2002's LAST JOKE

this morning there's a joke everyone heard and is smilin' 'bout ..

something about a couple of hunter fellas and some rural hijinx that went down as a result ...

as the Chevy takes the corner and the Ford stalls on the side of the road, the people don't care, they smile for the joke they heard on the radio ...

sure, it's new year's eve and everyone is done with this year ...

so soon how people get comfortable with slipping into the next year ..

there's always something new for folk to look for

always moving forward as what has happened looks perfect in the malted glass ball as though it was planned and that was that ...

so as we look into the swimming waters of what will crystallize, this morning there was a joke on the last day of 2002 and everyone is smilin' as the drink gets stirred for the evening as we mix into another year and the buzz of

hopeful anticipation lies in a smile

on the eve of what we will call '03 here

in the hood and beyond there ..

a goods transaction

I hope someone falls in love with the grocery clerk that ran me through tonight .. it was a last hour trip for some needs and a bottle of listerine to flush a swollen tonsil, I walked up to the lane .. lane 3, was in the pole position .. a dead, cold KC eve, and the gal was talkin' to her sacker friend, they looked up like I was splittin' up the newly wed nups fuckin' for the hell of it .. I handed over my small, green plastic basket and she didn't even acknowledge my standing there .. she rang it through, talked about her girl, how she couldn't get a hold of her girl, and it was her girl, girl, this girl and about the girl as I pulled out my debit card and was primin' for the swipe ... she told me the title for the second time and looked up in a bothered matter .. told her it was gonna be debit, she huffed,

punched a button and I swiped ..

then, she demanded I hit a green button, flashed up my receipts without sayin' a solitary word as her girl looked at me, girl ..

for the sake of not burying the girl in the ground, I almost told her to quit her job, fuck better in bed and keep the guy's attention next time because it could keep her out of the mess she was in and smearing on innocent paying folk

wanting a bottle of mouth wash to take care of a sore throat

and two, juicy red tomatoes

for later ..

ALREADY DEFINED

one of the most important books, which we read the least of, is the dictionary .. people should be forced to read it before getting а driver's license, liquor license, chauffeur's license, rental card, job, chart, relationship, credit card, anything membership or otherwise drive ... we cannot understand each other, and we need the talk, communication exchange of ideas .. sure, the dictionary, when's the last time you really sat down and had а good throw with Webster and the words in dictionary land .. **{poem}** - *composition usually in verse, characterized by imaginative language and thoughts.* period .. done .. run out and buy one ..

AM jitters

cat runs away from the sound of the slinky, the man in a bright yellow coat slinks up the street, while the urban helicopter darts about the skies above lookin' for the next crook and the TV stands defeated by the sounds of the stereo speakers .. auto part delivery trucks racing the phone guy to the sandwich special up the street, it's the mayonnaise that pulls 'em in and the lady behind the counter that makes them come back for more .. a turn signal in the rough, a honk in the middle of chaos to hold our attention and the

soft tap of the

period to bring this together.

band breaks

she says that the band is going to break up soon, so that my lover and I should come out to the final show ..

sure, I tell her, we'll come down for the last stance .. she talks about what she's going to wear, how the crowd may stare just a bit longer and how

it will all start over again, if she's luck enough and we

are as well ..

before you smash into a wall

the Elvis man with a Merle Haggard swagger couldn't take it anymore ...

he told the couple with 2 kids to get the fuck out of the house ...

tired of the broken coffee mugs and the screaming ..

he was saving the sanity of his mentally handicapped 30-year old daughter and all the memories of Willie and Johnny singing their soft spoken tough guy anthologies came bleeding through his eye ball veins and he took his stand against all the past years of booze, coke, broads, rough bars, the road, broken promises and a hat speckled with promise to send them the fuck out .. the couple with no clear alibi other than feeding off a system other than the government didn't have enough time to emit the last laugh as the prototype man in black sent them packing .. Sheriff in tow

and no more bullshit, Mr. Cash would be proud as

Hank Jr. lays on the couch passed out in a mullet drunk thinking about a new pair of sunglasses for his bold friend that finally rid the burden and wiping off the dream of having his laughing daughter sleeping in some well-deserved peace ..

clean loads of clothes,

nothing else to clean as we sit around and contemplate creative ways to get the dirt back into the fibers .. shit is too clean and there may be more time on the clock than we would like to admit .. so, if you have the juice to spare, we may have a spare playground, rib, incident, rye bread, the dust of our new moon, some vagrant in the front alley, a skipping CD, the wafting smoke, last cup of coffee grounds, fresh sand on a snowy mountain, the temptation they left out of the books conclusion to get your shit good and solid dirty in а clean world we look through on the TV screen or the pages of а oil lube shop magazine, friend ..

cousins drivin' past as I exhale a gulp of smoke and reach out to touch the cat who is pawing or trying to paw her way out to the other side of the wood barrier here in this house ..

ready to lick the cold and content with a coat of fur full of heat, we

sit here and dream of

the possibilities

going up and out with

this quickly evaporating smoke about

the dry dry

room ..

David Lynch, You Bastard

pulled into the Conoco parking lot around the corner from my place ...

into the AM, a guy leans out of his dilapidated white van and asks for a jump ..

sure, the gal goes in to buy a night cap as I pull up to the van at the pump, pop the trunk, and ready my juice for his juice ...

immediately the cat asks me if I do drugs or would have any friends interested in Novocain shot through the neck ...

no, I tell him, I just do the drink and so do my compadres ..

he nods, sure, he likes to drink to ..

so,

before I have the cables hooked up to his van, he waves one of his women on to start the van, it starts, spits out some more fluids and dies ..

I hook it up to his van and know he's playing this for a drug sale gone bad ...

so, I give him a bit and tell him it's not going anywhere ..

