

To the Washington Bullets of the NBA, and to the Houston Colt .45s of the National League, and to a country which didn't blink, at Death being part of Life. God is an existentialist, folks.

The pursuit of happiness, involves only pursuit.

"To my mind, Mr. Speaker, the causes of the condition of our people to-day are numerous; and they did not begin yesterday or the day before, or last year or the year before. This condition had its rise in the bad institutions of government with which we started out. We began wrong."

-Rep. "Sockless" Jerry Simpson (Populist-KS), 8/18/1893

#### STARS

As with its brethren, this volume is part of a tetralogy of chaps spelling out (in somewhat better detail) the guts of this barebones CEE poem:

The Quartering of The Universe Into Active and Passive Principles

Booze

Beasts of Burden

Heraldry\*

Death

The 4 Basic Food Groups of Existence

As highlighted, you've picked up the HERALDRY tome. If you in fact require assistance imbibing or learning to hate same, if you have a broken heart or are jonesing to rubberneck those of others, if the idea of what's beyond the veil is a turnon for you and Sylvia Plath ain't bustin' it, you've made a mistake. This slender book of verse, is but a "taps" for Amerika. It's a quiet kind of death knell, not to be confused with actual Death. As Vonnegut tells us, at some point the story is over, but Life itself goes on. That's our huddled mass, today. Story's over, nonfriends. We inhabit an Epilogue.

I chose the title carefully; I wasn't trying to be the king of subreferences. When I was a boy, I read *The Red Badge of Courage*. Standard. A lot of boys read it, in those days. I kinda liked it. Caught the sense of alienation. The "apartness", if you will. The feeling of solitude, within the swell of humanity. I absorbed all that so well, Stephen Crane's main thesis—that of overcoming fear, particularly the fear of death (in order to fit in, maybe? I dunno...), went 747, over my head. I thought the main character was out of his gourd for returning to his unit, but was relieved he didn't get clapped in irons, for having been away.

In the book, a character known as "the tattered man", who is shellshocked suffers from combat fatigue is afflicted with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, goes quietly jabberwocky, and babbles himself to death. When they got around to making the movie, (during the Korean War? Good Move!) the scene turned test audiences off to the point hordes got up and left the theater. MGM, which hated making the picture anyway, told director John Huston to bend over and grab his ankles, and today, you cannot find the Death Scene of the Tattered Man in the 1951 film. Anywhere. At All. Actor Royal Dano, who played the role, possessed of an even better voice and visage for pathos, than for the *Night Gallery*-brand of evil with which most identify him, was cheated out of the "bust out" scene of a lifetime. Serious—you can't find the scene. It ain't on Oith. You can have my house, free, if you'll screen it for me and serve me some Milk Duds. I just know the original cut of ... *Red Badge* rocked. I'm sure it kicked ass. And, I bet that was a grand death. Truly. I bet Dano's end, was magnificent.

Like if we here, had lost out on our own soil to Hitler, or if the H-Bombs had come down like rain, or if Red tanks had ever rolled down Main Street. You won't find those scenes, either, no, not in Vistavision of our fair land. Just an Epilogue. The falling action. Endless credits, to an 80's guitar.

Here, in this chap, I'll tell you about that. I have the time. I'm unwell, but am sticking around, just for a second. Before I jet this Life, I wanna see the Key Grip.

CEE Dresden, Germany, late evening, February 13th, 1945

# Advanced American History, last hour

#### Poor Ben's Smackalack

Hellfire Club
The thin end of the wenching, you might say
Makes one wonder at genius,
Since STD's make braingrains HellFire nicely,
Eventually
You obtain a kind of temporal immortality
Before what made you stronger
Destroys you

# Ill Will Babyquill

I'm writin' lies
Laughin' my butt off
'Cause I gots a feelin'
You'll believe in 'em
And see Man
As something other
Than a predatory animal
And the best part of the whole thang?
This ink, is of a vegetable dye
And it will
And then, you'll wonder what I wrote
Even though you copied it down.

