gutted whorishness ubiquitously, pushing the fragmented minds of what the big dogs are! The whore, or at least, unconscious body, can now be fitted for most Americans, since the "triumph" of the civil rights movement and the pretended "raising of all nations" has been rendered as real as nature, tho it is a lie!

So Nowak enters, socialized in a contemporary forwarding, advance, recall, re-assertion of the life, the sticks and stones: a child of immigrants, and with the sturdy underpinning of class (as life distinction), class alienation, and brings it back, humming. And sleek with seeing and hearing!

We get a sharp eye, a literary & philosophical broadening of what used to be labeled "working class poetry," scientifically, yes, deepened with a hard but contemporary lyric, and narrative. Hard image. Latering the academic construct, a fresher panorama of the more sophisticatedly excluded. The secret of u.s. class disconnection . . . pervasive use of race (&c) to make space between the different sectors of the class.

And these "past the past in the rust belt" Youngstown, the closing of the Youngstown steel mills. Grandfather a steel worker, Grandmother a Teamster, Bethlehem, Buffalo. Father, a union VP at Westinghouse, in that other "fatha" non-ghetto (unsplendid!) ghetto calling itself, by order, "middle class." And with that what un-reddened the ties, McCarthy, Un-American, Acts like Smith, and so How do you re-explain what "The Dictatorship of the Proletariat" means to those unconvinced of their victimization . . . by color, bribe, socialization, wish w/ media or arty academic goggledy gook?

And this is the Refreshment Mark Nowak tenders. "The photograph of the factory predicts how every one . . . will get used!" Must get Refreshed because "the place you / grew up in was going to be gone" and understand "we took care of shit" or "We couldn't make steel alone or get respect alone." These are profound ungathered ideas for whom he reflects and speaks to, plus all of us.

He has overview, summation, & the precis of the "survivor" when the host of minds is toxic. To ask "Where are / our yards . . ." Peeping the "two doors" of (where?) America . . . from the unacknowledged fraternal citizen (not). "The white man got my job" "I have went to see" (you dig that projected precision) "is no call for colored / men." Or "A mill town is not a / goddamn residential neighborhood!"

And by positing a harked narrative, as scale- and below each, the debris of the tale, as projective verse, we are squared off with fact and fiction, as another way of seeing "America" (What dat?) the "two doors," both to nowhere!
AFTERWORD
by Amiri Baraka

CLASS REUNION

In the U.S., one of the principal problems with organizing the Revolutionary Democratic upsurge and certainly the Socialist Revolution that it prefaces is that in too many ways, the U.S. working class is not yet a "class for itself." Or I shd say, perhaps, it has approached that true self consciousness as in the '30s, Depression times, or as an undergirding activity of the Black mass's '60s upsurge, camouflaged into division by "race," and the invisibility of the white sector, as well the U.S. left's crude and subtle lack of understanding, passing over to social chauvinism of the Afro-American national question.

The social democratic opportunism of the left also distorts their perception and use of Culture in the struggle. Allowing the bourgeoisie to dominate the arts and socialize cultural workers and the people by not offering an alternative to the imperialist superstructure! All but disarming the arts as frivolous or marginalizing it, so that the most anticomunist writing, painting, cultural analysis is squashed out of sight in various obscure journals.

So the most visible, aggressively anti-imperialist art in the U.S., certainly, is the poetry & rap, largely by young Afro-American and Latinos, male & female, tho there is an emergence of some Asian and young white poets whose work is impressive in that tendency. The rappers are configured in the same ethnic presence. But to eyeball younghish white anti-imperialist, working class, left poets is still not usual. The main reason is that the class socialization & persona of "white people" is generally more magnetized to the pretended facsimile art of the social view that pinches seduction from inside the fake reality of America the Big Dog, so high and mighty that any focus on actuality seems grim and overstated. Or hysterical.

Nowak relies on his life as a person, not the addictive mist doping one into seeing themselves as a swollen category of intellectual whore, the literary, academic, blankness of the American "aesthetic." Though it is no longer limited to white folks alone, the journals, publishing & program cults, "black literary journals" such as there are, flaunt such
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"In December, after LTV stopped making steel, a U.S. bankruptcy judge approved a plan that allows the corporation to stop paying health-insurance premiums and supplemental unemployment pay at the end of February for laid-off workers, and in June for retirees."

