

## THE SALVATION ARMY

the dress would have looked good  
on the Andrews sisters  
it's tissue thin &  
coming apart on the side  
& you can see dark nylons  
& a garter belt  
as she wobbles thru the door  
on spiked heels.

decked out like that  
in thrift store  
elegance  
you get the feeling she  
might have walked in there  
naked  
& bought the whole wardrobe.

she has trouble walking  
& stops at a parking meter  
to adjust one of her heels.

she leans on the meter  
& the old guys in front they  
quietly watch the girl  
& all that flashing leg.

they look pretty serious  
they don't know this is a joke.

## THE PLANT LADY

three days a week she comes around  
& waters the plants  
climbing up this ladder  
in front of my shipping table  
wearing a pair of faded jeans  
cut off about mid-thigh  
& made into a skirt.

good legs are like good poems  
they belong to mankind  
& her legs will take your breath  
away, long & tan &  
laced with curly blonde hairs  
they speak the language of  
sunsets & sunflowers  
& just looking at them  
can make living a  
whole lot more  
tolerable.

but legs are attached  
unfortunately  
to a person  
& this person has all sorts of  
intellectual pretensions  
& all sorts of  
ontological obsessions.

still, for a while it seemed  
we might hit it off  
she even liked my poetry  
but soon enough she found  
the person behind the poems  
& she found him to be crude &  
disgusting & not nearly  
as good as the poems.

when she waters the plants now  
I try not to look  
at those legs.

#### KISSING TIME

she has her boy friend's initials  
carved into her arm, tells you  
she did it in reform school  
all the girls did it.

it is 1958 & you are selling  
popcorn at the speedway  
it is demolition derby time  
& the girl is wearing what  
the guys call a see-more  
blouse.

you can't stop staring  
at her big tits &  
she catches your eye &  
asks you if you like  
what you see.

all those reform school movies  
flash through your head &  
you know she must do it  
figure she's at least  
done it with TK  
the guy on her arm.

at intermission Bobbie Rydell sings  
Kissing Time on the loud speaker  
& you turn in your vending gear  
telling the man you don't feel good.