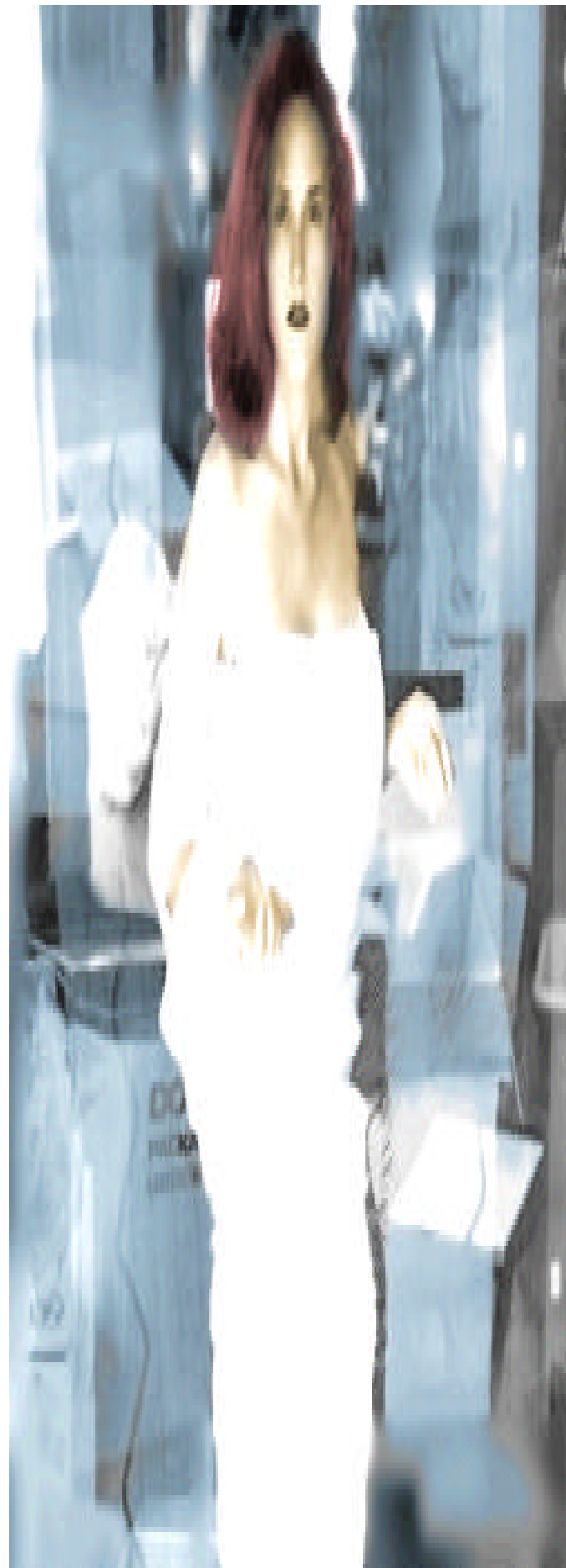
down in the dirt

the **2002**
down in the dirt
calendar
scars publications

**freedom
strength**

**you can't be free or strong
unless you can speak up**

scars publications'
Add-A-Poem



january

2002

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

new year's day
emancipation proclamation,
1863

2

3

Bank Holiday, UK
New Year Holiday, Armenia,
Hong Kong, New Zealand,
S. Korea

4

Bank Holiday, Scotland
Tom Thumb's Birthday

5

6

Epiphany
Twelfth Day, Sweden
Carl Sandburg born, 1878
Eastern Orthodox Christmas,
Armenia, Ethiopia
James Plimpton created "guidable
parlour skates" with an India rub-
ber ball. The first roller rink start-
ed today in 1862

7

8

Elvis Presley's Birthday

9

Man Watcher's Week
Anniversary of first Balloon
Flight

10

Clean Off Your Desk Day

11

**Alexander Hamilton's
Birthday**

12

**First woman elected to the
Senate, 1932**

13

Horatio Alger's Birthday

14

15

Adults Day
Humanitarian Day
Gulf War began
**Bald Eagle Appreciation
Days**

16

National Nothing Day

17

Ben Franklin's Birthday

18

Winnie the Pooh Day

19

**Edgar Allen Poe's birthday,
1805**

20

21

**Martin Luther
King Jr.'s
Birthday
observed**
National Hugging Day

22

23

National Handwriting Day
First woman to receive a
medical degree in America
John Hancock's Birthday
National Pie Day

24

**Carpenter James Marshall,
worked in a California mill
and found a piece of gold -
starting the gold rush today
in 1848**

25

26

Australia Day, Australia
Republic Day, India
National School Nurse Day

27

Thomas Crapper Day

28

**Chinese New Year celebra-
tions**
National Kazoo Day

29

National Puzzle Day

30

National Popcorn Day

31

January is
National Fiber Month. National Oatmeal Month,
National Prune Breakfast Month, National Soup Month,
March of Dimes Month, Cosmetology Month,
National Noodle Month, Eyecare Month, Hobby Month



image by John Yotko

Simon Perchik

461

Waiting all afternoon the dark
is treated the way a parasite
dreads shells and emptiness

though a blue residue cools the sky
spreads out so its light everywhere
can run just so fast from the blindness
children still count on their hands

--at least applause! some medal
but not the sun, no stars either
--be generous! each nightfall
deserves two, one equation

clocks its speed, retells
how darkness shapes all curvature
and one to show how light
in place umpteenzillion years before
still can't peel your shadow off
without it harder to breathe
--how much proof do you want!

I ask you, can light, even at noon
raise your body temperature
--only darkness has the youth
to reach under the ground
as if its twin were somehow
this feeble light dragged by winter
and stone --look, it's simple

--a test, feet together, now
one bare hand to wave goodbye
--the one left over weighs more
begins to curl, becomes older
--check it out, the numbers are there

always the same durable night after night
while the flesh from each fingertip
falls back exhausted, tastes bitter
even with your eyes closed.

down in the dirt

AVOIRDUPOIS WEIGHT

27 11/32 grains	1 dram
16 drams	1 ounce
25 pounds	1 quarter
4 quarters	1 cwt.
2,000 pounds	1 short ton
2,240 pounds	1 long ton

DRY MEASURE

2 pints	1 quart
8 quarts	1 peck
4 pecks = 1 bushel = 1.2445 cu. ft.	
36 bushels	1 chaldron
1 heaped bush.	1-1/4 struck bush.

LIQUID MEASURE

8 gills = 2 pints = 1 quart	
4 quarts	1 gallon
31 1/2 gallons	1 barrel
2 barrels	1 hogshead



freedom strength

**you can't be free or strong
unless you can speak up**

written by Racine
03-10-2001 03:35 AM ET (US)

Freedom and Strength

Pilosophically speaking, freedom is strength:

**it is the power-- it is a virtue-- and ultimately a supreme goal.
For if you are free, then you are strong.**

The question then is how does a human become free?

**There may be many different theories but most agree
that to be free is to only accept what is in our control.**

**For if you put weight into something that is not yours, then
you will be disappointed i.e. not free. Freedom is being able to
make your own choices-- to be able to control what
you can-- and not try to control what is not yours.**

And what is yours?

The will to choose and not to choose--- opinion.

This is called free will.

**To put desires on things that are not in your control
will bring on slavery to such things.**

**All external things are out of the contol of the free will--
your parents, government, even your body.**

These things are not yours to control.

**By choices and opinions, I mean to do what you think is right
according to "reason."**

-- this is yours and no one elses.

this is the beginnings of freedom, strength and tranquility.

february 2002

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

February is:

Black History Month, Human Relations Month, Canned Food Month, Creative Romance Month, Great American Pies Month,
Whale Awareness Month, National Snack Food Month, National Cherry Month, Heart Month, Return Shopping carts to the Supermarket Month

1	2
National Freedom Day	Alice Rosenbaum's Birthday, 1905, in St. Petersburg Ground Hog Day

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Nornam Rockwell's Birthday	USODay	Constitution Day, Mexico Weatherman's Day	Waitangi Day, New Zealand	Charles Dickens' Birthday	James Dean's Birthday	

10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Lunar New Year, China, Hong Kong	National Women and Girls in Sports Day Thomas Edison's Birthday, 1847 National Foundation Day	Lincoln's Birthday NAACPFounded, 1905 Georgia Day, in Georgia	Ash Wednesday	Valentine's Day Race Relations Day Jack Benny's Birthday	Susan B. Anthony Day Faschingsdienstag, Germany	Ladies Home Journal First Published in 1883

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
National PTA Day	President's Day Louis Comfort Tiffany's Birthday		Lt. Col. Glenn first astronaut in orbit, 1962	Malcom X Assassinated, 1965 Shaheed Day, Bangladesh First Telephone Directory published today in 1878, with 50 people in it	George Washington's Birthday	