\textit{LTV is pulling an Enron. They're reorganizing on the backs of the people who built the company. If they take over, I won't get a pension until I'm 62, and then it will be only about $400. I'm a veteran who served in Vietnam for a year and in the Persian Gulf for five months. Now, the government is going to help me—right out onto the street.}


"This is not a people issue." shh . . . shhh . . . "This is [shhh . . . ] a test . . ."

how // close // how // [will] // a - Rose
"We're all working together; that's the secret. And we'll lower the cost of living for everyone, not just in America, but we'll give the world an opportunity to see what it's like to save and have a better lifestyle, a better life for all. We're proud of what we've accomplished; we've just begun." — Sam Walton (1918–1992)

Not everyone was as enthused about the store's opening. Members of United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local No. 1116 picketed the entrances to the store. "Wal-Mart brings sub-standard wages and benefits to the area," Union representatives said in a statement.

"Windows" is shutting down...
"NATIONAL STEEL TO LAY OFF 10 WORKERS"
"EVTAAC NEXT MINE TO CLOSE?"
"HIBTAAC WILL CLOSE FOR 10 WEEKS"

One brick [broke (frames)] the remains of my father's factory. Ten less ten weeks less next [mine] to close. The background [under (ground)], the economic [limits (of)]. One miner one thousand four hundred miners minus miners minus plus. What broke [one brick] one miner one bricklayer what broke one worker down. Broken [under (ground)].

The plant was usually blowing smoke out of it. Today, there was nothing . . . We don't want to be here. It's embarrassing. We went through this in the early '80s. I remember standing in the cheese line. For us, it's a matter of life or death on the Iron Range. We don't want to see what happened in the early '80s happen again . . . Please help us. This is an economic tornado.

* no tres- / no trees // -passing / leaves
Used to play, my Uncle Ray kept repeating: we used to play in that dump behind Reitan Street. Rats swimming around. Industrial [chemical] waste. Was so sick missed so many days I had to repeat first grade. And then they build houses over there?

The biggest thing is that it's going to have a trickle-down effect. It will affect everyone, from grocery stores to gas stations. It affects everybody up here. But it's happened before and we made it through it. We're fighters up here. You make it through those lean years and you go on.

"And already the effects of the impending shutdown are beginning to creep into the Range economy. Some vendors are starting to shed jobs, some people have begun to curb their spending and pay off debt, while some retailers are starting to feel a pinch, too. The ripple effect of the closure is projected to impact an additional 1,400 workers who are not employed by LTV."

what / disappears / in the distance / with / who
05.25.2000

In a nutshell, this is the most devastating thing to ever happen to this town. It's going to affect everybody. It's scary. It's very scary. We've had hard times before and survived, but this time, I just don't know... Apparently, our best quality isn't good enough for their blast furnace.

"The mine, which once employed more than 3,000 people, is the town of about 2,400's largest employer; the next largest business employs 42 people... Gov. Jesse Ventura said the state will do whatever is possible to help with the transition. 'Nobody likes to see companies close down and leave, but that's the negative part of doing business,' Ventura said."

Relocation [talks] at the dinner table. Windsor (Canadian). Shut up get ready to leave [for Asheville (North Carolina)]. Railroads steelworkers Westinghouse department store clerks cashiers Rosie the Riveter's restaurant cooks. At least Genny Cream Ales came cheap.

*

Main Street — It Can't Happen Here
05.25.2000

"The shutdown will mark the first closing of one of the Iron Range's behemoth taconite plants since the 1980s, when a brutal shakeout closed two of eight mines and cut employment in the industry from 16,000 to 6,000."

My stomach dropped to the floor. It was like my stomach was hit by a 10-ton brick. We knew for the last few years that things weren't the best, but we never expected this. It's just unbelievable.

The factory of my father [reduced to rubble]. Factory [after factory (shut down)]. Seventeen stories. The blast furnace of my grandfather. The slaughterhouse across from the railroad [terminal] where my father's aunt used to work. Seventeen stories, and every single window shattered [shut up].