# Flipping the National Bird

Doves are gay
Turkeys are ugly
I think we made the right decision,
Have you ever seen an eagle get mad?
They're assholes

# Geo. Washington at a Bund meeting

Yeah, fuck 'em... This is excellent pizza, don't you think?

# Reddie Jeffie Say

All men are created equal This referring, of course, to the starting gate You can still wind up being shit to me, If I went to a much better school than yours

#### Aaron Burr Up My Rump

Pretty certain The Terminator
Gave Burr the Federalist-piercing bullet
Or, maybe it was some mystical, Dark Shadows thing
Irony here, being, that that snot Hamilton had it right:
"Oligarchy" might sound study hall-hilarious
Kind of like how farts are funny
But, if you don't care to wear skins
And ever on shout, "Point of order!", then
It's really the best way
(a "best", still allowing for
Sicilian-style pizza and play dates)

#### BURR, Aaron Jr. (1756-1836)

(and they laid the dream out on a sawbuck)

Hamilton, him was God, Him knewed, Ultimately, The Mob must be checked If that means a rifle butt through its goddammed Guy Fawkes mask, then, fine!... ...but it didn't turn out that way, Because in a way which I respect, *Machismo* ala Bruce Willis, Burr blew a black hole into Federalist stars With a single, black powder shot; I'm in the supermarket checkout, KOOLWHIP's Whipping rap good, PA, I think about Hamilton, downed, bled, on the green: He DIED! He DIED! He DIED!, As here comes the rotten customer service As people speak in 'Jersey accents, affected, On their cells As I look upon an unmopped, unswept nation Millions keep dying for—

The Mob is not a mask
But the Brute
And so it is, Aaron
You're not the Father of the Country
You're the Father of Ours

# The Year of Our Conestoga, 1818

Waggoning
Trundlebed space capsule
Slowalong dragging reality
Of unbirthed future
We died
Died to comfort, died to Self
This was in hopes,
We waggoners
Like your Yesterday
We died

# DOUGLAS, STEPHEN A.(1813-1861) (Poem-a Obscura)

Little Giant, my little giant I've said so much of thee, Little is left to impart of import But for this: THE NEXT SOUNDS YOU READ WILL BE THOSE OF AMERICANS LIVING ON AN EARTH WHERE IT WAS LINCOLN WHO DIED PREMATURELY AND DOUGLAS WHO WAS ELECTED OUR 16th PRESIDENT: "...(fire, crackling)... (scratch of boots against slate)... #KAFFuff#...#sneeeef!!#... ...(yawn trails into a whimper)... (distant cry, epithets, gunshot, shrieking cry, more and roaring epithets, two gunshots)... (heavy exhale)...#Uh-HUPPUCKuuh#... (a sifting of something the consistency of cinders)... (a sob choked back, escapes as clearing of throat) ...(background nearby, breathing ala Darth Vader) ...(broken glass being snapped)..."

...And what you read, Gentle Reader, Is Okay by Me I pray every day for nuclear war God Rest Stephen A. Douglas

## It Looks Like War, Miss Scarlett

Call that square dance, Grandpa
Call that square dance for what it is
Rustic
Rural
And frighteningly Boonesborough
Now,
Fetch me my bags, willya, lad,
And you shall have a shiny copper

## Benjamin Harrison, or

Don't Blame Me, I Took a Time Machine to 2000 and Voted For Nader

#Ha-Uffuffle#
I look wise behind my beard
Or maybe I'm a wisenheimer
Shakin' my behind
My beard a beard for the fact
Of age not being a merit badge
Venerable? Admirable?
Yeah
Yeah, right
I look at a Sharpei and say,
"Droolies! Me wanna be like him!"
Scratchin' my behind, asswise
Another old beardo you elected
blahblahblahthe principles for which we stand
A man

