

AT EASE

Dear Dreamers,

Here we give you the hearts of your peers — those with the courage to face a blank page, and the courage to risk writing too much about themselves. We give you the winners of the 1985 Texas A&M Writing Contest.

The yearly contest is sponsored by Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society. This year, there were around 150 poems and twelve short stories entered. The poems were judged by Dr. Paul Christenson, Professor of English; Dr. William Harmon, Visiting Distinguished Professor of English; and Dr. Janet McCann, Associate Professor of English. The short stories were judged by Dr. Bob Campbell, Assistant Professor of English; Dr. Richard Costa, Professor of English; and Mr. James Hannah, Lecturer in English.

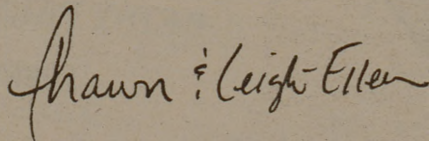
Each judge selected a list of top contenders separately. The winning poem (Kabul, 1974 by Therese A. Norris) and the winning short story (I Can Still Count by Kimberly Trant) were the only entries appearing on all three judges' lists. The other finalists were the entries appearing on two of the judges' lists.

At Ease would like to thank the English Honor Society for this opportunity to print the winners and the finalists that you see here today. These and other finalist poems, including Java Night by Eric J. Polzer, Asylum 2: A Ball by R. Paul Stewart, Iphigeneia by Brad M. Whalen and The Plow by Brad M. Whalen, and other finalist short stories, including Grey Eyes by Kimberly Trant and Close Tolerances by R. Lee Sullivan, will be published in Pillars by Sigma Tau Delta later in the semester.

We would also like to congratulate the winners, finalists and all those who entered this year's contest. As writers, we realize the pain, joy, sorrow, etc. that is a part of any type of creative writing. Taking private thoughts, putting them on paper and then showing them to the world is not always the easiest of actions. In fact, it sometimes takes real nerve. We salute those who are brave enough to give us a part of themselves.

We hope you enjoy these creations and that you get something out of them. We also like to think that maybe they will inspire a few of you non-writers to drop the non. A catharsis is a wonderful thing and writing is the best one we know.

Sincerely,



Shawn Behlen & Leigh-Ellen Clark
Co-editors