

## JOHN'S GARDEN

John bought an avocado tree,  
 young, spindly, seven foot,  
 planted it at the rear of  
 his 150 foot lot.  
 "There it will give me shade  
 on hot August afternoons," he said.  
 He watered it every day  
 dug it up a couple of times  
 because it wasn't in just that  
 right spot,  
 watered it some more,  
 leaving the hose there all day  
 one Sunday afternoon.  
 It was 105° in the shade  
 and the twenty leaves of his tree  
 couldn't take it.  
 They turned brown. The roots rotted  
 from too much water, the thin trunk  
 sizzled in the heat.  
 The leaves fell, the limbs cracked  
 and John said, "I guess I just liked  
 it too much," as he pulled it from  
 the ground like a tall weed.

-- Rafael Zepeda  
 Long Beach CA

## ODE ON A PIECE OF SALT WATER TAFFY

I hesitate  
 To eat something  
 So violently colored.

## ANNOYANCE

If I have heard it once,  
 I have heard  
 The Pachelbel Canon  
 Nine times this week  
 On public radio.  
 They ought to pass a law.

## CYNICISM

Call me an iconoclast;  
 I'm sick of stuffed unicorns and rainbow decals.  
 Maybe I only go for the real thing.

-- Amy Vail  
 Clinton NY