

Geoffrey Quinlan

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Instead of an Easter egg
I gave my son and heir
a nuclear bomb
and said: "Be careful."
Instead of a birthday present
I gave my son and heir
a canister of anthrax
and said: "Be careful."
Out at the toy factory
the master craftsmen
are now mixing
smallpox and nerve gas
for an inter-continental missile.
What a Christmas present
it will make for my son and heir,
provided he's careful
—and we're still here.