

## STAR-MANGLED BANNER



Achh say can you zie  
bi zie blaring night lights  
what so proudly sum seig heil  
while engaged in kountless fights?

It's zere in zie news  
through zie fog ah thick views  
Old Glory still waves  
bringing wealth to a few  
while making zie rest yankee slaves.

As police sirens blare  
as bombs burst in zie air  
give me proof, let me see  
sum furm ah liberty.

O say, does zat stark, mangled  
banner remain?

Is it just a parody for zie weak  
and a trick ah knaves?

Thank God I'm Amerikan -  
und nicht sum schlect slime!

Jah, dank Gott für Amerika -  
der land of juicy, warm, squealing  
ready-to-shoot-down-any-stranger  
pop-it-in-your-oven star-spangled  
self-righteous consumers  
detesting non-conformist swine!

**Sam:** This poem makes me angry. The guy has no respect for America.

**Tim:** In too many ways Amerika resembles Babylon and is deeply mucked up. The nation is controlled by financial elites that aren't thinking about what's good for the planet – just their own dirty pockets.

**Sam:** So why doesn't the author work to change the system?

**Kris:** Many people have, but when cynicism and laziness go together, change becomes refractory.

**Terri:** (shaking her head) Ah, negative stuff makes me blue. I want someding positive & uplifting ta tune into . . .

**Tim:** Sorry, this is not a religious broadcast.

**Ted:** (grumpily) American iz screwed – many already know that. Unless you have realistic recommendations fer change, don't bother reminding me!

- T Newfields

Beg.: 1998 Kihei, Hawai'i ▲ Fin.: 2013 Tokyo

