

JΔM>



Paul Siegell

ungovernable press
2008

cover image:

Last sunset of 1999, Big Cypress, FL
(One of us took it. We can't remember.)

(((Whooo's got my publisher?)))

Special thanks to the editors who first supported these poems:

5 AM: "JAM> (CROWKEEPER'S SONG)" and "the read wheelborrow"

Kulture Vulture: "anything to stay warm"

MiPOesias: "E.T. POEM HOME"

Otoliths: "05.27.05 – Jam on the River – Great Plaza, PA," "12.29.05 – Phix – Grape Street, PA" and "mr mint"

SAWBUCK: "DAY OFF SHUTTLE LAUNCH" and "FORT SKATEBOARD"

Shampoo: "THE AFTERNOON SET of 12.31.99"

Three Rivers Review: "EPIcureANS PAY FOR FeeLINGS"

VOX: "The Winged Minute"

w/; I still need

05.27.05 – Jam on the River – Great Plaza, PA

a

mystical
sound
transfixing

tattoo:

sheet music—
the five-line staff

spiraling the numinous
forearm

of a Memorial Day-festival
attendee,

laid

like a prayerful,
black leather

strap

of *tefillin*:

Jimi Hendrix's *Little Wing*.

The Winged Minute

—*after WCW*

Among the mist
and reentry
I saw the 7:55
in red
on a digital
clock radio
soothing
swanlike
unruffled
to broadcasted combat
sound-bitten killings
and bulletins bombarding
upon the workday wakeup.

E.T. POEM HOME

fixin' to do a little space walking, the domestic sentence is—
so says the spokesperson of the spokespeople

breaker breaker—
we just got lifted / got we just flung / we just got view

crossed the B Franklin Br with the cyclist in your psyche—
took Astronaut Ave. out to the empyrean

operated the apparatus of paradise—
ULTRA CONCENTRATED JOY dish liquid, refreshing lemon

breaker breaker—
we see now the cosmicality / see now to the thru

the feet-foot of the lice-louse—
“Two shot in Southwest Philadelphia”

the teeth-tooth of the geese-goose—
“Female sprinters leapt off the blocks on a Chinese island”

stutter-stepped in suffixes, wound up all -en -est -n't -ized
& now, Willy Wonka doesn't wanna without his eye patch on

breaker breaker—
we wanted to know if there was n.e. new news w/ ewes

bike-psyched, washing dishes, spinning vinyl flying saucers:

for all the DJs sick on their turntables—
repeat to the beat for another “orbit” scratch technique

but oh, how apropos:
my coworker's a portable putting green behind my cubicle—

(“*Am I to abandon my post?*” ponders the Foolosopher—
“*Or just my assumptions?*”)

landing on Astro turf, a-somethin' very outer space about it—
so says the spokesperson of the spokespeople

DAY OFF SHUTTLE LAUNCH

keen
beclouded
intention
tailpipe
light seconds
painting fire
love evoked
seer oasis elixir
spilled liquids

when the employee of the month fucks up

open
upend
whatever energy
those American emotions
exotic toxins
a gothic glitch
bottle
steam
the rails

I'm not eating enough pizza

ramp
about place
ahead
underwater owls
what comets cannot
origami games
open the penguin
roots with wings
all niced-up

a book of poems entitled, *illegible*

to give rise to energy the size of stars, or some similar humdinger,
to generate X-ray radioactive earthINorbit rockNroll written events,
where we and the music turn into each other like light of a wavelength,
to fit into the blueberry atop the great Phillip's screw head and turn,
to yield definite evidence and sufficient justification for how I feel
my employee-particles have to behave, as hot as a parking lot, with
whatnot & the wherewithal and any other thin hints at that, to rest
eager, to lurk in the unsearched & shades of all envious events, before
the intensity of being so close to the stage and sun of this experiment
peaces out—

I can't *believe* you bought money for that thing!

