

Editorial Writing

2018 Central Texas Invitational Meet

You are a reporter for the Leaguetown **Press**, the student newspaper of Leaguetown High School. From the given information, write an editorial as you would for the high school newspaper. You have **45 minutes**. Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or entry. **Put your number on your paper.**

Leaguetown High School is located in Central Texas and has 1,700 students enrolled in grades 9-12. At its last meeting, the Student Council proposed a school ban on plastic water bottles. Senior Mikyela Riemer, the StuCo president, wrote a paper on the problems surrounding plastic water bottles, and that is what spurred her to present the proposal to the Student Council.

Currently, the school sells water bottles from four of its vending machines, in the cafeteria and at athletic concession stands, and students regularly bring plastic water bottles in their lunches and for their athletic and P.E. classes. More than 80 percent of the Student Council approved the proposal. Riemer took the proposal to Principal Sharon Trussell last week.

Most of the faculty support the proposal, but some coaches and P.E. teachers worry about keeping students hydrated. Also, some parents do not want the school to prohibit students from bringing plastic water bottles to school. The school made \$1,100 from water bottles last month though sales from the vending machines, the cafeteria and athletic concession stands.

Trussell said she is worried about the loss of revenue and how to enforce the ban. However, she said she would make her final decision when the school returns from the winter holiday on Jan. 8. You are writing for the issue of the Press to be distributed Monday, Dec. 10.

Those supporting the ban

Plastic water bottles are polluting the oceans and the earth, and the school is adding to the problem. Water bottles are not a necessity at school. The school has more than enough water fountains stationed throughout the school. Students can bring their own reusable water bottles and refill at any of the water fountains.

Those opposing the ban

Dehydration has been shown to affect cognitive brain function, as cells need to work much harder to maintain mental performance — this means students need water to perform in school. Banning water bottles will make it harder for some students to stay hydrated. Plus, one school is not going to make a huge impact on the plastic water bottle pollution issue.

■ MIKYELA RIEMER, senior and Student Council president

“Through my research, I learned out that a million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute, and the number will jump another 20 percent by 2021. Fewer than half of the bottles bought in 2016 were collected for recycling, and just 7 percent of those collected were turned into new

bottles. Instead, most plastic bottles end up in landfills or in the ocean. I want our school to be part of the solution, not the problem.

“I know this will be an inconvenience for some students, but once we get in the habit of bringing a reusable water bottle to school with us, it will be easy to make the change. Principal Trussell is worried about how to enforce the ban. I think most students will abide by it, and for those who don’t, the administrators can take the bottle and give the student a warning on the first violation. After that, the student could do detention or in-school suspension. That will deter students from violating the ban.”

■ **SHARON TRUSSELL, principal**

“I applaud Mikyela and the Student Council for making this proposal, but I am worried about a few things. First, the policy will be hard to enforce, and our administrative team is already stretched to its limit when it comes to discipline. And I am not sure what would be an appropriate consequence for a student who violates the ban. It seems wrong to punish students because they bring water to school. Water is essential for their learning. Plus, the school stands to lose quite a bit of revenue, and we don’t have much leeway in our budget. The money we receive for water bottle sales helps fund our activity accounts — all of clubs. I don’t think our clubs want their budgets cut. Maybe the best thing we can do is encourage students to bring reusable water bottles to school.”

■ **REBECCA HAWTHORNE, parent of a sophomore and PTA president**

“The PTA supports part of the Student Council’s proposal. We like the idea of eliminating water bottles from the vending machines and concession stands, but we are hesitant to support banning students from bringing plastic water bottles to school. We don’t think the school should tell parents what type of water bottle their child can have. Water is so important for teen brains. Our family tries to use reusable water bottles, but I will be the first to admit that sometimes we are in a rush in the morning. On those days, my son just grabs a plastic water bottle from our fridge. I would hate for him to get in trouble because he’s trying to stay hydrated. We certainly can encourage students to use reusable water bottles. We can even give incentives for students who use them, but we shouldn’t punish those who don’t.”

