

Kenneth Pobo

#9

Homeroom arguments grow fierce—
who's better—the Stones,
the Beatles, Jimi, Janis,
The Doors? I say

Tommy James and the Shondells,
a WLS Silver Dollar Survey
in my shirt pocket, a shield.
Donna Volchak screws up

her face, often tells kids
to do their own thing—but not
if you're gay, not if you have
a crew cut, and not if you play

all of Tommy's singles at least
300 times, going for 500
on "Crimson & Clover"
and "Get Out Now." Tom Wunolik

threatens to "pound" me after school.
I walk home, transistor radio in my ear,
"Ball Of Fire."