I look into the cab of his van and notice the most haughty crack whore I have ever seen in my life ..

she startled me enough to immediately pull the plugs from both cars, slam the hood and get out with my life .. I challenge the wannabe adventurers to come to the gas station in my neighborhood, you'll likely not stop again at night,

or you will if you need some street dental drugs to soothe

that achin, achin, tooth in your

big mouth ..

december america

piano seat, violin bow, guitar pic, music stand, drum sticks, fiddle sticks, what's happening now as Americans believe that the Middle East is about Illinois/Iowa/Indiana on the map, cause nothing exists outside of the borders of America, also, baba ganoush is an old man in a children's novel and a gyro is Mel Gibson in his newest film ..

so, before you get up to toss the trash, or take a piss, we'll be here waiting for you in the hall closet ...

dreaming of dirt, hanging out next to the cleaning supply closet ..

east side of town,

the brothers and sisters waiting for the bus stop, missionaries, charity outposts, dollar shops, the strip malls are sparse, soul food, the cigars, looks, pants hung low, the sweaters, and а cajun chicken joint with two groups of people lookin' at each other, I notice their cars are smashed together .. they're waitin' for the cops to come over, can't figure out how they got into the wreck ..

one car is by the curb, the other car's front end is planted into the front fender in the mouth of the drive-thru lane ..

an odd placement and hard to imagine how the wreck went down ..

I stare, drive by and assume that one car stole the food from the other or there was something even stupider that went down .. all in a drive through the hood, as

as the people stare for the next event to go down, better hurry up folks, the food

you got is getting damn cold ..

Eve 2002

locked in the house with the cold circling the street signs outside ..

a bit of little of something stuck in the back of my throat still, the french pressed coffee doesn't remind me of Paris, there's a tree with wrapped things underneath it and I wonder if this is the right house I'm in ..

whales swimmin' through the speakers of the music machine, smoke tastes like smoke as the addicted kick the habit and move on to the next one down the list ...

world in a lurch, the hex has moved from Times Square to Beijing and no one read about it in the papers ..

the good luck just started and it's coming up my stairwell looking for me, so I'm going to put an end to this

piece and ask it if it wants some of my pressed coffee made by the French ...

maybe this 'good luck' will remember Paris ..

federal walk through

wonder if the feds followed me around today ..

did they find some good junk to throw into my file?

how are they going tot decode me opening a savings account, renting CD's from the library, eating a brisket sandwich and beans, driving down HWY 24 towards the other side of the city, talking to my lady on the phone at 5PM, teaching a class of delinquents, making a copy of a CD, smoking a cigarette at home, going around the carousel looking for a comfortable seat to sit myself, how are they going to put all of this down ..

consequential or inconsequential?

would be a lot cooler if I knew that they were hot on my heals as the cat purrs loud in my ear and meows for attention as the band warms into the bridge scene and the kids continue to walk up the walk by my house ..

sure,

my front turn signal dangles from the front of my car, I have some more things I want to do today, scheduled a visit to the dentist's office, reminded myself of a court date on the 13th to prove I have insurance, threw another dirty pair of socks in the pile of vile cloth in my place, chased the cat around the apartment in a game of feline hide and go seek, how is it all gonna be written down?

is the Canadian Broadcast System gonna pick up this piece and broadcast it

about my actions and whereabouts as my delinquent kids were asked to look up people like Ghandi, Mother Teresa, Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandella ..

am I the next one on the list, am I making the agent assigned to my case nervous or bored or possibly excited ..

here's to the agent and the ACLU fighting to get petitions to send to Bush about the invasion of privacy ..

here's my pitch towards the invasion of privacy, and it's already written for your report ..

perhaps I should work for you ..

you can call me Orwell, or George for short, friend ..

fist of the morning

straight to the gums, over the temple and into my front teeth ..

then, it stops ..

leaning up to touch the cat behind the door, my head goes into the protruding light fixture, I feel it again ..

the warmed smash of morning over the head bringing all the cups of liquor back into my doting brain ..

then, the water on the stove starts boiling and I know that it's all going to be wiped away soon ...

but, will it be too soon as the medicine cabinet stands as the shortest way out of the longest walk ...

around the bottles, the smokes, the stories

and how it snowed just a bit to get a white covering over the divots in the road

and

now it seems as though the song is starting over again

and the lit candle is making some needed scents in the air

and

I stare the camera down as it

waits to document all of it for

a

group of heads reading, thinking in small to large framed pictures ..

Friday Crash on the Hood

We were going to see some of the urban Christmas lights ...

Got in the car, pulled out on Main, started heading south ...

As soon thereafter, a car quickly swiped into my right hand lane, to avoid the side smash, I skidded 15 feet into the back of an over the road Charter bus ..

the driver, a big gay man, was looking at me in disbelief as I watched the small red car culprit drive on down the street, gone, no stop, nearly had a big brown jeep cherokee smash me from the back ..

so, I stood there telling the guy that I was railroaded and let out to dry, he asked me if we wanted to call the cops in ..

I thought about it while he called his boss ..

he got off the phone and said we should, so I pulled my car from the underneath of his bus ..

damage wasn't as bad as thought ..

we climbed into the bus, exchanged information and talked a bit ..

his name was Mike Cox, the gay man from Topeka ... he was nervous because he had a sparkling driving record and never had any trouble in 51 years as an active trainer for the government .. I was miffed with my second hit and run in 3 weeks, though we sat and talked for over 50 minutes while waiting for the cops in а midtown district that won't bring about anything if it's a non-injury accident ... so, we shook hands and said that we would file a walk-in report .. been exactly a week, no walk-in report filed and I'm sitting comfortably with my overheated car outside looking like an innocent felon waiting for the final injection needle and Mike with another group of rowdy Baptists shopping, likely as I think about him saying that 5 minutes before the wreck that he wasn't even going to park his adventure on Main and wondered how we met .. shit. how do we all meet .. it's the chicken and the egg deliberation, it's like standing over the plate of morning bacon trying to imagine what the pig really looked like, it's looking at the rhine of a lemon and trying to imagine what the tree looks like on the California landscape, it's the question that has another question

and the answer

that would be as futile as me trying to put a fat fucking period at the end of this and not wanting to go on about it with my mouth, or

pen

some more ..