# The Child Labor All-Boys Lederhosen Chorus

Swallowed up, in the library Of my pre-Depression era-built school The exciting, Zane Grey quality of the LIFE History of the United States Volume 7 was "The Age of Steel and Steam" I always thought that was musical I used to belt it out, at random, "The Age of Steeeel and Steeeeeam!" Mom just chuckled "Oh, you funny kid!" "The Age of Steeeel and Steeeeeam!" Kids leering my way, party masks of clique-y hatred Kids who didn't play with me Or tried to and dismally failed, Me sitting there with LIFE, Volume 7 Which I didn't do much, not that one, 'cause The kids I would've hated back, long about 1890, I could read, died brutal, crummy deaths Nothing I ever wanted to see, A dingy, dirty sorta-part of the Past, I thought, Sitting in the library womb Asbestos and lead and real, wood splinters Gazing, cult member, at Custer or Davy Crockett Rearing lion, before Death, Now, That's church, I thought, heartsong They sure weren't forgotten People still play with them

## The Spirit of Clontarf

Lindbergh flew his historic destruction of our planet For you see, he erased distance, with his flight— You do understand that, don't you? The two men who destroyed the Earth Were /Are "Puck" of *Real World III* fame, And Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr. Lindy, he erased all distance, so We stood in front of one another, Puck, he modeled the fact we Did Not have to be nice As we stood there— But, earliest morning before the night before The Spirit of St. Louis landed in France, Lindbergh, dead tired, several times Cruised a fishing boat, low to water-level as he dared Yelling, "IS THIS IRELAND?!" It was Which gave the fisherman some choice in this experiment With simple musketoon Assuming he had one aboard, See, the Spirit of St. Louis, was essentially, To even be able to begin to ever make it to France, A gas tank with wings So you know Irish fisherman, 1927, plays it Swedish chef on The Muppet Show,

Don't laugh Think of it in terms of 9/11

Our planet, our Future, therefore saved...

"Bloomersmoot!"

# "I don't agree with Hate!...do I?"

If I mentioned Father Coughlin,
And you didn't just mump that you
Weren't religious,
You'd automatic reflex, file the Father in
The League of Nazis,
Too mindful of loud cathedral radio mouths
In simpler, bumpkin times
Worrying the Tea-Bone of demagogy,
It at least sticking to ribs of your social justice matrix
That no one should do your thinking for you
Since your professors already have

# Coughlin (Dimly Goggling Demagogy)

The poor to eat Abundance, to share Caring for the ain't-heaviness of brethren Give of the wealth Pass the bread And the mashed potatoes and the ketchup God-Damned-well CARE, you've No Choice! For this, postmodern knees jerk "Hate" Upon radio visage, Impossibly by graph pooling mercury of Government Into a perfectly square caring Reserved Golden for from one to Another

#### World War Two For the Soul

In the beginning was the word An appeal from an orange crate And one pauses And another hears A third listens The fourth, sees a crowd begin to form, Oration absorbed as aural fire And, sometimes, there are shouts Against the appeal And, sometimes, speaker's logic is questioned Occasionally, fights break out Dissent has heads busted open, In the end, few retort Because the speaker is free, long, to speak And fists cannot best his men, The deciding vote, for this Decider, that Brute Strength Displays Power, therefore Man Can Be Beaten Into Agreeing

An anarchist friend, once protested this,
Protested a tortured, frightened, intimidated soul
"agreeing"
He said, "That's not 'him' (who is conceding)!"
So what? Why should that matter?
Worlds burn down, because approval is not required
Merely acquiescence
Worlds burn down, because acquiescence
Can be beaten
Out of you

#### On Dealey Plaza

(Swear to God)

All the angles, photos and arrows, heads turning Perpendicular parallels rightangling merrily along At some point, the whole JFK thing on film Is an exercise in how Not to dance to Madonna's "Vogue"

Take a picture and step to the side
Now, take another picture
Now, squat one foot down
Now, take another picture
Now, tilt the camera 45 degrees
Now, take another picture,
Take every picture of every square inch of every bit
Of goddammed-fucking Dealey Plaza
Now, see them all at once in your mindseye,
little god,
And describe the fucking room,
Oh, but...! That street light didn't even exist, then!
Yes, it did
Spin around on Dealey Plaza, until you fall down,
What are you hoping to accomplish?