■ **TERRY PROCTOR, athletic director**

“Hydration is a top priority for our athletes. We want them hydrated any way we can. I don’t want us to take water bottles out of the vending machines. Our athletes need access to those to stay hydrated.”

■ **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Currently, the school has recycling bins for plastic bottles and aluminum cans in the cafeteria, gym and multiple hallways. The city picks up the recycling once a week.

Feature Writing

2018 Central Texas Invitational Meet

You are a reporter for the League-town **Press**, the student newspaper of League-town High School. From the given information, write a **feature story** as you would for the high school newspaper. You have **60 minutes**. Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or entry. **Put your number on your paper.**

Leaguetown High School is located in Central Texas and has 2,500 students enrolled in grades 9-12. Last week, the baseball team held try-outs for the upcoming freshman, junior varsity and varsity teams. More than 100 athletes tried out for 25 open spots on the teams. Returning players do not need to try out.

Freshman Javier Olmos tried out for the team and made the varsity team. He is the only freshman to make that squad. Javier, who is 6-feet tall and weighs 200 pounds, is a pitcher, but what makes him unique is that because of a birth defect, he was born with only one hand — a right hand. Despite this, Javier had the fastest speed of any pitcher who tried out for the team. His fastball consistently clocked at 81 mph. Last year's starting pitcher, Sam Rocker, who now plays for Texas A&M University, threw a 78 mph fastball.

Javier started playing baseball when he was 4 years old and fell in the love with the game. He's played every season since then, moving to a select baseball team when he was 11. When Javier pitches, he places his glove on his left arm so that he can quickly put it on his right hand after he releases the pitch. He modeled this movement after Jim Abbott, a Major League Baseball pitcher who also has only one hand.

On Dec. 15, the varsity baseball team will have its alumni fundraiser game, and varsity baseball coach Dom Galvan said Olmos will be the starting pitcher for the game. You are writing for the issue of the Press to be distributed this Wednesday, Dec. 12.

■ JAVIER OLMOS, freshman

"Ever since I can remember, my parents never treated me differently because of my condition. In fact, they pushed me to be just like every other kid. When I complained that I couldn't do something — like hang from the monkey bars or hold on to a swing on the playground — they always told me, 'Where there's a will, there's a way.' I definitely found my will very early. I can't remember ever not doing something because of my missing hand. It may have taken me a little longer to figure out how to do something, but I never gave up. My parents taught me that, and I am so grateful.

"Nobody treats me any differently now, but when I was younger, that wasn't always the case. I still remember my first baseball practice. One of the kids on my team yelled that I couldn't play because I was missing my hand, so when I got up to hit for the first time, I made sure I hit it over that kid's head. He never said I couldn't play again.

"My first baseball coach was great. When he found out I was on his team, he studied Jim Abbott and how he played. He taught me how to throw, how to put the glove on quickly and how to hold the bat using my left arm to

■ JAVIER OLMOS, continued

balance it.

“From that very first game, I fell in love with baseball. I couldn’t wait for my dad to come home every night so we could play catch. When I was 10 years old, I started pitching. My coach at the time was worried about my ability to field a hard hit. I may not be the quickest fielder, but I am better than average. I try to make up for it with my pitching. I figure if no one hits off me, I’m totally safe. Last season, I had four games where no one hit off of me.

“Trying out for the school baseball team was nerve-wracking. I’ve had the same coach for four years. He knows what I can do and doesn’t treat me differently from anyone else. I was worried the coaches wouldn’t give me a fair chance, but that wasn’t the case at all.

“I was stunned when I saw my name on the varsity roster. My goal was to make a team — any team. I knew my pitching was solid, but I didn’t realize how much speed I had picked up in the last year. I don’t clock myself very often. I just pitch.

“It kind of freaks out some people that I bat. I can use my left arm only for balance and stability, so that decreases the strength of my swing. I make solid contact consistently, but I haven’t ever hit a home run — yet. I am not giving up.