from me to you

not sure about this town ..

people get twist eyed if you don't order a dozen of glazed donuts ..

next time, they shake your hand for picking up their ink pen, then they want to know why you didn't buy them a pack of 10 black bics ..

not sure how to get a handle on the people of this town when they want you to stick around and tell you to get out when the hail starts pelting the car hoods ..

sure, not so sure it's about the town as it is the heart beating in the chest of the folks

looking for the electric socket

to plug in the biggest fucking blender this

side of the mighty damn Missouri waterway ..

good health canine moment

girl walks down the sidewalk, with leash in hand, animal in front apartment yard, cars streaming by, warm for a cold December day, tail wagging, already a good day for the animal, a nap, some food, cold water, the trees look like they'll grow well in the spring, look there's Jamal as the dog squats and takes his time with а good solid before noon poop ..

hard tuff

I endorsed their enterprise under the familiar, fiery foreign gesture of a gorgeous government that has good grammar and gives great gratuity ..

so, push away the grudge, pull out a handkerchief and meet me at the hosiery hospital for some hectic immediacy ...

hiding behind the morning cloud

gutters, tree limbs are covered in boroughs of nests ..

the plump birds are taking over the skies and scouring the ground a day before christmas

was to be here in the hood ..

looking to cash in on old receipts and new purchases, they flop through the sky seemingly sloppy but with precision as they near the side of the house and land on the gutter tail ..

looking with their beaked head through one of the coldest days in December not too fond of the ice, but ready for snow, they are ready for trash day again

and ready to clock into some over time

cause they want to stay fat and laugh

soon at all the new year's resolutions that

will likely be blown ..

home hooker home

I'm on hooker row here off 37 & Baltimore way .. washed up women and dolled up gals with slits in their long skirts, I wonder who the fuck is paying for them and if they know what they are getting their shafts wrapped up in .. with masturbation out the window and cheap fucks on the bill, the cars stream by, the cops drive slowly and the air sullen like a canteen with several more swigs of bourbon on the evening's host .. its hooker row and the economy is going down the hill still as the men line up for some thrills .. shit, I'd burn the skin off my palms before all that as the pimp walks by my place, looks up into the window, winks and moves on the collect his royalty check for walking around the block

making sure the trees are still planted firmly in the ground and that all the gutter holes are still collecting as they should according to city specifications ..

I'll hold your reigns

if you get me a bottle of juice and massage my right ass cheek ..

sure, I'll be there on time If we don't have to talk about time at all and forget that the world did invent a clock and thus brought down the wrath of the modern dash we all seem to be caught within ..

sure, like a bunch of spiders going after the moth in the web, or another insect on some fearless path to the next second ..

if we can beat time, somehow we believe we have defeated the philosophy of thousands before us ..

so, if you want me to take your reigns, I can do it ..

much trained with my hands and takin' on some strange, quaky shit in my time ..

so, get the lotion ready and pop the cap for me, baby, I'll take those

reigns, and you may never want

to take them over again, unless

the gun fires or the spider retreats with the cold southern birds

that flew by at dusk on this monstrously cold

cold night .. irony rests in the curiosities we cannot satiate ..

**

humor resides in the irony we have figured out ..

just a dreamin'

oh you heavy dreamer .. they never gave you the right name to go by .. convinced of some things, the name didn't have it for you .. a carrot stick full of water, the yellow in a squash, the holler in a shout, they never gave you enough to look forward to with that name, but you had the dreams and stories the small folk would love to laugh about when there was nothing funny left .. sure, you loafer in the perfect pair of shoes, just didn't happen with the name and I guess the least of what one can be remembered by is a name ..

but I say you just dream up your own .. take that name on and let the guessers go on with their foggy nights of wanting to remember the blanks, but you .. you with that head of dreams and a bad bad

name ..

late stroller

leavin' my lover's place, going by the Amoco that was converted to a new bright green sign, there's a road cat walking with a 32 OZ can in his hand tuggin' it to the lips, like it was the last thought in a new train of thought and he wanted to get it down before he forgot it .. the stranger on the side of the road taking it in before someone else takes it in before him, he's rolling and ready to roll more as the singer comes down the other side of the road looking for that lost lyric that only the cold road of tonight could bring it out .. sure, this cold cat with the late night beer is probably thinking about the next and I'm sure it will be there for him if the tender mercy of money looks favorably upon him .. but. for whatever reason at the time he seemed like the bravest soul in a land of cowards letting it all come out in some honest hoax for all the middle class folk to go by and wonder .. yet I saw a metal bean pole that had been there for some

time taking more kicks of cold in the face and laying it out there for the skeptics to finish a song over and make а mound of cash that neither you nor I could imagine on а night like this one ..

lick the dark

let's drop all the rambling, I have some lights to hang ..

sure, lights ..

they say it started with lights, I'm going to continue with it ..

yea, don't have time for any more of the darkness, not of some prophetic formula you talk of, I need to get this place off the ground, so if you want to really talk about it, go ahead and talk while I staple these lights to the wall ..

I want to see and you're making it hard to see ...

you see?

there's nothing more here to discuss, pick up some shit and help me

out cause I'm tired of talking about what it's like in the dark ...

we know what the dark is about, we want the lights

and

we can then talk about the action

action action ..

listening with eyes open

guest speakers, the whore in silver in front of me is bleeding as the girl in red with a pregnant front waits for the right moment to reach for the silver water pitcher as the dry air and comments make my throat sore again as the kids talk about "LUNCH" "INFRASTRUCTURE" & "WORRY BY DESIGN" ..

this, as the land gurus and honey gods bless the bones of Yoko and try to give us one more nugget of truth about what we attempt to perceive as love ..

