

Winner: Poetry

Red Socks

Standing before us... chalk raised, He attacked the dark places in our minds, delicious accent, tourist guide to the beauty in humanity

We travelled, learned, grew, "Hedonists!" he graded us... Day One,

The world unfolded from his lectern, Depth overcame shallow eyes, His exams were treacherous, His response to our entreaties

philosophical,

Semester's End,
"Lovers of Hamlet, Beethoven and Titian."

We had steeped in his passionembracing a humanity lost on us before.

He smiled as we left, educated, his job well done, pondering the definition of

"Classic"

-by Melody Wilson

Behind My Back

You're not my friend! You can't be trusted!

You bring me pain behind my back

I treat you good take you for long walks

thru the woods in summer's rain

I can't put my faith in such glib talks

You say you're supportive behind me all the way

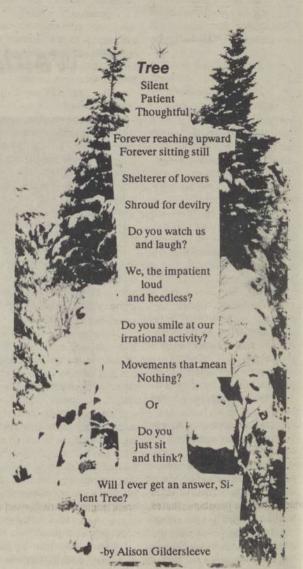
But when I lean on you you give way like you're busted

You go out more than I do leave me flat, crying in pain

I call my doctor "Doctor, help me!

My damned old back's gone out on me again!"

-by Lyhn Baker



And Then I Cried

I SAID I KNEW YOU I EVEN TOLD MY FRIENDS IT FELT SO GOOD- 'CAUSE I WAS FREE BUT THE ENEMY WAS THERE STALKING ME TRYING TO CUT ME DOWN AS IF I WERE A TREE I KNEW IT TOO, BUT AS THAT TREE STANDING ALONE WITHOUT PROTECTION SO I WAS JUST THE SAME OUT IN THE WORLD STANDING ALONE I FELL FELL TO MY OLD WAYS I SAID I'M SORRY I WANT TO CHANGE I TRIED BUT I LASTED JUST A FEW DAYS WHAT WAS WRONG? I DIDN'T EVEN CRY I SEARCHED- I WANTED TO KNOW- WHAT WAS WRONG? WHY DIDN'T I CRY? I ASKED MY FRIENDS- THEY DIDN'T REALLY CARE THERE WAS NO ONE AROUND JUST TO SHARE TO SHARE MY HURT, SHARE MY PAIN, SHARE MY LONELINESS BUT I WASN'T ALONE- JESUS WAS THERE STILL MY FRIEND- MY TRUE FRIEND HE TOOK MY HAND- SAID FOLLOW ME AND I WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY AND THEN I CRIED -by Charles Jeff Gates

Simple

Morning sun and luscious dew make a fine feast for the eyes of a beauty-starved world. As the Robin preens his bright red breast and the squirrel fluffs his tail, the simple beauty of nature reveals God's magnificence.

-by Stephanie Stokes

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