

STRAND

BYU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE 2005 Arizona and Southern States



ITINERARY3

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Performing Arts Management

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INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE ITINERARY SOUTHERN STATES APRIL 28 – MAY 28, 2005

Roy's Phone: 592-2959
Ed's Phone: 380-5010
Scott's Phone: 361-3240
Buddy's Phone: 801-842-8633 (bus driver)

Thu, April 28 Provo, UT to Memphis

6:00 am Meet at Richards Building
6:40 am Depart for Salt Lake Airport
9:40 am Depart for Memphis, TN – AA 1244N
1:13 pm Arrive Dallas
Lunch in airport-per diem
2:40 pm Depart Dallas – AA 1534N
4:04 pm Arrive in Memphis
Dinner by PAM
7:00 pm Meet at Memphis Stake Center
Home with host families

Fri, April 29 Memphis, TN

7:30 am Meet at Memphis Stake Center
9:00 am Lec Dem Assembly at elementary School in downtown Memphis(40 minutes)
10:00 am **FREE TIME**
12:00 pm Lunch – sack lunch provided by the stake
1:00 pm Load in
4:30 pm Dinner – TBA
7:00 pm House opens
7:30 pm Performance-Rose Theater, University of Memphis Campus (seats 930)
9:00 pm Strike
Home with host families

Presenter Memphis Tennessee Stake

Sat, April 30 Helena, AR 75mi/1:20

8:00 am Meet at Memphis Stake Center
9:08 am **Visit Graceland—reservation (\$\$)**
11:30 am Travel to Helena
Lunch Sack lunch provided by presenter
4:30 pm Dinner - Fine Arts Center at the college
6:45 pm House opens
7:30 pm Performance - Phillips Community College, Lily Peter Auditorium (seats 1000)
9:00 pm Strike
10:00 pm Travel to hotel

Presenter Warfield Concerts

Sun, May 1 Tupelo, MS 145 mi/2:30

8:00 am **Breakfast at Hotel at Buffet**
From 7-10:45am - \$5.99 plus tax

10:00 am Attend church in Helena
 12:00pm Lunch—provided by the church in Helena, AR
 Travel to Tupelo, MS
 4:00 pm Arrive in Tupelo
 4:30 pm Dinner by the stake
 5:30 pm Meet for rehearsal
7:00 pm Fireside-Tupelo Stake Center
 Home with host families

Mon, May 2 Tupelo, MS

5:15 am Meet at Stake Center
TV Taping—WTVA for the ‘Mornin’ Show’
 7:30 am Meet for Breakfast as a group at the stake center
8:30 am Lec/Dem—Thomas Street Elementary School
10:00 am Lec/Dem—Milam Middle School
 12:00 pm Lunch-per diem
 1:00 pm Load-in
 4:00 pm Dinner-TBA
 6:30 pm House Opens
7:00 pm Performance-Tupelo High School (1000 seats)
 9:00 pm Strike
 Home with host families

Presenter Tupelo MS Stake

Tues, May 3 Jackson, MS 183 mi/3:30

8:00 am Meet at Stake Center
 Leave for Jackson/Madison MS
 12:00 pm Lunch by previous presenter
 1:00 pm Load-in
 Drive to Madison Chapel
 4:30 pm Dinner at Madison Church Building
 7:00 pm House Opens
7:30 pm Performance-Madison County Cultural Center (420 seats)
 9:00 Strike
 Travel to Hotel

Wed, May 4 Jackson, MS 219 mi/3:30

Breakfast at hotel
 8:00 am Vicksburg Battlefield (55 south to 20 to Vicksburg)
 11:30 pm Lunch per diem
 Travel to Elementary School
 12:30 pm Load in for outreach
1:20 pm Madison Station Elementary School Lecture Demonstration, performing arts School (40 min max)
 3:00 pm Go to venue
 4:30 pm Dinner at Madison Church Building (20 to 220 to 55)
 Travel to venue
 7:00 pm House opens
7:30 pm Performance- Madison County Cultural Center (420 seats)
 9:00 pm Strike

Thu, May 5 Shreveport, LA 220 miles/ 3:30

Breakfast at hotel
 8:00 am Check out of Hotel
 Depart for Shreveport
 10:00 am Arrive at the Strand for TV Taping
11:30 am TV Taping at the theater

12:00 pm Lunch sack lunch by previous presenter
 1:00 pm Load in
2:30 pm Outreach with the kids in the after school program for the shelter
 4:30 pm Dinner- At the shelter
 7:00 pm House opens
7:30 pm Performance- Strand Theater
 9:00 pm Strike
 Home with host families

Presenter Shreveport Louisiana Stake

Fri, May 6 Baton Rouge, LA 250 mi/4:00

8:00 am Meet at Brownlee Chapel
 Travel to School
9:30 am Outreach Workshop/Assembly at a Magnet School
 Travel to Baton Rouge
 12:00 pm Lunch-Sack lunch by previous presenter
FREE DAY
 3:00 pm Visit Laura Plantation—*reservation* (\$\$)
 4:30 pm Visit Oak Alley—*reservation* (\$\$)
 Dinner-per diem

Sat, May 7 Baton Rouge, LA

Am Free
 10:00 am Alligator Bayou Tour (\$\$)
 12:30 pm Lunch-per diem
 1:00 pm Load in-*maybe later due to charges and forced pre hang*
 4:30 pm Dinner at the church building 13 minutes away
 7:00 pm House opens
7:30 pm Performance-LSU Union Theater (seats)
 9:00 pm Strike
 Home with host families

Sun, May 8 Baton Rouge, LA

Am Attend church meetings with host families
 5:30 p m Meet for fireside rehearsal at stake center
6:30 pm Fireside-Baton Rouge Stake Center
 Home with host families

Mon, May 9 New Orleans, LA 91 mi/1:28

8:00 am Meet at Baton Rouge Stake Center
 12:00 pm Lunch-per diem
1:30-2:00 pm Telephone Radio Interview for WTNI in Biloxi
FREE DAY
 Visit French Quarter
 Visit one of the city cemeteries
 Dinner-Provided by PAM

Tues, May 10 New Orleans, LA

Breakfast at hotel
 Am Free
 12:00 pm Lunch-per diem
 1:00pm Load in
 4:30 pm Dinner by presenter—at one of the local churches
 7:00 pm House opens
7:30 pm Performance—Ben Franklin High School (seats)
 9:00 pm Strike
 Home with host families

<u>Wed, May 11</u>		<u>Gulfport/Biloxi, MS</u>	
8:00 am	Travel to Mobile (144 mi/2:30)		
10:30 am	Tour the USS Alabama— <i>reservation</i> (\$\$)		
12:00 pm	Lunch-sack lunch from previous presenter		
2:00 pm	Travel to Biloxi (70 mi/1:00)		
3:00 pm	Go to the beach		
3:30 pm	Those going to the interview need to be at the station: WLOX-TV (<i>local ABC Affiliate</i>)		
4:00 pm	Live TV Interview		
6:00 pm	Dinner as a group—provided by PAM		
8:00 pm	Meet host families at the stake center		
<u>Thu, May 12</u>		<u>Gulfport/Biloxi, MS</u>	
7:00 am	Radio interview with Coast Radio Group		
7:45 am	Meet at stake center		
	Travel to retirement center		
8:30 am	Radio Interview with Triad Broadcasting		
9:00 am	Mini-performance at Armed Forces Retirement center		
12:00 pm	Lunch provided by PAM		
1:30 pm	Load in at venue		
3:00 pm	Pick up U-haul truck		
4:30 pm	Dinner by presenter, location TBD		
6:30 pm	House opens		
7:00 pm	Performance – Michel Middle School (seats)		
9:00 pm	Strike		
	Home with host families		
Presenter	Gulfport Mississippi Stake		
<u>Fri, May 13</u>		<u>Jacksonville, FL</u>	<u>483 mi/8:00</u>
	Meet at Gulfport Stake Center		
	Depart for Jacksonville		
TIME CHANGE—LOOSE ONE HOUR (<i>just prior to reaching Tallahassee</i>)			
12:00 pm	Lunch-sack lunch by presenter		
1:00 pm	Load in		
4:00 pm	Scott arrives with truck		
4:30 pm	Dinner provided by presenter-location TBD		
7:30 pm	Performance-Florida Theater (1,900 Seats)		
9:00 pm	Strike		
	Home with host families		
<u>Sat, May 14</u>		<u>Tampa, FL</u>	<u>200 mi/4:00</u>
8:00 am	Meet at TBD		
	Depart fort Tampa		
12:00 pm	Lunch-sack lunch provided by previous presenter		
1:00 pm	Load-in		
4:30 pm	Dinner-Church building (<i>8 minutes away</i>)		
7:00 pm	House opens		
7:30 pm	Performance-Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center (1,060 seats)		
9:00 pm	Strike		
	Home with host families		
<u>Sun, May 15</u>		<u>Tampa, FL</u>	
am	Church with host families		
5:30 pm	Meet at church for rehearsal and warm-up		
7:00 pm	Fireside-Tampa Stake Center		

<u>Mon, May 16</u>		<u>Albany, GA</u>	<u>300 miles/5:00</u>
8:00 am	Meet at -TBA Visit Dannette's Horse Ranch		
12:00 pm	Lunch-by Dannette? Depart for Albany		
5:30 pm	Dinner by Presenter at Stake Center		
6:30 pm	Meet host families-TBA		
<u>Tues, May 17</u>		<u>Albany, GA</u>	
8:00 am	Meet at Stake Center		
12:00 pm	Lunch by PAM		
12:00 pm	Interview Noon News at WALB		
1:00 pm	Load-in		
4:30 pm	Dinner by presenter at the auditorium		
6:30 pm	VIP Reception, <i>they will want some dancers in costume and maybe the band to play</i>		
7:00 pm	House opens		
7:30 pm	Performance- Albany Municipal Auditorium (seats 965)		
	Note: This is a benefit concert for Habitat for Humanity.		
9:00 pm	Strike Home with host families		
Presenter	Albany Georgia Stake		
<u>Wed, May 18</u>		<u>Gainesville, FL</u>	<u>196 mi/3:05</u>
8:00 am	Meet at Stake Center Travel to Gainesville		
12:00 pm	Sack lunch provided by previous presenter		
3:00 pm	Load-in		
4:30 pm	Dinner-16 th Blvd Chapel		
7:00 pm	House opens		
7:30 pm	Performance-Phillips Center for the Performing Arts (seats 1300)		
9:00 pm	Strike Home with host families		
Presenter	Gainesville Florida Stake		
<u>Thurs, May 19</u>		<u>Douglas, GA</u>	<u>153 miles/3:15</u>
8:00 am	Meet -16 th Blvd Chapel Depart for Douglas, GA		
12:00 pm	Lunch-sack lunch by previous presenter		
1:00 pm	Load-in		
4:30 pm	Dinner-Stake Center 200 n Chester		
7:00 pm	House opens		
7:30 pm	Performance—Martin Center (Seats 750)		
9:00 pm	Strike Home with host families		
Presenter	Douglas Georgia Stake		
<u>Fri., May 20</u>		<u>Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>226 miles/4:06</u>
8:00 am	Meet Stake Center Depart for Atlanta		
12:00 pm	Lunch-sack lunch provided by previous presenter		
1:00 pm	Load-in		
4:30 pm	Dinner-TBA		
7:00 pm	House opens		
7:30 pm	Performance-Earthlink Live (900 Seats)		
9:00 pm	Strike		

