

An Ode to College Students who, undoubtedly, will face
The worst economy ever with no jobs in any place.

In American History,
Since the Dust Bowl we haven't yet seen.
The Grapes of Wrath, only California Dreamin'.
We stared down the Nazis and the Soviet U.
We made Chevy's, Rock 'n Roll and R2-D2.
We landed on the Moon, planted our flag.
Witnessed a Miracle on Ice and built the Great Middle Class.

But somehow noble idealism and the American Dream.
Metastisized into deregulation to appease Wall Street greed.
We handed them the keys to Congress and the Fed.
They partied like Rock Stars with Hedge Funds and Debt.
Greenspan will protect us. He knows what to do.
Don't listen to Brooksley, the IPCC or The Who.

Just say no. To the X, Y and Z Generation.
Our heroes won't be scientists in satellite Space Stations.
They'll be stock brokers, buy-side analysts and Junk Bond Kings.
Forget about math, science and engineering.
Academics are losers, they don't know about competing.
Nevermind Enron, LTCM or Charles Keating.
Nevermind negotiations with Ho Chi Minh.
The Great Society is the enemy, we just have to win.
Same thing goes for that Contra deal with the Great Ayatollah.
I don't care what Jimmy Carter might have told ya.

We'll all be rich!
When government isn't the solution.
Haven't you seen the Laffer Curve or the Styx Grand Illusion?
Oh sure. Everything will be fine! We just need Lassaize Faire.
Not a Nanny State, Education or Medical Care.
Savings and investment? That's just a quaint notion.
Paul Volker was drinking the same silly potion.
Let's take it Quarter by Quarter for a period of time.
We'll seek economic justice later, after I get mine.

Uh oh. Corona. This one with no lime.
Looks like we'll need major clean up on Aisle Nine.
But this time we may not be able to inflate.
A new Bubble.

When the cure is the poison we drank, it means trouble.
Bernanke blasted it all, nothing left but blanks.
We already traded our future to prop up the Banks in '08.
Thank goodness the millions in bonuses again flowed.
Who needs factory jobs or retirement homes?
While the bankers bounced back in a recovery-V
America smoked meth and watched Cable TV.
If we give them free money they'll all become lazy.
Not like me. I earn every penny.
I set up meetings, introduce people, get deals going.
I have conference calls and keep liquidity flowing.
I don't build anything with value to export.
That's old capitalism with limited reward.

Yet somehow I'm comforted by Gen Y and Gen Z.
They're guided by strong principles. Stewardship. Humanity.
Don't pay any mind to Uncle Gary or the Tea Party Crowd.
Who knows why white supremecy allies makes them feel proud.
They've been wrong about every major political decision so far
Watergate, Oliver North, Anita, the Iraq War.
And they're wrong about everything now, and about you too.
Thinking you're too lazy with no real work to do.

So now's your time to prove them wrong, make your mark.
Step up to the plate. Hit it out of the park.
You'll need creativity and a good imagination.
Plus True Grit, Scarface and Zen Meditation.

You don't need to know what exactly to shoot for, just make a living.
No escape from the toil, it's tough in the beginning.
But you'll show up every day learning what you can throughout.
While keeping your eyes open for a more perfect route.
Along the way you'll realize your GPA won't help nor harm.
Whether computing genetic sequences or working a farm.
It's what you understand and what you know how to do that's the key.
No one cares if you got an A or a D.

The final exam has arrived and there's no study guide.
Buckle up. It will be one hell of a ride.