Luis B.

I'm caterin' to the KC graffiti artist by afternoon ..

the kid, Luis, has 60 hours of community service for not fulfilling a previous probation and stealing a fancy pen from some discount outlet store in a town east of here ...

he comes in, we talk about how juvenile detention isn't as glamorous as the dateline Hollywood movie TV specials make them out to be ..

I come up with assignments for him to do, he explains to me how to read graffiti and tells me about all his boyz and their heisting cars, stealing, beating, gunning and brand of funnin' ..

sure, he looks fearless and cowers in a particularly humbling way ..

he's the best kid we've had yet servin' his hours

and I'm not convinced that this may be a break in the road ..

sure he'll get in trouble again even if he dodges this bullet, cause if he doesn't get the hours done he goes to the slammer of juvenile delinquents for some time and he says he doesn't want to do it ..

but what can really change a delinquent 13-year old graffiti artist from the rusted side of the tracks?

I can talk to him all day ..

been in the same boat, by the time I was his age I had two convictions with the state, yet I couldn't get out of any of it by doing community service ..

lived in a different time in a cozy suburbs ..

Luis will get pinched hard again, I feel it ..

but if he reads this and laughs because it didn't happen, I'm

lookin' forward to readin' about how he escapes time after time

as the new graffiti artist on

the prowl in this town ..

something that only

the both of us will know ..

moon conspiracy

the moon is a tuft of cloud, that's all .. answers the question of whether there is a man in it, did we land on it, do we have moon rocks, did we walk on it, surely we didn't .. it's just a cloud .. would disappoint the kids if they knew that the big bright ball in the sky was nothing more than a cirrus cloud formed like a ring .. sure, these within, there could have been an Armstrong that tried to walk and talk on it, but likely fell through and was caught on the other side, sure, kids, you can have the Santa exists and the tooth fairy really has a nice wand, but there's nothing but vapor for our earth satellite .. just а cloud that never disappears and hasn't decided to rain or evaporate down on us eartheads, yet ..

MORE

MORE lights, MORE action, MORE legs, MORE beef, MORE excitement, MORE music, MORE pork, MORE animals, MORE re-releases, MORE cops, MORE guns, MORE cars, MORE sunshine, MORE pillows, MORE pills, MORE drink, MORE stories, MORE street signs, MORE time, MORE instances, MORE truth, MORE armadillos, MORE songs, MORE leaves, MORE scripts, MORE pickles, MORE shoes, MORE reasons, MORE truth, MORE traveling, MORE MORE MORE the papers and TVs and folks scream .. MORE MORE

give us MORE, dammit ..

mountain mirage

nothin' on top of that mountain but the top of that mountain as the pranksters spray paint big nipples up there and the squabbles on the base talk about the newest baseball trade .. when it all seems so trite, it comes to what's on top of а butte, a small little mountain range guy in New Mexico .. those are the guys that know the real shit, they have the good coffees and heard from the right folk about the right shit that should go down .. unfortunately the media crank won't let us in until we have the magic password ..

my note

I take notes on notes because notes are nothing more than' note and there's nothing but small notes coming from this violin in my shoes ..

so, if you want to talk notes, come on up here and give me what you have and notices that these notes will end up in the trash and the notes of that trumpet mouths will go a bit further cause the ears are the surest way to the brain ..

I believe they beat the eyes and that's my end note on that ..

new rubber

she asked me what I wanted in the tire shop off 12th Street ..

a scraggly old broad tired of tires, in love with grease and iffy on a rubber at the end of the night ...

told her I needed one tire ..

she nodded and asked in disdain what size the tire was ..

said I would be back ..

checked it out and knew again that I was getting another disgruntled urban whirl of piss for being a part of the consumer food chain ..

165's I told her ..

she said to follow her ..

went to a little shanty house nexto as she pulled out a tire and asked if it would work ..

said yes, she took it on the roll, told me to wait by the car as a friendly little chap came out, nodded and started to upend my car ..

there was no sign on the front of the operation other than a smashed plastic sign that used to flag to folks in .. as he upended my car another cat was next to me waiting to get his hunk of metal lifted ..

a cat that looked like Popeye's pops came out to lift him and change the tire ..

quickly into the pump the cat said something wrong and the sailor father said, 'FUCK YOU'

he started letting the car down as the customer asked, 'WHAT?'

'FUCK OFF, MOTHERFUCKER. YOU SAID THE WRONG THING. NOW, GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE BEFORE I FUCKIN' KICK YOUR ASS.'

'FUCK YOU, TOO!' the ex-customer came back.

'DON'T COME BACK OR I'LL KICK YOUR ASS, PUSSY.' the worker said as the man climbed into his car and peeled off ..

the nice guy kept tuggin' on my shit as I asked, 'DO YOU TAKE CARDS.'

He said 'NO' and told me to come in for directions to the nearest ATM ..

the haughty woman who could kick the ass of all around told me where to go as I headed on my way ..

was off 12th Street in the HOOD and trolloped over the ground towards my oasis of cash ..

got the cash, 10 minutes later I was back as the nice guy and I waited for the boss to come back to take my money ..

it was the tough motherfucker who wasn't going to take any shit ..

he told me the price ..

I flopped out a stack of tens and I told him he saved my life ..

my tattered rear tire was in bad shape and the shady joint off 12th was my haven ..

he smiled while shoving my meager tens into a thick wod of cash ..

'HAVE A GOOD DAY, BUDDY' he said as I walked off

thinking

he could really kick some serious ass if

prompted

there on a little sale

off Saturday's

luck charm ..

nuclear tits

off the side of a California highway as we sit on a sack of nipples and play pick-up sticks with the cactus prics laughin' like a box of nails because they are going to hold the roof and frame ..

so, rip the fuckin' wall paper down and pull the ceiling loose ..