Home with host families

Sat., May 21 Atlanta, GA

10:00 am Meet at TBD
FREE TIME
12:00 pm Lunch-per diem
3:30 pm Go to venue
4:30 pm Dinner-TBA
7:00 pm House opens
7:30 pm Performance-Earthlink Live (900 Seats)
9:00 pm Strike
Home with host families

Sun., May 22 Atlanta, GA

am Church with host families
DINNER????????
5:30 pm Rehearse for fireside
7:00 pm Fireside-Sugar Hills Stake Center

Mon, May 23 Augusta, GA/Aiken, SC 147 mi/2:19

8:00 am Meet TBA
FREE TIME
12:00 pm Lunch-sack lunch provided by previous presenter
2:00 pm Travel to Augusta
5:00 pm Meet host families--
Home with hosts for a short settle in time.
5:30 pm Dinner provided by host families at a cook out and a swim at the bishop's house

Tue, May 24 Augusta, GA/ Aiken, SC

8:00 am Meet at Aiken Ward Building
9:30 am Assembly for Chukker Creek Elementary school (entire school)
12:00 pm Lunch-per diem
1:00 pm Load in
4:30 pm Dinner by presenter—at Aiken Ward building
7:00 pm House opens
7:30 pm Performance-USC Aiken Etherredge Center (seats 685)
9:00 pm House opens
Home with host families

Presenter Augusta Georgia Stake

Wed., May 25 Marietta, GA 177 mi/3:00

8:00 am Meet at Aiken Ward Building
Travel to Marietta
12:00 pm Sack lunch-provided by previous presenter
1:00 pm Load-in
4:30 pm Dinner by presenter at the church across the street
7:00 pm House opens
7:30 pm Performance-McEachern High School (seats 900)
9:00 pm Strike
Home with host families

Presenter Powder Springs Georgia Stake

Thu., May 26 Huntsville/Madison, AL 170 mi/2:55

8:00 am Meet-at Powder Springs Stake Center
Depart for Huntsville
12:00 pm Sack lunch-provided by previous presenter
1:00 pm Load-in

4:30 pm Dinner-Madison Chapel
7:00 pm House opens
7:30 pm Performance-Bob Jones High School (seats 1322)
9:00 pm Strike
Home with host families

Presenter Huntsville Alabama Stake

Fri., May 27 Huntsville/Madison, AL

8:00 am Meet at Madison Chapel
am Outreach-Dance workshop for the City Arts Council
12:00 pm Sack lunch-provided by presenter
pm Visit U.S. Space Center—reservation (\$\$)
6:00 pm Dinner at Huntsville Stake Center
7:00 pm Interactive dancing workshop and dating panel for YM/YW of the stake

Sat., May 28 Provo, UT

Breakfast at hotel
Travel to Airport
 [Directions: See maps]
11:00 am Be at airport
 Lunch at airport-per diem
1:07 pm Depart Birmingham Airport, Flight – AA 477N
3:05 pm Arrive in Dallas
 Dinner in airport-per diem
6:22 pm Depart Depart – AA 1925N
8:09 pm Arrive in Provo
 Bus to RB

Midsemester Tour (AZ)

Thursday/Friday March 3/4, 2005 (Jamon Andelin)
Provo, UT to Flagstaff, AZ

As I pondered about things that happened, I decided I would need to embellish the days' events, so to limit confusion all embellishments will be in italics.

Not much needs to be said about Thursday. We met at the RB at 6:00 am and left around 6:30 am. When we were waiting for everyone to show up there were a some people, Spencer, Rustin, Gregg, Linsey, Jamon, etc. who got in a couple minutes of throwing the Frisbee around.

The first movie watched on tour was a Bollywood flick. It was really long and had some weird parts to it. I think all of us have a bit more dislike for the song, "It's raining men." After about two and an half hours we thought it was about over, but then we hit the intermission. As of Friday night we still haven't finished the movie.

We stayed Thursday night in a motel in Kanab, Utah.

Friday morning we left on the bus at around 9:00 am. When we left, we actually forgot Spencer. It was pretty exciting for Spencer. *Because he got left, and he figured we wouldn't realize we left him, he decided to hitchhike to Cameron, Arizona, where we would stop for lunch. So he started walking with his stuff and he got picked up by a sheep rancher. But there was no room in the cab, so Spencer had to sit in the back with the sheep. Well that was going good until the farmer ran out of gas. So Spencer had to help him herd the sheep to the near-by sheep farm. As they were walking, they had to fend off the coyotes with the pitch forks they were carrying. Then, when they got to the next small town it was almost time for Spencer to meet us at Cameron so he got a ride from another sheep rancher in his bi-wing airplane. Once again, there was no seat he could use, so he had to hold onto the wing. While holding onto the wing he was chased by a bunch of banditos but was able to get away. Well, he made it just in time to get on the bus. We're still not sure how we never realized he was missing.*

We got our "assassin" assignments on the bus today. When we stopped for lunch at Cameron there was a little dispute on food pricing. All the hamburgers were the same thing, just named and priced differently. Linsey D. and Jasmine were smart and asked about the size of the kid's burger and upon discovering it was the regular size, just cheaper, they ordered it. Jamon and Rustin on the other hand ordered the deluxe burger, which cost two dollars more. Fortunately the waitress was kind and allowed us to change our order to the less expensive burger, saving us a couple of dollars.

Nothing too exciting happened on the bus.

We performed at a Sinagua High School in Flagstaff. The show was organized by the local stake. The performance had the tough assignment of being the first show and having to deal with all the kinks that had to be worked out - in dancing, lighting, and music. The audience really loved it, although they didn't really show it until the very end when they kept clapping and we couldn't start "Go Ye Now in Peace" for much longer than usual.

There are also a number of sick people on tour. Abby filled in for Crystal for some of her dances: Running Sets, Journey, Bottle Dance, and *Hopak*. She did quite well for not having danced all year.

Before the show, Shelley was running up the stairs from the pit underneath the stage. She didn't notice the metal cage above her and didn't duck in time - actually she didn't duck at all. She hit her head really hard and got a huge bump and cut on her forehead. She looked like a rhinoceros ... or something. Luckily the girls had an abundance of makeup. They don't call it cover girl for nothing.

Some of the Swedish Fish awards: to Nate from Bob for giving him a bruise on his arm during in clog; to Lindsey O. for getting Shelley an advil right away; to Abby for filling in for Crystal in clog, *Hopak*, Bottle Dance, and Running Sets; to Marie for helping out Jana with her Korean shoes; to Linsey D. for not getting mad at Jamon for dancing Szatmar out of order; to Dave for being the most helpful guy ever; to Erin for helping with costumes and fixing Shelley's noggin'.

Some of the Laffy Taffy awards: to John for "throwing his stick down" during his stick solo; to Nate for referring to John as "the round one;"; to Aubree and Hillary for running into each other during their Irish duet; to Ed from the cast for single handedly shooing away the flock of ducks that crept onto the stage during the intermission; to the band for ending French Canadian by sort of puttering out eight counts too early - in the words of Peter, "it sounded like the energizer bunny dieing"; to Shelley for adorning her forehead with a nice bump.

**Saturday March 5, 2005 (Aubree Shelley)
Flagstaff, AZ to Show Low/Snowflake, AZ**

The day started out as usual, with our first day of “Guess whose embarrassing moment?” as one of the prime forms of entertainment from the activities committee. We made a brief stop at the Snowflake Temple, giving us plenty of time for what we like best ... taking pictures! We finally got to the auditorium, and began our load-in. Ed was at his finest, taking people quietly aside and assassinating them. As his tactics became common knowledge, his victims became bitter and all planned their revenge on the leadership.

So, as Edwin G. Austin came in, in his usual hustle and bustle to get the next item of business done, we all gave him a friendly group hug, then turned our backs so as to purposefully miss Lindsay O as she squirted him a good one. He, of course, was incensed, ranting and raving, and rather a sore loser. He declared “You’re all going down” and we just laughed at him. Little did we know how serious he was.

At the end of the show, we were preparing for *Hopak*, and were lined up and ready to go. Ed comes out of nowhere on stage right and begins squirting us all as we’re walking on, grinning maniacally. The shower continued throughout the dance, and we felt it! But, never fear, our revenge was planned before the dance was over, as the men cried “DOGPILE” as they stepped up to take their bow during tag. And oh, was there a dog pile ... there was even a Ukrainian girl who joined the pile in the green room after the show!

Strike went a lot quicker than the first night, for which we were eternally grateful, as we went home with our host families for the whole weekend. And ‘Assassin’ went on, now unencumbered by its best hired gun. Until next year, Ed!

**Sunday March 6, 2005 (Russell Wulfenstein)
Snowflake, AZ**

Although for many of us Sunday was a day of rest, it wasn’t without its fair share of noteworthy experiences. The day’s testimony and Sunday school meetings yielded some interesting quotes. In response to last night’s performance, one man in Shelley’s ward quipped, out of something near astonishment, that “there were 48 feet all dancing like hell and not one of them tripped over another.” In Ed’s ward, one brother remarked that the professionalism of our show brought to mind the stone cut out of the mountain without hands. He observed that the while the stone was certainly rough at first, it has become smooth as it has rolled forth to fill the earth.

After a very large and filling dinner, we gave a fireside at a local chapel. Out of either pure cruelty or a desire to encourage our speakers to rely on the spirit, no one was told who was going to speak until just minutes before the meeting started. Shelley, Scotty, Linsey Davis, and Peter were the lucky chosen ones. Erin was asked to share a scripture at the conclusion of the meeting. Shelley gave a great talk about charity, introduced by the story behind the shiny new bump on her forehead. During Ed’s usual demographic demonstration, performers were asked to stand as they fit into various categories. When Ed asked all married members of group to stand, a few of our less-secure singles (Megan, John, and Gregg) stood as well. We couldn’t keep from laughing, and I’m sure the congregation was left wondering what was so funny. The musical numbers went well and the testimonies were sincere and moving. The spirit was present and I, for one, left feeling quite uplifted.

Following their afternoon church services, Leisha and Marie had a new experience. Their host dad took them out to the pasture, stepping through cow pies in their Sunday shoes, and had them climb over the fence in high heels and skirts. He quickly caught hold of a young horse and managed to hold him while getting only a little dirty. The girls were allowed to pet the horse, milk a cow, and play with the chickens. For Marie, this was all a brand new experience, and for both Leisha and Marie, this was something never to be repeated while wearing their Sunday best.

**Monday March 7, 2005 (Lindsay Ozbirn)
Snowflake, AZ to Tucson, AZ**

We left early in the morning from Snowflake to go to Tucson. While waiting for everyone to arrive we were throwing the disc around. Unfortunately the disc broke when one unnamed person threw it to another unnamed person. It was a faithful disc that served its owner, the hottest guy on PAC, for many faithful years.

The bus ride was pretty good. Nothing too exciting happened until we took a bathroom break at some podunk town at a gas station with only one stall for everyone. The guys were waiting in line until the boy-genius Jamon suggested the guys go for a walk out behind the gas station. The men did so and came back a couple minutes later using hand sanitizer. They then had about a half an hour to throw the Frisbee around. While throwing the Frisbee two things are worth mentioning. Jamon threw the disc and it would have nailed Dave in the head but he ducked down to pick up

the hacky sack. Another time Jana threw the disc and it went out onto the road and it would have been destroyed by an eighteen wheeler but the driver was courteous enough stop to let Peter go and grab it. That would have been the second disc destroyed in one day. It would have been pain beyond bearing.

We watched "The Three Amigos" on the way to Tucson. What a great show! I think it is even better than "Little Women."

When we arrived in Tucson we went to a park by the name of Agua Caliente. All the boys played Ultimate Frisbee for a couple hours. They are so great.

