

to gays since it could expose them to blackmail and other stressors — though the matter was moot, in point of fact, since people's sex lives were none of his concern.

Poet Robert Frost, who said that "Poetry is metaphor ... saying one thing and meaning another," actually meant that poetry is the one written art which can't be translated, and therefore says exactly what it means.

## SCAMS

— With thanks to Joe Williams

You can't escape 'em.  
The Forgot my billfold scam  
The I barely know you scam  
The I didn't mean to hurt you scam  
The Be good and you'll go to heaven scam  
The I'm sorry to say no scam  
The I'm on my period scam  
The scam of the blind reading and the impartial judge  
The I've got a boyfriend scam  
The I like this, but we're overstocked now scam  
The You need more education scam  
The You're overqualified scam  
The Don't take this personally scam  
The It's just temporary scam  
The Budget Crisis scam  
The I just want to be friends scam  
The I'm not mad, I'm disappointed in you scam  
The I'm not ready to commit scam  
The scam that there's plenty for everyone  
The You're being petty scam  
The I didn't mean how it sounded scam  
The I'm just kidding scam  
The I don't want to change you scam  
The I love you just the way you are scam  
The I made it on my own scam  
The I do my work and let fame take care of itself scam  
The honesty scam  
The respect the law, the cops, the government, your  
elders, scam  
The I'll get back to you scam  
The "Helps prevent" scam  
The Safe Sex scam  
The It's for a good cause scam  
The Postage and Handling scam  
The It's only fair scam  
The I'm concerned about you scam



The Everything's a scam scam  
 The You don't give a damn about me scam  
 The You're the most selfish person I've ever met scam  
 The I've been so busy scam  
 The Tough guy scam  
 The Sensitive guy scam  
 The Tough yet sensitive guy scam  
 The Sensitive yet tough guy scam  
 The Madonna-whore scam  
 The Liberated woman scam  
 The Madonna-whore inside the liberated woman scam  
 The List of the permutations of things to get a laugh  
 and seem inclusive scam  
 The I'm an Artist scam  
 The Poetry scam  
 The I was just trying to help scam  
 The I need a quarter for the bus scam  
 The I don't know how I'll make my rent scam  
 The It's your problem scam  
 The It's everyone's problem scam  
 The I'm sick of scams scam  
 The I'm sick of scams scam scam scam  
 The I'm sick of scams scam scam scam scam scam scam scam scam  
 scam scam  
 The Climatic ending scam  
 The Anticlimatic ending scam  
 The Ending in the middle of a sentenc

#### AN HONEST MAN

He believed in fair play, and "All men are created equal," but at his draft physical, when a black guy with a withered leg got booked for Vietnam and he wormed out with hay fever and three pounds of medical reports he took his 4F, and went home without a word.

When Jan, his girlfriend, cheated on him, he dropped her like a shoe with a scorpion inside. "I won't have a woman I can't trust!" he said, dated nine new ones in six months, but when none of them worked out, went back to Jan.

He loathed lawyers, their Porches and Bel Air homes, their leather chairs and books and paper clips, their carp-lips pursed to suck the slimy green. "They're the cancer that's killing America," he said. But when a drunk rear-ended him, he sighed, and hired the slickest shyster he could find.