I have a headline for the long forgotten deadline, so listen to the cat's tail swipe the air and look at the cloud, because it's gonna fuckin' disappear soon if you don't pay much attention to it, now ..

our journey to judgment can only be justifiable if we set kerosene on the khaki's and find a liaison to listen to our lovely maneuver ..

roller skater, fly by my car

fly by my car on the highway ..

flick the ice cream cone away and shout something I can't understand ..

give something to bite on as I dream of a big bowl of chili just

yellow stripe in the road ..

20 miles north of this

saturday pearl

got the day of Pearl Harbor remembrance off, no work, the old 9/11, now in a new word with bad direction, possibilities of new attacks, I have 12/27/02 off and didn't have to do anything to get it off..

just get so damn much done on Saturdays ..

smooth tunes,

the skies is changing colors, she's cooking dinner, she hit her period as another girl waits for the immaculate comma ...

it's there and here, the cigarette going out by the grape juices fizzle ..

the day with a memory and the night with no memory, it's the partition between the negatives and the smile in the positives ..

the fencepost in Maine and the fountain in Spain, the place you haven't seen

yet the dream keeps coming back like the smell of discarded salmon in the dryer ready to rid the shirt, pants and socks

of that

previous evening stench ..

some night of warmth

warmest day of December, coldest turn tonight with the winds shredding the shredder in twos .. and I have one plump fly cascading around my living room .. looking over the rug, smelling the minced smell of oils, the papers crumbled on the table and the stench of bills from the other room .. the fly is bumblin' about the place .. how he's alive, the warm weather survivor here in the warm living room is above me .. don't know and I'm going to keep him alive as long as I can .. a good luck charm from the warm months here in December is nothing

to kill, question or

ignore, folks ..

sometimes it takes a bit to grow up ..

not really sure if I want to ..

nothing too selfish, just need the time to get ready for a full bloom Christmas tree, pets walkin' about the house, a kid, a serious commitment with a woman, just need a bit of time to get all of this mulled over the head ..

I have tomatoes to take pictures of, things to write, paint to get on pants, people to call, stories to tell, stories to watch, some music to make if the strings don't snap, just

have some jets to fly, and random strangers to run into as the friends try to beacon my presence, yet I'm just not sure ..

maybe all the serious commitments will be good, or one at a time, or maybe this being a kid works just fine ..

here in some cheap cloth and warm conditions as the cold winds kick a goal past the tender, I wait for friends to come back into town, more songs I want to hear, and more stories I want to toss onto a stranger ..

so, if you're missing that evening network TV program to read this or take the commitment for the whirl it was counting on, blame me ..

I'm good for it, maybe it will give me a little bit of a commitment, though don't blame me if no one takes you seriously

and that leaking faucet never finds the right eye to get it shut off for good ..

state of states

what's wrong with folk as the brown car fish tales through the icy streets and the kid racks his nuts on the convention center walkway rail ..

as the radar goes on the freeze and the sticks have even decided to change colors and fall to the winter ground ..

how did the man in the thick winter coat get so cold when the weather wasn't even that cold ..

how was the temptation so misconstrued that the kid reached for the chestnut when all

we have ever craved from the start was a good plump piece of fruit?

the illegal immigrant incidentally became illegible by imitating the irresistible kindergarten who said they run the laboratory of licensing livelihood ..

the plans

they want you to keep, yet watch you with a weary eye as you ditch the plans and head for another .. the scratching on the bathroom wall and CD face, the next nirvana as the Hindu man whistles down the hooker with а pocket full of blow, it's the plan you haven't made yet, but will soon .. it's the time together and the time apart, it's the way you flow as the sink continues to get clogged and bleach

just seems so damn clean ..

THE THING

when it's in your blood, the pigment will burn ..

when it's in your eyes, you will have to run to find the whites hiding in the diner's eggs benedict ..

when it's in your nails you will have to dump the milk to find them swimming in the bottom ..

when it's in your skin you'll have to sweep up the bathroom floor to find the tiny epidermal layers swimming in sopped water ..

when it's in your piss you will need a sieve to bring it all back to being ...

when it's in your nose you'll have to go out in the cold, breath it out and catch it in the jar ..

when it wants to leave, you have to bring it back

because

without it you're nothing, kiddo ..

these hands don't cook

I can burn or mutilate anything you need in the kitchen ..

want the stench that won't leave, call me ..

need to ruin a pot of rice or heap of stove top, yell me out ..

want bacon grease invisibly shellacked on the walls and some crispy tidings, ring my bell ..

need some smashed squash, queer corn, beans that won't come back to life, the oatmeal in the trash, come over my way ..

fingers all made out of thumbs when you get me in the kitchen with the intent to cook, soufflé, or simmer ..

my stench

is in your

trash can right now ..

it's in the paper towel you sop up old grime, I'm there

and I'll ruin

anything if you give me some heat, a utensil or the buxom of

beauty to work with ..

those sceners

the KC sceners have some wishbones, pasties on nipples, nose full of blow, hookers up and down the block, those slits up the side of the dress have to be down right fucking cold ...

though these KC sceners with stories of new galleries and old bars that are opening ..

using plungers as dildos and pianos as a way to start talking at 9PM for the first time in the day ..

sure, inventions fade, but myths, cons and posers linger long after ..

out of comic necessity most of the time ..

not because we need it to order a sandwich or do something that could be construed as a survival tactic ..

tiempo caldo

everyday there's а notice .. time flashes on the wall .. once you have walked away from it, there's another clock on the wall .. sure, once you feel like you're in a safe place like a casino or old bank, someone you glance at has on a wrist watch and is mouthing the time ... constantly this silhouette of а picture on the wall and it always changes ... time, the imaginary ghost that follows and always has a message for you when you didn't think there was anymore message to let out .. time, the clock, a watch, timepiece, the hour, a minute, full revolution, the time as it comes down on all of us .. the hand with a magic black hand wand, it's there and you can't escape it while

the child's laughed goes and goes

and goes into a swirl of pudding left out on the counter, it's there on the wall again ..