After the men were done playing Ultimate, the band had a jam session - not only for the dancers, but also passers-by in the park. They actually got an invitation from a person of questionable character to attend a festival in the near-by locality.

The park was such an exciting place for little boys because of the pond and the trees. Jamon couldn't help but let his boyishness come out. He started climbing a palm tree using only the bark to climb and got about 2/3 of the way up. Then he went and tried to catch frogs and turtles in the pond, he almost got a turtle - but the ducks were too vigilant in their watching. Whenever I, whoops I mean, he got close to the turtles the ducks would fly away thereby warning the turtles.

After the park we all went to the greatest restaurant ever. Okay, maybe not the greatest restaurant. Unfortunately, Crystal seemed really sick and when we went to get off the bus she was having a really hard time breathing. So, she was taken to the hospital. Summer and Nate were very helpful in taking care of her. When they were in the hospital, Nate held Crystal's hand to make her feel better. Nate and Crystal are so cute together. They would make a great couple. The hospital was really busy, and probably the main reason Crystal was helped so soon was because a fireman wheeled her into the hospital.

In the mean time everyone else was at the restaurant, Casa Molina. The first thing that happened at the restaurant was we learned the Spanish word for straw, popote. We didn't have very many choices, so we ordered pretty quickly. But, it took quite a long time to get the food. When the food started arriving we were all flabbergasted at the serving sizes. When Cynthia got her food, she was really worried because it was so much. She went around to people pleading with them to help her finish her food, pouting "I just wanted a taco." The irony of Cynthia's situation is she actually got two plates of food because the first plate was the wrong order so they also brought her the food she actually ordered. But because everyone's meal was so large, only the heartiest of eaters would finish their own meal, much less help other people finish theirs. Lacey ordered fajitas. But, when she made one it looked like a diaper, it was gross. The funniest thing was that the chips and salsa and appetizer were so good, most of us were already fairly content before we even got our colossal plates of grub. The thing was, we really couldn't take much of it home because we would be well fed the next day anyway and we didn't want to stink up the bus.

From dinner we went to the institute building on the University of Arizona (U of A) campus. We arrived a couple minutes late so we went right in and started FHE with them. There was a really large turnout. The hall was completely full of people. We started with some get-to-know-you games provided by John Noll. Then Jamon gave a lesson on choices and our desires and how we are judged by our desires. He shared a passage from The Lord of the Rings, The Fellowship of the Ring, and then he shared a couple of scriptures from The Book of Mormon.

Well, after the spiritual thought we did a couple rec-night dances. The dances were pretty chaotic, but the students had a lot of fun. There was one student named Casey who has no legs, he just scoots around on his hands. Even he participated! He has such a great personality, and is very outgoing. Everyone enjoyed a great family home evening before going home with host families.

Tuesday March 8, 2005 (Ben Tobey) **Tucson, AZ**

In the morning most of the guys, some of the girls, and half the band, took the trolley past the giant stoplight around the fish tank to Mr. Rodger's elementary, where we took off our shoes and jackets and then put on different ones as we sang. We put on a shortened show for the elementary kids and teachers. They really loved the part in Rapper's sword where Dave flips. Their eyes were as big as saucers and their mouths were wide open. At the end of Ferfi, the guys landed right in front of the kids in the first row. The kids jumped back and almost fell on their backs. Then Gregg, with all his elementary "teacherness," taught the fourth graders three dances ending with the Chicken Dance. As a token of appreciation we all received pencils with the school name on it. Sweet.

Then we all got back together and went to the mall to eat and shop. And we had PLENTY of time to do it in. We almost had enough time to watch a movie. And somewhere we shared embarrassing moments.

That night we set up in one of our better venues, the Centennial Hall at Arizona State University. The place was huge and we got a lot of help from the locals. The crowd was great and very responsive. We had dinner in the Institute building and ate Eege's sandwiches and slushies.

As we all know, during the show our dear beloved Warren had an aneurysm. He came into the dressing room saying he wasn't feeling good and that someone should get Erin. He was sitting down and wouldn't respond to his name. Erin came in and he was laid down. She directed people to call 911, get Ed, and help her with Warren. He was vomiting and had difficulty breathing. Ed gave him a blessing and Warren relaxed and he started breathing better. Soon after the blessing he regained consciousness and was able to answer questions from the paramedics. He was taken to the hospital for testing.

The show went on with little interruption from Warren's absence. Gregg covered his spot in Irish without securing his shoes, so he lost one shoe. Gregg also did Hungarian and *Hopak*. All the rest of the show I noticed a concentration and a determination to do our best for our comrade and friend.

Wednesday March 9, 2005 (Summer Wilson)
Tucson, AZ to Mesa, AZ

We had a bitter sweet beginning to the day, discovering that Warren was stable and doing well, but that his condition was worse than originally thought. Ed informed us that Warren had had a brain aneurysm and needed to undergo some sort of procedure to fix the problem. We also found out how amazingly blessed we were in this situation because 15-20% of people who have a brain aneurysm don't make it to the hospital. We owe it to the amazing people on our team, our proximity to the hospital, and a lot of divine intervention.

To entertain us while sitting on the bus in front of the hospital, we played the Laffy-Taffy / Swedish Fish game and heard some more embarrassing moments:

"So... I was in a computer lab doing my own thing and I had one of those surprise sneezes that come out of nowhere... the worst part was that it was a projectile sneeze...and perhaps even worse than that was that I turned my head to the side right as I sneezed. Well this projectile landed right on the back of the hand of the GIRL sitting next to me. She shrieks "Ewe!! You totally just sneezed on my hand!!" loud enough for the whole computer lab to hear. I shrank in my seat and tried to hide my head." –JD

"My most fabulous moment (I'm sure there have been others but I like to block them out of my memory) was during my 5th grade class photo when I was on the front row of the stairs, sitting down, wearing a skirt, and hadn't learned to cross my legs like a lady yet. To add insult to injury, people asked me to sign their year books on the same page as our class photo". –Abby

"In France I walked into a pharmacy to buy some cough drops (soulange-gorge) and instead asked for a bra (soutien-gorge)"- James

"Last Christmas vacation I took a road trip to Las Vegas with my brother and on the way back we were speeding to get back for my parent's anniversary dinner in Orem. Well, we got pulled over in the corner of Arizona and the policeman was acting all tough and my brother didn't like that, so he started being "tough". I knew that my only chance for getting us out of getting a ticket was to be meek and humble and remorseful looking for the policeman and smile sweetly to him. Oh yeah and I prayed real hard. So anyway, he went to his car and stayed for a long time. He finally came back with only a written warning for us! Thanks goodness! But then it was bad because we started talking with him and getting excited because he was a member of the church and we talked about where he and my brother had served (Washington D.C.) I asked him if he had been there serving in 1981 (because my family lived there that year). He said, "How old do you think I am?" he asked. "I don't know. How old are you?" I asked. "Twenty-six," he said. Boy, did I feel dumb. Really he looked older! But I should've done some math before asking that! And after he had let us off the hook, too! Ooops!" –Kim Keller

Other events for the day: We got to stop at the Mesa temple, which was beautiful! The grounds smelled like Gardenia and there were blossoming orange trees all around.

Kim and Lindsay Ozbirn decided to really experience the local landscape. Lindsay ended up with a cactus needle in her finger; Kim got a little poke in her hiney.

Derek made his dancing debut for this tour by filling in for Warren in Running Sets (he did amazing!) It was fun having him on stage. Shelley is a little bitter that he doesn't get to be her partner. The show was sold out and we had a really good audience. We actually had to pull everything off without Ed since he stayed at the hospital with Warren, but Emilee and John handled everything wonderfully and everyone was so cooperative and willing to help each other. The lights had to be redone several times ... go tech! They had to get creative in order to get us power. Bob even had to climb up the wall to find a place to plug us in. We were treated to Rosa's for dinner. A lady told Dave that her daughter liked us better than the Nutcracker and that we were better than Lion King on stage ... maybe we should start getting paid.

Spencer made it to In-n-Out and was spotted there by Abby and Peter who were going through the drive through.

Thursday March 10, 2005 (Gregg Crockett)
Mesa, AZ to Phoenix, AZ

Today was a most unusual start to any tour I have ever been on with BYU. We didn't have to meet the bus until 10:00 am! On the average this tour has given us much more sleep than previous tours and their 6:30 a.m. calls. After loading at a time that everyone was awake for, we headed for a park to kill a little more time by playing water balloon volleyball, making a card for Warren, and having cake for Megan's birthday - not to mention that she had more action in one minute than a lot of people have in a year or even their lives. "More, More, More," was the cry that came from her lips, and she received what she asked for.

The venue caused other problems for us when we found out that our adaptors wouldn't work at the venue and they didn't have enough adaptors to accommodate our equipment. Through the brilliance of Big Scotty we were able to put together a good lighting show for the night ahead.

We had a hero, Derek, arise once again from our tech crew to help out for our friend, Warren, by taking the time to learn Journey so that he could take his place for the rest of our trip. We had the normal show take place, with little things here and there, and as always the great aspects to our show. We were well received by the area and were glad that we could come.

Re-reading this day of history, it sounds a little boring, probably due to the mood I'm in, so I'll put the Embarrassing Moments into the history at this point.

"I get myself in trouble a lot by saying things out loud that I should keep to myself. In high school, our youth had just finished a 'For the Strength of Youth' program and there was a girl in our group named Candy. As every one was leaving I said to my sister, 'Is my butt as big as Candy's?' Only to turn the corner and see Candy and her mom standing RIGHT THERE!!! I died. Then the next day at church Candy says to me, 'Hey have you lost weight? You look good' I felt SO awful." — Megan L.

"The curious thing about some ski lifts is that they boast a mid-mountain get off, so there's little old me swinging my skis back and forth completely oblivious to the rapidly approaching mound. Then whump, pop, and my skis are sticking straight up out of the mound while I continued up the lift. Well, what would any thinking person do in a situation like that? So I took a flying leap off the lift, and knocked my friend off in the process. On account of my particular ski hat, I wouldn't exactly have described myself as inconspicuous. So the rest of the night, myriads of people I had never met took particular pains to assure me that, 'Oh, yes, I saw it too,' or, 'You're that guy we had to stop the lift for.'" — Bob

"This year in 370, I fell while doing Bulgarian in my socks. The embarrassing part was that I am the T.A. and it was in front of everyone." — Lindsay O.

"On my mission, the first Sunday in a new area, I had to go to the bathroom, so I used the first bathroom I saw, because all the other churches I ever attended had only one bathroom (not gender specific). Unfortunately the Branch President's two daughters were in the other stall and saw me when I came out and they laughed at me. Oh the embarrassment!" — Jamon

So that is the day in a nutshell.

Friday March 11, 2005 (Jasmine Gardner)
Phoenix, AZ to Prescott, AZ

Well, this tour history will be short and sweet, like me. Actually, this might not be that short. And while I am short (5'2"), I may not be so sweet all the time. Ask Ed. Speaking of Ed, we are glad to say that he is back with us today. He's been taking a 3 day siesta in Cancun. But he missed us so much that he bought us all McFlurries for our midmorning snack. Thanks Ed!

Today's embarrassing stories were indeed embarrassing. Lindsay G. tripped in the spotlight at a high school game, Warren threw up in the dentist chair, and Nate had a lot of gas on a date. Ha ha.

Warren had his surgery today; they chose to do the coil method. As of right before the show, he was doing well. But for the next few days he will be monitored closely. We're glad he's doing ok.

