

or pantsed him
or given him the adolescently feared pinkbelly.

always the gentleman,
johnny tried by example to convey to them
how anyone of the least sophistication
or compassion or good humor or good will
might be expected to comport himself
in the presence of a tiny tim,
but he only succeeded in confusing them.
they couldn't imagine why in the world
he wasn't joining in the fun.

just ten years ago, responding to tiny tim
was to a whole generation
the touchstone of open-mindedness,
of a liberation from puritanism,
of live-and-let-live.

how far we've slipped back towards the slime.

-- Gerald Locklin

Long Beach CA

DEAD AGAIN

Ben phoned and said, "there's a rumor going around that
you're dead. HUSTLER magazine has gotten 3 or 4 calls
about that.

"Well," I said, "maybe the dead can't tell, maybe I'm
dead...."

5 years ago somebody started it:
"Bukowski's dead."

Now it's beginning again.
They want me dead very much.
I seem to be very much on the minds of the
death-wishers.
It's irritating to some
that a man nearing sixty
continues to write.
It should give them hope instead of
rancor.

I'll die, my friends, I have no doubt of
that

but I think that the history of our streets
would have less ugly names
if we could celebrate men's lives
also.

1984

at the racetracks in 1974
a corned beef sandwich was 90 cents
in 1975
a corned beef sandwich was \$1.10
in 1976 they were \$1.25
in 1977, \$1.45
in 1978, \$1.65
in 1979 they will cost \$1.85
in 1980, \$2.10
in 1981, \$2.40
in 1982, \$2.80
in 1983, \$3.35
in 1984, \$4.00
and horses will have 5 legs, 3 eyes, 2
jockeys and it will cost 25 cents to drink
out of a coin-operated water fountain that will
operate for 7 seconds.
Arabia, West Germany, Japan and China will
meet at the bargaining table
and I will stop eating
many people will stop eating
corned beef sandwiches.

A NOTE UPON WASTE

I have green and white pajamas which
I have only worn once.
and once while drunk I
twisted my ankle
and I purchased a thick wooden cane
for \$2 and I only used it once (at
a racetrack).

there are other things I have only used
once: one
Joan one Diana one nameless Philadelphia
whore one German girl whose name I have
forgotten one girl in a bicycle warehouse
one girlfriend of a girlfriend and one lady
with very large nostrils.