

**Invitation to Walt**  
**--Danny Schott**

From Camden come, rise from the dust  
fly to Brooklyn with your shaggy beard  
in your old school hat see what's happened  
to home and your beloved democracy

Let's grab a beer or eight at McSorleys  
where 19th century dirt clings to chandeliers  
of your old haunt and reminisce and plan  
our trek through New York's teeming streets

Before we saunter to the Bowery or the Nuyorican or Tribes  
where exclaimers and exhorters still sling verse  
of hope and despair to hungry crowds who  
may still believe in the power of the word.

We need your sweeping vision Walt,  
to offer our children more than low expectations  
of life sat in front of screens or held in gadgets  
that promise expression, but offer convention.

This new century has been cruel and unusual  
the ideology of greed consuming itself in a spasm  
of defeat engineered by merchants of fear  
and post millennial prophets of doom.

We need to recognize healthcare  
and education as basic human rights  
we need to restore the dignity of work,  
as well as the dignity of leisure from work.

We need to get off our flabby asses  
to dance as if nobody is watching, to howl  
and stir shit up, to worry the rich  
with a real threat of class warfare