If I don't get that beach in 1979, If I don't get my paste-eating innocence, again, You don't get Yours

#### Summer of Guard, 1967

I'd have shot her daisy ass I'd have opened up I'd have gotten into trouble Been pilloried for it, but So would have the entire squad; No human wants to admit humans are Biped, baa-ing sheep, but If I'd opened up, So would have the entire squad, Lotta dead peace and grave flowers, lotta (this'll make the papers) Lotta object lessons if then the world Went the way it did, anyway, or A generation missing, if we'd hardened up Either way A generation, missing

# Oh, my God (convenience store, Dec.25th, 1991)

...did you see this, did you... Oh, My God! You've gotta be kidding! The Soviet Union *fell*! OH MY GOD, YEAHHAHH!! It's over, Oh, My God, Oh, Christ, It's finally over! YAAAY!! It ended! Hey! Hey, You! Merry Christmas! Hello, Bedford Falls! Merry Christmas! The Reds collapsed! The Soviets are toast, they're GONE!! A Christmas miracle! Take *that*, Nikita! HAAAAH-HAAAAAH...!! Oh, my God, oh, God Love The Gipper (sniff) Ohhh, *Christ*, God Love You, Gipp, fare ya well... YEAH! A won world! A realized world! It's gonna work, now! It's gonna, everything's gonna Be US!!

#### Convenience store manager:

You don't understand...these people are all gonna Start killing each other, now Ain't no steelyass guards in front of those silos They have to get jobs, now, and eat...

Awesome! Excellent! We-Rule-The-Planet! Stalin's spinning like a gyroscope!! *HAAARGGH!! Merry Christmas, Mr. Potter! Hey, guess what?* The Cold War is OVER, and WE WON!!

#### 9/11 Rain

There were neighborhoods ...everyone knows this, Hell... There were neighborhoods where Days after the fact, even weeks, Bits of pulp of paper and forms, Circulars, ID, memos, Bits of a boring old USA Floated in, from September 11<sup>th</sup> And the nation, At that moment trying to be The one I remember The one I keep screaming at you about, Made it more memory, more war memorial, more Effigy of the innocent More Scarlett O'Hara, scorning anorexia More dirty-faced Ireland, yearning to free More Khan Noonien Fist, to sky which hated During that 6-week or two-month "attempt", Nice try, kids You wouldn't have even done that If it'd been bricks, mortar and jagged sheet glass A whole ten days later Desktop putting games, hard rain down #WHAM# dead #SMASH# dead OMG, tragedy, a whole new horror!

Hey
There could be money in this

# Which Brings Us to Today (buy your own damned food)

# And Then I Had a Big Mac

The soldier died
In Sgt. Saunders' arms
Music swelling
Couple of swells
Dying to make men free
As God just R. Crumbs on,
And, I liked it;
The soldier died
In Brian Williams' newstory,
I thought,
"Jesus God, this blows!"
Re-popping in my DVD of Combat!
Re-watching old soldiers die
With production values

# I Am Right; End of Subject

"There is no absolute 'Right'!", said the one friend

To which, the other replied,

"Oh, no, only if you arbitrarily

Say

That there isn't!"

Many, today

Reamed raw by bushes

Say Right is Not right, but

Postmodernists say

Arbitrarily

There is no absolute 'right'

Which condones either jackboots or overalls,

I'm unsure which,

Because No absolute 'right'

To leggo-my-ego-centered humans

Would mean, you don't know how far you can go

Until you go too far,

Which, that last bit, that maxim?

The one friend said that to me, later, and

I wanted to watch my goddammed Jane Fonda movie In peace,

So, sotto voce, I replied,

"That's word games."