* 

workers / words / worth / [repeating]
NOTE:
The numbers that conclude each section correspond to workers who lost their jobs in that particular Iron Range community.

"It's important to note that this is not a people issue."
—RICHARD HIPPLE, LTV STEEL PRESIDENT
MAY 24, 2000
in the war in Vietnam. You see,
there is still so much
that I have to do,

I, Pelagea Vlassova, the widow
of a worker
and the mother

of a worker. Francine Michalek of
Taystee Bakery;
it says so

here on this patch. And Eleanor
and television
dinners,

and reaching what she's been
taught.

Hmm,

hmmmm, Aunt Molly Jackson.
Mother
Courage

and Mother Jones. No; when
I am tired, then
I'll give it to you

and you'll carry it. So, I moved
in with Mom,
and that's where I stayed.

She took care of my
daughter,
and I worked—
truck is almost outside her kitchen.
Not an option for her, but better? What right

do I have, anyway, to eat here and live in his room
and buy my clothes out of his paycheck?

One was in Japan and Leyte. And my brother

Frank was in Pensacola, Florida.

Somewhere (other) her brothers
got to go by driving, got there by going
and were gone. Francine hears her alarm clock,
wakes slowly to Loretta Lynn.

Her co-workers (already) all night awake
and baking at Taystee. Nothing helps. I see nothing to be done.
ACT/ONE

Francine Michalek drives
bread. Taystee

Bakery:

an occasion but not an option.
So we went
home

to visit my mother. Francine,
her mother, her
story,

her (driven) gestures. I can’t do
a thing to make it
any better.

Francine
rises
to make it;

she drives through her
morning
as she drives.

Somewhere
Teamsters
like her.

My mother
was all
alone

because the two boys
were gone.
When inside her

91
WORKS CITED


The interaction with idle is particularly interesting. The wide sense, in application to people, can be illustrated from c. 1450: "To devocioun evre and Contemplacione / Was sho gyven and nevre ydel.' But in an act of 1530-1 we find the characteristic 'to aryst the sayde vacaboundes and ydell persones'.

Most of the time I feel blue. I feel like giving up quickly when things go wrong. Things are so bad that I feel as though life is hardly worth living. I am often worried about possible dangers that I cannot control. I am often tempted to give up trying to solve my problems.

* 

pushed the frame
named names
depression repression
the song the same remains

"Drive your Chevrolet through the U.S.A.
America's the greatest
land of all."

stolen stereo types
discriminatory democracy

participatory
plutocracy
windows replaced
by the wind

begin
shattering
The developing sense is important, because it represents the specialization of productive effort to paid employment by another, which (cf. WORK, job, LABOUR) has been an important part of the history of capitalist production and wage-labour. In several related words this development can be traced.

I am having to take medication to calm my nerves. I find that I must take drugs in order to feel good. I am unable to sleep unless I take sleeping pills or powders. My friends often supply me with drugs that make me feel better.

* * *

smashed glass class
exhortation

"This land is my land"
or Angel Island

smashed glass class
assimilation

No Applications
Being Accepted Today

Japanese cars
scratches in a bar

smashed glass class
after factories deportation

like Chrysler was drowning
like closing Lynch Road

"like the anvil fell"
swinging sledgehammers
1.

There has been some controversy about the history of the word *unemployment*, since G. M. Young said that 'unemployment was beyond the scope of any idea which early Victorian reformers had at their command, largely because they had no word for it ... I have not observed it earlier than the sixties'. (Victorian England, 271 1936).

I often take a drink or two to get started. I drink when ever I have a chance. I drink to forget my troubles. I find that I need a drink in order to relax. I drink to ease the pain. I have good reasons for getting drunk.

* Louis ville slugger
"little motherfuckers"

unemployed structurally
Capitalized racially

profit margins
marginalized

people *polis*

parole

destabilized
democratic spaces

closed foreclosed

nacion

states
reiterates

bleached
hate speech
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Any doubt remaining as to
the Reagan Administration's attitude
toward those who dared to defy it
was erased in March 1982.
A detailed questionnaire
from the Justice Department
arrived at the residence
of each former employee.
One time I was organizing the union.
Next I was selling eggs.
How did that happen?
The cover sheet stated the interrogatories
were for the "convenience" of those appellants
"who do not have counsel."
It also demanded that the interrogatories
"shall be answered under oath."
Therefore the appellant was required
to swear before a notary public
that his answers were complete.
I think it happened
because the left-wing movement
contributed so much
to the strength of the union.
That strength had to be dissipated.
A list of words and expressions
showing their generally accepted capitalization
follows. Note that some words
derived from proper nouns
have developed a special meaning;
these words are no longer capitalized.
American history
bologna sausage
boycott
English literature
poor whites
puritanical ethics
russian dressing

Russian olive
Statement No. 2
un-American
The phrasing of the first question
was particularly significant:
"Are you now, or have you ever been
a member of \textit{fatco}?"
Get rid of it. Get it out of here.
If the left could be isolated
out in the country somewhere,
selling eggs,
would there be any reason
to worry?
Would there?
4.

Before the crash of 1929,
I accepted things without question.
The evening classes at the Y
caused me to question, but I had no answers.
Bryn Mawr was the turning point.
The girls from the garment industry,
from Sweden and other places
talked of their unions
and how they worked.
That hit home.
Thousands of air traffic controllers
walked off the job at 7 a.m. yesterday,
snarling air traffic across the nation
and drawing an ultimatum from President Reagan,
who said his administration will fire any striking controller
who has not returned to work by 11 a.m. Wednesday.
Capitalize a title of preeminence
or distinction following the name of a person
or when used alone as a substitute for a name.
Ronald W. Reagan, fortieth President
of the United States; the President; the Chief
Executive; the Commander in Chief
We at Westinghouse had nothing to say
about our jobs, seniority, vacations,
pensions, and medical payments.
There was a company union,
but we had no real power.

In his morning briefing, Reagan made it clear
that the administration intends to make good
on its threat to prosecute controllers
who strike in violation of federal law.
Capitalize the words department, bureau,
service, station, office, agency, commission
and board if referring to a bureau
or executive department
of the U.S. Government
when the name is given.

The need for workers
to band together
for the good of all
was the answer for me.
I believed it then,
and I believe it now.
Federal counteraction
included U.S. attorneys
in 11 cities
filing criminal complaints
in federal courts
against 22 PATCO officials
and local union strike leaders.
than at that long bench
with the never-ending noise,
the whining of machines.

2.

During his eight years
on the old General Electric Theater,
Reagan enjoyed certain distinct
professional advantages.
Hundreds of women worked
at those benches. With prosperity,
more and more were added.
References for authoritative capitalization
of American and British names: Who's Who,
Who's Who in America,
Dictionary of National Biography,
But when the market crashed in 1929,
the benches were emptied almost overnight.
While the program's other performers
were at the mercy of the weekly dramatic material—
it was an anthology series—the star was not.
I don't know
how many were let go,
but my gosh, it was devastating.
He was no more responsible
for the quality of the shows
than for the quality of G.E.'s products.
1.

Capitalize the first word of every sentence, whether or not it is a complete sentence. Capitalize the first word of every line of poetry. I started work on an assembly line at the huge Westinghouse plant in East Pittsburgh when I was sixteen. The work was dull and repetitive. From 1954 to 1962, Ronald Reagan served as host of the television program, "G.E. Theater." In some modern English poetry forms, only the first word of the first line is capitalized, and sometimes even this is written lower-case.
Six times a year he acted in the dramas (once starring in a two-part program as an FBI agent who infiltrates Communist-front organizations).
We tried to make the time go by talking to each other. Capitalize father and mother when used as address, but do not capitalize such nouns when a possessive pronoun is used with them.
The remainder of the year Reagan toured G.E. factories, speaking to employees and local civic groups on, as he put it in his autobiography, "the attempted takeover of the [electrical] industry by Communists" and "the swiftly rising tide of collectivism that threatens to inundate what remains of our free economy."
Sometimes I would fantasize, making believe I was somewhere other
257.