another reminder of when it is in the day

and where you have been or are to be ..

the imaginary stamper of time

the moment, a memory and it won't stop clicking as 8:01 on the clock says it's one past and 4 till, I'm going

to get up and unplug something ..

tough words

I accidentally accumulated an acquaintance with many varied amendments and by their appearance some auctioneers took each amendment into bankruptcy and found a brilliant career as a cashier selling catastrophe to cemeteries in exchange for confident, controlling and definite ecstasy ..

use the night

the gay man and the maitredee of the strippers walk across the street .. slow, obviously in a talk about some good food or cleanliness, the kids aren't yelling, the dogs not barking and the radio mimics their lips moving .. I'm gonna get another drink of water and they're gone .. vanished into the hood, swallowed by the naked trees the other multiple rumors and my metal bug eating everything that is not welcome but more than welcome on а Wednesday night in December where the taste of night never was more satisfying ..

vacuum cleaner

sweepin' the middle manager's mind, spent all that money on school, kindergarten, fuck me, even the 2nd grade teacher ..

what have you done?

flipped on the TV and let the dry air suck upward, out, the speech of company rhetoric, too tired for the classics, carpet is disintegrating, the sky is a ceiling fan, and the vacuum is warming up as the 9th grade slowly evaporates ...

"I before E except after C" is a line for the newest flat film ...

couldn't rifle through Hemmingway's junk if Steinbeck had a hot colt jabbed against your head ..

so, call it air, call it fulcrum ..

call it the end of the beginning or the death of colloquialism ..

the cleaner bag needs to be changed and it will as the machine hums higher and higher ..

but the truth is that the vacuum can't touch these words ...

when we met

I remember seeing you last night, sure, the cat was howling, the dog clawing on my arm, the water running, the Cubans from the south were playing their instruments while on the run in the back of a truck some woman threw a cigarette into her stoma and the kid in the corner kept begging for candy and there stood the young human with bright blue eyes saying that what was supposed to happen already happened while the older folks kept wondering if it was true or if something else was supposed to happen .. sure, it's all coming back over the cup of coffee as the dog shaped and sized like a horse comes through the door jamb and licks me on the arm for another bowl of food and а walk down the street .. something about a note and some sort of light that was supposed to illuminate the southern skies as I reach for my toothbrush and tell the room to give me a moment to myself .. I needed to clean out my mouth

before I was to speak

and then it came out and that version of the dream wouldn't let me remember the latter version and that's were we stand now as the cat stops howling and the horse dog goes running through the gates, well rested, eaten, pissed and such to win the race .. the gallop over the chalk line as the photo finish camera gets jammed and all the older folks wonder who really won and more importantly, if it really mattered in the large area

surrounding such a small race

towards the imaginary finish line ..

winter is the great chill ..

gets the grime, crime, deceit and pending theft back in doors to plan for the spring or how they will be done with the institution in the summer .. all full of marbles in their pillow cases and another anecdote they read in the purchase order catalog .. not smart enough for identity theft or white collar crime, they quelch their urban temptations and fuck the nearest woman next to them and rest on the fact that they may actually have to get a job to swallow up their waking hours of the week .. but this is too damn scary and they figure there's not enough time for that .. so as the winter air swirls and the swell goes about like a wave looking for a sand bar to destroy we wait to see if the heat will be more tranquil or building up for the same urban masquerade we usually see ..

stay tuned, the commercial will be done in a couple of months around here ..

year almost done,

I have some cottage cheese left in the case to eat .. frozen treats and cold memories, the heater is working well in here as the unnamed band continues to practice for the big launch as Bono continues to go about Africa on his quest to quelch a disease in a foreign land ... the year is going to be in the naught 3's as the streets stay calm tonight and the air temperature continues to go down down down .. sure, the subway system is on time once again and the man with a red cat walks the yellow dog, while the hair spray evaporates and we have nothing but a pair of hose and some nail polish to make it all seem and sound all right .. the end of rumors and the beginning of the next, we race towards the end of the year and the possibility that another star will pop into our visual landscape

all of these receipts of potential debt and a room

full of things we bought and

forgot about the following night ..

#7,094

Italian books, the english buffoons, while the dogs sniff out the tracks and the cat paws again at the door with her talking meow ..

sure, another German invasion foiled as the a picture of a Middle Eastern kid is plastered on American propaganda, another potential burger customer in an overseas restaurant ..

let's all try to hold hands again and come back to the chorus of ring around the posies, pocket full of ashes, we all fall down, we all fall down

baby ..

12-29-2002

her sick kid. my neighbor is getting ready to move in а month, re-heated sandwiches, the jazz tenor on the horn as the door bell rings and the same neighbor mentioned before is going down the steps loud, the new cooking utensils, the trash bags ready to be tossed into last evening's news, the old electronic transmission and the rusty van taking a slow turn around the corner, it's post-Christmas and all the juice heads are waiting for New Year's and another year where they'll forget who their congressional representative is, but who's to say, some people have a helluva memory, as we forget the faces we see and the names we hang out with, the precarious intuition of а bunch of grown up children trying to discipline the real children as corruption goes from the bottom up and looks for a good blanket to hide under once the day finally comes to а good, solid firm rest and

that

is where

we end up from the first word

on down the last, I think?