THE AFTERNOON SET of 12.31.99

It starts in *the lobby of a marble hotel, like I'm there for a convention or*
thumthin; *ahm:*
I swing *outside the glass turnstile doors to trade w/ the valet for a microbus,*
but my *old*
friend *"Chevy" is there, in the lot, beneath the awning & suckin' down a huge*
red *balloon. In silly-*
high *helium-voice, he says: "This is great! You gotta try this!" and I laugh! &*
I *laugh myself*
Big *Cypress!*
the *folding chair*
of *the good morning, I follow w/ eyes the ants in the grass of a warm*
winter's *day. They seem to*
know. *What they do to survive. Foraging. Painstakingly gathering*
around the uneasy
beetle *in our campsite. It seems to have an injured wing. OK, I*
understand—I feel the
pressure. *"I have to pee," but don't need to experience a port-*
o-potty to do it. I've
seen some *others walk out to the car-less patch of grass near*
our site, so I decide,
well to wander. *I leave my sandals w/ the folding chair*
& glide off, greeting
hellos to those along *the way. Real conversation sounds*
blending & cooking in cool
camp. Folks. Kin—A few *feet past our area's last, there's a*
strip of sand which dips
down, as if there true used to be a *small stream or canal there. I*
ask myself, "What the?"
& realize there's a cow bone, dead *in the sand. Dry. Ball & Socket.*
Looks like a femur. This
Reservation raises&slaughters *livestock. I jump over it w/ my*
bare feet, back safe
onto green & softness, *then find a spot to release. Nice.*
Liberation. I step in
shit—When I finish *my piss I step in shit. Human goopy shit—*
Someone squish'd &
the mystical *spaces b/w my toes now know it all too well. Ah,*
I didn't notice before, meh,
but cute *little clumps of soil'd toilet paper have even been left*
behind. "The Clean
Vibe" *my ass! I head back to the cow bone & sand gully to wipe*
off the freakin' man-

feces. Nice. Where's the Green Crew when you need them? I've
 gotta wash my feet—
 I go back & tell no one, but my feet are a mess. Salem notices,
 softly laughs, says,
 "Dirty Hippie," & softly laughs, but we both know the truth about
 our post-
 Garcia selves. Knowing I'm not, relax'd & listening, I feel like I'm
 at the beach
 in this chair. I see grass & underneath that: dry dirt/earth, & Trey knows
 the Piper's
 what's worming around underneath that—My gaze angles up & sees
 a dynamic, trans-
 parent cloud of dots. Gnats. Swarming on about as if some bell'd
 juggler deftly
 containing the region of air his goofy beanbags were in. "Why
 do gnats do that?" I
 ask aloud. "All cluster'd up like that, in one tight spot. What
 are they doing?"
 Samson's girlfriend, Suzy, answers w/, "Mating." They're
 both bio-scientists
 taking grad classes at the U. of Pennsylvania. Ivy. As the timbre
 of her voice reaches
 me w/ the sound of her "ting," for a microsecond, a flash, my eyes
 still w/i the cloud,
 a science class's diagram of the grand & negatively- charged double-helix
 wink'd at me. 100% Sober.
 A true hallucination! It was like a constellation frozen for a fun
 moment in the movement of the
 gnats. A split-second show of the molecular homes for hydrogen,
 oxygen, phosphorus,
 the carbons in the helical phosphate- ester chains, & yes, the
 cross-link'd purine &
 pyrimidine bases. Amazingly, for an instant I saw it, but told
 no one about it—Wait...
 were you ever taught that that dark, leafy, castle-like presence
 in Van Gogh's
Starry Night is actually a large, cemetery-marking cypress tree? Ah,
 Y2K—Fuck these
 pessimistic prophecies! Safety first—Hemp spirals, indEEed... We clean'd
 up our Big Cypress camp,
 pack'd our gear, & headed out for the Afternoon Set: *It was N.Y.E. but*
still in sun & just
off to the right of my crew: 18 Day-Glo green-caped superheroes of the
scene, one of
which was w/ child: a partying father w/ feathery newborn boy—It was
the soft li'l

*newbie's
toy: a
glo green
And
totally
the world."*

*bouncin' phirst show! But, strange vacation, this baby was w/
smaller day-
plastic blow-up doll: the film-famous alien of dark-angled eyes.
o, Salem
call'd it: it was: "The 100 percent most calming thing in
Whoooooo's got my cameraaa?"*

*December 31, 1999
Big Cypress Reservation*

the read wheelborrow
—*after WCW*

mopping up fallen
eggs

oozing beside farm
hands

more than that
depended

upon crippled dog
“Useless.”

FORT SKATEBOARD

Were we tag'd "LaZy" b/c we change the channel w/o tryna heal it? *All-American!* Our War's

grown up & famous: Tomahawk forts/Colonial fife&drums/Civil enslavers/"No Man's Land"/

Atomic harbors/Frozen walls/38 parallels/*Electric* dodgers/Narco Busts/Desert flares & on thru

Sept.11: NightVision videogame air-strike news mass-competing

for livingrooms: ½staff flags & soldier toetags/drunk-driven autos

& lung~fill'd smoke/bullet-fill'd students & suspicion-fill'd votes

It's so absurd, but I bet you will defend me more after I'm drafted.

anything to stay warm

sitting
on what most soles side-
step—and if they don't,

breath is held—

roofless hands
hold hood and hat, aiming
vapors: the city's sidewalk

exhaust, in,

to a face unable to be seen

JAM>

roarRoarROAR Historically:
*do I look like a scapegoat? pigeonholed w/ a lazy leftwing? do I
look like a bulletproof vest?*

—as unpredictable & as mythical as living illustrations of rockNroll—

Mom&Dad, *truly*, it's

Just A bove M address:

How I USA CartoonExpress SaturdayMorning Lego & Nintendo>
How I Darth> How I 1980USHockey Pelé & JohnLennon> How I moonwalk Tony
Hawk Halley'sComet & LymeDisease> How I got call'd in from recess by lunch
aides to watch the raygun-educating CHALLENGER smoke & firework
ON THE AIR, like TienemenSquare, then in for the freeing of the BerlinWall, like
NelsonMandela, & later: how Bush Sr fax'd in a Storm to scorch a Desert>

(but now back to...

How I V: The Final Battle> How I inline online "Safe Sex" & "War on Drugs">
How I breakdance headbang moshpit stagedive crowdsurf body Pierce & NewWave
El Niño> How I MTV SAT #2 neglect & suicide> How I Rap & "Grunge">
How I EasyE & MagicJohnson> How I Cobain Garcia BiggieSmallsTupacShakur>
How I Lollapalooza Bosnia RossPerot H.O.R.D.E. & A+ misspell Potatoe>
How I RodneyKing ButtafuocoMenendezBobbitt ClarenceThomas & OJSimpson>
How I Flight103WorldTradeWacoUnibomberOklahomaJupiter & Exxonda 'bomb>
How I Roots FragglesRock Cosby WonderYrs RealWorld XFiles & d'oh!>
How I FreddieM Kavorkian MattShepard YizchakRabin & WheelchairSuperman>
How I IronMike AirMJ TigerWoods CalRipkin & *ünse ünse techno ünse*>
How I HipHop phish SKA & Goth> How I heroin ecstasy "nugs" & Ritalin>
How I Declare my Major> How I Change my Major> How I Rent
Field of Dreams X KIDS PCU & StarWars(again)> How I 1,000,000ManMarch>
How I HubbleSpace Heaven'sGate Hale-Bopp ArtBell & TheCelestineProphecy>
How I PrincessDiana & MotherTeresa> How I HowardStern & LillithFair>
How I Impeach Clinton & Kosovo & Colorado/420> How I Sosa&McGwire>
How O, the InfoAge ain't all the Rave> How all our heads be haunted & hazed>
How I change the fucking channel—
How I VH1 & Viagra> How I free Mumia&Tibet> How I fire Woodstock in 1999>
How I JFKjr & WTOSeattle> How I LatinPop & How I chEers: *HappyNewFears!*

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but beware the U^h you underestimate: both the Skateboarder & Scarecrow
can always uncage a brain:

*the greatest festivities of our generation's roll
gather'd
hiking the peaks & releases alive
on tour
lyrically trancing for answers
potential
in venues on wild flights
tether'd by
gravitations
tickets to dionysian shows
kick'd down
to lift cheers & motivate the lighting of
glowstick
irresistibles for lion manes & o female shoulder
blades.*

w/; I still need

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