The venue today was at Yavapai College. It was a nice theater- we didn't have to bring in all of our stuff. I heard they have a bigger sound board than we do! (That is how rumors get started, with phrases like "I heard..." Well, to settle my conscience, I will admit that I don't know for sure if their sound board was bigger. Maybe it was, maybe it wasn't.) Tech didn't take too long to set up. In fact, a certain group of people (the Lambs, Gardners, and all 4 of the Nollo's) slipped away to play Settlers of Catan. Just in case you were wondering, John and Kelsey won.

We blocked and had dinner, then had a 7:30 show. As great as the venue was, it wasn't our best show, to be honest. We just can't count how many people fell during a number (Megan, Summer...), twisted their ankles (Derek... well, only Derek did that), forgot sequences (Jasmine...) poked people on accident on stage (Bob, Hill...) and played

like there was no tomorrow so the dancers couldn't keep up (entire band...). Special congrats to Rustin for losing his clogging shoe a couple of times during Journey.

Well, that's about it, except for the rendezvous some of us had at In and Out. The party consisted of Aubree, Hill, Spencer (of course), the Gardners, Dave, Jamon, Scotty, Nate, and Ed. Oh, and don't forget Ed sleeping with the naked... I mean anatomically correct dolls! He claims he was tortured, but we all know he liked it.

Saturday March 12, 2005 (Bob Gardner)

Prescott, AZ to Camp Verde, AZ

That would best be pronounced by pinching your nose really hard with the index finger and thumb of your dominant hand and then saying "Caamp Virdie." Most families have lived there for over three decades, and most of their children have married foreigners to get away from the place. (Okay, maybe that's quite a leap...but...maybe not.)

Em Tikalsky gave the most succinct description of the venue:

"Okay, well, this will most likely be the best show of the entire tour. At least I love these shows the most because it'll be a big adventure and we'll make a lot of memories. It looks like the band will be on the pedestal between the two presidential busts, and we'll be making most our entrances from the ramp on stage right, though we may try coming down through the audience as well." Don't forget changing in the hallway behind the "thing" that they put up for us.

Naturally, with a description like that, the dancers did their best to preserve the already dubious reputation of the place. Fritz decided to tell the audience that cats meow even in French. He then proceeded to change the tune of the Happy Birthday song. Jamon pulled a fast one on Ed in Running Sets. Apparently he did it so well that we later had to tell Ed that *he* was the one on the bottom of the dog pile. James invented a Scottish solo on the fly. To take the attention off of Scotty's skintight pants, Gregg surprised the audience by saying "s-words" instead of swords. Dave graced the Irish floor with a flopping belt, while Hillary got run over by oncoming traffic while trying to get on the stage. Spencer decided to run into the Israeli circle all by himself. The girls sang opera at the end of Szatmar. John decided to dance on the PCC at the end of Mek. Finally, Jamon waved a few counts early in Bread and Salt. Apparently he wanted to get the dance over with. All in all, I'd say we were true to the Outdoor Code and left the place better than we found it.

Sunday March 13, 2005 (Crystal Robinson)

Camp Verde, AZ to Provo, UT

It was a simple day. We got up, went to church, got on the bus, made a few food and rest stops, and got home around 6:30, a very reasonable arrival time.

Church was a short Sacrament meeting where Derek spoke, wearing a blue shirt for circumstances beyond his control, and where others such as Hillary also shared good thoughts.

On the bus we had fun reading the rest of the embarrassing moments and giving away the rest of the candy for Savers and Sours, and a few were able to get sugar highs. Nate also said a prayer in Warren's behalf, although we had decided to postpone our special fast until our bodies had the time to rest.

It had been a good, but challenging tour, and most of the team was ready to get back, even if it meant facing school again, which wasn't easy that next week. We made the necessary stops, and got home in time to eat dinner. There were some happy reunions, and some real excitement at the opportunity to decorate our apartments with our blue and red costume bags, and we all went our separate ways.

Southern States Tour

Thursday April 28, 2005, (Jana Barker)
Provo, UT to Memphis, TN

Flying to Memphis – something few of us had ever really considered doing. We were told “Southern states” months before and the response was varied. No European excursion? Do we still need a passport to get into New Orleans? We bid bon voyage to the BYU dancers going to the South Pacific, China, Thailand and packed our bags for Sweet Home Alabama. Little did we know what exotic adventures inevitably awaited us in the Deep South. Visions of “Gone with the Wind”, Br’er Bear and Br’er Rabbit, and the Crocodile Hunter danced in our wee little heads.

6:30 AM on a Thursday found us – ties, skirts, and nametags (well, ties for the guys, skirts for the girls) – at the American Airline gate and we rolled through security with only Dave getting frisked - only to find it was his gum that set off the alarm. That aluminum foil bubble gum. Gets ya every time. We were given our boarding passes and were told not to leave our bags alone at any time. Dallas, TX is our first destination. At the airport, people pulled out scriptures, earphones, or Munchkin Fu to pass the wait, or else watched the sensational airport news channel that was still talking about Michael Jackson. The Gardner’s gave us a devotional for the day as we gathered in the waiting lounge by our gate.

Once in Dallas, we got lunch with our precious per diem (that’s Latin for “cash 4 food” - a phrase we would come to know and love) at the airport. By this point, the girls had spent a good six hours in their black nylons. Joyous. We sat at our gate and ate croissants, had granola bars or yogurt from home, or grabbed some Chinese food. I personally had a very nice chat with some of the married members of our team (there are six married couples – Austin’s, Dean’s, Gardner’s, Lamb’s, Morgan’s, and Tikalsky’s; five married lone travelers – Aubree, Ben, Lacey, Leisha, and Roy; and one engaged team member - Kim) about the dimensions and surprises of marriage. So, if anyone has any questions, just ask Nollo. He’s pretty sure he knows it all when it comes to marriage.

As is expected and hoped for, there were some interesting exchanges on the airplane. Bob and Jasmine talked quite a bit to a gentleman on our way to Memphis on the airplane and I even stepped out of my comfort zone and spoke to a woman from Columbia in Spanish. It was a major breakthrough for me. Now if I could only do that in Japanese...

On our arrival, we grabbed our bags from the mysterious conveyor belt and headed for the door. There was a welcome to Memphis display by the door that played music and had four large guitars. We were now in the city of rock and soul. We were met just outside by a limousine, except it wasn’t for us. So we took the next best thing – Utah Trailways. We piled into what would become our home and abode for the next 30 days. We also became acquainted with our bus driver, Buddy, who, I might add, has a great sense of humor. We played our theme song for the day “Song of the South” provided by Jeff and introduced the phrase for our trip, “Get ‘er done.” The Activities committee also challenged us with a picture scavenger hunt with things like a coral snake, an Elvis impersonator, jambalaya, a Baptist church and more.

We decided to start our stay in the South with doing something that BYU students and Southerners alike share as a common hobby: eating. There’s nothing like a Southern BBQ. We went to a joint called Corky’s. It even has a smiling pig with a chef’s hat on the sign. This was a perfect introduction to the south. We ordered beef, pork, and/or chicken with Corky’s special sauce and had sides of coleslaw and baked beans. Dave and Nate shared what looked like an entire cow – ribs prepared wet or dry. Thank goodness we had bibs to wear or we would have worn the BBQ on our shirts. That doesn’t make for a good host family first impression.

We arrived at a chapel in Memphis and met our host families. It was an incredibly pleasant day and evening – the humidity hadn’t hit hard yet. Our families were so excited, and so were we. Some took off with families to their homes and others got – yep, you guessed it – more to eat. We would find that feeding us is one of our host families’ favorite pastimes. Gregg’s fam took him and his roomies to get ice cream. The girl dishing up ice cream gave them either single or double scoops. When she was counting up the amount of ice cream cones, she asked “Who’s a single?” meaning “who has one scoop?” Well, Gregg, having two scoops, still raised his hand. Why? Because he thought the girl was wondering who was not married. Oh Gregg. Shelley got to stay at a home with a goat, and Jamon gained a girlfriend - a sister missionary recently returned from Italy. Well, we managed to get to Memphis all in one piece, the girls were finally able to take off those beloved nylons, and we were finally lovin’ and livin’ in the South.

Friday April 29, 2005, (James Frazee)
Memphis, Tennessee

Today was the first show day of tour. We started out by going to our first elementary school show. It was a big cafeteria with a LOT of kids!! The line-up was what became our typical elementary school repertoire: Hillary and

Aubree doing the Tip Reel Irish duet, James doing his Scottish, Rapper Sword, Indian, Mek and “Fabrique” –(French Canadian). The kids loved the show!! They were absolutely enthralled by Rapper Sword, and dazzled by the Irish costumes! Some of the girls were already trying out the Indian dancing, as it was being done on stage. It is always SO FUN to go play with the kids. Gregg also did “Aki Do So”. He does so well with the kids!! Kudos to our own elementary school teacher!! This one really gets the kids going, because they get to participate themselves, and watch and “follow” some of their teachers, and the principal, who are also dancing out front of the whole group.

After we performed for them, some of them came up on stage and did some performing for us. First, they had some of their kids do some clogging. Then another group of them did some “steppin.” It was really cool!! They did so well!! Watching them do the Steppin’ totally reminded me of Gumboots. After we finished with that, and most of the kids had gone back to class, we took a big group picture with all of us, and with the Steppin’ kids. We all finished off with a rousing participation of some line dances, including the Electric Slide. During one line dance, Bob, John and some other guys added their own personal touch to the dance by inserting some Hungarian closes at various points in the dance.

We went over to the Rose Theater to start our regular show routine. The show went well. Anthony already has started taping the show. Kudos to Leisha for the great lights!!

After the show, a bunch of the guys went with their host families down to Beale Street, during the big “Memphis in May” music celebration, to see Memphis at night and to go to Hard Rock Cafe. Beale Street was blocked off, and people were carded on entrance. However, all that went down there managed to get through without being carded. The street was so crowded!! There were even people out preaching against sin and crying repentance in the middle of a “Sodom and Gomorrah.” It was something like what one sees outside the Conference Center during General Conference. Whenever I see them, I always think how sad it is that they are saying all the right words, but the context is so wrong! On the way out, we stopped briefly to watch a rock band perform, then stopped again for a short time to watch a jazz band play.

Saturday April 30, 2005 (Megan Leavitt) Memphis, TN to Helena, AK

We awoke in Memphis, and met bright and early at the bus. It was Graceland Day. Some of us were apprehensive of what was in store, while others were giddy with excitement to visit the home of the King. Maybe we were a little too giddy because we showed up before it even opened. Mostly I think it’s because Buddy is a diehard closet Elvis fan and drove like Speed Racer to get to Graceland. (“Go Speed Racer! Go Speed Racer Gooooooooo!”)

Graceland. *Sigh* What words can adequately describe the abode of the King of Rock and Roll? I’m certain I don’t have the vocabulary to do it justice. I have also decided that Graceland is something you feel, you can’t just see it. It’s an experience which is different for everyone that visits depending on their relationship and dedication to Elvis Presley. Therefore, I will attempt to share my own feelings and impressions of Graceland in hopes that perhaps my rendition of the experience will bring back the fondest of memories for all of us.

While waiting in line to get on our shuttle over to the estate, we took a big group picture under the painted Graceland wall. The photographer said “One more!” about nine times. I’ve learned from dancing with Ed that “one more” never ever means one more in real life. After our photo session we received our headphones and little radio packs and headed off on the grand tour.

A quick recap would take first to the Graceland Mansion. Picture yourself entering the big white doors, the big black woman telling you to keep moving and push number 32 on your headset to start the tour. As you look to your right, you see Elvis’ living room, with that piano in the back and the big long white couch on the right. On either side of the room is a portrait of Elvis himself, and another of his pappy. Moving on, you see the purple bedroom in the back where apparently his parents stayed when they visited. Going around the staircase, the dining room comes into view. Elvis entertained many important guests here. Wow. We move through the kitchen and the headset guy says that there were cooks cooking around the clock because someone was always hungry. You start to think that you’re a little hungry yourself.

You turn the corner and get to walk down the super mirror-covered staircase to the basement. At the bottom, on your left is the cool TV room with three television sets and blue and yellow sparkly pillows on the couch.

You then walk through the room with fabric covering the walls and ceiling. Don’t forget the rip in the pool table from a game of pool played by Elvis. These are the memories we cherish. We walk up some stairs and enter dun du du dun: the Jungle Room. Shag carpet everywhere, even on the ceiling, animal furniture and a waterfall. Dave decided that he wants to have a jungle room in his house too.

We saw the old carport, the office where Elvis’ dad did all his business, Lisa Marie’s old swing set, the horses in the pasture, the huge museum thing devoted to highlighting Elvis’ career with all his awards etc., the racquetball court, and finally his grave. It was an interesting experience to see his grave. It just felt very dramatic. It was like a

shrine, with the eternal flame burning next to his grave. I walked by a woman with tears in her eyes. I suppose it was emotional to realize that the king really was dead.

We finished the morning at the Sincerely Elvis Museum, the Automobile Museum and the “Lisa Marie” and “Hound Dog II” jets. This was my favorite part because Crystal was on the phone and didn’t see where she was going and hit her head on the jet engine. Another highlight for me was seeing all the rhinestone covered one-piece suits and the fuzzy furry round bed. When I asked Roy about Graceland, he simply stated, “We went. We conquered. We left.”

We hopped on the bus with our Elvis souvenirs gripped in hand ready for the road trip ahead. Mix Master Jeffrey stood up and announced that he needed some volunteers. Scotty, Shelley, and I volunteered. It was announced that we were going to have an Elvis Idol competition. We were given ample prep time to strategize, and the competition began. Woo, woo! Scotty started the competition with a saucy rendition of “*Love Me Tender*.” He had the voice, he had the ‘tude. Could the rest of us top it? Shelley gave us quite the show with a sassy hip shakin’ version of “*Hound Dog*.” Derek, you got yourself more than a handful. The moment arrived. It was my turn to take the stage. I grabbed the microphone and began. (Hushed silence over the crowd.) I sang my heart out with a soulful and sultry rendition of “*Fools Rush In*.” Picture Megan, walking down the aisles of the bus, singing to John Noll who totally snubs her and pushes her out of his face. She makes her way to the back, lip curled, collar up, and finishes the performance with a throw of the cape from off her neck. (Ok, it was a jacket, but lack of resources calls for improvisation on a tour bus.) The crowd roared...I knew I was meant to be a star. Hmm...so long story short, victory for me, and I reign as champion Elvis Idol. Jeff awarded yours truly a cheesy postcard and a magnet picture of the group at Graceland. It was a fabulous experience. Well done to all who participated, and especially to Jeff for being a phenomenal Elvis Idol host. “Thank you very much!”

We finally arrived at the venue in Helena, Arkansas. It had an interesting history. I shall quote directly the words Roy used to describe it to me. “A rich old guy named Warfield left money to the city to do cultural arts and created the endowment so the community arts group could have Warfield concerts. And now the cultural arts people are getting so old, I wonder what will happen because there were no young people there.”

Helena had seen a lot of professional shows, and many people told us that ours was the best they’ve seen. Well done to all of us.

Half of us stayed and set up the show while the rest went to check in all the bags at our hotel: The Isle of Capri casino. While Ed, Vickie and Roy were taking care of business inside, Marie and Justin ran off to do laundry and the rest of us had a dance party on the bus. After a couple of hours, our fearless leaders discovered that there was a miscommunication and all our rooms had been given to other guests the night before. So we returned to the venue with nowhere to stay and a story that the hotel didn’t allow Mormons to stay there, it was robbed, and burned down all at the same time.

At dinner we ate an interesting noodle casserole that kind of tasted like chicken enchiladas. They gave us Mountain Spring water that was the same kind Elvis used to drink on stage. Jana wanted me to make sure I got that tidbit in there. The show went well. Kim finally joined us just a few minutes before the show started. She was feeling much better. But we forgot her mandolin on the bus, and so she only played the washboard for the first half of the show. That’s ok. We were just glad to have her back and well. It was also the first night that the back up Indian girls danced. They were amazing.

Because the casino fell thru, Roy improvised and we stayed at the ever available Motel 6. I shall quote Roy again. “Helena was such a fun experience. And then they kicked us out (Isle of Capri) and were mean and cruel and nasty people. And then we had to go and stay in a Motel 6 but we had to go borrow key envelopes from Best Western because Motel 6 didn’t have enough. And there were wires sticking out of the beds.” Thanks Roy.

The married people checked in early, while the rest of us stayed up later and tried to party a bit. But we were too tired in the end, and climbed into our springy beds for a good night’s rest.

Sunday May 1, 2005 (Various entries) Helena AK to Tupelo, MI

We attended the branch in Helena, Arkansas today. There were 9 members of their branch and we filled up the rest of the quaint chapel. It was really neat to see the faith of these members and their diligence. It was fast Sunday today, so a number of us had the opportunity to share our testimonies. It was great to hear each other bear witness of the truth of the gospel and Jesus Christ. We found out later a man had come to church today after seeing our show last night. He'd only been to bar shows previous to seeing our show, and the end where we sing really touched him. He'd never been to the church before, but he felt he should go. He came and felt the Holy Ghost through our tears and testimonies. What an awesome example that the Holy Ghost can touch lives through our dancing.

After church we got sack lunches that the branch had made, then we drove back to the motel to load up some costume bags because of the crazy day scheduled tomorrow with a couple of elementary shows and a TV taping. We drove the rest of the afternoon to Tupelo, Mississippi (the birthplace of Elvis Presley).

When we arrived around 4:00 to the Stake Center, the members had a Southern dish of noodles, cheese, and chicken ready for us. Next came the practicing for the fireside. After the fireside, the members had a dessert bar. We ate and mingled with the members and youth. It was great to begin getting to know the people in this area. There were only like 5 host families so most of them took several. One family took 11 of us.

Monday May 2, 2005 (Linsey Davis)
Tupelo, MI

Today was our earliest morning yet for some. The television taping required them to be to the station and ready to go by 5:30 a.m. This group included Mek (Bob, Fritz, Nollo, Rustin, and Justin) and the two couple French Canadian (Fritz, Rustin, Cynthia, and Lindsay O. – oh, and we can't forget the band members – Russell, Ben, & Lacey). The rest of us got to sleep in a little bit longer before meeting at the church at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast. Our hosts were very attentive and spent the day with us, making sure that our needs were taken care of until we left. At breakfast we watched the t.v. broadcast they did just hours before. Peter was asked the most questions out of the dancers and was still having some memory trouble (last night he blanked on Abby's name during the fireside introductions) when he was asked where he was from.

After breakfast, we loaded the bus to go to an elementary school. The performance was at 8:00 a.m. It was the same line-up as usual for elementary school shows (French Canadian, Irish duet, Scottish Solo by James, Rapper Sword, Aki Do So, Indian and Mek). After this performance we went to another elementary school followed by a middle school. We changed the show up a little bit at the middle school by inserting Journey for French Canadian. Having four performances before 11:00 was very exhausting not to mention how hard it was just to get up that early in the morning.

The middle school show was interesting with a very slippery floor during clogging as well as a small stage. At the end of Justin and Linsey's duet, Justin pulls Linsey across him resulting in a falling microphone for Lacey – Sorry Lacey! This was not the only time that their mics fell over, Megan and others ran into them as well! During Aki Do So, the principal and another male teacher were unwilling to lay down on their backs on the floor like the others on stage – I guess they have seen what has been on those floors! Ed also gave his usual “Hey you guys” instead of “Hey Ya'll” explanation to the kids.

After all of the morning shows were successfully completed, we made a stop at Elvis' birthplace. (Oh, the middle school we were at was supposedly the first place where Elvis performed.) It was a tiny little white house with a porch swing. Next to it was the chapel of love where Shelley pretended to marry Jamon and Lindsay G. with Linsey D., Aubree, and others in the line. The entire morning, Brother Thornton, our host, was taking pictures. He got some pictures of this little “ceremony” too! While we were walking to the chapel, he told Linsey and others, “Whether you like Elvis or not, he made a huge impact on the world with his music and look at what kind of house he came from.”

Our next stop was at Wal-Mart for about 45 minutes before going to a food court to get some lunch. At 1:00, as usual, we loaded into our venue at Tupelo. The venue was a high school and was very nice. There was a big room just behind the stage that was used for props, luggage, Teri, and steaming. The dressing rooms were on stage right. There was one room for the boys (they overflowed into the hall) and the girls had two rooms. The stage was big and our crowd was very responsive during the show. It was also a show that was filled up more than previous venues. The T-shirt sales were also very successful with a total income of \$900. Warm-up and devotional were in the big room just behind the stage too.

It was a 7:30 show so we got on the bus at 4:30 to go to dinner at the same church where we had had breakfast. The laundry crew also went to a members' home to get their work done. Ed and Vickie went with them and took a dip in the pool while Shelley and Nate slaved away inside worked on the laundry! (Vickie says that someone's telling stories.)

The devotional was given by Marie and was very good – Nate told about it in his history from yesterday. We stayed one more night with this same family in Tupelo before traveling onto our next city. Derek, Shelley, Jana, Summer and Linsey enjoyed pizza and swimming after the show in an amazing home. Derek was being recruited by all of the dentists and our hosts, showing him what beautiful homes he and Shelley could be living in 2 years out of school.

This has been one of the best places to so far in regards to how supportive and attentive our hosts have been as well as the size and responsiveness of the people

**Tuesday May 3, 2005, (Justin Keyes)
Tupelo, MS to Jackson, MS**

Well, well, well... Tues. May 3, 2005. Day 6 of tour. I woke up at 7:00 this morning, put on my gray striped polo and khaki pants (an important detail to me because I am in charge of tour clothes), but you don't really care about that because this is a tour history for everyone, not my personal journal. So... WE all met at the Tupelo Stake Center at 8:00 and the nice Sisters there served us a delicious breakfast of buttermilk pancakes, waffles, sausage, bacon, and fruit. After finishing our scrumptious meal we all made our own lunches and loaded the bus to travel to Jackson, MS. We were actually headed to a small town just outside Jackson called Madison.

Upon arriving we discovered that we would have perhaps the most challenging setup on tour. Our venue was an old school (I think) that had been converted to the Madison County Cultural Arts Center. The stage was in an old gym in which the windows had been covered with black plastic. We had no direct access to the stage so we had to load (and lug) everything (including all the trees, the sound board, and the trees) up 7 or 8 stairs and across the gym floor. Some of the heavier things (like the berthas) were left down the stairs in a closet. The stage had no rigging for lighting, so the sponsors had some portable rigging brought in, which led to some creative lighting work by Leisha and the rest of the tech crew. The backstage area was limited. Two small rooms, one on stage right and one on stage left, were claimed for quick changes. The girls had one relatively small changing room at the top of a steep stairwell. Most of the guys were down in the basement below the stage.

