

ON SET

This girl and I watch  
a movie being filmed.  
The director circles  
on a catwalk over a pond.  
A singer, pianist and piano float  
on a small island.  
Another island of musicians  
floats by slowly.  
The camera is tight so only  
water and islands are seen.  
The director walks fast,  
scribbling notes.  
"Joy, joy ..." he mumbles,  
meaning the actresses  
should express joy.  
This girl and I start to leave  
the museum where the film  
is being made, but  
I see a bunch of Europeans  
I know  
sitting in the library.  
I greet them shaking hands,  
hugging, kissing cheeks.  
This girl I'm with stands by  
watching.

-- Mitchell Hider

Monroe OR

JULIUS CAESAR

(veni, vidi, vici)

i

Caesar went grocery  
shopping because his  
stores were nearly  
depleted

He filled his cart  
with Roman Meal bread  
spaghetti noodles  
olives  
frozen fish  
chianti  
chicken drumsticks  
and a box of

Wheaties  
(breakfast of champions)

Caesar paid the  
checkout with Roman  
coins which she mistook  
for Kennedy half-dollars

ii

Caesar went to  
the movies and saw  
"Fall of the Roman Empire"

He couldn't believe  
how big Sophia  
Loren's mouth really  
was and it teed  
him off when the  
Forum was shown  
on fire; any ass-hole  
knows marble buildings  
won't burn

iii

Caesar turned his  
chariot into a  
gas station and  
asked that oats  
be given to the  
horses

He went into the  
waiting room to  
get a road map  
of Gaul but could  
only find the street  
plan for Scarsdale,  
New York

After the attendant  
had checked the  
wheel rims for wear,  
Caesar mounted his  
chariot and pulled out  
into rush hour traffic

iv

Caesar complained  
to the lifeguard  
that the water in  
the baths was too

cold and the lifeguard  
said this was a  
swimming pool buddy  
and anyway where's  
your trunks?

Caesar pleaded innocent  
in court to charges  
of indecent exposure  
and was let off  
because he had  
good references from  
three million subjected  
barbarians

v

Caesar went to  
the coliseum  
to see the Rams  
against the Bears

Though he looked  
hard all afternoon  
Caesar never saw  
one bear or ram,  
just a bunch of  
gladiators thrashing  
around over a leather  
ball that didn't seem  
worth fighting for

vi

Caesar being a  
great leader  
offered his services  
to the government

They asked him  
if he could drive  
a truck and he said  
marching was more  
his style

They asked him  
if he could fire  
a rifle and he said  
a sword was more  
trustworthy

They asked him  
if he could read  
a battle plan and  
he said creating  
one was more in  
his line

The government  
classified Caesar  
4-F on general  
principles

-- Robert Matte

Tempe AZ

#### WORKING THE TWO WEEKS VACATION

is not bad  
there are a few of us  
just me  
on my floor  
i set up a fan  
and a radio  
next to my saw  
i cut alot of rods  
i take a rest  
when i feel like it  
  
i eat my lunch alone  
but i always do that

#### SMOKING

the sign says no  
but you're allowed  
back by the door  
just don't throw  
the matches around  
that's the first thing  
the inspectors look for

you can take a break  
without a smoke  
but it feels too lazy  
if the boss comes

#### OLD JANET

old Janet retired  
  
on tuesdays  
she'd have your pay up to you  
by 10:00  
  
now they got a machine  
to do it  
and two extra women  
  
and payday is wednesday  
and lunchtime's too early  
to go cash your check