#### we hold this drool to be self-evident

I asked Gary Hart at the rally,
If he'd consider joining a
Third party
He told me,
"I don't think we even have a second one."
We talked awhile
About gluttony, about
Centrist power elite
About the scratching of backs
And the excitation of genital muscles
Which gives birth to what's called
The American Wet Dream,
Not trying to get squishie, here, but
Anyone really Can share in that dream,
If they just take off the right suit

# Oh, yeah (social decay goes on)

Half-pajama'd gym shorts over torn out crotch smelliest robe sweeping leaves to the curb so's the neighbors don't bitch, it isn't that kind of neighborhood, anymore You haven't realized it, yet You do realize the old woman next door finally sold the place and died, new neighborhood's getting out of a monster truck She flashes a smile that winks tooth juice there's an elongated conversation standard perv, you're aware of her, She's young enough to be your daughter (if your first GF hadn't been sculpted out of liquid nitrogen) girl's a geometry book of curves, all baby fat just one baby and, God, will she be John Cougar's singing "Jack and Diane" in your head Her smile says you're stupid You misinterpreted, though, four years later, you stumble onto her Internet call girl profile now you understand, all the come 'n go trucks be nice to go over and spend a quarter, but it's such a different neighborhood, now You don't feel as safe as you used to

# An Early Late Blight

The family across the way
Evicted
The family down the street
Thrown out
The family next door
Lost their mortgage
The family in back
Forced to move
So nice
To not hear kids screaming, all day long
Wow
This is a pretty cool Gameboy game

# Pause in the Extra-long Saki Break

#Bw-WAAA!!#

There sit unreal real propaganda Mountain beam sweatfire, ramrod plewds It happytalkietalkie talkietalktalk

(derisive hisses)

Back to work, you assholes, Be grateful for your lot! To not think apart, may be one thing They're starving, in America Bonus Paper Trax: 3 poems utilizing Pac-Man, socially

# Pac-Mephistopheles, or the stupid game is a...

Metaphor for Life Ain't NO WAY out a ah al all alive Runrunrunnedyrunrun Unavoidabubble cares Bad, Unavoidabubble cares Kill!! Let's go this way, uhhhhhhh Where did we leave the car Doors, no, just Hallways Roobyrooby hallways Once you get used to it, It's the same Rewards few and between As portent Carrots masquerading as fruits on a stick, Happybaby music in high whine of Manic Everyday And like as if nonstop eating, Gotta refuel, Gotta refool Yeah, all right, I'm sold Idn't any question a'tall This particular magic-electro-box Tells Us The Whole Truth So, burn every damned one, right now And begin the chant

#### Blackmail Fruit

boompboomp
Thass opportunity knockin'
Say the Old Greatest Boys of the
(sadly) Ended
Thass a willysilly, nittynutty
Chance
To Tinker your Ever toward
It came to you in overalls
Suffering from a severe fun deficiency
You'll do it, you'll
Work and stuff
ohyeah
If only for fruits of normalcy
Wax, but like the
Neighbors'

#### Human is a Geek

I'm somethin' I'm the best Pac-Man player in the world I make love and have a job There is meaning in my Lack of meaning Proper congeal to my chaos I pay bills, Hell! I've had kids, I can say, "Ya workin' hard or hardly workin'?" **PERSON** I'm a purrrrrr sssssssin Human juice, yearning, inside every container We're the best Pac-Men in the (I get scared at night) We're the Pac-Men

#### BARS

"Heeey!" blurts The Cultured Reader, as he recoils. "What's this "BARS" business? 'STARS' and 'BARS'? Don't you mean 'STRIPES'? And, using a Civil War movie as a jumping-off point...are you trying to slip in some sort of Confederate sympathy, here? Is this in fact, literary sedition?"

#SIGH#

No, nonfriend, it just worked on a number of levels, that's all...like my 7th grade Science teacher's lecture utilizing the word "can": "...you drink your soda, out of a 'can'... someone in the schoolyard gets mad at you, knocks you on your 'can'...the police arrest you, and they throw you in the 'can'...." (there was a lot more in a similar vein).

Likewise, "bars". If Confederate it be, what is ye olde CSA, today? Our most famous Lost Cause. Wouldn't that sum up the general, man-in-the-street consensus of our red, white and blue experiment, at this juncture, Dana? A lost cause?

And, if "bars" meaning "beer joints", well, maybe we're drinking to forget we're lost. In deepening shadows, down on your luck, maybe that's the only viable choice remaining.