24	25	26	27	28
Banner's Day, Mexico Independence Day, Estonia Hadassah Day		William "Buffalo Bill" Cody's Birthday	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's Birthday, 1807	



image by Lorelei Jones



**image by
Mark Graham**

CUBIC MEASURE

1.728 cu. in.	1 cubic foot
27 cu. feet	1 cubic yard
128 cu. feet	1 cord (wood)
40 cu. feet	1 ton (shipping)
231 cu. in.	1 U.S. gallon
1 cu. foot	about 4/5 bushel

MARINER'S MEASURE

6 feet	1 fathom
120 fathoms	1 cable length
7 1/3 cable lengths	1 mile
5,280 feet	1 statute mile
6,080.2 feet	1 nautical mile

CIRCULAR & ANGULAR

60 seconds	1 minute
60 minutes	1 degree
360 degrees	1 circumference



march

2002

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

march is:

National Women's History Month, National Nutrition Month,
National Peanut Month, National Red Cross Month, Poetry Month

1

Independence Movement
Day, S. Korea
Peace Corps Program initi-
ated by John F. Kennedy,
1961

2

3

Kasmir Pulaski Day, Illinois
First woman to practice
before the Supreme Court
Alexander Graham Bell's
Birthday
National Anthem Day

4

5

6

Independence Day, Ghana
Brooklyn born Clarence
Byrdseye developed a
method of quickly freezing
foods and marketed them
for the first time today in
1930

7

8

International Working
Women's Day, China
International Women's Day

9

10

11

12

Girl Scouts Day

13

Mothering Sunday (UK)

14

15

Anniversary of the
Revolution of 1848,
Hungary

16

Black Press Day

17

St. Patrick's Day

18

Ortodox Lent
begins

19

St. Joseph's Day, Spain

20

Vernal Equinox

21

Birthday of Benito Juarez,
Mexico

22

International Day for the
Elimination of Racism

23

24

Palm Sunday

25

Independence Day, Greece
Maryland Day (in
Maryland)

26

Independence Day,
Bangladesh
Ruhio Day (Hawaii)
Robert Frost's Birthday,
1874

27

28

First Day of
Passover
Maundy Thursday, Spain

29

Good Friday

30

31

Easter Sunday

image by
John Yotko



Battling The Senses

Burton R. Hoffmann

Have I become jaded because I have

- seen too much?
- heard too much?
- felt too much?
- tasted too much?
- sniffed too much?

TASTE ANYONE?

So much in our society
Has become cheap and tawdry.
Whatever happened to taste?

Jim Dewitt

FOUND BUT LOST AGAIN

If you deign to disrobe me
I'll donate you one tongue-tip touch
of my Snickers...
though it's not quite retro-Christian.
Trust me, you'll feel no
explosion. Not even the tickle
of a swimsuit top's eggs.
Yet I am yearned toward suncreening
your entire-body skin...
Would that relieve
my wants-and-all? Can't say.
So let's quiz Old Auntie Maude.
Oops sorry, too late.
She's already exposing herself out on
Natural Beach. Red tomatoes
shamelessly ripening...

METRIC LENGTH

1 centimeter	.394 inches
1 inch	2.54 centimeters
1 meter	3.281 feet
1 foot	.35 meters
1 meter	1.0936 yards
1 kilometer	.6214 mile
1 mile	1.6094 kilometers

METRIC SQUARES

1 sq. cm	.155 sq. in.
1 sq. inch	6.452 sq. cm
1 sq. meter	10.764 sq. feet
1 sq. foot	.0929 sq. meters
1 sq. meter	1.196 sq. yards
1 sq. yard	.8362 sq. meters
1 sq. km	.386 sq. mile
1 sq. mile	2.59 sq. km
1 sq. mile	640 acres
100 acres	1 hectare
100 hectares	1 sq. kilometer
acre = square with a side of 208.7 ft.	



scars publications'
Add-A-Poem

Donnie Strickland

Born of new fear
and
resident within the past pain,
I wait and in my surroundings I writhe
and remain faceless to society's mirrors.
Its simple...
I want epiphanies.
But epiphanies anger the substandard soul,
instead turning each moment into wraiths
that will escape all healing comprehension.
I prefer for the oracles to remain silent:
idolatry is low and different.
Its what we do to each other that bothers me so.
I want what you have.
Too difficult to get over not having.
Our appetites and hungers are deviant and distracting.
I could elaborate but I won't.
Here is something else to placate:
I bleed for numerable causes,
too many to name,

but I was really sincere at the time.
And is that what it comes down to?
Does sincerity add truth to our lives regardless
as to how wrong it eventually turns out to be?
But I was sincere at the time.
Everything burns like caustic poison
and resurfaces as something well meant.
Its Shakespearean for a rose by another name.
Its simple...
I want paradoxes.
No wait, I have a surplus of puzzles
and a cavalcade of conundrums.
Silence and vacancy...
I just want reassurance.

Donnie Strickland

april

2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 april fools day Easter Monday	2	3 Women Business Owners Day	4 First female mayor elected in the U.S., 1887 Martin Luther King Jr. Assassinated, 1968	5 Arbor Day, S. Korea Ch'ing Ming Festival, China, Hong Kong	6 Chakri Memorial Day, Thailand North Pole Discovery Day
7 The first professional baseball team - the Cincinnati Stockings, opening game 1886 Daylight Savings Time Begins	8 Holocaust Remembrance Day Buddah's Birthday	9 Bataan and Corrigidor Day, Phillipines	10	11	12	13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday Izahal Memorial Day, Israel
14 Independence Day, Israel Bangla Naba Barsha (New Year), Bangladesh First American Abolition Society, 1995 Lincoln Assassinated 1865	15 Give all you earned money to the U.S. government day, I mean, Income Taxes Due Birthday of Mahavir, India	16 Astronomy Day	17	18 Independence Day, Zimbabwe	19 Patriots Day (in ME and MA)	20
21 Tiradentes Day, Brazil Queen Elizabeth's Birthday	22 Earth Day	23	24 Professional Secretary's Day Armenian Genocide Memorial Day, Armenia Orthodox Palm Sunday, Greece	25 Anzac Day, Australia, New Zealand Liberation Day, Italy Revolution Day, Portugal	26	27
28	29 General Prayer Day, Denmark Orthodox Good Friday, Greece Lag B'omer Greenery Day, Japan	30 Arbor Day Children's Day, Mexico MayDay Eve, Finland Queens Day, Netherlands	April is: National Frozen Food Month, Latino Month, National Barbecue Month, National Humor Month, National Duckling Month, Keep America Beautiful Month, National Garden Month			

image by Lorelei Jones



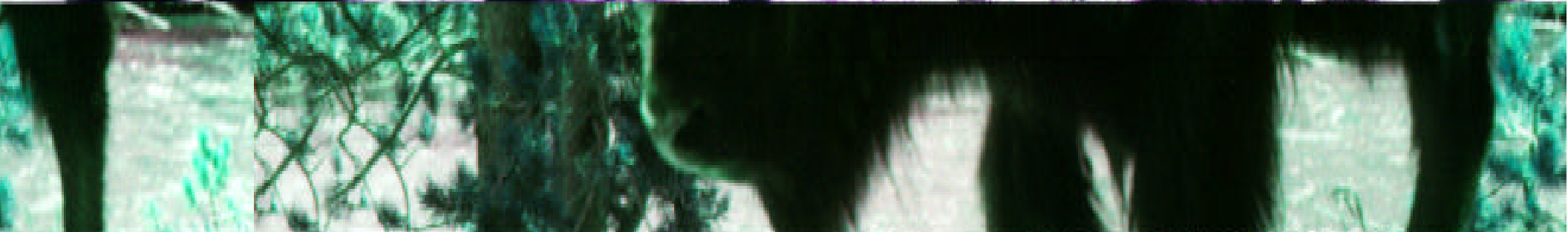
METRIC VOLUMES

1 cu. cm	.061 cu. in.
1 cu. in.	16.39 cu. cm
1 cu. meter	35.314 cu. feet
1 cu. foot	.02832 cu. meters
1 cu. meter	1.308 cu. yards
1 cu. yard	.7646 cu. meters
1 liter (dry)	.908 quart
1 quart (dry)	1.101 liters
1 liter (liquid)	1.0567 quarts
1 quart (liquid)	.9463 liters
1 US gallon	3.785 liters
1 liter (liquid)	.264 US gallon
10 deciliters	1 liter
1 liter: the volume of 1 kilogram of pure water at 39.2 degrees F.	