“I’m a little nervous about the game on Saturday. I’m going to be pitching to guys who are 19 and 20 years old. I’m 15 — barely. My birthday was last month. Coach Galvan said I will be fine, and I really hope he’s right. I guess the good thing is, the game is a fundraiser and doesn’t count for our season.”

■ DOM GALVAN, varsity baseball coach

“I had heard about Javier’s pitching before tryouts, but I figure the stories were a bit exaggerated. They were not. This kid might be the best pitcher to ever walk onto our fields, and he’s just 15. Imagine how fast he will be pitching when he’s a senior. I suspect colleges will start calling him by the end of next season.”

■ SERGIO OLMOS, Javier’s dad

“Ever since I took him to a Leaguetown varsity baseball game when he was 7 years old, Javier has dreamed of playing for the school team. When he called to tell me he made varsity, my entire office thought something horrible happened because I started crying right then and there. I was so proud.

“Sure, Javier has natural talent, but he also is the hardest working kid I know. He has to work twice as hard as a two-handed player. And he does. My son has a ball in his hand every chance he gets. When he doesn’t have anyone to practice with, he will throw the ball on the side of the house to play catch with himself. Or he will pitch into his net. Or he will hit off the tee. Every night he’s doing something with baseball. He’s driven, and he’s truly earned his spot on the varsity team.”

■ RED PLUMLER, senior and captain of the varsity team

“During tryouts, Javier pitched to me. I’m not ashamed to say he struck me out. His fastball is fast, but it was his curve ball that got me. I couldn’t believe that he’s only a freshman. He packs some heat. With him on our team, the district championship is within our reach.”

■ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The varsity baseball team won second in district last year. It was knocked out of the playoffs in the second round.

Headline Writing

Central Texas Invitational Meet • 2018

You are a copy editor for the Leaguetown **Press**, the student newspaper of Leaguetown High School.

Write the headline assigned for each of the given six stories. Use the following system: all upper and lower case letters, spaces, punctuation marks and symbols count as 1. Capitalize the first letter of the first word of each headline. You may use either upstyle (capitalizing the first letter of every word) or downstyle (capitalizing the first letter of the first word and the first letter of proper nouns only thereafter). Remember that main headlines belong on the top line and secondary headlines belong under the main headline.

You have 30 minutes. Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or entry. **Put your number on both sides of your paper.**

Story 1 — Write: 2-line main headline with each line counting 20-26

After the winter holidays, the school cafeteria will offer dinner three times a week — Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays — for students and staff. The meals, served from 5:30 to 6 p.m., will be free.

The district received a grant from the Texas Education Agency to fund the dinner program.

“We have a lot of students and teachers who are still at the school at 5:30,” Principal Cynthia Toddy said. “Some are here for athletics, some for tutoring. Either way, they can get a healthy, hot dinner for free.”

Students also can return to school for the free dinner. The grant is a pilot program and will fund the dinners through the end of the school year.

“More than 70 percent of our students live below the poverty line, and that’s how we qualified for the grant,” Toddy said. “I suspect some of those students don’t get a hot dinner every night.”

Story 2 — Write: 3-line headline with each line counting 10-17

The Heart Hospital will offer free heart screenings for students and staff next Thursday after school. Those who sign up for the screening will get an electrocardiogram (ECG), a non-invasive procedure that can detect a multitude of heart conditions.

“The ECG will show cardiac arrhythmias, which can be very dangerous,” school nurse Michelle Tedder said. “The test will take five minutes. It’s definitely worth it.”

Tedder said a typical physical would not show this type of condition.

“Most doctors don’t have this technology in their office, and this procedure isn’t a requirement for an athlete’s school physical,” she said.

This is the second year the hospital has done the screening at the high school. Last year, only students were screened.

“The doctors found an abnormality in two students last year,” Tedder said. “Neither were life-threatening if corrected now.”

Story 3 — Write: 1-line headline counting 25-32

Over the winter holidays, the girls’ varsity soccer team will host a soccer camp for middle school students. The three-day camp costs \$50 and goes from 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 2-4.

The camp is a fundraiser for the team.

