1989

A slashing: Leger Solid: Lead Pipe: Falcon: Cut in huma nity: Not golden song of the kiss of the earth to the earth: In the opening depths of World War II: In 1942: W hen millions upon millions of people were getting slaughtered all over the world: The Federal Bure au Of Investigation had come to our second grade class and thumb printed our little thumbs: The ki ds created this explanation: "It's in case we get blown up and all they can find is our thumbs:" In 1989: I was working at my computer: I sensed a buzz on my body for 15 seconds exactly like the foo t buzz one received on the machine with a waffle stamped lead tread impressed with a lightning bo lt people stepped on for a foot buzz to rejuvenate their tired feet at the New York World's Fair of 193 9 for ten cents: I carefully saved my work durin*g*

*the dull 15 second buzz and shut off my comp uter and my printer: I walked outside: The telephone poles: At the top 15 feet: Were swaying back an d forth: A few other people had walked outside: I asked: "So what happened?:" A few people said: "*Earthquake*:" My French soccer coach neighbor* came jogging by: He asked: "What happened?:" *I* said: "Earthquake:" He said: "I didn't feel a thing: Eh:? My feet were off the ground: What did it f eel like: Eh?:" I said: "Stepping on a frigid ant nest that is engaged in a group orgasm:" I shut off our gas and water at their meters: The TV News had pictures of total death and destruction: They never showed 99.9% of the entire San Francisco Bay Area unaffected: All they showed over and ov er again on TV was one small section of one small rich neighborhood built on jello mud half collapsed: A small section of the clunky approach to The Bay Bridge

collapsed: And a small section of freew ay over a boulevard in Oakland collapsed: The 90 year old man across the street who as a child had mo ved to our street from San Francisco across the bay to live in a tent when it was a field following The G reat Earthquake of 1906 told me: "The News is an ass: Cheap fear mongers: In my opinion people who h aven't lived through the Second World War are hopelessly inane sissies:" I said: "TV jerks love to man ipulate peoples' feelings:" He said: "Your feelings and 50 thou

It's your fault! It's your fault! It's your fault! It' s your fault! No! It's your fault! It's your fault! It's your fault! It's your fault! It's your fault! It's your fault!

sand bucks will get you on Queen Mary:" A frien d called me from San Francisco across the bay and asked me if we could take care of his seven year ol d son for the night as he and his wife couldn't get back to Berkeley because of the panic traffic jam s: They had talked to their son and told him they were fine and would see him tomorrow: The boy ca me to our house after school: My wife and I told him over and over again his parents were fine: T he boy slept in the open doorway of our bedroom shaking and sobbing in a sleeping bag: Someone a t school had told him that his parents in San Fran cisco were dead on TV: This was my taste of The Great Earthquake of 1989: Far from a scourge of heaven: Or on hopes of an increase in the intellig ence of humanity: A possible leaven: It was a prof ound experience of: You don't have to be a raving S amuel Spade: Private Detective: Shamus: Flatfoot: G man: Bank Dick: Pinkerton: Gum Shoe: Take The Fall Con: To find any moment on the boob tube news: Not golden song of the kiss of the earth to the earth: Not Fe rnand Leger solid: Lead dark: Brutal: Cut in hum anity: But: A plastic vacuum frantic: Casting gang's: Das hiell Hammet dark painted: Solid lead Falcon: