

one day we went on a picnic
together
up in the hills
and we played cards and drank beer and
ate potato salad and weenies

they talked to her as if she were a living person
at last

everybody laughed
I didn't laugh.

later at my place
over the whiskey
I said to her,
I don't like them
but it's good they treated you
nice.

you damn fool, she said,
don't you see?

see what?

they kept looking at my beer-belly,
they think I'm
pregnant.

oh, I said, well here's to our beautiful
child.

here's to our beautiful child,
she said.

we drank them down.

-- Charles Bukowski

Los Angeles CA

Debt

I borrowed \$65.00
from Bukowski today
bet it on a leadass horse
which didn't show
and I had to borrow \$5.00 more
to eat and feed my kids
and that doesn't count
the \$140.00 I borrowed

from him last week
which I'm to pay back
five dollars a week for
the next six months
I'm getting so far in
debt to him that I can't
afford him anymore

I used to borrow
on the rent he owed me
before he moved out
now I get mad and say
"Go to hell, just try
and get that money."
and we split
I felt good
I forgot about my debt
but I begin to miss him
and I call him
we get back together
he doesn't forget
I owe the money all over again

but ... if he'll loan me
the money tomorrow
there is a sure thing running
in the fifth race
an exacta 5-9 9-5
Yodajo to Prince Dantan
and I can pay him back
in one lump sum

the box

yes, I have this box
and unfortunately the box
comes attached
to arms, legs, feet,
a mouth and desires
not necessarily dominated
by the box
but he can't understand
how the feet like to dance
the arms like to shake
hips and thighs roll
the lips can even
laugh and kiss
without the box
even getting involved
he thinks because
the box starts jumping
when he shakes it