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Org City

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ORG CITY

watch out
you're next on the list
of the man next to you
whose wife has just left him
and he hopes you are a friend
of her Italian lover so he can
hate you with good reason.
don't worry--not yet anyway
for both his thighs
are wooden and embracing a wheelchair
you can keep him happy
if you try by saying you
are his mistresse's short lost brother
sounds reasonable as you look up
chin out and he says he knows
that you don't know his mistress
doesn't have a brother and
he doesn't have a mistress anyway
at which point with an eye in his gleam
which he squeezes to open a door in his thigh
he removes a plastic butter knife
smearing your visuals with strawberry jam
of poor quality.
jumping up with seedy eyes
quite unable to see to breath, beginning to vomit
up great clods of a double heat and serve ham and rye
with heavy mustard and the crowd
not wishing to get involved applauds
with tearful eyes as the sanitation dept.
washes and polishes and crushes your gutter lying body
with a truck of yellow bright made possible by a tax levy
that turns a corner into a shoe store
and tries a 14½A
and you begin to wish you really hadn't been
next on his list.

Dick Carothers '73