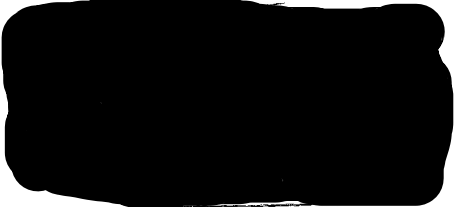


SUPERVISOR'S REPORT ON
**REPRESENTATIONS OF THE FEMALE
IN THE WORK OF CHARLES BUKOWSKI**

BY MICHAL MECNER
JUNE 2008

This is a well-written and provocatively argued thesis on the work of poet and novelist, Charles Bukowski. It is original and lucid, displaying on every page Mecner's intimate knowledge of Bukowski's *œuvre*, coupled with a healthy critical distance from Bukowski's assumptions and proposals. Of particular interest is Mecner's use of feminist criticism, as he uses some of its central insights to elucidate an author who is abhorrent to most feminist critics. Misogyny, as manifested in Bukowski's work, is perhaps only an epiphenomenon of the feminist movement in the US, as the author presents his opinions and accounts of his behaviour in an effort, it would seem, to upbraid the new yet deeply held values of gender equality. Bukowski also challenges ideas of masculinity, even while endlessly talking about the adventures of his penis: his self representation (or alter ego, as Mecner understands Chinaski) is, for instance, a bread-winner only insofar as he is a literary success, and is self-admittedly fraudulent in this capacity. It is fruitless to object on feminist grounds to Bukowski and his heroes, as it is his intention to provoke. If Bukowski's work, for all its popularity, is ultimately worthless, it is because it offers nothing more than such provocation. After one has relished, or objected to, the bad behaviour and *outré* opinions, there is little else.

Mecner's Bachelor thesis is of interest because he refuses to be shocked by Bukowski's opinions, cataloguing the imagery of females clearly and systematically. I also appreciate Mecner's use of feminist theory, as mentioned above. It allows fresh formations to gather and new comparisons to be drawn. For these reasons I recommend the grade "excellent" (*výborně*).



doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

17 June 2008