

them wedges of the best
cheese you can lay your hands
on plus mugs of chamomile tea.
With proper care and maintenance
they can keep you
in clean clothing year round.

PIQUE

I found Him just outside Andys Eats in Dubuque. "Ok,"
He said. "Make it short. I haven't got all day."

"Right," I replied. "So what's black, white, and read
all over?"

He looked pissed. "Everything."

"Hey, that's not the right answer."

"Sure it is. Take a look."

And sure enough. Houses. Sky. People. You name it.
Three colors everywhere.

Moral: Never monkey with a god out to lunch in Iowa.

THE GANGSTERS

at the undergraduate poets reading
the graduate poets sit in the dark
like hit men from the Eastern Slicks.
the first girl up tells of her woes
and perishes in a hail of rhetoric.
the second rises to speak tragically
of obesity and impotent men.
she slips on a careless word
vanishing into a well of pity.
but the last girl walks on
and suddenly lifts
her skirt over her head.
the audience is stunned.
the gangsters are speechless.
the reading goes on in a dream.

-- Paul H. Cook

Tempe AZ