Hands on feet,
a respite this,
to crouch here observant
on golden shores,
these veins, rivers,
over the footholds
of bones
pulsing to your slumber.
They almost purr.



image by S. Mead



scars publications'
Add-A-Poem

Prizes

Carol Es

**He gets the blue ribbon
Takes the cake
All the luck
All that crap.
It should have been you.
All these cramps in the chest,
2-second memories,
scarce
exteriorization
All at your expense.
It isn't fair
How you pet my hair
& he gets the prize of my soul
When it ends,
Can it be
Will I be alright?
Will I find you with
A diamond,
dancing in a mineral spring
& a lovely life
with a love more deserved?
While he strolls in years
Arcades of phase,
tarnished metals like paper airplanes
thrown in waste
In a whirlwind of sad perfection.**

Elke Collins
miga542@aol.com
Suffolk, UK
from the Add-A-Poem Guestbook

Getting Under Your Skin
He flirts with words and places his smilies
Wouldn't hurt anyone being so loving
Genuine, of course, kind and caring
Values friendship and trust - who's doubting?
He says he's missed out on life by being too nice
Not facing reality being so painfully shy
He's so vulnerable, cute and polite
Catching up is what he's desperately needing
Don't we all - and I feel for him
Relating to my own regrets - and I fall for him
Gazing at his varnished pic
Letting his flattering phrases seep in
Oh I know he's so damn smooth and charming
And I'm aware he's seducing
But as soon as he knows he's got under my skin
He sends his IMs to another thrill.

may

2002

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

May is:

Theatre Month, Older Americans Month,
National Asparagus Month, National Photo Month,
National Egg Month, Social Science Books Month

1

May Day
Labour Day
Mother Goose Day
Orthodox Easter, Greece

2

National Day of Prayer,
Switzerland
May Day Holiday (UK)
Leonardo Da Vinci's
Birthday

3

Bank Holiday, UK
Constitution Day, Japan
New Year Holiday, Armenia,
Hong Kong, New Zealand,
S. Korea

4

Chinese Youth Day, China
Rhode Island Independence
Day

5

**Orthodox
Easter**

Cinco de Mayo, Mexico
Children's Day, S. Korea
Coronation Day, Thailand
Liberation Day, Netherlands
National Day of Prayer

6

Nurse's Day
Children's Day
May Day
Early Bank Holiday

7

National Day of Prayer

8

Liberation Day, France,
Norway

9

Ascension Day

10

Mother's Day, Guatemala,
Mexico
anniversary of
cross country rail trans-
portation

11

D-Day

12

Limerick Day
Ascension Day
Mother's Day

13

14

15

Armed Forces Day
Bob & Judy's Wed
Anniversary

16

First woman to scale Mt.
Everest, 1975

17

Constitution Day, Norway

18

Armed Forces Day
International Museum Day
Pope John Paul II Birthday

19

Malcom X's Birthday
Whitsunday (pentecost)

20

Whitmonday
Victoria Day (Canada)

21

Iquique's Naval Combat
Day, Chile

22

National Maritime Day
Whitsunday

23

Commemorative Day of the
Revolution of 1810,
Argentina
Victoria Day, Canada

24

25

Scott and Ning
Basinger's Wed Anniv
African Liberation Day
Africa Day, Zimbabwe
Independence Day, Jordan
Lunar Eclipse

26

Trinity Sunday
John Wayne's Birthday

27

Memorial Day
Spring Bank Holiday

28

29

30

Corpus Cristi Day
Harvard founded, 1636,
originally to educate
Puritan Ministers
Spring Bank Holiday, UK

31

Walt Whitman's Birthday,
1819
World No-Tobacco Day

image by John Yotko



Jim Dewitt

ONLY A HARVEST TIME JOKE

There once was a semi-truck huge
named "Cherryload" that fluke-o'-fate
capsized. Dumping lotsalugs
of the redtart fruit bleeding down
Hart's steepslope highway edge embankment.
Due to "just a leettle mistake"
by one dumb driver.
Why didn't good timing permit you to see it?
Earth gravity's own crimson tide
splattered bottomward-rolling.
Gloriously to become
a fantastic field day for the called-there
birds happening by on wing.
Cherry picking pecks toward each
pit-heart, to their hearts' content.
Wild opportunist happytimes
quick before the salvagers could descend
to start picking up the bazillions
of little red balls
thus presented as a "carrion of the week"
treat. Appetites' cooperative contribution
to none-going-to-waste
as the night salvage crew took over
underneath klieglights' glare
brightening the ground around.

down in the dirt

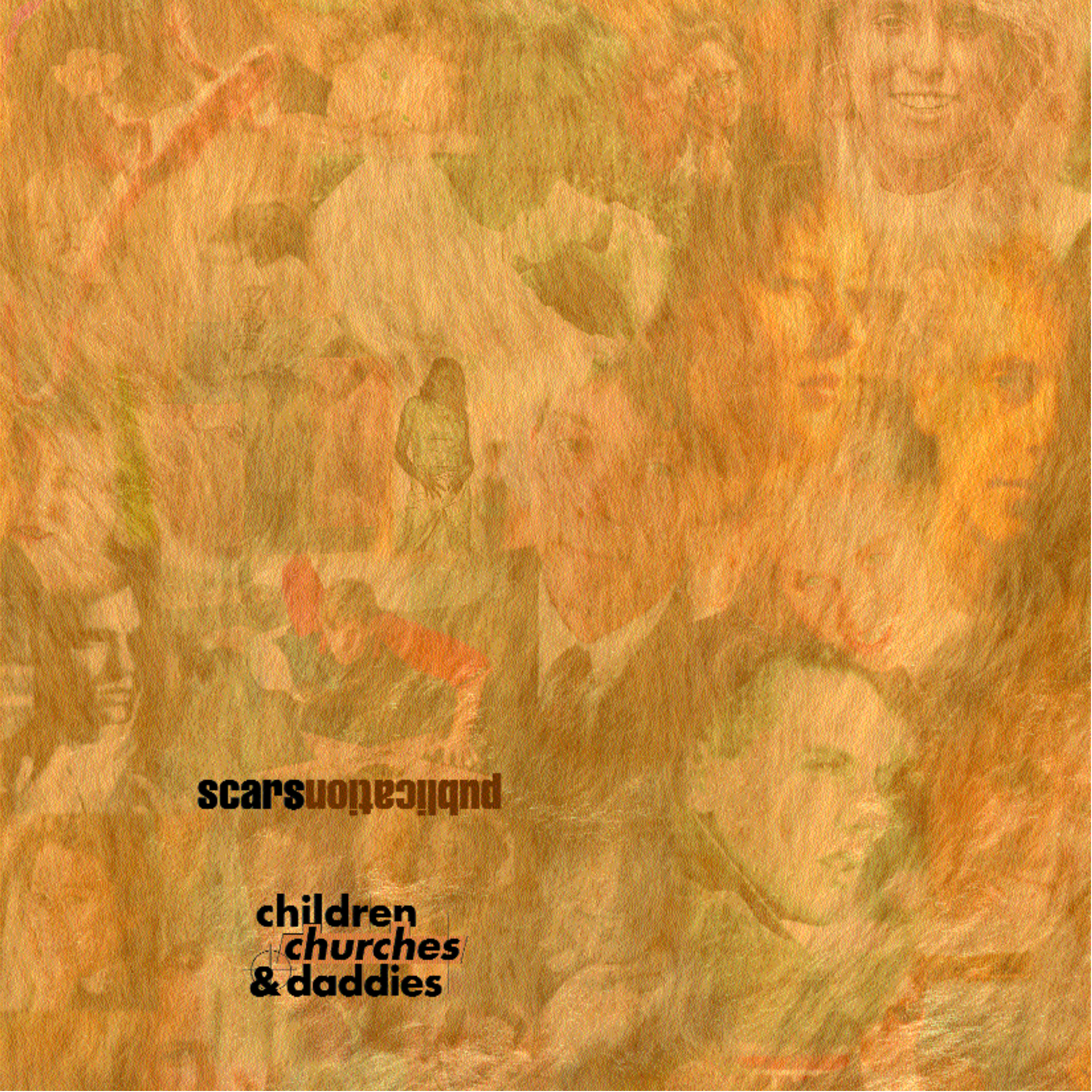
Past, Present, Future

Burton R. Hoffmann

When one grows older,
Does he remember more?
Do the young ever think about the past?
Or are they too much involved with the present?
Or wish it was the future?
Thinking about the future
Can be alarming
to those of us past our prime.

METRIC WEIGHTS

1 gram	.03527 ounce
1 ounce	28.35 grams
1 kilogram	2.2046 pounds
1 pound	.4536 kilograms
10 grams	1 decagram
10 decagrams	1 hectogram
10 hectograms	1 kilogram
1000 kilograms	1 metric ton



publications

**children
& churches
& daddies**

scars publications'
Add-A-Poem

The Box

Elise Valentie

**Im all alone in this box,
In it's deepest darkest most coldest corner,
Whail everyone else is happily sitting on their platforms well above
this box in the warmth and light of the sun,
Their platforms are so thick they seem to be unbreakable,
But we all know they'll be back,
One day their platform will just dissapare from underneath them,
And they'll be right back where they started,
In the deepest darkest corners of their own little worlds wallowing
in their problems and dreanched in self pity,
With a piercing thorn in their side,
A thorn so deep it may never be removed,
Right now they may not have as many thorns as me or the skin may
have healed over so well scars harldy show,
But their there their never gone,
Because sadness is never gone,
It will always be burried deep within us,
One day they'll be back and the blood will be freash and the thorns
ten times deeper,
"Welcome to our world of infinite sadness"
Ill say,
"i knew you'd be back soon"
And welcome them with open arms.**

June

2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Republic Day Career Nurse Assistants Day	3 Bank Holiday Donut Day	4 Revolution Day, Ghana	5 Constitution Day, Denmark Mother's Peace Day National Yo-Yo Day	6 Bank Holiday (Republic of Ireland) Memorial Day, S. Korea Queen's Birthday, New Zealand	7 	1 Marilyn Monroe's Birthday International Children's Day, China Madaraka Day, Kenya 8
9 Donald Duck's Birthday	10 Dan O'Brien's Bday Arab Revolt and Army Day, Jordan Portugal Day, Portugal Judy Garland's Birthday Muslim New Year	11 	12 Children's Day Independence Day, Philippines Interracial Marriage Day	13 Dragon Boat Festival, China, Hong Kong Reaffirmation of Argentine Rights over the Malvinas Islands, Argentina	14 flag day	15 Magna Carta Day
16 Father's Day First woman in space, 1963	17 National Day, Ireland Night of the Midnight Sun	18 National Juggling Day First American Woman in space (Sally Ride), 1983	19 	20 Flag Day, Argentina	21 Cat Stevens' birthday, 1947 Summer Solstice	22 Summer begins Children's Day Cindi Lauper, George Clinton and Lindsay Wagner's birthday
23 Midsummer Night's Eve, Latvia National Holiday, Luxembourg Victoria Day, Estonia	24 Midsummer, Estonia Midsummer Eve, Finland St. John Baptist	25 Korean War starts, 1950 George Michael's birthday, 1963 Midsummer Day, Finland, Sweden	26 Mick Jagger's birthday 1943	27 National Happy Birthday Day	28 	29 St. Peter and St. Paul Day, Chile
30 						

June is:

National Black Music Month, Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Month, Cat Month, National Papaya Month, Zoo and Aquarium Month, Rivers Month, June Dairy Month, Safe Driver's Month, Turkey Lover's Month, National Rose Month and the birthday/anniversary month of Scars Publications and "Children, Churches and Daddies" magazine, 1993

image
by
**Lorelei
Jones**



down in the dirt

623

Simon Perchik

Cross-hairs, the slow calibrating turn
--it even has the silencer
and in a dark room you wash the dead

--you keep records the way a coroner
will recognize the angle, lean down to admire
the arrangement and timing --at the exact minute

still kissing, smelling from scented chemicals
--with just a bath that has nothing to do
with how stars fall back these two

know what sunlight can do if its aim is hushed
held still for Spring, for a man and a woman
as if they couldn't sign something fast enough.

stationery guidelines for postcards and letterhead

FOR POSTCARDS

First class rate	Postcard rate
8-1/2 x 11	4-1/4 x 6, max. size
8 x 10, photoprint	4 x 6, file
6 x 9, file	3-1/2 x 5-1/2, standard
5 x 8, file	3-1/4 x 5-1/2, postal
5 x 7, photoprint	3 x 5, file
5-1/2 x 7, photoprint	3 x 4-1/2, min. size

FOR LETTERHEAD

Commercial	8-1/2 x 11
Monarch	7-1/4 x 10-1/2
Note	6 x 9 and 4 x 5-1/2
Memo	5-1/2 x 8-1/2
Billhead	8-1/2 x 7-3/4
Professional	8-1/2 x 7-1/4
Society	5-3/8 x 6-7/8
Social	5 x 6-1/2



july

2002

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

Anniversary of the
Founding of the Communist
Party, China
Canada Day, in Canada

2

President Garfield Shot
today in 1881

3

4

**Independence
Day**
Phillipine/American
Friendship Day, Phillipines
Louis Armstrong's Birthday

5

6

7

8

9

Independence Day,
Argentina

10

11

12

Public Holiday, Grest Britian
Battle of Boyne Bank
Holiday (N. Ireland)

13

Irish Orangeman's Day

14

National Day, France
Bastille Day, France

15

16

First A-bomb Test, 1945
Man's First Moon Landing -
Apollo II

17

Constitution Day, S. Korea

18

19

Women's Convention
Anniversary, 1845

20

Moon Walk Day

21

National Women's Hall of
Fame Dedicated, 1979
National Day, Belgium

22

Pied Piper of Hamlin Day

23

24

25

St. James Day, Spain

26

27

28

WWI began today in 1914

29

30

31

July is:
July Belongs to Blueberries Month, National Baked Bean Month, National Hot Dog Month,
Anti-Boredom Month, National Ice Cream Month, National Picnic Month

image by
Claire



horoscope dates

Aquarius	January 20	February 18
Pisces	February 19	March 20
Aries	March 21	April 19
Taurus	April 20	May 20
Gemini	May 21	June 21
Cancer	June 22	July 22
Leo	July 23	August 22
Virgo	August 23	September 22
Libra	September 23	October 23
Scorpio	October 24	November 21
Sagittarius	November 22	December 21
Capricorn	December 22	January 19

down in the dirt



written by melancholia

Why would I be a communist? Well, you must consider where I live and work. In this area, people are so inbred (not I, however) and ill read that anything unpatriotic is practically satanic. I have been called a communist for expressing how limited our freedom is, because some redneck jackass thinks he knows more than I, when he's nothing but a dirty man.

You wouldn't think there's a lot of 1st amendment fodder working at a convenience store...

Lots of situations dujour...

One of my favorites involves a certain lighter that has a woman's bikini-clad torso on it. When you push down the little button thingee that lights it (Sorry, I don't know the names of the lighter parts.) the nipple area and the vaginal area light up and blink for a few seconds. The lighter does not have a woman's head on it. Instead the flame comes out where the head should be. This mute little lighter says a lot about my working environment. One thing it caters to is the constant group of drunk and horny men who frequent my store. Without saying a word it communicates what all of the men think they know about women: we are just a body. No head and no feet. No thinking abilities and no way to support ourselves. Only in Texas it said across the torso. Only in Texas would we still be caught up in

freedom strength

**you can't be free or strong
unless you can speak up**

the dark ages of women's liberation. Everyday, I see ragged housewives walking in, some haggard and afraid to look me in the eye, some in a huge hurry to have the old man's dinner on the table, and some just reminiscent of days past. I see how they act about certain issues and I know that they aren't happy. I know what they tell me at times is not what they really think. But my job is to get them in and out with their goods and not meddle in someone else's affairs, so I refrain from doing so.

I hate that little lighter.

I hate what it symbolizes and what it implies.

I hate it's cute, little, headless body with the unrealistic proportions disrespectfully decked out in a (god help me) polka dot bikini.

But at the same time, I love that lighter.

You see, the convenience store I work at has chains all over the county and most of southeast Texas. Out of all of these chains,

my chain is the one store that is allowed to sell this lighter after the two and a half months it has been on the shelf. Why is this? All of the other chains were solicited by the conservative community so prevalent in this neck of the woods, and they backed down from selling the controversial lighters. It was pulled from the shelves because of the negative portrayal of women. Although I agree with this interpretation of the silent lighter, I disagree with it's censorship. Wasn't this the country founded on the principle of freedom?

Don't we have a 1st amendment protecting our freedom of speech?

Isn't taste irrelevant to this whole situation? So, while I hate the message the lighter sends people, I like the fact that I am free to sell cheap, tasteless crap to the masses. It doesn't make me the happiest person in the world that people are so disgusting, but at least we are free to be disgusting.

august

2002

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

August is...

National Water Quality Month, National Recruitment Month, National Catfish Month, National Canning Month, American Artists Appreciation Month, National Sandwich Month

flowers

January	Carnation
February	Violet
March	Jonquil
April	Sweet Pea
May	Lily of the Valley
June	Rose
July	Larkspur
August	Gladiolus
September	Aster
October	Calendula
November	Chrysanthemum
December	Narcissus

1

friendship day
People's Liberation Army
Founding Anniversary, China
Summer Bank Holiday,
Ireland, UK
Civic Holiday, Canada
National Day, Switzerland
Jerry Garcia born, 1942

2

3

4

5

National Mustard Day
Summer Bank Holiday,
Great Britain

6

Lucille Ball's Birthday

7

American Family Day

8

Garfield the cat's friend
Odie's birthday

9

carol trisko's bday
National Day, Singapore

10

11

Watts Riots Anniversary,
1965
Armed Forces Day,
Zimbabwe
King Hussein's Accession to
the throne, Jordan

12

Heroe's Day, Zimbabwe
The Queen's Birthday,
Thailand

13

Middle Children's Day
Annie Oakley's Birthday

14

Family Day
Vitory Day (in Rhode
Island)

15

Feast of the Assumption
General San Martin Day,
Argentina
Independence Day, India
Liberation Day, S. Korea
25th anniversary of the
Woodstock concert
Assumption Day

16

Elvis passed away today in
1979
Bukowski's, Madonna's and
Michael Jackson's Birthdays

17

dave and gigi
seng's wed anniv

18

Bad Poetry Day
Women's Voting Rights Day

19

National Aviation Day
Hawaii's anniversary

20

St. Stephen's Day, Hungary

21

Count Basie's birthday, 1904

22

23

Hug your Girlfriend or
Boyfriend Day

24

Amelia Earhart became the
first woman to make a non-
stop flight across the U.S.
today, 1932. She made the
trip from Los Angeles to
Newark in 19 hours, 5 min-
utes.

