

## LET'S BE ORIGINAL

now look, say the editors,  
that's a Bukowski poem.

now look, say the editors,  
that's a Bukowski ending.

can't you cut out that Bukowski  
line? it'd be a good poem  
otherwise.

well, fuck you guys, I used to have  
the same trouble with  
Turgenev, Ernie and  
Fydor.

-- Charles Bukowski

Los Angeles CA

## A PERSONAL CREDO

he arranged a poetry reading featuring the local high  
schools and the board of education objected -- what's in  
it for you?

-- nothing, i guess.

-- there's got to be something, they insisted and vetoed  
the project.

\*

the day he turned 30 his brother asks -- now that you are  
30, what are you gonna do with yourself?

-- oh, i don't know, just keep on writing.

-- no, i mean, what are your goals? you know, what are  
you working for?

(peanuts, he thinks) -- to write better, he says.

-- no, you don't understand. like me, i'm gonna be rich,  
so rich i'm gonna retire at 35. what're you gonna be?

(a failure, he wonders) -- i'm it already, he says.

-- al, the brother pities, you'd better get your shit  
together.

\*

his friend, a professor and accomplished writer, asks  
him -- why are you publishing a small magazine?

(because i'm a masochist, he thinks) -- because i want to,  
he says.  
-- no, i mean, why subject yourself? all those manuscripts,  
raising money and taking none. what's in it for you?

\*

to all of them he apologizes -- i am a poet. i must  
speak the unspeakable. i must find ways.

### THIS CAT DON'T DANCE

1

sure they want to hold you on their  
lap stroke your fur hear

you purr  
so what?

it's what you want to do  
anyway

2

they put you in a paper bag  
so they can stand around and watch  
you fight your way out

so swat claw bite until you make  
the paper crackle like it never  
did before then

get up  
walkaway

you know the food is in another  
room

3

when they're putting your food in the  
bowl and it's that chow-chow you  
really like and you never did give a  
damn about p's & q's anyway

be obnoxious

meow. rub their legs climb up the  
counter MEOW. stare them in the