This place was seriously like the haunted venue. There was a door in the basement painted with the words "gas chamber". There were rats, spiders, and cockroaches, some of which found their way into our costumes and costume bags. ("Lookout! There's a cockroach in Linsey Davis' costume bag."). I don't think any of the window sills in the building had been dusted in the last 10 years. So, anyway, setup, setup, setup was interesting but worked out just fine. We headed to dinner at the Madison Church building at 4:30. Mmmmm... baked potatoes and chili. We went back to the venue and got ready for the performance at 7:30.

The lighting situation and having a smaller stage was a little tricky. Marie twisted her ankle during Running Sets, which led to the removal of Korean Fan during the second half. Anyway, not a bad show... kind of a small audience, but a good audience. The great thing about this day was that we did not have to strike our set because we had another show there the next day. We just zipped up our costume bags, hopped on the bus, and headed to our Best Western motel. Some crashed, some partied. All in all, a good day.

**Wednesday May 4, 2005, (Shelley Dean)
Jackson, MI**

We traveled an hour to Vicksburg today. After watching a short film about the battle that took place, we got back on the bus for an audio tour. We took a group photo on the steps of the Illinois monument (it looked like the Pantheon) and walked around the USS Cairo. We ended up being there a little too long and couldn't find somewhere to eat so we headed to the elementary school for a 1:30 performance.

The show must go on - with or without lunch. The stage was small so most dances were performed on the ground in front. Many people forgot pieces of their costumes so Rapper Sword ended up being 3 Rappers and 2 visiting French Canadian men. Irish had some guys in their very tight, high-waisted Appalachian pants as well. The floor was pretty slippery but over all, the show went great and of course the kids loved it. Best part was the free popcorn they gave to the kids and to us! Roy, Vickie and our poor, injured Marie went to the rescue and bought chips and salsa, yogurt, fruit, juice, etc. so we wouldn't die from hunger. Then we headed back to the hotel for about an hour and a half of down time before heading to dinner! After tacos and delicious watermelon, we got ready for the show.

Marie was taken back to the hotel to rest so once again, the girls didn't do Korean. (It was a nice break). Abby became a star in the show again, filling in for Marie - sure is a good thing we have her. We saw more cockroaches and spiders the second day at the scary theatre but no one got hurt luckily. The Gardners struggled a little during Hungarian when Bob couldn't get his pants unknotted, leaving Hillary to do a spinning solo, and Jasmine forgot to exit early with the rest of the girls. So instead of improv-ing, she just ran off! The venue was quite the place and they videoed it all. Poor Teri, while videoing the guys gas chamber down stairs, got dust all over her from the ceiling with our pounding during Irish. Take down took some time, since everything had to be carried down stairs and over ledges. On our way back, Buddy was kind enough to allow us a quick stop at WalMart and in almost exactly 10 minutes, as instructed, everyone was back on the bus. WalMart employees were pretty scared and wondering what was going on when we all ran around grabbing things. It was quite an interesting day.

Thursday May 5, 2005 (Derek Dean)
Jackson, MI to Shreveport, LA

We awoke this morning reminiscent of our battle last night with a small stage, the stairway of death, and our struggles in the gas chamber. We endured, however, at our luxurious continental breakfast in the hotel. During our bus ride to Shreveport, LA we celebrated the birthday of our beloved Cynthia Streeter.

Upon our arrival at the Strand Theatre, Dave McMullin had a live TV interview, with his lovely assistant Megan Leavitt there for moral support. Then it was time for the most important part of the day, Frisbee time. Several of the guys played a full round of Frisbee golf on a beautiful riverside course, while everyone else enjoyed relaxing in the sun.

Our performance was sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in support of the Providence House, a homeless shelter that prepares its tenants to leave the shelter by providing education and employment skills. The shelter provides day care services that permit parents to receive training. The first group that attended the shelter played games like Duck, Duck, Goose and Red Light, Green Light with the youngest children. We were planning on spending about a 30 minutes with the kids, but after 2½ hours, we were still going strong. When the older kids arrived, we played a rhythm game with plastic cups and showed off some of our costumes. By the time the rest of the team arrived at Providence House for dinner, the band was playing folk songs with little kids dancing and singing along. This was one of the greatest experiences on tour as we were able to touch so many people, or better said, how others were able to touch us.

We were welcomed to town by Sister Kay Loftin, the stake compassionate service leader, and by former folk dancer, Clay Merrill. Clay also introduced our performance and prepped the audience for our spectacular show. During the performance it seemed like the girls were dressing everywhere (as always), and some of the boys were banished to the upper floors. The stage was wonderful, and the show was fabulous. The strike also went along uneventfully, and we left with our host families.

Overall, today marked one of our best days during tour because of all we were able to do and for the wonderful people we met. We formed many friendships and helped improve the recognition of the Church in an area where it has seen drastic membership declines. I believe Sister Kay said it best: "You have done more for the church in this area in 24 hours than anyone could do in a lifetime. Thank you so much."

Friday May 6, 2005 (Lindsay Griffin)
Shreveport, LA to Baton Rouge, LA

Today we started in Shreveport, Louisiana. This morning we met at a church to load up on the bus. While we were there waiting to load up, Jerry L Ainsworth, one of the host family guys gave each of us a signed copy of a book he wrote called "The Lives and Travels of Mormon and Moroni."

Once we were all loaded up, we headed over to Herndon Magnet School where we did a little show for the 6th graders. There was this boy named Matthew who rocked out with the band on his banjo. He was pretty good and it was fun for the band to have a banjo player. After the show, when we were back on the bus, Kay Loftin, the lady who was in charge of presenting us, came and talked to us. She was so appreciative of us for coming and performing. Through our performances they were able to get the name of the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints out to the public in a positive way, and she said how we were able to do more missionary work in 24 hours than could normally be done in a lifetime just through our performances and how we presented ourselves.

Our original plan today was to go visit a plantation outside of Baton Rouge after the school show, but Roy decided that we would go a different day because it just didn't fit into our schedule nicely with all the traveling that we had to do. So we left Shreveport and traveled down to Baton Rouge. On the way we watched "The Phantom of the Opera" to keep us entertained on the long bus ride. Once we reached Baton Rouge, we all had a free night and so people went in different groups to do different activities. Most of us went to surrounding restaurants for dinner. Some of the group went to Semolina's to eat. Once the workers found out they were dancers, they wanted them to dance for them. Of course, anytime that we can get something free, we don't pass up the opportunity and they got some free cheesecake for dancing. Later this evening some hopped into the hotel pool, played Battle of the Sexes, did laundry or caught a cab to head downtown to check out a dance club.

Today was a nice, relaxing day which is a nice change from the regular performing routine. Although relaxing, we did have some interesting clothing stories. Kim's shirt fell into the toilet this morning at her host family's home and so she started out the day in wet shirt because it didn't have time to dry. Also, Megan had the unfortunate, yet funny incident of having her pants rip at the dance club while getting her groove on

**Saturday May 7, 2005, (Dave McMullin)
Baton Rouge, LA**

To whom it may concern, the following account of this day is a result of the surroundings of the one and only Dave McMullin. It is said that history is in the eye of the beholder and is usually only biased opinions. Well y'all this is no exception!! There may be a few who have influenced his writings but they will naturally be left anonymous. How else is he supposed to receive full credit of y'all's memory of this super-duper day. Let's begin shall we?

It all started on a beautiful morning on the bus for a few minutes all dressed in baby blue, well cuz that's what our t-shirt color is and we finally got to wear them after much controversy whether they would be appropriate for the swamp or not. We arrived at the Alligator Bayou where the ever-so-funny mister Jim was our guide for the day. Princess Marie was his favorite victim and would always volunteer her to be his volunteer despite her freaking out to everything he said or wanted her to do. Perhaps this is why he enjoys his job so much so he can tease innocent lil' ol' girls. ☺ The first stop of the tour was a manmade habitat for the swamp animals where we were introduced to a dozen snakes, turtles, fishes, and of course gators. We then went to the "dark side" of the tour and no I'm not referring to the force, but to where the big fatty gators were. "Mister Jiiiiimmm" (voice of nagging assistant) showed us some of the gators as he fed them finger lickin' chicken (mmm mmm good). A few of them were so hungry that a few almost chomped Marie's legs off but luckily Mister Jim and his assistant had their mighty staffs of power to beat these monstrosities of animals back. Luckily none of us succumbed to the powers of the dark side and triumphed victoriously.

We then loaded onto our transport, a boat, driven by Cap'n Jack along with our favorite guide and received the tour of a life time of the beautiful bayou. Many of the trees were dying or dead due to the high levels of water. If your memory of this sight has failed you just think of the ending of Lord of the Rings Two Towers movie with the Ents and the Flooding of Saruman's tower. Here we saw eagles soar above us and were introduced to an actual R.O.U.S. ("oh my sweet Wesley what have I done?") aka the Nutria. What a cute lil' guy, especially as he took down all those Dum-Dums. We took a break from the boat and looked at the natural swamp and got to hold a big ol' snake, beady-eyed possums, a baby alligator and a toddler gator. Kim freaked out while trying to hold the snake and the baby gator decided to take care of his business on both Scottys and gave Ed a pierced ear. Ed never felt cooler. Once we got back from the tour we were welcomed by a Cajun performing group who taught the ways of Cajun dancing - although they were definitely used to teaching people with no dancing capabilities. The day at the bayou concluded with a fatty, but yummy meal from Sonic thanks to Roy. PAM rocks!

Tonight we performed at LSU and had a fairly quick 'n easy set up, since we had the help of the students working there. Abby had a near death experience while setting up, but luckily Anthony the DUNSTINATOR came to her rescue as he swooped to her aid in catching a tree while it was about to smash the daylights outta 6 pack Abbs. Peter was mighty appreciative of Anthony's heroic act. There was a swweeeeet (say like Dash Incredible) field for ULTIMATE. Oh and who could forget about the A-mazing warm up music of Bollywood that got us all pumped up (ah arEE-ha).

Nothing major occurred in the show, but the highlight had to be Russell's flaring flip'n fast flaming feet of fury as he showed the Rapper Sword mates how to shuffle. It was amazing I tell ya! Before the dance was even finished the rest of the group (especially the girls) went wild and cheered sooooo loud. Go figure - Russell comes out of his shell and works his way into the hearts of all the ladies by showing all of us where his other talents lie. Is it possible for a guy to have it all? Well ladies don't forget that this stud does. And who could forget at the end of the show when our bows got all funkified due to a little surprise that Scotty had for us. Ya see after tag we were fixin' to do our bows and of course the audience is naturally going wild when all of a sudden Scotty turns on the "Ladies and Gentlemen" track causing a hush to fall over the crowd. So we did our bows in pure silence, how odd. Then eventually they decided to clap again and again and again. Go US!! Then to Lacey's surprise Drew (her lover/husband) was in the audience and after "Go Ye now in Peace" she takes a mighty bound across the stage, we're talking major hang time here, and dives into the arm's of the man she loves making the rest of us gag, especially the married and engaged ones without their better halves. You could say that it was cute but that would take too long to write about (hee hee ☺).

Now for some words by our fellow fans and friends in the audience: "You put Riverdance to shame!" "I didn't think perfection was possible until I saw this." And Linsey Davis was so incredibe that she inspired a girl to become a dancer. You go girl!! And thus ends the super Saturday of May seventh. Don't forget to call y'all's mammas tomorrow. Peace out!

Sunday May 8, 2005, (Kim Keller)
Baton Rouge, LA

Day 12 of tour. Today was a great day because, after a performance the night before at LSU, we got to sleep in a little bit (depending on when our host families had church). When my roommates and I got to church, we had almost slept too much. Many of the group members attended church at the Baton Rouge Stake Center where my host dad (Stake President Bluth) presided at the meeting. I saw Russell and Ben and they looked sooo tired. Since it was Mother's Day and since we were in a much bigger ward and stake than we were in last week, they had a huge choir of children, youth and adults that sang for the occasion. There was a cute returned missionary there who spoke in sacrament meeting (Tommy Wilkinson) who was two weeks fresh off the mission. Some of the married people were trying to match him up with girls in our group.