“The camp will focus on the fundamentals — dribbling, passing, shooting and conditioning,” soccer coach Jamison Ray said. “We want to get these kids ready for their middle school soccer tryouts set for mid-January.”

Varsity goalie Rochelle Brown said she will work with any goalies who sign up for the camp.

“The keeper position has a very specific and unique skill set,” she said. “We will work on mobility, speed, covering the angles, reading opponents and diving.”

Students who are interested can sign up for the camp through the school’s website.

Story 4 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 18-24 and a 2-line secondary headline with each line counting 16-24

A car. That's the typical desire of teens on their 16th birthday. But not for junior Andy Papa.

For his 16th birthday, he wanted just one thing — a bee hive.

"I became obsessed with bees after watching 'Bee Movie' when I was 5 years old," Andy said. "I begged and begged my parents for my own hive. But they said not until I was 16."

Andy turned 16 last month, and his birthday wish came true.

"My parents thought I would outgrow my fascination for bees," he said. "But I never did, and I don't think I ever will."

Andy is now the proud owner of 20,000 bees that live in a hive in his backyard.

"Every day after school I suit up and hang out with my bees," he said. "Since it's a new hive, I have to make sure it has an adequate food supply and that the queen is adapting."

Several of his friends have visited his hive.

"I want to educate people about bees," he said.

Story 5 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 10-18 and a 1-line secondary headline counting 25-32

When sophomore Kristin Campo was 7 years old, her dad took her to her first rock concert — Bruce Springsteen. And while she enjoyed watching and hearing "The Boss," it was the saxophone player, Clarence Clemons, who caught her eye and ear.

So Kristin's dad bought her a saxophone, and Kristin's love affair with the horn began — private lessons, honors band, an all-girl rock band.

"Music, the saxophone specifically, is what makes me smile," she said.

And now Kristin wants to share that smile. She and her band, Girl Thang, will play a benefit show in the school auditorium Saturday night. Tickets are \$10 each for the 7 p.m. show, and all proceeds will go to Horns Up, a non-profit organization that provides instruments, specifically horns, for underprivileged children in Central Texas.

"I know I am lucky," she said. "My parents can afford to buy me multiple instruments and pay for private lessons and more, but a lot of parents can't do that for their kids. I want to help them."

Kristin and her bandmates hope to raise \$2,000 for Horns Up.

"That would mean about 10 kids would get new instruments," she said.

Story 6 — Write: 2-line headline with each line counting 20-27

The scheduling committee, comprised of parents, teachers and students, recommended a one-hour later start time for the high school next year. If accepted by the superintendent and school board, school would start at 9 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

"Our committee looked at some pretty convincing data that showed a later school start time will improve students' overall sleep cycles and academics," committee chair and parent Patty Graff said.

Sleep studies show that an average teenager needs about nine hours of sleep per night, Graff said. Since melatonin, the hormone that signals the brain to sleep, is not released until about 11 p.m. for teenagers, teens are only getting about seven hours of sleep per night, even if they go to bed earlier, she continued.

"That's a pretty compelling reason to move the start of school back," she said.

Junior Ahmed Sulia said he believes the school board may accept the proposal.

"Everyone on our committee, all 12 members, voted for the later start time," Sulia said. "The research supports our proposal."

Sophomore Suzanne Jett said she would love for school to start later.

"I hate getting up so early in the morning," she said. "I can't imagine any student upset with this change."

CenTex Meet • 2018
Headline Writing Entry Sheet

All letters (upper and lower case), numbers, punctuation marks, symbols and spaces count as one (1). Place one letter or other unit in the appropriate spaces below. Remember to leave spaces between words. Note that the number of lines you are given on this sheet corresponds to the number of lines required for each headline. **Write your number on the upper right-hand corner of this sheet.**

