

E . M . S C H O R B

The Bosnian Cherry

*... the explosion appears to have
shocked the tree into blossom.*

—Reuters

Friends, look with faithless unbelieving eyes
upon this miracle the bomb has wrought,
as now, in shocked conversion, I tell you
of spring against the devastated skies
of winter war, the hopelessness war brought,
and how, enveloped in explosive blue
of acrid smoke, this tree could still devise
beyond predictability. It caught
the shell's enormous heat, and grew
fluid with sap, miraculous with surprise
of spring, for all combatants to be taught
anew a faith unlearned by deathly cries,
a blossoming the human heart has sought
with every hopeful spring—a sweet-peace prize.

This poem originally appeared in "Measure."

E.M. SCHORB'S latest collection is *Manhattan Spleen, Prose Poems. The Ideologues and Other Retrospective Poems* was published last year by Aldrich Press.