

AS IF COME WERE NOT ENOUGH

-- for Charles Bukowski

as if standing on its
own goddamn good erection
were not enough

the editors had the nuts
to ask me to accompany my
orgasm with an afternote

explaining what made the come to
squirt out like it did.

no fuckin privacy left
in this goddamn Grand Inquisition
world I piss thru.

fuck off you frog dissectors!
(and don't worry, my beautiful faceless
mexican whore baby:

they'll never get your name and number
from me.)

FUTURE SHOCK

the punch was on target
the man was knocked out
but the strange thing he

didn't crumble and fall
right away there seemed
to be a definite delay

before lapsing into oblivion
like a butchered cow whose
teats go on twitching

even after its head has been
chopped off. I was riding the K
bus south looking out the

window at the new condominium
going up when suddenly
the poem by Antin I had been

struggling with gaining no headway
hit home like a flash of
satori insight.

and it was uncanny but this
critic who had spewed vindictive
tirades on a poem of mine
published in New Directions
just last year

I'm sitting at home listening to
Johnny Carson tell a joke:
silence for a few seconds then
a burst of understood applause

when the phone rings and
this vindictive critic

in a sort of apologetic voice tells
me he's sorry about the vituperation
but he was reviewing someone else's work

when something clicked inside his skull
concerning my poem and in a flash

of nirvana he knew what I meant
his eyes were opened and he had to call and make
posthumous amends.

-- Allen Fogel

Miami Beach FL

PATROL DUTY

Four of us are dressed in swimsuits,
sneakers and army surplus knives.
We're on top of a barn. On signal
we jump out a window, running.
We cross a thick, black marsh,
not caring about leeches, suckers
or snakes. We are like snakes.
We wade through and climb a steep
grassy hill. A tall, good-looking
blond and I run lead, fast as wind.
We reach a plateau and it is steep
again. Finally, the wire fence.
Under we go, clipping with scissors.
"Like a World War I scene?"
He smiles and makes bomb noises
as he clips.