Because the (brake) past is used because the tearing (past) of the (brick) form is used is used because the fence (in) of the (goddamn) frame is used is used is utterly used against us and by us and upon us and for us is used is used in the present (past) future (form) we are used yet users yet used.

Every day you put your life on the line when you went into that iron house. Every day you sucked up dirt and took a chance on breaking your legs or breaking your back. And anyone who’s worked in there knows what I’m talking about.

-roads]

Closing

words :

[Rail

WORKS CITED


"PUSSY CRUSHER" in gray spray paint—

"WEED PENIS MEMBERS BEER" (and)
"CT FUCKED EB —> HERE"

Vocabulary is the problem—men have vulgar mouths. The "CLASS OF 2001" is responsible for these words; the owners of the trains that pass them (a block from my house, rarely on schedule) will never ride this line. Sometimes nude pictures are all over the wall. (These are seldom in frames.) They don't like women working, they try to embarrass you. Men (not available for this photograph) don't want to acknowledge a woman's place is not just in the home.

* *

Work from the wire
mill [the train]
   edged through—

waiting, don't
worry, Who knows

If you were in a pub you talked shop. How you would do things differently if you ran the place. This struggle, in each and every instance, to make history within the conditions of Whose frame. I mean the company was always doing things that didn't make sense. Under just such conditions, my father ran for (and was elected) vice president of his Westinghouse union. There were a lot of smart guys in production but the company would never let you put your ideas into effect. A railcar (still) awaits articulation in the bottom (Right) corner of this frame.

* *

There points to/ward
somewhere else
   where the working
wore you, or
   you worked (whatever was worn)
Built sheds and piss houses. We took care of shit. Nation ("Under Construction") needs the State (in decay)—a flag out of focus where working-class (white) masculinity also factors into how factories get framed. You made steel together and you won your dignity together. Inside my third-grade (Union Road) classroom, the distant bay of trains (braking) out behind Buffalo Salvage & Tow. All those present (in prefigured relations) are constituted for a State that will remain (for us) always German-shepherd guarded. You couldn’t make steel alone and you couldn’t win respect alone. Further up the road was the Local.

*

Bricks, the frame [work]
of an eye, accents
of bricklayer

and optometrist, tongues
extant

The interruption of the closure, in this instance, by the frame: “Irv [Steel] was able to use its bankruptcy to reduce payments to productive workers.” In the old days when the city bus used to pull up to the factory gate, the driver would call out “butcher shop” or “slaughterhouse.” “In negotiations with the steelworkers union, Irv extracted more takebacks than other, presumably healthier steel companies were able to.” I can remember sitting around the lunch table and everybody at that table, there must have been seven or eight people, had a finger or something missing. “This gave Irv an advantage over its competitors.” Believe it or not, people felt it was kind of like a badge of honor that they had a finger or something missing, and that would be a topic of conversation. “Bankruptcy became, through a cultural process that understood bankruptcy as failure, a condition for success.”

*

Where are
yards our
yards where our

no you cannot
yards [where] away
The basic form is the frame; the photograph of the factory predicts how every one (of the materials) will get used. and I can remember Mark & I talking about the possibility of Lackawanna becoming a ghost town. Past (participle) past (participant) past (articulating) an incessant scraping (away). and what would we do. You know—it wasn't just losing a job in the steel industry, but your entire life, the place that you grew up in was going to be gone. As I scraped (grease, meat, omelettes), the (former) railroad workers and steel workers (still) bullshitting in the restaurant where for eight years I short-order cooked.

* 

Who knew the crisis presumably

from the conditions—

the Capital [Who]
SHUTDOWN
Poems by Mark Nowak

This stirring collection of poetry, plays, and photo-documentary poems exposes the human cost of corporate greed and gives voice to the growing crisis faced in communities across America.

"Poetry and ideology are not the same thing," says Nowak. "The writing in this book is an attempt to bring those two into alignment." The result is a powerful and thought-provoking book that challenges readers to question their own assumptions about corporate power and the role of poetry in society.

"I hope this book can contribute to the growing movement for social justice and economic equality," says Nowak. "It's time for us to take a stand against the forces of corporate greed and work towards a more just and sustainable future."