

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