

RIDE the WIND



a poem cycle

by John Curl

Ride
The



Wind

by

JOHN CURR



Poetry for the People
San Francisco : 1979

For my teachers.

Also by John Curl: Insurrection/Resurrection
 Spring Ritual

Poetry for the People

P.O. Box 12406
San Francisco, CA 94112

P.O. Box 2307
Berkeley, CA 94702

Copyright © 1979 by John Curl. All rights reserved.

INVOCATION

the changes slide ten thousand years,
urging dawn from yesterday;
the Revolution spirals ten thousand years,
but what great surges we can stride today!

ONE

clouds swirling round mountain peaks
the hole in the center of the sun
girl and boy eyeing each other at a dance
bird hanging from barbed wire
landlord collecting neutron bomb
arm being pulled off by machine
profit graph impaling elk
ward off corporate bubonic spell
organize forest
picket slaughterhouse
pull off president's hood
push banker to assembly line
grass returning to laughter
prisoners healing sunrise
ocean flesh filling with pleasure
gong singing compassion

TWO

mold in the seed pod
three lawyers peeking from pockets
copcars parked in dark alleys
the space between you and me
dreaming this storm of grief
the gun behind the incometax form
ocean wave fleeing from oilslick
tv shows feeding your cancer
block Rockefeller inflation kick
gnaw termites taxshelter foundation
tear down Business As Usual sign
stars wander through your organs
these fingers down your spine
the reflection of willows in a pond
paper airplanes glide to the moon
releasing comet bliss

THREE

smoke from a mindfire
running to meet your love
sliver moon over the desert
dragonflies swoop with joined genitals
the circulation of bloodmoney
preservatives clumping in brain tumor
spider on Nixon's wart
white sugar radiation sickness
cattle prod in your eye
hook up Carter to live detector
cancel insurance companies
hurl brick at computer card
sail to Zanzibar
lick tongues with a spirit
humble yourself before a bird
the heart in your secret pocket

FOUR

the moment before sunrise
galaxies in the eyes of a wolf
armored car trucking food to supermarket
the lock on a layoff slip
Batman in the service of finance capital
two dogs lying to each other
bedbugs on a cell wall
kick time clock
dodge Bank of America lies
flooring foreman bad energy
neutralizing money acid
a bonfire of rifles
Rockefeller caught trying to swallow evidence
food moon stars
the universe breathing thanks
the axis of the cleansing madness

FIVE

running through piles of autumn leaves
billows of smoke from an extinct volcano
moonrise in a dark closet
the lock on the toilet door
all that was better left unsaid
your landlord writing in fine print
sobbing through the stillness
ducking teargas cannister
fold computer programmer
biting snitch's tongue
three bosses running
flooding the caves beneath the pentagon
ducks rising from the foam of a wave
the stumble of a lizard
the inside of your lover's thigh
giving away something you love

SIX

the wall behind the mirror
condors circling Brooklyn
the wind between sleep and waking
sparks spinning from a galaxy
pus dripping from a factory
the hard lump behind the eyes of a cop
the hand slapping your pleasure
broken angels marching lockstep into nightmare
disarming drill sargeant curse
rip off FBI agent's mustache
jump out of crashing car
evacuate corporations
vacuum the floor of congress
recongregate peach orchards
look deep into an old person's eyes
scatter summer showers

SEVEN

trees turn up their leaves
talking to your honey long distance
the ocean floor glows and splits
rain approaching from the desert
concrete funneled into your mouth
politicians gangbanging an antelope
a parking meter punctures your heart
your casket waits at the end of the employment line
tear up overcharge
fig general's sunglasses
rent increase storm strike
checkmate bank guards
stockholder wringing mop in scrub bucket
thank you energy swirl
gliding up an endless bannister
the torch in my stillness

EIGHT

furnance spirit arising
earth bowells speak mountain geyser
cattle turn their heads into the wind
running sores across the forest
plane poisondusting prairiedog city
popradio smiling newslies
the smell of plowed fields after rain
evict land speculator
turning assembly line money tide
elbow in Morgan's stomach
ripping up national debt
scab fenceposts falling
crickets chant moonrise fullness
neighbor hugging flowers
the voice in the flowing metal
cutting barbed wire