25

Elvis Costello's birthday,
1954
Kiss-and-Make-Up Day

26

Women's Equality Day
Late Summer Holiday, Great
Britain

27

28

Dream Day
National Heroes Day,
Philippines

29

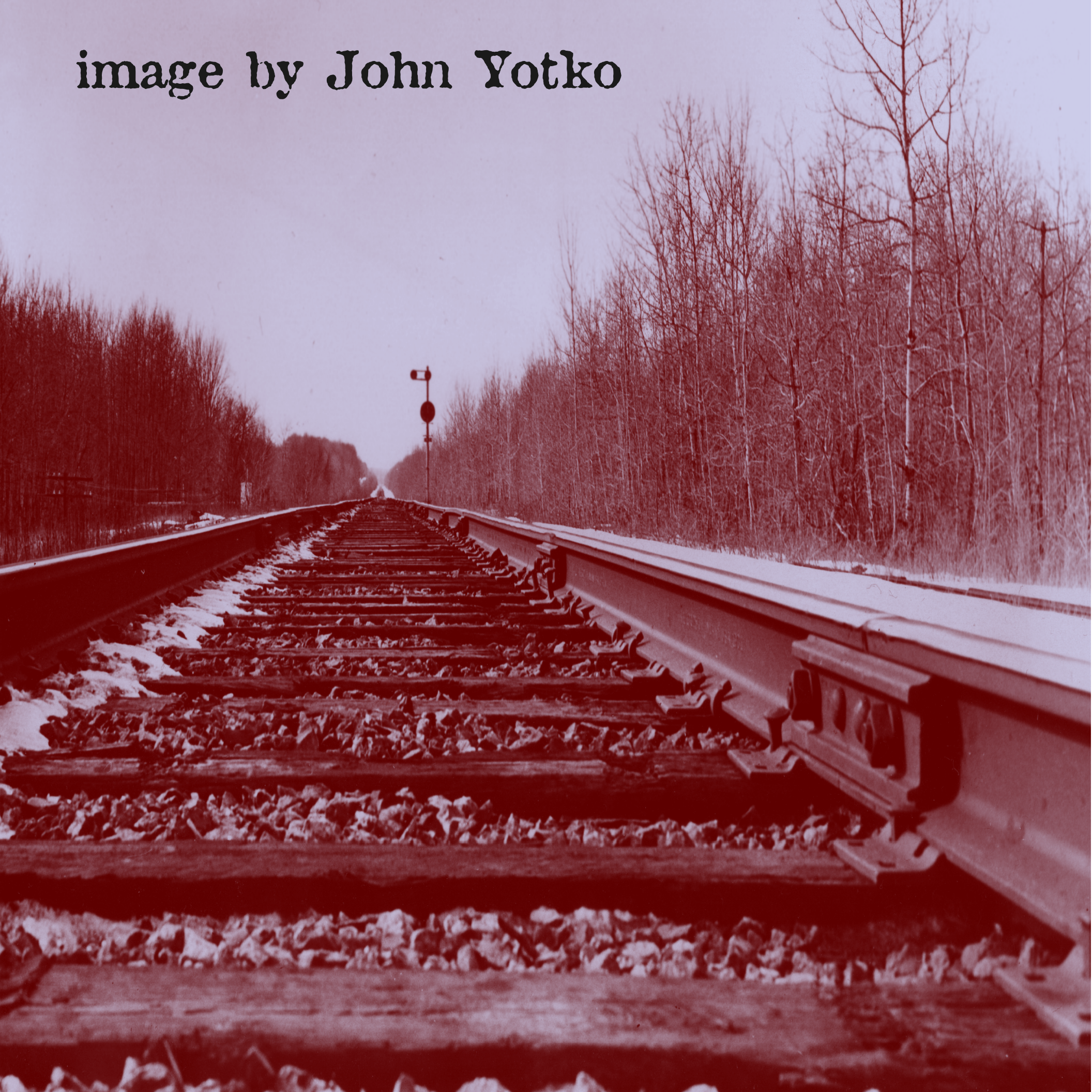
Late Summer Holiday (UK
not Scotland)
Liberation Day, Hong Kong
More Herbs Less Salt Day

30

31

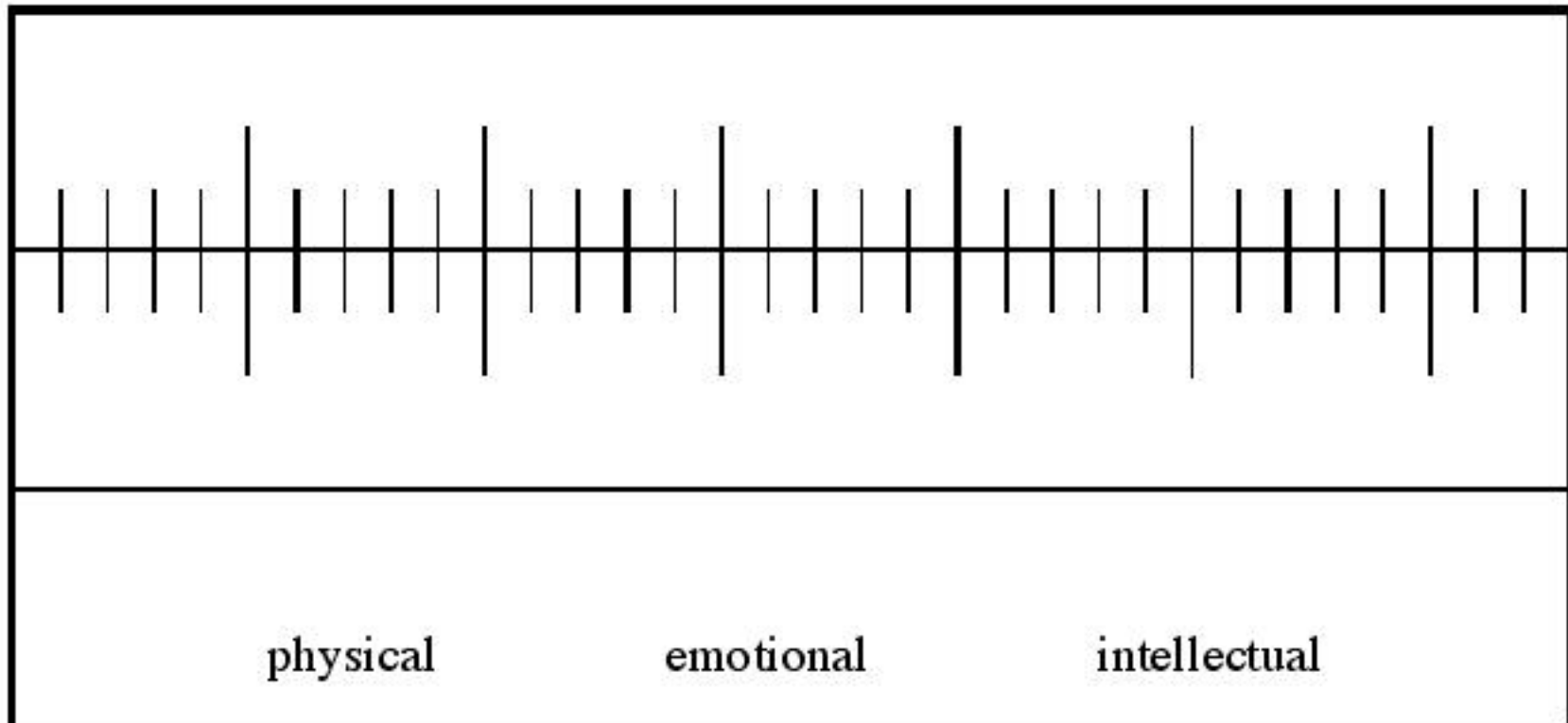
Van Morrison's birthday,
1945

image by John Yotko



To Calculate your Biorhythm:

1. Calculate the number of days you have lived today (remember leap years).
2. For the three cycles:
physical 23(days)
emotional 28(days) intellectual 33(days)
divide the number of days you have been living by each of those numbers.
The **remainder** will tell you the number of days into each cycle you are.
3. Draw a cycle line for each of the different cycles (preferably in different colors or line patterns, so more distinguishable), on a graph like this:



4. Mark the 3 numbers on the appropriate cycle lines on the appropriate days.
5. Critical points are the days the cycle lines cross the base line, high days are at the top of each curve, and low days are at the bottom of each curve.

