



6-15-2007

The American Scholar

Daniel R. Schwarz

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

 Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Schwarz, Daniel R. (2007) "The American Scholar," *Westview*: Vol. 26 : Iss. 1 , Article 11.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol26/iss1/11>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.



The American Scholar

by Daniel R. Schwarz

"The world is his who can see through its pretension."

Emerson, "The American Scholar"

"Write a simple happy poem," she said,
"Your pain bores me."
"I can't write what I don't feel."
"Had you any sense, you would
not write your damned poems
of gloom and doom.
Write a romantic love poem,
speak of the lovely moon,
changing colors of October leaves,
red sunset hovering on Cayuga lake."

"Ah, but when I feel the fine frenzy of a poem,
my emotions overwhelm me
like incoming tide surging over sand.
I need to chew on bones of experience,
Drink dregs of bitterness,
taste ashes of regret."

"You need to take out our garbage and walk
the dog."
"Do I not know well that
cynicism is mortality
of attitude and sarcasm is
mortality of speech?
I need sing of unrequited love and early death,
hear woozy bluesy sounds of saxophones,
think of the Sorrow and the Pity of my people,
and render my vast capacity to feel pain."
"Are you having delusions that you are Shelley
or Wiesel?"
"We poets respond to agony
driven by the lyric spirit."

"My advice to you," said my muse,
leaning forward in her chair,
"is work hard enough to pay the bills;
write funny poems
if poems you must;
avoid burdening your readers
with narcissistic accounts;
above all, dear man,
take small steps
accompanied by modest words."