■ Headline Number 1

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

■ Headline Number 2

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

■ Headline Number 3

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

■ **Headline Number 4**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

main headline

secondary headline

■ **Headline Number 5**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

main headline

secondary headline

■ **Headline Number 6**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

News Writing

2018 Central Texas Invitational Meet

You are a reporter for the Leaguetown **Press**, the student newspaper of Leaguetown High School. From the given information, write a **news story** as you would for the high school newspaper. You may use statements attributed to individuals as **direct or indirect quotes**. You may not change the meaning of a statement. You have **45 minutes**. Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or entry. **Put your number on your paper.**

Leaguetown High School is located in Central Texas and has 500 students enrolled in grades 9-12. Last month, the district Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), which is comprised of the middle school principal, two high school teachers, two parents and one community member, recommended a change to the sex education curriculum for the 2019-2020 school year from abstinence-only to one that includes information about contraceptives. The committee wants to keep the core of the curriculum called “Worth the Wait,” in place but would like to add one new component — contraceptives.

In the district, sex education begins in middle school. In eighth grade, students learn about how sexually transmitted diseases spread. In ninth grade, they discuss why it’s sometimes hard to say “no” and abstinence as the only sure way to avoid diseases and pregnancy. The committee proposed that the new unit be added to the high school curriculum.

After the proposal was released, parents began calling school board members and the superintendent to share their opposition to the proposal. The district received more than 50 calls from parents who oppose the new curriculum. They say abstinence-only is the only sex education curriculum the school district should offer.

Before making a decision, the school board decided to hold a community forum to hear from parents, students and community members. The forum will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, in the high school cafeteria. Anyone who wants to speak can sign up on the district’s website. You are writing for the issue of the Press to be distributed Monday, Dec. 10.

■ JESSICA MARTINEZ, superintendent

“Sex education curriculum is always divisive. When we started teaching ‘Worth the Wait’ 10 years ago, we upset some parents. I don’t think we will find curriculum that will satisfy every parent. The one thing I want parents to remember is, you can opt your child out of the curriculum. We only spend four days total on this curriculum in high school. If you don’t like the curriculum, I advise parents to keep your child out of the classes.

“I believe it’s time for a change in our curriculum. I like our current lessons, but they are not enough. I don’t want radical change, but I believe we need to educate our students about contraceptives. I don’t want any of our students sexually active, but that isn’t the reality that is happening here. If students choose to have sex, we should at least educate them on how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. I have seen the proposed component, and it does not encourage students to have sex. It simply informs them about different types of contraceptives and how they work.

■ **JESSICA MARTINEZ (cont.)**

“I look forward to hearing from everyone at the forum. Anyone who signs up to speak will get three minutes. The board and I will stay until all speakers have finished — even if that means we are there until midnight. Everyone will get a chance to be heard.”

■ **NICOLE LOPEZ, parent on the committee**

“With problems such as teenage pregnancies and the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases on the rise, it is only appropriate that we teach our children how to be responsible and safe if they choose to have sex. In no way does this curriculum advocate for students to have sex. That is preposterous. We are trying to transform our children into responsible adults, and we can’t do that if we give them only half of the information. I was shocked at the backlash after we released our recommendation. Come on, parents, this is the 21st Century. Let’s be honest with our children.”

■ **RHONDA LESTER, parent**

“I was one of the first to call and complain. This new curriculum does not in any way align with our beliefs. It is anti-Christian. It is immoral, and it condones sex and childbirth outside of marriage. You can bet that I will be at that forum and so will most of the members from our church.”

■ **KARL KUBICHEK, pastor at Hilltop Church**

“This new curriculum undermines the abstinence message and the parental values of our congregation. Teaching students about condoms and the like is basically telling them it’s OK to go have sex. The school district should not be condoning sex. I hear that parents can opt their students out of this curriculum. If that’s true, there may not be any students in the school on those days. I will be at the forum, and I will give the school board a piece of my mind.”

■ **JEANIE SHANKS, sophomore**

“I can’t believe the uproar over this proposal. Do parents really think we don’t know about this stuff? I actually think it’s a good idea for students to learn about contraceptives — the real facts, but it should happen in eighth grade, not ninth. A friend of mine got pregnant in ninth grade and, maybe, if she had learned about contraceptives, she would have used them.”