If the "bars" denote a prison, well, to further Vonnegut, if you thought the story of your life—or your country—had been told, and the rest of it consisted of watching the caterers stack chairs, what I refer to in another poem as "a sentimental journey to Blind Chaos"... well, maybe that emptiness is nothing but more loss. Like losing a keepsake, a family heirloom or special snapshot. A classic death scene, in a forgotten film. Losing any and all of our talismen, which could have served as "how to".

**BARS**. A past, gone. A past run from, ignored, distorted. A past, battened down and shut up fast. A resonant, moppet-eyed ghost on silver nitrate, of Amerika Past. Babbling itself to death.

I wish it was still out there. That scene. Royal Dano. In a trunk, in some CEO's attic, or in some psycho fan's. In a vault at Warner, perhaps, mislabeled, "Top Hat (Ginger breaks a heel, other outtakes)". Intact on a reel some centenarian shows neighbor kids. The Tattered Man, rattling off word salads, walking in tighter and tighter circles, until he simply falls to the Earth. And, it can just be over, now. For us as well, sort of. Looking at the Dead, at every dead hope or wish, we can stop, too. End, ourselves, perhaps...because, yeah, okay, we don't really wanta die...but, we wanta rest.

All arguments being equal in the cyclotron, Doctor Manhattan of WATCHMEN fame, calls it best: "Nothing *ever* ends." No. That's what's crushing. Nothing does. No surcease for the suffering, no 7th Cavalry, either. "THE END" doesn't appear in the air, and we don't then sleep into a starless void wherein exists only possibility. There are no quick fixes. We get up the next day to earn our bread, or to wish for it. Hoping, like some sucker in Vegas watching the wheel. Dreaming, like Charlie in the Box, about next year.

Heraldry, the romance of The State, the swell of one's bosom in response to symbolism, is a 2-part epoxy of panacea. I for one believe in it. Most strongly.

Joe Citizen. Impassioned. Old School. I act on it, all the time. But, as the Amish farmer told Barney Miller, "'Don't make the walk no shorter."

—CEE, 8/8/11

Royal Dano's Death Scene 'tis of Thee

CEE

2013 chapbook Scarsuottentiqua.

http://scars.tv

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#### Magazine S: Children, Churches and Daddies (cc&d magazine), founded June 1993; Down in the Dirt, conceived 1994, founded 2000

The Oil CSS - Hope Clarifs in the Nation, the Window, Goes Corn blots Stirling, (Woman, Actum Recass, Content) Under Pressure, the Average Coy's Golde (the Feminical), Changing Goors, the Kry to Edening, Damestri Skirters, Etc., Owerer, Exern Verson, Verson,
The Oiler Side, The Best Larly's Edenined for Englance and 2005 Transcarded Edition), Duality, Sings, Sings per Heroschip, Change Preservation, Change of Control, Andrew Celline, Billiver & Born (the Engrape and 2005 Transcarded Edition), Sings, Sings per Heroschip, Change of Control, Andrew Celline, Billiver & Born (the Engrape and 2005 Transcarded Edition), Sings, Sings per Heroschip, Change of Control, Andrew Celline, Billiver & Born (the Engrape and 2005 Transcarded Edition), Sings, Sings per Heroschip, Change of Control, Andrew Celline, Billiver & Born (the Engrape and 2005 Transcarded Edition), Sings, Sings States and Other Stocks, Change of Control, Andrew Celline, Billiver & Born (the Transcarded Edition), Sings, Sings States and Other Stocks, Change of Control, Andrew Celline, Billiver & Born, Change of Control, Change

Compact Discs: Man's for with Viscothic demand to pages, Kappers the learnd (MP) Incidenced, Weeds and Flowers the beauty & the devolution, The Second Acing Something is Sweating, The Second Acing Live in Alexies, Potato & Kappers Live at Cale Abolton, Printers Orchestra Enough Wisco, Kappers Seeining Things Officerandly, 50/50 TeX TeX, Kappers Changes Remmap, their from Clace The Entropy Pringel, Report Stage, Report Stage, Report Nesterful Performances and CR. Report Stage and Report Stage