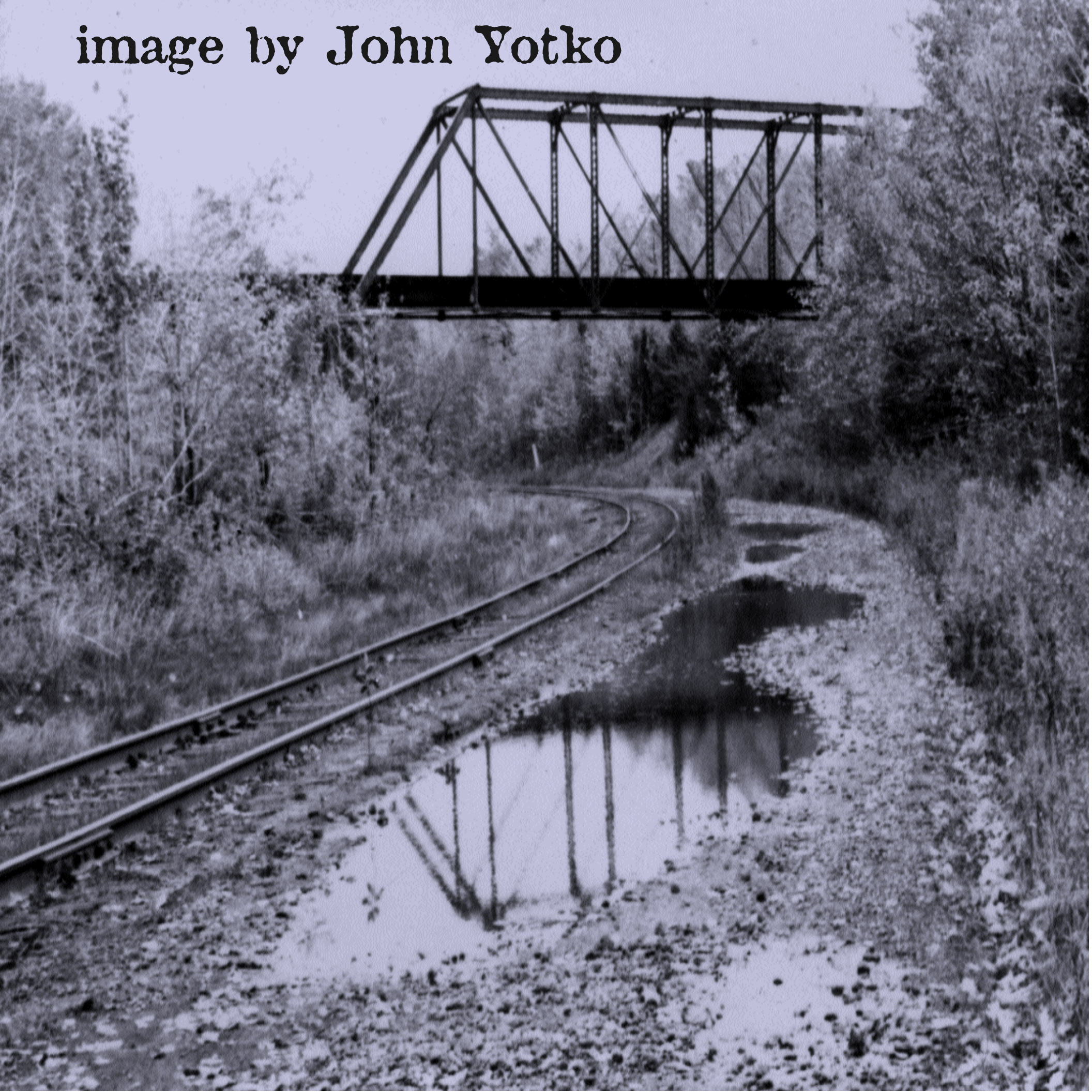


september 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																							
1	2 Labor Day	3 National Frisbee Day World War II began, 1939	4 Fathe's Day, Australia, New Zealand	5	6 First co-ed college started today	7 Independence Day, Brazil Grandma Moses' Birthday Rosh Hashanah																																							
8 Patsy Cline's Birthday Star Trek Day	9	10 Teacher's Day, China	11 National Pet Memorial Day	12 Grandparents Day	13	14																																							
15 National Hispanic Heritage Month (9/1-15)	16 Yom Kippur Independence Day, Mexico Respect for the Aged, Japan	17 Citizenship Day First black woman crowned Miss America, 1983	18 Independence Day, Chile	19 Army Day, Chile	20 First Day of Sukkot Mid Autumn Festival, China, Hong Kong Equal Rights Party founded 1884	21 Independence Day, Armenia Thanksgiving Day, Phillipines American Business Wome''s Day First woman was confirmed as a Supreme Court Justice today																																							
22 Autumn begins today	23 Autumnal Equinox, Japan National Day, Saudi Arabia	24 Jim Henson's Birthday Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald's birthday, 1896 National Bluebird of Happiness Day	25 National Good Neighbor Day Henry Ford announced today in Michigan that the 5 day work week would be the new standard	26 Shamu's Birthday George Gershwin's Birthday	27 Black College Day	28 Simhat Torah Confucius' Birthday																																							
29 Goose Day	30	<p>September is: All American Breakfast Month, Cat Health Month, National Cholesterol Awareness and Education Month, Piano Month, Organic Harvest Month, Chicken Month, Courtesy Month, National Rice Month, National Cable T.V. Month, National Honey Month, Library Card Month</p>				<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Birthstones</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>month</th> <th>Ancient</th> <th>Modern</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>January</td> <td>Garnet</td> <td>Garnet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>February</td> <td>Amethyst</td> <td>Amethyst</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March</td> <td>Jasper</td> <td>Bloodstone or Aquamarine</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April</td> <td>Sapphire</td> <td>Diamond</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May</td> <td>Agate</td> <td>Emerald</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June</td> <td>Emerald</td> <td>Pearl, Moonstone or Alexandrite</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July</td> <td>Opal</td> <td>Ruby</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August</td> <td>Carnelian</td> <td>Sardonyx, Peridot or Ruby</td> </tr> <tr> <td>September</td> <td>Chrysoite</td> <td>Sapphire</td> </tr> <tr> <td>October</td> <td>Aquamarine</td> <td>Opal or Tourmaline</td> </tr> <tr> <td>November</td> <td>Topaz</td> <td>Topaz</td> </tr> <tr> <td>December</td> <td>Stibyl</td> <td>Turquoise or Zircon</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	month	Ancient	Modern	January	Garnet	Garnet	February	Amethyst	Amethyst	March	Jasper	Bloodstone or Aquamarine	April	Sapphire	Diamond	May	Agate	Emerald	June	Emerald	Pearl, Moonstone or Alexandrite	July	Opal	Ruby	August	Carnelian	Sardonyx, Peridot or Ruby	September	Chrysoite	Sapphire	October	Aquamarine	Opal or Tourmaline	November	Topaz	Topaz	December	Stibyl	Turquoise or Zircon
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Mascellaneous Information:

image by John Yotko



Chinese Horoscope

Pig 1947 1959 1971 1983

You are a splendid companion, an intellectual with a strong need to set difficult goals and carry them out. You are sincere, tolerant, and honest but by expecting the same from others, you are very naive. Your quest for material good could be your downfall. You would be best as an entertainer, or possibly a lawyer.

Dog 1946 1958 1970 1982

The dog will never let you down. You are honest and faithful to those you love. You are plagued by constant worry, a sharp tongue, and a tendency to be a fault-finder, however. You would be a good business person, activist, teacher or secret agent.

Rooster 1957 1969 1981 1993

You are hard working; you are shrewd and definite in decision-making, speaking your mind. But this makes you seem boastful to others. You're a dreamer, flashy dresser, and extravagant to an extreme. You could be a restaurant owner, publicist, word traveler or soldier.

Monkey 1956 1968 1980 1992

You're a very intelligent and very clever wit. You are always well-liked, but you must guard against being an opportunist and distrustful of other people. Your sign promises success in any field you try.

Goat 1955 1967 1979 1991

Except for always getting off on the wrong foot with people, you can be charming company. You're elegant and artistic but the first to complain. Put aside your pessimism and try to worry less about material things. You would be best as an actor, gardener or beachcomber.

Horse 1954 1966 1978 1990

Your capacity for hard work is amazing. You're intelligent, independent and friendly, but you have a strong streak of selfishness and sharp cunning and should guard against being egotistical. Your sign suggests success as an adventurer, scientist, poet or politician.



scars publications'
Add-A-Poem

from the Add-A-Poem Guestbook:

Georganna

p_stone@hotmail.com

Kentucky

Still.

Leaves dance a slow sway

but their music is not felt.

It's the so-called

"calm before the storm" - glorified.

Air hangs

dripping with dread.

Suffocation threatens

if sanctuary does not

make itself known....

And, if sanctuary does not enchant,

the sharp sting of certain doubts

from the clouds

will wear away any

Darwinian tendencies.

Music will halt. Leaves will fall away

with no rhythm to control them....

and the storm will rage.

who's your daddy? your daddy's who?