DAY 1	DAY 57
DAY 2	DAY 58
DAY 3	DAY 59
DAY 4	DAY 60
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FIRST 113 DAYS OF 2003

At 10:25 on the morning of the last day of 2002 I will shoot away at the first 113 days in the following year .. a smattering of word service to the fiction and non-fiction that could and may go down in the following year that we will call 2003 in the 21st Century .. a prediction, a guess, a wink, a try, a attempt and a jab before I pay the first rent check of the first month of the new year as the car pulls through the STOP sign without stopping as the hookers run and the cops hustle before this window and new sheet of rapping coming straight towards your eye balls ..

DAY 1... Several more futile Presidential pardons as I act as though this one more day off lasts for the entire following year .. DAY 2... The Pope buys a membership to a health club and takes all the bishops out to a year beginning chess match of the century .. DAY 3... My lover will tell me something I will remember for the rest of my life .. DAY 4... The dog will lick my arm or face several times after being asleep for 6 or 7 hour but just wag his tail after not seeing me for several days ..

DAY 5... The band will play again in Chicago and wonder why people put all that peculiar shit on a hot dog indigenous to their land ..

DAY 6... The woman will smile while the man scratches his scalp ..

DAY 7... The lottery ticket that was a winner will sit on the tabletop until the gas tank needs to be filled again ..

DAY 8... Another batch of Hemmingway letters will be published and sold for a good American penny for the publishing house that can't admit that all it makes its money on are legends that didn't have time or the public interest to publish before ..

DAY 9... The salt will run away from the pig skins and land straight in the canyon of sweets below ..

DAY 10...My pops will call me several times to tell me about a crime that went down around the corner from me in a neighborhood that keeps him awake at night

DAY 11... Someone else I know will think about getting married and decide not to call until the holidays come trickling around at the end of the following year .. DAY 12... Someone else will give me their e-mail address ..

DAY 13... I will lose that e-mail that was so thoughtfully placed in my able hands .. DAY 14... My kitchen will hold the stench of 3 day old coffee and flourish as the memory of that feline I took care of in the previous year meow's a triumphant victory call for another pot of coffee that has to be cooked

DAY 15... The man from Louisiana will pack up to drive towards Mississippi to recite the name of the state correctly while sitting in front of the 'MISSISSIPPI WELCOME SIGN' on the side of the road because he had some much trouble spelling it while a kid in school .. beating the odds, baby .. beating the odds ..

DAY 16... Another job offer will think over as the current job keeps me wondering where the next one will surface ..

DAY 17... An old friend will pass my tracks in a public place as we talk about the fact that I just thought about them that morning and forgot about them shortly there after .. DAY 18... The video rental will be late again as my stack of late fees would be enough to get me a DVD player and 20 video titles I have wanted to see and will never have to take back in my imaginary tales ..

DAY 19... The old man in the blue hat will continue walking up the street wondering how that one moment back in '68 changed his life and he will continue to move forward thinking about it and how he can never go back ..

DAY 20... Another claims adjuster will visit someone with an elaborate story of the fender bender and how the adjuster just swims in the though to tall liquor specialty after the day has come to a close .. DAY 21... Will get that odd look from

someone wondering why I'm not married without kids at the age of 30 ..

DAY 22... Will have protected sex and continue thinking about that imaginary child's name in a good night of solid sleep .. DAY 23... Make the best plate of eggs I have ever made and wonder how the fuck I pulled it off ..

DAY 24... Run into someone strangers named Peter, Paul and Mary and wonder how they ever got popular as a band when they did during that slice of Americana .. DAY 25...Calling off the dogs because the cat's scratched them all good and damn well

DAY 26... Sending another message to a friend in Italy laughing at the minute long transmission when it used to take two weeks to get that letter back and forth over the Atlantic Ocean ..

DAY 27...Again unsuccessfully trying to get a hold of my Cousin in NY trying to work out a spring trip up to the immaculate rock up east ..

DAY 28... Forgetting that one thing I thought I would never have the chance of remembering again ..

DAY 29...Smoking my final cigarette and watch the last nine years of my life flash before my eyes ..

DAY 30... Take a drink of water that will taste like no other .. (IF I'M LUCKY) DAY 31...Wake up next to her again and know that the jitters in the morning are the best thing I can feel next to a good solid climax on the ensuing evening ..

DAY 32...Thinking about a nice juicy steak and eating a plate of roughage that night .. DAY 33...Will watch the power guy in his truck turn the corner and wonder if he will ever know how much power he actually has

DAY 34...Try to call that old friend on the telephone I had a dream about the previous evening over a good solid square of closed eyes ..

DAY 35... Will fart horribly in a full elevator and look around towards the lights as though the fucker is going to seize up at any moment to throw off any blame, but take full blame in the same breath ..

DAY 36... Live in Athens, Greece for one slice of an evening because dreams are the only thing that keeps this kid asleep and way from running about with open eyes ..

DAY 37... Ponder a real good plate of Lasagna I want to cook, but won't because I wouldn't want to inflict that on anyone just ye

DAY 38... Get a new car and wince when the state wants their share of my new pleasure ..

DAY 39... Paint a picture with one black dot and ponder for a week or so at the validity of such a simple piece .. is it art or laziness? DAY 40... Hop over that curb and think about those Mexicans in Ferris Bueller's Day Off and do it with more voracity once again ... DAY 41... Find an old pen that doesn't work and buy 12 more that do to provide an ample replacement ..

DAY 42... Actually go to a bar and have just a few drinks like I say I will every other time

DAY 43... Shake a friend's hand for finally getting out of that horrible thing he called a 'loving relationship' ..

DAY 44... Almost running into the back end of a car in front of me because I'm checking out their out of town tags and trying to decipher what that neatly calligraphied saying actually says ..

DAY 45...Drinking a glass of egg nogg and wondering how many other ways we can really enjoy the egg ..

DAY 46... Running into a calm Jewish guy and wondering if it really is the chosen one? DAY 47...Saving someone from drinking a raw pork chop blended in a blender ..

DAY 48... Being saved from doing the same thing from someone I know well ..

DAY 49... Knowing that the Never Ending Story is this ..

