

that day too i wanted to ask her
about the bandage over her eye as
she was giving me my change. but
again i did not. but as i was
ready to walk away she did ask me
if i were going to eat all of
the tomatoes myself.

-- ronald baatz

Toms River NJ

THE BUS

The bus is made of shiny,
thick, convoluted metal,
and is full of shiny,
piston-like passengers.

It is very important that
you stand in the street
a long time waiting for it,
that it makes

a great clattering noise
as it approaches,
shoots foul gas
in your face as it passes

without stopping, roars on
through every red light
in town to the horizon,
getting bigger and bigger

all the way.

PALM TREES

There's a town in England
where they have palm trees
the size of tulips.
Children pick them on

the promenades and you see
them in vases on breakfast
tables. With a cat sniffing
the fronds, tiny coconuts

rolling amongst the grains
of sugar on the tablecloth,
and a miniature tropical
sun swimming in a nearby

goldfish bowl.

POETIC ROMANCE

He liked the first poem she showed him, which
encouraged her. He hated the next poem (and
was frank), and that encouraged her even more:
he really caught hell in the third poem.