Christopher Mulrooney

how like commissars the anchors are

how like smiling little commissars

or weeping weeping little commissars

how close the New York news is to a POTUS C€puter

and bronzes

well you have the mob ruling anonymously

until an oligarch finesses a coalition

he liquidates of course

and then you have to kiss his ass

personally

clap clap harder

the cowls in the garden

sink me

sink me

hoist me now

hoist me

rinse and repeat

october

2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
october is: Youth Against Tobacco Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Family History Month, Energy Awareness Month, International Microwave Month, Co-Op Awareness Month, Festival of Penha Month (Brazil), National Dessert Month, National Kitchen and Bath Month, Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog Month, National Apple Jack Month, National Book Fair Month, National Dental Hygiene Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Depression and Education Awareness Month, Disability Employment, Awareness Month ...		1 National Children's Day National Day, China Independence Day, Cyprus	2 Birthday of Mahatma Ghandi, India First black Supreme Court Justice sworn in, 1967	3 National Federation Day, S. Korea Tag der Deutschen Einheit and Day of Unification, Germany Francisco Morazan Holiday, Honduras Child Health Day World Habitat Day	4	5 Republic Day, Portugal Tecumseh Death, 1813
6 Missouri Day, Missouri Armed Forces Day, Egypt German American Day Ivy Day, Ireland Alfred Lord Tennyson Death, 1892	7	8 James Earl Carter born 1924 Armed Forces Day, Korea	9 White Sunday, American Samoa Cirio de Nazare, Brazil Lief Erikson Day, Iceland Alphabet Day, Korea John Lennon's birthday, 1940 Fire Prevention Day	10 Physical Culture Day, Japan Thanksgiving Day, Canada Day of the Discovery of America, Argentina Moi Day, Kenya	11 Daughters of the American Revolution founded 1890	12 ColuColumbus Day, Chile, Mexico National Holiday, Spain Our Lady Aparecida's Day, Brazil bus Day
13 Ch'ung Yeung Festival, China Marie Osmond, Paul Simon (singer) and Margaret Thatcher's birthdays	14 Columbus Day (Observed) Thanksgiving Day (Canada) Dictionary Day Bald is Beautiful Day Edward Estlin Cummings birthday, 1894	15 White Cane Safety Day Greenwich Village Poet Laureate Contest Day	16 Boss' Day, Canada First birth control clinic founded, 1916	17 National Heroes Day, Jamaica Black Poetry Day	18 Persons Day, Canada St. Luke: Feast Day Mike Ditka born 1939 Alaska Day (in Alaska)	19 Missouri Day, Missouri Evaluate Your Life Day
20 Kenyatta Day, Kenya Revolution Day, Guatemala Pioneer Day	21 National Day, Somalia Overseas Chinese Day, Taiwan	22 National Holiday, Holy See Annette Funicello's birthday, 1942	23 Anniversary of the Revolution of 1956, Hungary Chulaongkorn Day, Thailand Mother-in-Law Day	24 United Nations Day Labour Day, New Zealand	25 Geoffrey Chaucer died, 1400 First Female FBI Agent: 1972 Sourest Day Retrocession Day, Taiwan	26 National Day, Austria Mule Day Horseless Carriage Day Hillary Rodham Clinton, Pat Sajak and Jaclyn Smith born today
27 Theodore Roosevelt's Birthday Nationla Day, Grenadines Last Quarter Navy Day	28 Labour Day, New Zealand Bank Holiday, Great Britain National Holiday, Greece the Erie Canal opened today, 1825	29 Stock Market Crash, 1929 National Holiday, Turkey Wild Foods Day WOW founded, 1966	30 Mischief Night	31 Halloween Bank Holiday, Ireland Reformationstag/Day of Reformation, Germany UNICEF Day	october is: Campaign for Healthier Babies Month, Gourmet Adventures Month, Lupus Awareness Month, National Clock Month, National Liver Awareness Month, National Pizza Month, National Car Care Month, National Pasta Month, Computer Learning Month, Popcorn Month, Seafood Month, Consumer Information Month, National SIDS Awareness Month, National AIDS Awareness Month, National Sarcastics Awareness Month, Polish American Heritage Month, Spinal Health Month, Vegetarian Awareness Month, International Association of Culinary, Professionals' Cookbook Month	

image by Lorelei Jones



Chinese Horoscope

Snake 1953 1965 1977 1989

Rich in wisdom and charm, you're romantic and deep thinking and your intuition guides you strongly. Avoid procrastination and your stingy attitude toward money. Keep your sense of humor about life. You're content as a teacher, philosopher, writer, psychiatrist, and fortune teller.

Dragon 1952 1964 1976 1988

Full of vitality and enthusiasm, you're a popular individual even though you can be foolhardy and a "big mouth." You're intelligent, gifted and a perfectionist, but these qualities make you demanding on others. You could be an artist, priest or politician.

Rabbit 1951 1963 1975 1987

You're the kind of person people like to be around - affectionate, obliging, always pleasant. You have a tendency, though, to get too sentimental and seem superficial. Cautious and conservative, you're successful in the business world but would also make a good lawyer, diplomat or actor.

Tiger 1950 1962 1974 1986

You're sensitive, emotional, and capable of great love. However, you have a tendency to get carried away and be stubborn, often seen as a "hothead" or a rebel. You'd be excellent as a boss, explorer, race car driver, or matador.

Buffalo 1949 1961 1973 1985

A born leader, you inspire confidence from all. You're conservative, methodical and good with your hands. Guard against being chauvinistic and always demanding your own way. You'd be good as a skilled surgeon, general or hairdresser.

Rat 1948 1960 1972 1984

You're imaginative, charming and truly generous to the one you love. However, you have a tendency to be quick tempered and overly critical. You're also somewhat an opportunist. You'd be happy in sales or as a writer, critic or publicist.

The Chinese horoscope is based on a twelve year cycle -- each year being represented by an animal. Find the year you were born to determine your sign.



november

2002

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Miscellaneous information:

To find the diameter of a circle multiply the circumference by .21821.
 To find the circumference of a circle multiply the diameter by 3.1416.
 To find the area of a circle multiply the square of the diameter by .7854.
 To find the surface of a ball multiply the square of the diameter by 3.1416.
 To find the side of an equal square multiply the diameter by .8862.
 To find the cubic inches in a ball multiply the cube of the diameter by .5236.
 A gallon of water contains 231 cubic inches and weighs about 8-1/3 pounds.
 A cubic foot of water contains 7.5 gallons.
 A horse power is equal to raising 33,000 pounds 1 foot per minute.
 Steam rising from water at the boiling point (212 degrees F) has a pressure equal to the atmosphere (14.7 pounds to the square inch).
 To evaporate 1 gallon of water requires about 1 pound of coal.

November is:

Hunger Education Month, National Aviation History Month,
 Child Safety Month, Jewish Book Month, Good Nutrition Month,
 National Hospice Month

1

All Saints Day
 Black Solidarity Day
 Standard Time begins today
 Day of the Dead, Mexico
 President's State of the
 Nation Message, Mexico

2

All Souls Day
 Day of the Dead, Mexico

3

Sandwich Day

4

Culture Day, Japan
 First Female Governor elect-
 ed, 1924
 National Unity Day, Italy

5

Election Day
 All Saints Day, Finland,
 Sweden

6

Hug-a-Bear Sunday
 Saxophone Day

7

First woman elected to
 Congress, 1916
 National Solidarity Day,
 Bangladesh

8

15

Proclamation of the
 Republic, Brazil
 Dynasty Kings Birthday,
 Belgium

9

Louis Glass installed the
 first jukebox today in
 1889, with 4 listening tubes
 controlled by a separate
 nickel in the slot device
 Buß-und Bettag, Germany

10

Birthday of Gurunanak,
 India

11

marine corps bday
 Veteran's Day
 Remembrance Day,
 Australia, Canada
 Armistice Day, Belgium, France
 God Bless America Day

12

13

First black mayor of a major
 U.S. city elected 1967

14

King Hussein's Birthday,
 Jordan

22

President Kennedy
 Assassinated 1963

23

Labor Thanksgiving, Japan

17

Homemade Bread Day

18

Independence Day, Latvia
 Mickey Mouse's Birthday

19

20

Anniversary of the
 Revolution of 1910, Mexico
 National Bible Sunday
 Repentance Day, Germany

21

World Hello Day

29

28

Thanksgiving
 Day

24

25

26

27

30

First Day of
 Hanukkah
 Bonifacio Day, Phillipines
 St. Andrew's Day
 Mark Twain born 1865

Simon Perchik

473

Each night my mouth, my cough, my sweat
reeks the way embalmers will rinse out
then close my eyes --it's impossible
to sleep without that same bath
the dead are asked to drink, are saved

for later --in the morning
slowly at first, the bed's intact
its sheet the same white linen
and the jacket worn all night
buttoned as if I would feel the wind
will be taken there again

--all day, every day and my tongue
expects the bitter after-taste, half
the retrieving odor that calls forever
half these fleece-lined boots
I can't take off.