■ **CHARLIE JOSEPH, freshman**

“‘Worth the Wait’ is a pretty useless curriculum. It teaches us about sexually transmitted diseases, but it doesn’t teach us how to not get them other than abstinence. That’s like telling kids the only way to avoid a car accident is to not get in a car. That’s pretty stupid logic. Students are going to have sex — whether they tell us about contraceptives or not. We should at least be as educated as possible.”

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COPY EDITING CONTEST



FOR JUDGE'S USE
Points from PART 1

Points from PART 2

TOTAL from Parts 1 AND 2

POINTS/15

POINTS/10

POINTS/25

PART 3 is graded ONLY
to break ties.

Points from PART 3

POINTS/25

TOTAL POINTS

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO!

GenTex COPY EDITING CONTEST

DIRECTIONS: This test is divided into three sections. Write all your responses as indicated. You have 15 minutes.

PART 1: Circle the correct response. (1 pt. each)

1. She gave us free **rein** / **reign** over the music choices.
2. It has been a **privilege** / **privalege** to serve this organization.
3. The score was **14 to 7** / **14-7** at halftime.
4. Labor **Day** / **day** is the first Monday in September.
5. She prepared the children's lunches **than** / **then** she ate breakfast.
6. She won the election by a **2-1** / **two-to-one** ratio.
7. They were treated like **VIP's** / **VIPs**.
8. The criminal returned to the **cite** / **site** / **sight** of the crime.
9. The committee turned the report in to **acting** / **Acting** Mayor John Jefferson.
10. My dad never **excedes** / **exceeds** the speed limit.
11. Her family raises **grayhounds** / **greyhounds**.
12. They had to stop traveling for a day because of the **sandstorm** / **sand storm**.
13. His new haircut was a **noticeable** / **noticable** improvement.
14. They waited with **baited** / **bated** breath for the announcement of the winner.
15. The school's flags will be flown at **half-mast** / **half-staff**.

CenTex COPY EDITING CONTEST

Part 2: Edit the following sentences to eliminate wordiness as well as any errors in AP style, grammar, spelling or punctuation. Use clearly understood editing symbols. (2 pts. each)

1. "What is the world is rong with you? her Mother asked.
2. Next year Sally will take Algebra, English, Art, and Spanish.
3. I payd \$2.00 and 50 cents for that milk that you just spilt.
4. Theater department will perfom "Noises Off" tommorow at 8:00 p.m.
5. Math Teacher Mrs. Sara Collins said she will not be a part of the knew commitee.

CenTex COPY EDITING CONTEST

Part 3: In the space provided, edit the following news brief as necessary to make the wording clear, to eliminate wordiness as well as any errors in AP style, grammar, spelling or punctuation. You do NOT have to rewrite the news brief. Make notes of anything you believe needs clarification, additional research or additional reporting. (25 pts.)

The band, orchestra, and choir will have a Christmas concert Dec. 14th at 7:30 P.M. in the theatre. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be bought from any band, orchestra or choir student. “We always look forward to the this concert because holiday music puts every one in a good mood, Band Director Chris Goodman said. “Its a grate way to start our winter break.”

Each one of the musical groups will have a chance to shine during the concert.

“We want to give the audience variety not just with the musical selections but with the way each group is highlighted,” choir director Malcom Bailey said. “Well all preform together but each of us will be able to grab the spot light during certain songs. We’ll be able to show the audience what makes each group special.”

Senior Claire McDougal will be one of three vocal soloists during the concert. She will perform “All I want for Christmas.” “That’s my favorite Christmas song,” said McDougal. “Its upbeat and fun to sing. I’m glad to have a solo in my last Christmas perfomance.”

The groups will perform standards, such as “White Christmas” as well as newer holiday songs, such as “You’re a Mean One Mr. Grinch.”

“We have such talented kids in our programs,” said Goodman. “We love giving them a chance to show off those talents. Everyone is invited to come and share the holiday spirit. I think even the grinch will be smiling after he left this concert.”