

## Tuesday 9:00 AM

Denver Butson

A man standing at the bus stop  
reading the newspaper is on fire  
Flames are peeking out  
from beneath his collar and cuffs  
His shoes have begun to melt

The woman next to him  
wants to mention it to him  
that he is burning  
but she is drowning  
Water is everywhere  
in her mouth and ears  
in her eyes  
A stream of water runs  
steadily from her blouse

Another woman stands at the bus stop  
freezing to death  
She tries to stand near the man  
who is on fire  
to try to melt the icicles  
that have formed on her eyelashes  
and on her nostrils  
to stop her teeth long enough  
from chattering to say something  
to the woman who is drowning  
but the woman who is freezing to death  
has trouble moving  
with blocks of ice on her feet

It takes the three some time  
to board the bus  
what with the flames  
and water and ice  
But when they finally climb the stairs  
and take their seats  
the driver doesn't even notice  
that none of them has paid  
because he is tortured  
by visions and is wondering  
if the man who got off at the last stop  
was really being mauled to death  
by wild dogs.