Sunday School was about the law of tithing and the law of the fast, and the lady teaching made a disclaimer at the beginning because sacrament meeting had gone into her time and she wasn't as good as us dancers at being a "contortionist" (flexible, but with time in her case). It was a wonderful lesson on the law of tithing at the end of which we watched the movie with Lorenzo Snow and his promise of rain to the people in St. George.

In relief society Sister Bluth taught a lesson on overcoming temptation and we watched the movie about the Native American who goes up the mountain and sees a snake that cons him into carrying him down the mountain. The point was, don't think you're any different and can participate in unrighteous activities even once. At the end of third hour, the bishop (I think it was), came in and presented each woman with a huge Hershey chocolate bar for Mother's Day.

After church we all went home to our host family's houses to rest and eat dinner. After dinner we came back to the church at 5:30 and ran through the rest of our songs (I came a little late because that was the precise time at which my brother would be calling from his mission for Mother's Day and I was on conference call, but the most ironic part is that Davey was only four hours from where we were that day - in Houston, TX - and he said he had permission for me to come visit him. If only we were a little closer! Oh well).

The fireside started at 6:30 pm. We were grateful for a reasonably sized audience despite the festivities (Mother's Day). The stake president who was conducting mentioned that if we all could make the sacrifice to be on tour on Mother's Day, then all of them could sacrifice their traditions to come to our fireside on Mother's Day (and maybe we could start coming every year and it could become a tradition for them to attend our fireside every year on Mother's Day - ha ha).

We started our fireside with the usual introduction of everyone by Ed (my favorite part, and plus, Ed is so good at varying who he spotlights, and he has a good sense for when the audience is getting restless, so it's usually always just long enough to be interesting to them). His particular focus this time was the different majors we all have and he highlighted each part of our crew (tech, band, leaders, and then dancers). I felt special to stand up with only 5 other people in the band. The fireside went very well, and Ed even made a comment on the bus the next morning about how beautiful the girls looked. That's always nice to hear.

This is really all that happened today in Baton Rouge, besides that Ed supposedly tripped on his way up to the podium during the fireside, and Megan tripped on her way down to the podium to read the final scripture. Then she messed up on the scripture. Hmm...our last day in Baton Rouge - shucks. That night I went home to my host family's (President Bluth), and we watched Sister Bluth open Mother's Day presents while we ate raspberry ice cream dessert. Then we all played music and sang. Then they let me look at their daughter's wedding pictures and bridal magazines. When everyone went to sleep, I stayed up talking to Andrew (my fiancé) for another couple of hours on my host family's back sun porch. It was beautiful with a soft breeze blowing through the moss hanging off the live oak trees and the sound of (I don't actually know what they're called, but they make this swishing noise in the trees outside at night). I thought, if this is what Louisiana is all about, I like it (I'd always wanted to come here because my former roommate is from Destrahan, LA, just a few miles from Baton Rouge).

Monday May 9, 2005, (Spencer Morgan)
Baton Rouge, LA to New Orleans, LA

The day started out extremely early. Apparently getting up before sunrise is supposed to be good for us. The mood quickly changed as we all gathered around to listen to the dream Scotty had the night before. The details were sketchy, but the Amazing Spider-man was involved. The dream was, needless to say, riveting. With our attention caught, Jamon took advantage of the situation to tell us all of his exploits in the swamp in the backyard of his host family. He went looking for a lizard, ended up wrestling a twenty-foot alligator, and came out with only a small scratch from the lizard. He also came out with a small caterpillar we affectionately named Duck. Oh, the adventures we had with Duck were, to say the least, extraordinary.

Later that morning we were at the burned down Laura Plantation, which, despite the burnt-ness of it all, it was very interesting. We learned all about plantation life, including how they painted their houses and what not. We then continued along to the Oak Alley plantation, and all the way there we watched Song of the South with Japanese subtitles. Nothing like a good old story told by crazy old Uncle Remus, especially when it is translated into Japanese.

The rest of the afternoon was spent wandering around New Orleans, eating French beignets, and watching giant 3D sharks swim around. New Orleans is a wonderful little town, full of all the little things that a town like New Orleans should be full of. Needless to say, we were all ready to leave after an hour. Dinner was interesting enough. Most everyone went to Mulates, where they dined and danced as though they were born in the south.

After a long day of fun, we retired to one of the nicest hotels that PAM could afford in downtown New Orleans. Fun times.

**Tuesday May 10, 2005, (Hillary Morgan)
New Orleans, LA**

Today was Derek's birthday. He got dog-piled on the bus - that couldn't have been too comfortable. Roy announced yesterday the time for the hotel breakfast, but he must not have said it loud enough because tons of people came downstairs too late and went without breakfast. They made up for their lack of food by eating lunch at the oh so nutritious fast food district, Burger King and Rally's were the favorites. Dessert for some was nectar sucked from clover flowers (reviving childhood memories).

The photo scavenger hunt for gas costing less than \$2 was found everywhere, \$1.97 was the hot price. Spencer went crazy over Mardi Gras beads at dinner. Each table had beads piled as a center piece and yes, he put 98% of them on!

Ben Franklin High School made lighting set up once again especially fun due to the lights not being lowerable. Half way through French Canadian the sound blew and we finished the dance accapella. So afterwards, we all had a nice little rest except for those figuring out the problem and dealing with crazy people from the school who wouldn't keep the door to the circuit room unlocked.

The show was even more of a mess when it came to costume problems! Megan's Irish dress doesn't like to stay zipped up, she ran offstage and got it safety pinned shut only to slide back onstage, directly into Summer! The safety pins didn't even last long though, the dress was flapping wide open again by Cry of the Celts' large circle, giving the audience got a good look at her back. Marie managed to get a huge hole in the underarm of her Korean dress. Good thing no one raises their arms in that dance. Scotty displayed his sneaky skills by fastening his belt while on stage for Irish, a minor costume detail overlooked. Jana came running onstage for Szatmari, boots just barely pulled on, red ribbon still in hand and an un-pinned braid ready to do some damage to her partner's face. Speaking of stuff in people's faces, Shelley's *Hopak* headpiece ribbons attacked her at the end of the dance. Aubree also had a slight problem with her *Hopak*, it was put on backwards. It sure is lucky that those headpieces really just look like massive globs of flowers on our heads anyway. Justin had a starring moment at the very end of Irish when we decided to pause from the fancy footwork (not blanking out or anything of course) and strike a pose. He's officially ready for boy-band stardom now!

**Wednesday May 11, 2005 (John Noll)
New Orleans, LA to Gulfport/Biloxi, MS**

Today is our free day, yeah! We met the bus early in the morning, so we would have time to make it to the USS Alabama and the beach. The USS Alabama is a battleship that was used in the Korean War. We were able to walk around the USS Alabama, and see what it was like. The ship had everything; it was a self contained city. Spencer and Hillary ate in the mess hall and took a nap in the bunks. This extended experience was an extra special honeymoon treat for our newlyweds. Peter and Abby also had a good time. Peter said if he had to be on the ship he would want to manage the ice cream and sodas because then everyone would like him, and want to be his friend. (I didn't know he was having trouble with that.) Abby said she would be a nurse (surprise, surprise). While touring the battleship, Ed learned some new vocabulary on the ship and shared his new found knowledge with everyone on the bus.

Bulk head = wall

Dog the hatches = lock the doors

Sea dog = older sailor (Ed, for example)

Ladder = the stairs

Davy Jones Locker = the ocean

Batten down = to close, to cover tightly

Beam = the point of the ship that is widest
Ports = windows
Scullery = area to wash dishes
Stack = chimney
Pollywog = someone who has never crossed the equator

Near the battleship, was a submarine that many of us toured. It was surprising how small the inside of the submarine was, especially considering the number and size of torpedoes on board.

After a hot day at sea, we drove to Biloxi to play at the beach. On the way, we watched “the Incredibles”. Interestingly, at the beach we went to, you could walk out over 100 yards and the water was still only to your knees. We had fun playing in the water and playing on the beach. Memories of last year’s tour came back to many while we watched Peter swinging his shorts above his head. We also had fun playing Frisbee on the beach. Just about everyone joined in the game before the day was over. Some tried to sun bathe or read books on the shore, but Peter and his posse saw to it that everyone went in the water - whether they wanted to or not. Sorry Marie. Roy escaped the wrath of Peter’s Posse by staying as far from us and the water as possible. Where *did* you go Roy?

Anyway, after a fun day at the beach, Roy treated us to pizza and salad at Pizza Hut. Who knew pudding and Nilla wafers could be so popular. Finally, our free day came to an end. We met our host families and went to bed. Good night.

**Thursday May 12, 2005, (Lacey Williams)
Gulfport/Biloxi, MS**

Thursday began with an activity not generally part of the routine. The group gathered at the buses and then headed to the Armed Forces Retirement Center in Biloxi, Mississippi. It was our second day in Biloxi. The retirement center was a good time. We danced for, and with the veterans, and they really enjoyed it. The memorable quote from the event was about Jasmine Gardner. A certain veteran praised her for being a “docile Asian Chic”, the kind he would choose, and commended Bob for his good taste. The show was a good experience and they kindly gave us pins as a memory.

After the retirement center we had a few hours of free time. There was the beach, the mall, and we had a good time. The stage was average for our show that night. We played at a middle school that used to be a high school. The band had an exciting time, Carrie and Kim wore their curly wigs for the first time and Lacey wore fake eyelashes – little did Kim and Carrie know that they would have to wear the wigs forever after. After the show we had to load the U-haul for a long drive the next day. It was stressful for awhile, but we were able to get everything finished eventually and head home to our wonderful Biloxi families!

**Friday May 13, 2005, (Jeff Tolsma)
Gulfport/Biloxi, MS to Jacksonville, FL**

The 4am wake-up most of the group had was not the coolest thing about this tour for sure. In fact it was almost pointless to even go to bed after last night’s performance. Well, three hours for most was helpful I guess for today’s activities. We all met the bus and were on the road by 5am. Good bye Biloxi/Gulfport and the beach which we enjoyed.

The scene was all too funny for those who were awake to enjoy it. Legs, arms, and bodies were positioned every which way on the bus. Some people were using others as supports and everyone was just trying to sleep and enjoy some rest. For this reason the longest trip scheduled, going to Jacksonville, Florida, really didn’t feel as long as it sounded because most people weren’t coherent until 8 or 9 o’clock. Because of the length of the trip, and stipulations placed on Scott Horman our technical director, we had to rent a Uhaul to go with the bus knowing that Scott and the truck wouldn’t arrive until just before the show. The Uhaul drivers were split into shifts and they included Derek & Shelley Dean, Brian & Emily Tikalsky, James & Teri, and Jeff & Megan.

When we finally arrived in Jacksonville, the highlight really was the venue we would perform in that evening. We arrived at the Florida Theater in just enough time to setup and get ready for the show. The Theater was exceptional to perform in. It held about 1900 seats and was a very old style theater. It was intricately decorated on the interior with paintings, statues, chandeliers, and it was a split level with a full balcony that was up high. It is a theater which has hosted countless Broadway Productions, Concerts including Elvis Presley and now, of course, the BYU Folk Dance Ensemble. The hosting alumni did an exceptional job with dinner. It was held in one of the banquet rooms of the

Theater and it made us feel like we were VIP's. The Group was introduced to Jeff's Dad in this area as he was at the show.

