

December 1, 1989

HOW DID IT HAPPEN  
but more important

i don't know how it happened....many events, witnesses, years....  
but more important --- it has....  
i don't desire to be happy unless happiness is a universal right.  
i don't care to be at peace when teenagers of the 3rd world,  
children of color, must learn to shoot anti-aircraft guns  
at American invading planes.  
i don't want to be acceptable as long as rape, racism/sexism, multi-  
national profit, C.I.A. destabilization of governments,  
joblessness, homelessness are acceptable.  
i don't intend to be calm, pleasant, and likable if  
the stink of injustice still must be raised  
i don't expect to be patient until there is "HOUSING NOW" for all  
i don't know how to be quiet when our voices may be the only counter  
to the rich's media controls, limits, inverts the truth  
i don't think about being respectful when  
hunger exists in the land of the plenty  
poverty exists in this nation of wealth  
uneducation and ill health runs rampant in this place of  
advanced technology  
toxic waste ravages this once-beautiful country now owned  
by a handful of Native Americans  
i don't plan to be non-disruptive of the "order" around us.  
i don't yet choose to be a carpenter if nuclear bombs production still  
steal the housing construction budget  
As long as churches and synagogues and temples do reverent, rituals  
for rights and speak in pious platitudes of peace  
and take no angry action that stops American Business as usual  
to end homelessness, imperialism  
As long as business lunches still happen in the glass condos looking  
out over the homeless and hungry on the cold streets 10 stories  
below  
As long as the City Fathers can work 8 hours a week for \$35,000 and  
do little to learn of the peoples problems over whom they rule  
i fully intend to dream of happiness --- and peace when i sleep --  
food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education, equality,  
greenspace, and peace for all  
And meanwhile awake to live as unacceptably,  
non-calmly,  
unpleasantly  
dislikably,  
impatiently,  
loudly  
disrespectfully  
and disruptively  
and as contagiously  
collectively as i am able  
as long as is necessary.

buddy gray