NINE

lips on the verge of touching
forest walking into night
the soul of music in the space between your hips
bison stampede into a snowstorm
dirty socks on the foodstamp line
sniffing glue on sale
the chains heavy on your ankles
stockholders dancing round a fart
frisk cop
roll up boss' eyes
trucking food to strikers
unslicing corporate pie
abolish money with love
sky energy flow through my thankful hands
god in the mind of a child
coming in your lover's soul

TEN

elation of pubic hair
the lights of the inner city
calling the sunrise
your mother's lap
munitions factories vomit in reservoirs
layoff slip reeking cancer
copclub shatters the bridge of your nose
flesh dream time
jumble numbers on bank ledgers
kicking profit margin into ferns
neighborhood committee blocking eviction
grocery clerks handing out food
rabbit tending the fire
the universe in a raindrop
whales spout off a misty island
this offering to tomorrow

ELEVEN

from the secret in the marrow
hawks in a treetop, watching
the banks of underground rivers
the numbers on your ballot
sorrow of the ocean
knife beneath your thumbnail
boss giving you an order
deflect poisoned arrow
medicine song burn mafia fungus
indigestion toothache Nixon
ink vanish on search warrent
strike lightning in the same place twice
twelve bankers panic in a circle
tree thanking rain
a grove of blackeyed susans
the fingers of a tiny baby

TWELVE

the face in the fire
yellow sprouts turning green
wild horses in the clouds
that offering look in your eyes
the law against whatever you're doing
blood on a cop's shoe
bulldozer crashing through caribou herd
jets strafe ghetto
nuclear wastes seeping into grass
graveyards circle the factories
the time of the gangster-kings
tearing incorporation paper
taking control of tv station
repainting cop car
feeding rabbit
giving gratitude to the sunset
smiling the stillness
breathing the wind

THIRTEEN

the revealings of Lazarus
hardhat in a snake web
neutron missiles forest the moon
firstgraders chorusing allegiance
a bayonet twists in your silence
clover embryo push against seed shell
six tenants talking leaflet
hand kneed dough bondage
coyote turning compost pile
sunburst through coma
Trilateral lice swarming
dust clog machinery
four thighs sinking spinning
rainbow tie around smokestack
workers controlling machinery
the houses belong to the residents
city hall purified by cellos
putting to rest the screaming ghost of Buffalo Bill

