

A. D. Winans

SAN FRANCISCO BLUES

bombings rape ethnic cleansing
Bill Gates Ted Turner and the Pope
all selling their own brand of dope
a mayor who is a joke
a bus system that doesn't work
head cases set loose on the street
punk rockers with rainbow colored hair
women with pierced genitals
Viagra for the disinterested
Ginseng for tired blood
my illusions are fighting a duel with
my delusions
the last time I picked up
a white courtesy telephone the
voice on the other end was mine

the dates on my calendar are blank
the pinball machine has no flippers
there's no prize in my crackerjack box
my radio plays nothing but commercials
my hand holds my cock in contempt
my love life is an unread resume
with one too many references

I dreamt I was a gun runner
trading hardware for software
I want my photo on a cereal box
not a milk carton

the IRS is a legal shake down
the Pentagon a slaughterhouse
Jack the Ripper sliced and diced
his way though life
and he wasn't even a chef

Freud was impotent
but put on a good show
Monks know the truth
but won't share it
you know you're in trouble
when your shrink deals in fantasies

and leaves you with his reality

retirement for a poet is never boring
at least in theory
each month the government
sends me a pittance check
compensating me for the
life of blood they took
and did you know when you reach sixty
the blood bank doesn't want your blood?
it's like playing the stock market
you have to know when to buy low
and sell high

my life has become a distraction
no additions and subtractions
when it becomes an abstraction
I'll know I've found success

A. D. Winans is a native San Francisco poet and graduate of San Francisco State College. His poetry has appeared in hundreds of literary magazines and anthologies, including *City Lights Journal*, *Margie*, *Rattle*, *Poetry Australia*, *the New York Quarterly*, *the Outlaw Bible of American Poetry*, and *the Beatitude 50th Anniversary Anthology*. He is the author of fifty books and chapbooks of poetry and prose. In 2005 a song poem of his was performed at New York's Tully Hall. In 2006 he was awarded a PEN National Josephine Miles award for excellence in literature. In 2007 Presa Press published a book of his selected poems. In 2009 he was given a PEN Oakland Lifetime Achievement Award.