

M U S H R O O M  
C L O U D  
R E D E Y E  
*by*  
*Art Goodtimes*

This long poem in electronic form  
(an eBook or eChapbook)  
opens on the computer screen  
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with no distracting menus.

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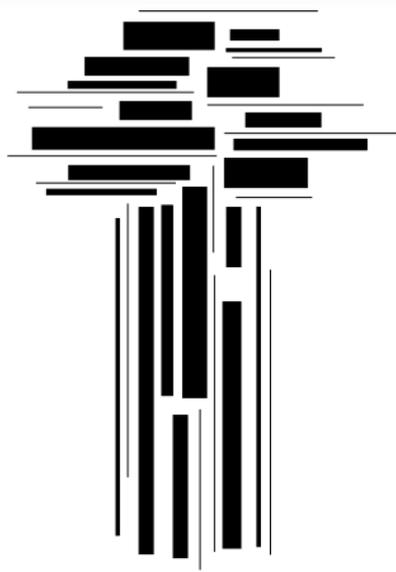
MUSHROOM

CLOUD

REDEYE

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A RANT



ART

GOODTIMES

# α

alpha ray: a positively charged  
nuclear particle  
ejected at high speed  
in certain radioactive  
transformations

It was the 50s  
when they dropped the bomb on us  
born in the post-war boom

Our eyes like radar  
trained on the horizon  
scanning for the high  
noon Matt Dillon sudden death  
shootout in the OK corral  
OD in the bathroom  
exhaust pipes pumping two car  
dinosaur monoxide

Our pulse plugged in  
& thumping  
rabid foot  
to the beat of the big bang

Dresden  
Hiroshima  
Nagasaki

White sands raining Uranium-235

Our ears glued to the tube  
retinas glowing  
blue-green  
& horizontal  
in the flicker of the cathode's  
buzz and bombardment

Newspeak in Newsweek  
Wall St. & Madison Ave.  
Winston tastes good like cancer should

Bing Crosby  
Bridgit Bardot  
James Dean

Dinah Shore selling Chevy V-8s  
Perry Como pocketing stars like stolen watches  
while tooth and nail down on the floor of  
the stacked market tickertape hoopla  
Fortune's Five Hundred  
paraded us  
doubletime head-on brick wall into the lead of  
the cold war Swiss bank destruction derby

When in doubt  
slug it out  
dancing hula hoop  
Betty Boop  
coonskin caps & bobby sox  
Chubby Checkers doing the Twist  
the Limbo

Cherry dragsters driven off cliffs  
silver nitrate  
sodium nitrite  
cocaine cola

"you got a reefer, man?"

Pure madness  
the 50s  
& we were all cheechakos  
still wet behind the ears  
tenderfoots lost in the wasteland  
brownies & altar boys  
sucking nipples of aluminum  
& permapress polyester  
mea culpa  
mea boca  
mea maxima mamella  
mimicking Douglas McArthur  
in John Wayne drag  
b-b-guns blazing  
Iwo Jima  
Battle of the Bulge  
hands in our pants

Too young to understand why  
frigid Miss Purse made us first period

pledge for the principal

I LIKE IKE

I LIKE ICE

I LIKE

General Motors

pom-poms

Texas S & M

Minnie Mouse spread-eagled  
behind Frank Sinatra's golfcart

Joe McCarthy in the icebox  
leading three lives

reds under the beds

blacks on the buses

& Elvis in sequins shaking his thing

shameless hussy

duke of earl

hound dog stud

"How much is that doggie in the window?"

Our hearts

geiger counters

gone wild

# β

beta ray: an electron or positron  
emitted by the nucleus  
of an atom during  
radioactive decay

Dew Line

Iron Curtain

the Panama Canal

here come the Marines  
making the world safe for pagan babies  
Simalac junkies & high rise hotels on Maui  
(if you pass GO  
collect 200 coconuts on the half shell  
& begin bayoneting)

while

deep in the blackboard jungle  
from Harvard Square to the Tenderloin  
hip cats & cool chicks

dig it

score scowl & scam in the lavatories  
flashing switchblade algebra  
hubcap moons  
blowing popcorn breath in the backseat  
with the creature from the black lagoon  
the phantom of the opera in 3-D

death

drugs

& hey diddle-diddle

we only teach 'em

they only learn

tricks kicks & cheap thrills

trading hot water hot air hot shit

while

Our Miss Brooks whitewashes

what Cosmo never dirtied

& William Bendix slept in

99/44/100% pure

blue collar white collar

rolled cuff gray flannel carbon copy zombies

doing the wind-up tailspin wristwatch alarm

cha-cha



9 to 5 it's business as usual

coffee for the boss

pinch on the butt

shorthand-a-go-go

and after work

massage parlor macho peek-o

freeway striptease

laundromat orgies

Ortho on the lawn

Raid in the pantry

sex pistols in the supermarkets

& Right Guard for the armpits

while

for the price of one church bingo board

& Che Guevara's head on a silver platter

put a tiger in your tank

a tampon in your hole

& napalm the neighbors

buy your kid

a thalidomide teddy bear

a black lung Barbiedoll

rhinestone squirrels

feed your dog t-bone

wax the t-bird till it shines

kiss my chrome



gamma ray: a photon or  
radioactive quantum  
emitted spontaneously  
by a radioactive substance

In the darkness of the slums  
Surf City here we come  
sprinkle love like gasoline  
& then

WIPEOUT

light a candle  
push a button  
pour salt on a snail to see it sizzle

Blame blackouts  
on druglords & the Sierra Club  
but remember

the only good battery  
is a dead one  
& if you've seen one pipeline  
you've seen them all

Well, hello, ladies & gentlemen  
welcome to the 1984 Guerrilla Olympics.  
In tonight's killer-packed playoffs  
United Fruit hosts the Non-aligned Cherries  
in a no-arms-barred terrorist tie-breaker

See babies kidnapped  
Rin-tin-tin poisoned  
steel & pedal-pushers blown to shreds

You'll watch a dozen eggs ambushed  
rutabagas tortured  
& gophers assassinated before your very eyes  
& in case you try to leave  
all seats are guaranteed to self-destruct  
on command

cattleprod in the groin  
teargas groan  
wounded neon

“Here, chief, sign this”

smallpox blankets  
syphilis blisters  
tubal ligations

Anna Mae’s hands cut off at the wrists  
Hoover’s goons on rampage  
gunfire on Pine Ridge  
salmon wars on the Klamath River  
ski-lifts up the San Francisco Peaks

while

rocketing from sea to shining  
sea-slick

what could be more beautiful  
than a burning oil rig?

or the melon-seed

teeth-bursting clearcut rrrrrrrrrrip of the saw  
in the Redwood Stumpfields National Park  
beside herbicide hardwood  
& corporate slash & burn

while

south of the border  
by the pawn’s early light  
gringos guzzle tequilas on sandy beaches  
on the star-spangled bones of  
Chiquita banana republics  
with their barbed wire soccer stadiums  
& chili con carnage

In Guatemala

they pull out toenails with West Point pliers  
Puerto Rico tax shelter  
Panama tax dodge  
Raygun’s cattle ranch loophole

How many million

interlocking  
intermarried

vampire pumps are at work  
sucking up

oil of Rockefeller  
blood of Crazyhorse?

Whatever became of Patrick Henry  
Eugene Debs  
& the common wealth?

# α & Ω

alpha & omega:

n. (so called with reference to Rev. 1:8, from alpha and omega's being respectively the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet) 1: the beginning and ending; 2: the principal element, the most important feature

Lockout

Locked down

Winged & in flux

Lockout

Locked down

Winged & in flux

Lockout

Locked down

Winged & in flux

AP

UPI

I pee on you

thumbscrew meltdown

foot-in-the-door

O Columbia

radioactive gem

land of the Trident free

& home of the Three Mile brave

watch o'er the ramparts the abalone stars

so gallantly warning

Trojan horse apples

pomegranite skin blossoms

fireball oranges of Hieronymus Bosch

Escape

to your Fantasy Island's padded cell

Try your luck at the Love Canal casino

Play Trilateral roulette

Invest now while Jesus still saves

& real estate is a sure bet

a snap-on yuppie catalog suit

Sell your mother  
Batter a lover  
Betray a friend

Hurry before the bottom falls out  
on recycled juntas  
& used Edsels

Next year

next week

next coup d'etat

helicopter eye

beam in the night

breathing

may become hazardous to your health

trespassers shot

sold & subdivided

& your sister strapped to the table

so

better beware

be wary

be warned

BE AWARE

that though the budgie chirps in her cage  
gross national product

tweet tweet

the finger's on the trigger

teeth in the neck

& Old Man Coyote's a humpbacked groucho

AAAAAHHHHHHHOOOOOOOOOOO

with his foot on the pedal

AAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHOOOOOOOOO

pressed hard to the floor

AAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH-  
HOOOOOOOOOOO

& the mushroom cloud redeye

like wine

on our breath

ALSO BY ART GOODTIMES:

KEHOE BEACH

Sleeping Gypsy Press, San Francisco, 1977

DANCING ON THE BRINK OF THE WORLD

Sleeping Gypsy Press, 1980

EMBRACING THE EARTH

Homeward Press, Berkeley, 1984

SLOW RISING SMOKE

Blackberry Books, Nobleboro, v Maine, 1987

AS IF THE WORLD REALLY MATTERED

La Alameda Press, Albuquerque,  
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