I tell the druggist anything
but the landlord knows I live alone
and talks about the future
while I mix one more tablespoon
in shallow water, caressing waves
I can't see, that know their way
in the dark, in the whirlpool
where I sniff for rust
and the medicinal scent I hoped
could shake loose these laces
even these gloves.



image by
Cheryl Townsend

image by John Yotko

written by melancholia

Mr. Cockroach

Perhaps I look at things in the wrong
light,

MR. COCKROACH

I'm wrong, but you're so right,

MR. COCKROACH

You live as such a misfit

Crawling around, trying not to get hit

By a flying shoe or maybe a book

I would think it took

Courage to know you're low,

Loathing for humans so

Perfect their flatulence doesn't stink,

Yet so superficial, they don't think

About those so much smaller

And don't want to be a "baller"

And those who are clever

Enough to try a new endeavor...

But I bet you're not thinking about
this,

MR. COCKROACH

You're only scared of death's kiss,

MR. COCKROACH

Like Darwin says

Only the strongest survive,

And I being stronger

Will rob you and others of your lives,

MR. COCKROACH

Of late I see

An entrance as grand as a hurricane

Ripping strands of grass out

Like hair on a scratchy wool sweater

*

Rip these people out of their ruts

And place them into cozy little

pigeon holes

Divided by dotted lines

Brainwashed into certain roles

But do not color on the outside

Do not try to socialize

Or even worse,

To fraternize

To the other

Two dimensional

Humans on your different plane

Who everyday try to sustain

The status

The fabric

The static

And their 14-free eliminated rights

The same founders were vocal about
not wanting to pay taxes and owning
slaves.....but I could be called a
"communist heathen" for that
(although I'm not sure how, but yes
it has happened in the past.).

**freedom
strength**
**you can't be free or strong
unless you can speak up**



deceember

2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 Advent Independence Day, Portugal Rosa Parks Day First black woman the edit a major newspaper, 1992	2	3	4	5	6 St. Nicholas' Day Constitution Day, Spain Independence Day, Finland	7 Pearl Harbor Day	
8 Immaculate Conception (Christian Holy Day)	9	10 Toys For Tots Anniversary Constitution Day, Thailand Human Rights Day Emily Elizabeth Dickinson born, 1830	11	12 The first motel (the Motel Inn) was opened today in Obispo, California Jamhuri Day, Kenya Our Lady of Guadalupe Day, Mexico Virgin Mary Day, Argentina Poinsettia Day	13 St. Lucy's Day Susan B. Anthony dollar coined, 1978	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Forefather's Day Humbug Day National Flashlight Day Longest night of the year	
22 Winter Solstice	23 Emperor's Birthday, Japan	24 run frantically to the store to buy presents day	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa (African- American Holiday), through December 31 Return the gifts you don't like day Boxing Day, Canada St. Stephen's Day	27	28	
29	30 Rizal Day, Phillipines	31 December 31st Revolution, Ghana Ayn Rand completed <u>The Fountainhead</u> , 1942 New Year's Eve Have a wonderful new year	December is: Holidays are Pickle Days Universal Human Rights Month Bingo Month			Monday's Child is fair of face. Tuesday's Child is full of grace. Wednesday's Child is full of woe. Thursday's Child has far to go. Friday's Child is loving and giving. Saturday's Child has to work for its living. But the child that is born on the Sabbath Day is fair and wise and good and gay.	

freedom strength

**you can't be free or strong
unless you can speak up**

Jim Dewitt

YOU BE SURE TO USE

that appetizer fork to smooth your hair
so our watered-down beer of
true friendship won't get you D's
on interpersonal exams.

Surely smart shards of Yorick skull
will garnish your salad.

And blonde floozies will hand you
full cleavages of gunk
at the entrance door...

twice, thrice, till the exhausted rooster
is fully crowed out.

Making no claims to the peace
of Dragon Dungeon's mad cudgels
not forgotten.

But can your prize Kangaroo ever
slug the doom-sized gloom out of that
goddess wallflower's beautiful soul
still untethered?

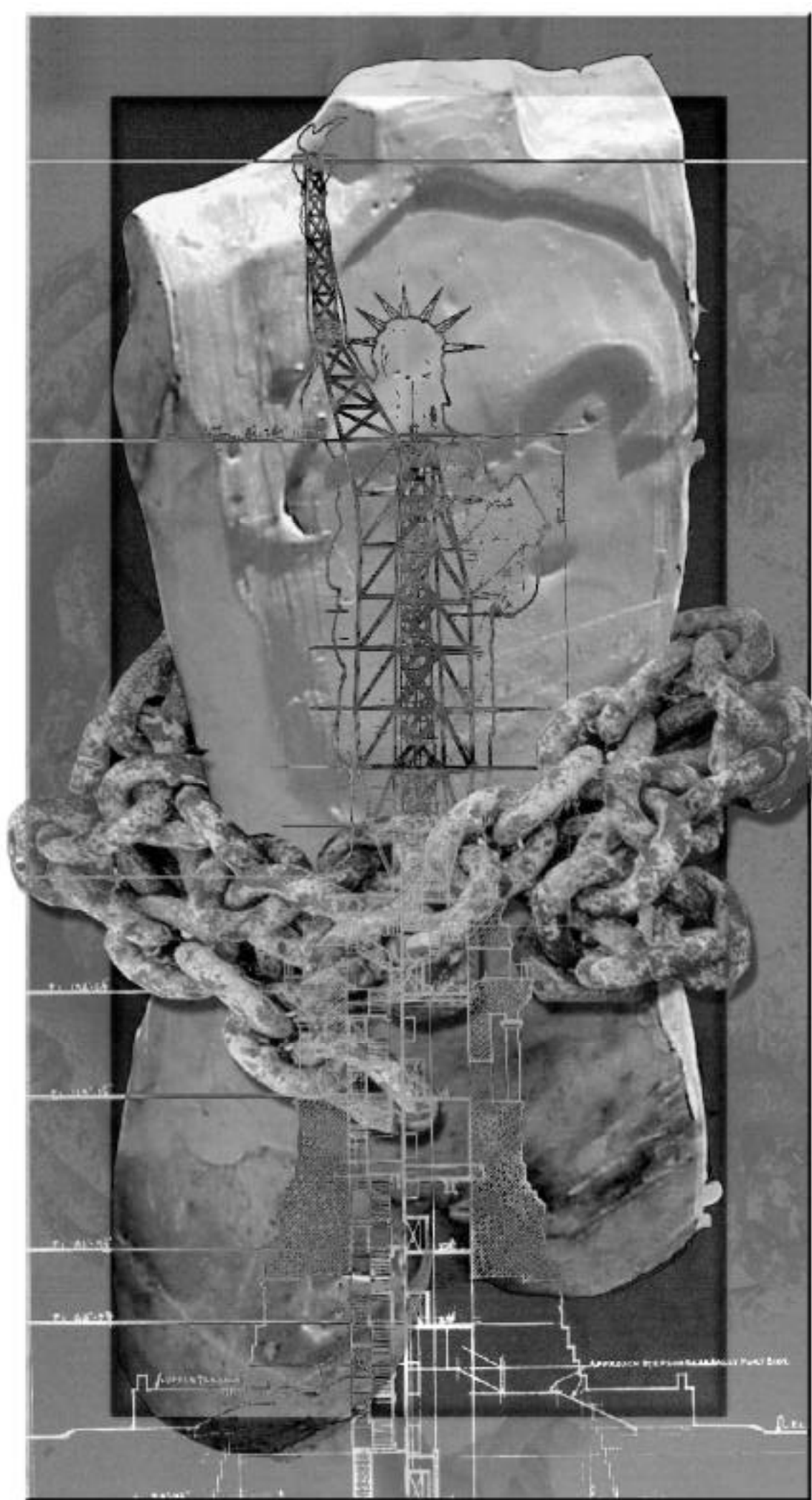


image by
**Lorelei
Jones**

scars publications'
Add-A-Poem

Farzana Moon

Fairest of Deaths

**Oh, these serpents of pain
Blasted by their own sting
Still writhe and blaspheme
Lowering their poisonous tongues
On the seat of holiness
Where my sacred Muse
Reigning in his jewel-chest of Time
Witholds the scepter of wrath
While inside this shrine
Rude serpents
Coil and uncoil
Weaving a noose for my agony
And I in utter obedience
Kneel and pray
Sleep-walking toward my fair guillotine
One lethal blow
And my severed head flies
To kiss the feet of my Muse-god
Fairest of deaths
How wretchedly you reward
The lovers most true**

silent prayers

Angel

I lived my life by what was given to me,
but it was never much to last long.
my brother and I hid from people everywhere,
tried to hide from pain as we ran into it.
we always had a mother just never a father,
she switched from man to man onto another.
I always prayed for a better life and father,
they were always silent prayers I never let her know.
she married one day and almost died another,
my step-father said her loved her by hitting her daily.
she always told everyone she loved her two kids,
she loved them enough to let them be abused and watch.
I prayed for a new family and for someone to love,
and I kept it silent and no one ever knew my thoughts.
one unlucky day this man tried to force himself on me,
and mother would believe him over me when told.
I was a liar and a home wrecker they said,
I prayed my silent prayers to stop the wrenching hurt,
God was the only one who heard my prayers,
then he answered them.