FOURTEEN

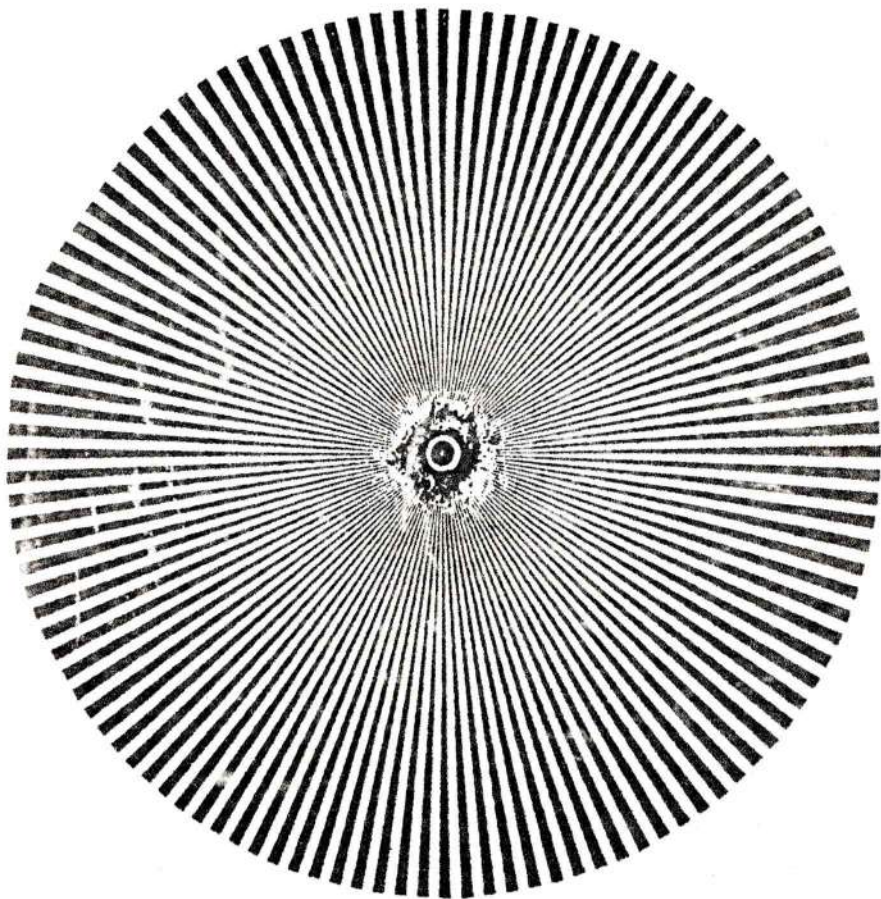
pulsing together in loveblood
the mind in a tree root
beansprout stretch arms energy
telling your lover everything
poison slipping through the skin of a peach
all the lies you memorized for history tests
the asskicking room in the police station
demonstrate mountain power
burning slavery contract
defoliate money forest
deflating landlord's stomach
cream face pie card
workers seizing dawncrash
Rockefeller soul sobbing forgiveness
factory breathing grass
rain spine opening
scar tissue heal
moon roll close to sun
energy spinning calmness web
sand release spring water

FIFTEEN

the crypt beneath the closet
CIA agent slipping into white gloves
bluebottleflies in a corpse's mouth
the smog of burning hair
corn tassels flutter with twilight
mountains open their eyes
being true to your honey
blackcheek whitecheek brushing
punching Regan's spirit-body
starlings storm Wall Street secret army
crying rats carpet the White House lawn
mist rusting rifles
heart canals overflow armory
unlocking Chamber of Greed
squirrel returning to treefork
singing glows from your breasts
hummingbird hover by lily
drenched in joyful dance
oakleaves fall into a swift river
darkness vanish from the heart of the KuKluxKlan

SIXTEEN

giant rolling waves in the middle of the ocean
cosmic winds whirl
glacier root slide across the pole
cloud descend in an unknown valley
opening a new island in your mind
herd of elk sniffing asbestos factory
broken teeth bounce in the gutter
crosshairs following candidate
knock on your door at four a.m.
confiscating inventory
draining swamp around stock market
national guard joining strikers
the president's last swindle
carpenters run through the Senate
forest fading into jewels
bear wander through prison ruins
workers collective selecting foreperson
purgation of dawn metal
smile into the great calm
flocks of hearts flying home
community absorb corporations
inside this circle of fire



POETRY FOR THE PEOPLE CHAPBOOK SERIES

Poetry for the People is a multi-cultural collective of poets. We believe in the idea that poetry which comes from the people speaks to the people. Poetry for the People is a modern day incarnation of a very old practice. We are one manifestation of the rebirth of people's poetry.

We have offered our poetry in readings at the Food Stamp Office, the unemployment line, the county jail, the Greyhound Bus Station, community centers, libraries, parks, street corners, and coffee houses. Our poetry comes live over the air waves every Wednesday from noon to 1:00 p.m. on KPOO (89.5 FM), the community radio station in San Francisco.

This series of chapbooks is one more way to bring poetry back into the communities where it was born and raised.

Volumes in preparation include works by Rosemarie Hill, Randy Johnson, Jack Hirschman, Kathy Barisioni, Royal Kent, Rudy Breland, Ernie Brill and Leslie Simon. Each volume is a cooperative production of the author and the collective.

Also available from Poetry for the People:

The Pulse of the People (anthology)