DAY 50... & it keeps on going

DAY 51... & going

DAY 52... till it doesn't even remember how it originally began ..

DAY 53...Bartering for the life of a hairless pig, just to eat it a month from now ..

DAY 54... Another Bowie rip off hits the air and we're all OK with that because Bowie kicks complete ass ..

DAY 55...Jellyfish gets back together under our nose in a private living room jam that we read about in the tabloids .. shoved way the fuck in the back for only a few neurotic fucks to know about .. fact or fiction?

DAY 56...Her thumbprint in the sand is my footprint in the cement ..

DAY 57... That last cheeseburger is one more life that will come and go on this planet

DAY 58... Arizona decides to become a part of the European Union baffling all the political experts and making for interesting bar chatter ..

DAY 59...Clap on .. clap off .. the girl has an STD and we move on to the next day .. DAY 60... The pimpled kid goes to the doctor and buys more condoms because of

that day 59 that went on past .. DAY 61...A whistle in a tunnel is a shout out during Sunday Service .. DAY 62...A 2 x 4 has more power on any given day than a solid 4 x 4 running down the street in a steak of ground effects and bad fuckin' thumpin' ..

DAY 63...The bird tripped over the day as the worm fell over a segment ..

DAY 64...A warm FUCK YOU is always better than a blank HELLO ..

DAY 65... The hooded man pacing in front of the shady apartment building is so high he forgot he doesn't have the shit he needs for that urban hand off ..

DAY 66...A WHITE ALLIGATOR REALLY COMES CLIMBING OUT OF THE SEWER LID OFF 37TH AND BROADAY .. TONIGHT WE BRING YOU THE NEWS FIRST ..

DAY 67... Seriously, no more fucking wire hangers ..

DAY 68...The trees get a little more naked as the boy tries to jerk it off with the 'STRANGER' hand ..

DAY 69...Get ready to fuck, kids, the day has arrived ..

DAY 70...The stapler ran off with the staple remover to Vegas for a real click of a marriage ..

DAY 71...Once again I tell that tired old joke .. 'WHAT'S BROWN AND STICKY?' 'A STICK' ..

DAY 72... Another litter of pups holds more promise than the corporate droid ready to deliver the March financials to a bunch of shit in the pants guys ..

DAY 73...The music store down the street folds up because the people finally found a way to defeat the record executives at a game they couldn't have counted on ..

DAY 74... Snap another picture of someone crossing the street and it's never a fucking chicken around here ..

DAY 75...Lips and assholes are really funny, if you think about it ..

DAY 76... Our friend Phil gets caught again jerking off with a vacuum cleaner ..

DAY 77...The blue car decides to die its body in light amber ..

DAY 78... The praying mantis finally has her prayers answered ..

DAY 79... The gay bar wants to be called the 'HAPPY BAR' from now on ..

DAY 80... The disc turns as the head spins

DAY 81... Hot shots of the world look out .. there's another 'LOOK WHO'S TALKING' movie coming back as Travolta hits another skid in his long Hollywood career .. DAY 82...Wondering how it took me so long to find out about that band that plays on the player over and over and over again ..

DAY 83...Ate that pig from Day 53 DAY 84... The Circle Jerks release their long awaited 'CIRCLE SET' to be hip .. no more boxes for those kids ..

DAY 85...Another coffee cup bought that you couldn't live without as you stand in front of the cub bard while the coffee gets cold wondering which one to drink out of that day ..

DAY 86...The particular people finally start relaxing, after all these years ..

DAY 87... The Golden Girls finally destroy that 'GRATEFUL DEAD' greatest hits album

DAY 88... Errant trash on the ground is another useless letter in the mailbox .. DAY 89... The author is always working on another book .. don't ask anymore what the

fuck they have been up to ... DAY 90...The little old black woman again rises triumphant .. reducing the tough,

pimpin' grandson to dust when the moment of truth is faced ..

DAY 91...One more aspirin is that vitamin you forgot to take last week ..

DAY 92... Watch the Big Lewbowski again just to hear the word 'DONNY' again from Goodman's mouth ..

DAY 93...Always thinking about J. Tuttoro as Jesus and not taking him quite as seriously as I used to as I see 13 Conversations about One Thing ..

DAY 94...Sucking the popsicle loose and using the wooden stick to prop the window open ..

DAY 95... Flying over the Midwest and wondering what version of Betsy Ross quilted the land together so well ..

DAY 96...Contemplating a move out of state as I move towards the coffeemaker before 11AM, Midwest Time ..

DAY 97... Is there anyone still alive that remembers the Alamo .. ?

DAY 98...KD Lang and all that constant fucking craving ..

DAY 99... The tributary joins the river for one of the most lasting unions in recent memory

DAY 100... The flat tire from the evening before is mysteriously inflated and new the next morning?

DAY 101...Questioning the fate of random happenings is like questioning the lunch date that got blown at the last moment ..

DAY 102...The Sound and the Fury book on my mantle spoke to me last nigh in a high pitched and furious tone ?

DAY 103...Ohio really isn't the heart of it all, as far as this kid is concerned ..

DAY 104...The first flying car is be piloted by the first cloned baby ..

DAY 105...I know someone will always come up with a fresh new guitar riff .. but can the same be said about a good drum riff?

DAY 106... She's ready for a new day .. DAY 107... as He looks back on the previous one ..

DAY 108... Sweat tickles my pits and kicks my square in the funny bone .. that shits not funny ..

DAY 109... With Newton having such a good handle on the laws of motion .. his offspring has had a horrible go behind the wheel of cars ..

DAY 110...Parker Posie rents a really bad video ..

DAY 111... Another philosophical question is another 7 year itch you won't be able to quench ..

DAY 112... No more stories about fanatical folks buying a baseball player's used chewing gum in an auction ..

DAY 113...All the guns of the world get jammed ..