The show itself was a great performance, but the audience was smaller than we were used to. It was a good audience filled with members and missionaries. I can't recall anything happening out of the ordinary that would be worth mentioning here. All the jokes and dressing room talk were like the nights before and as always, fun and entertaining. Jacksonville was a nice stop, but we really didn't spend any time here except to perform. So, sorry to say, most people will remember it as a stop rather than a place we got to know. It's great to be in Florida though. The weather is nice and warm with some fun humidity. ☺

Saturday May 14, 2005 (Carrie Porter)
Jacksonville, FL to Tampa, FL

In the morning we drove from Jacksonville to Tampa. In Tampa, Marie and Summer wanted to go to the hip hop dance competition across the river. They really thought they had a chance. Dinner was Cuban food with key-lime pie.

Megan and Jana washed the ribbons on the *Hopak* headpieces and probably clogged the drains with all of the dirt and sweat that came out of them. Lacey decided she wanted to be on stage during the dancing so she crawled across the stage behind the band stand during *Hopak*.

The band came out at the end carrying different instruments that they played. I think Russell only had the washboard. It was a union theater so we had a lot of free time while the union employees did a lot of the work we usually do.

Sunday May 15, 2005, (Rustin Van Katwyk)
Tampa, FL

We've reached the beginning of the last two weeks. The geographical area of the places we have been staying at were about 2 hours from one end to the next. Many of us had church in buildings that were 45 minutes to an hour away from where we stayed. These members are so hospitable and very supportive. We have been treated like royalty in our stay here in Tampa. The chapel was filled into the overflow for our fireside - the biggest turnout we've had yet on this trip. Of course when you're comparing the attendance to last week, Mother's Day, we can only go up from there, right? Right. This Sunday we had a lot of youth there. Those whom were asked to speak were: Emilee Tikalsky, Bob, aka Robert on paper, Gardner, Lindsay Ozbirn, and John, the "whuptee-doo the Gospel's true!", Nollo Rollo Pollo.

Monday May 16, 2005, (Marie Sonnenberg)
Tampa, FL to Albany, GA

Oh what a beautiful morning...oh what a beautiful day! That was what we were all singing in our heads this morning here in Florida. What a great day we have had! Half of the group started off the day swimming and boat riding at Ed's cousin's house in Tampa Bay. The other half headed for the Williams' Ranch in Brooksville, Florida. Around lunch time everyone ended up at the Ranch for a huge lunch. They had smoked chicken and ribs that they started cooking around 4:00 a.m. We all ate on a long trailer and stuffed our stomachs as much as we could.

During lunch some people wanted to have an angel food cake eating contest. The brave contestants included: Cynthia, Derek, Jamon and Jeff. It was very intense with Jamon winning but Cynthia on his tail for a close second. The winner of the eating contest was given the opportunity to choose which movie we would watch on the bus. Jamon decided we would watch *Star Wars*, and we were forced to sit on the bus and watch the awful movie full of weird characters and too many light weapons!

At the Ranch we were also entertained by wonderful blue grass music by the band, and Gregg attempting Fandango and clogging on the trailer. Other people went around on golf carts and explored this amazing Ranch full of 178 horses. Greg Williams, who owned the Ranch, showed off his award winning horse and gave us a lesson on the techniques of riding a horse. It was a very fun afternoon and we were so grateful for their hospitality. (Oh...and they had a really cute son, Bentley, who goes to BYU! Don't worry we got his number!)

It seemed like for the rest of the day we were in the bus sleeping and talking about what our next adventure would be like with host families. Some common (sarcastic) quotes included: "Sure...I would love some more food," or "I love cats and dogs," and "I would love a turkey sandwich in my lunch." However, in all honesty we are all amazed at how generous and willing all of these people are in letting us take over their time and their homes.

When we arrived at the stake center in Albany, Georgia we had a feast waiting for us. All of the host families were there to greet the group. When we first walked in we were offered a bowl of boiled peanuts. I thought they were pretty good but I can't speak for the whole team. Then we had a wonderful meal and Spencer finally got his cornbread! Soon after the meal we all dispersed to our different host families' houses. It was a great day and we are excited to be in Georgia!

**Tuesday May 17, 2005, (Scotty West)
Albany, GA**

Today was a very early morning for some of us, especially for Bob, Jasmine, Marie, Lindsay O., Jana, and Teri. They had the privilege of attending seminary with the local youth. During seminary they were asked to share their thoughts about life and dating. Though not as fortunate, there were others who were also dropped off early at the ward building because host families had to go to work. The sight was reflective of that of a battle scene with lifeless bodies scattered all over the chapel in hopes of finding a comfortable place to sleep. Upon arrival to the church building people were met by the FDM (Folk Dance Men) skycap service that were helping to make everyone's trip that much better. Of course no tip was required and free of charge the FDM all provided photographer services.

Once on the bus we traveled to Douglas, GA in hopes of meeting Jimmy Carter. Before reaching the venue we stopped to perform at an elementary school. The biggest problem at the school was our southern drawl translators broke down leaving us completely unable to understand a word that came out of the kids' mouths. Megan, trying to understand what a kid was saying, turned to a teacher for help but she was speaking Greek to her too. A camera crew was there to video us for a TV spot. The show went pretty smoothly except for Scotty. In Rapper sword some how he got mixed up with his sword and upon doing a 180 turn to the outside he ended up having his arms crossed and almost choking himself. He corrected his hands but upon turning to face the center he corrected his hands again, which led him to still have his hands crossed when he turned to face out again. At his third attempt he was finally able to get his sword and hands corrected. When the show was over a little boy told Marie that, "The show was tight. That was cooler than tight, that was cooler than ice." Bob and Jasmine stayed in costume after the performance for a radio spot. Hum?

We headed for the venue and set up. Most of us were really excited to meet Jimmy Carter because the show was for the Habitat for Humanity program. Unfortunately, we were all disappointed because Jimmy never showed. Though the venue was very nice the, girls weren't happy with their very large changing rooms because they were down stairs with a funky smell. After dinner, the usual crew took off to try and get in a game of Ultimate Frisbee. They found success at Turtle Park named for the various turtle statues found around the park. Since it was such a hot day, the players decided to cool off after the game by running through the water works found at the park. Jamon also almost caught a turtle at the river running through the park, and was advised by some guy on the difference between a water moccasin and other snakes.

The show went well, but we were all surprised to find that there were more people up in the balcony than on the floor. You've got to love frugal Mormons. We packed up the trunk after the show and headed off with our various host families.

**Wednesday May 18, 2005 (Cynthia Streeter)
Albany, GA. to Gainesville, FL.**

Happy Birthday Anthony!!!! Of course part of the birthday includes the Birthday bus ride! Today it was from Albany to Gainesville. We just couldn't handle staying in one state for more than a day so we had to go back to Florida!!! Gator country nonetheless. We were loaded on the bus by about 7am but had a bit of a wait since Jamon and Anothony's host family's car broke down. It really didn't matter though because we weren't to get in to the theater until later than usual.

We had our usual bus ride with some Star Wars themes since the big viewing day was looming near. Unfortunately, Ed kept getting the microphone and incessantly tried his hand at various Star Wars impersonations. He even attempted Jedi mind tricks. Maybe in the next life, Ed. ☺ On our way back to Florida we stopped at a Flying J truck stop and then went to Walmart. For all of us who had just paid inflated prices at the gas station we were a bit disappointed as we rolled into Walmart. Oh well. I think Megan must have gotten earrings on this stop. Oh wait, Megan had a new pair of earrings after every Walmart stop!! The bus ride also included crushes. We all got to write down old and current PAC crushes. I think there were a lot of people that were hiding their true feelings. Jana B. of course came out overwhelmingly on top, breaking all the boys hearts with her mission news. Will they really wait?

We stopped at a very nice park for lunch. Enough room for playing frisbee and walking. There was some swamp area, but it was slightly less impressive after the Alligator Bayou. Jamon and Crystal had a moment on the

branch of one of the huge trees in the park. We'll just leave it at that! Unfortunately, with the size of the park we lost Carrie and almost pulled out without her. Luckily she caught up with us and we were off for the rest of the drive.

We loaded in at 3pm to the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. It was a huge 1300 seater. We were lucky it was a union theater (with slightly more grumpy union guys than the last one) that had already done much of the hang for us. That was much appreciated. It is refreshing to have help with setup, so that at least some get a break. Sorry Liesha & Scott, that's never you! The guys also had some time to watch their cartoon Star Wars before dinner. It was quite the party!

We had a very nice dinner of chicken and cooked carrots. Apparently we were all so satisfied that we drove off without checking to make sure that everyone was on the bus. Hey, Ed, we don't have Scotty. Ed, we're missing Scotty. Hey Ed, Scotty's not on the bus. Ed, we're moving away from the church without Scotty. Well, apparently Scotty is getting a private ride back to the venue. He gets out of blocking! Lucky ☺

The huge stage (on and off) made for a more pleasant show than some of our other venues. Not to mention a good audience that clapped during the narration! That's never happened before. They apparently were really excited that we were there. They even clapped during Bob's Mek solo. Uh...? I also caught Ed singing opera during Hungarian. Ed and the girls - maybe they should do their own show. It helped having some family in the audience. Anthony's sister was there (Happy Birthday Anthony!), as was Emilee's family. This was special for her since it was the last time her parents would see her perform. Unfortunately, the mic didn't work at the end when she was supposed to bid the audience goodbye. Bad luck!!

Great performance, quick strike, and off with host families. Vickie, of course, did the announcing of who was going where. Jana B. and Linsay D. were announced to stay together. Their host mom took one look (after she found them peeking out of the crowd) and said, "Oooh! They're little!" 'Night ya'll!

Thursday May 19, 2005 (Bryan Tikalsky) Gainesville, FL to Douglas, GA

Our day began in standard fashion. We met at a chapel surrounded by tall trees in Gainesville, Florida. Our host mom, a music teacher at the University of Florida, dropped us off. After loading on to the bus we embarked on our journey toward Douglas, Georgia. The topography along the way consisted of forest with interspersed ranching and other agriculture.

Just across the border in Georgia we stopped at a rest stop. It was a tourist information rest stop, so there were a lot of brochures and information about Georgia. On top of making their standard trips to the bathroom, a lot of us went to check the brochures out in order to get some ideas about what we might do in Atlanta. And, of course, we played some frisbee.

After a couple of hours on the road we arrived at the small town of Douglas, Georgia. Our first stop in town was at a shaded grassy area near the Douglas Stake Center. We sat down underneath tall pine trees and enjoyed, or forced down (depending on who you ask), our lunches. Some played "bumper frisbee" in the trees. After lunch, Ed gave notes to help perfect the show.

After getting the notes we arrived at our theater and discovered that we were going to have a challenging setup. Please bear with my technical and lighting-based perspective of the show. The electricians didn't come down, and we only had a large wooden ladder to hang lights. Peter must have climbed up the ladder 50 times to hang lights, tie up a curtain, and hook up the studio spots. With the help of several dancers, we were able to put up 4 scrollers and focus the necessary lights. Because the stage extended out into the audience, we didn't put any lights on the first electric and used the front of house lights to cover the entire stage. After a lot of work we were able to put together what was close to a complete show, lighting-wise.

Dinner consisted of a standard southern meal of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, biscuits, and peach cobbler at a restaurant about 10 minutes from our venue. We were greeted by the Douglas stake president and two city council members.

Before the show Emilee, Linsey Davis, and I went for a little run. It was great to see this rural Georgia town. We saw a red neck home with a variety of rotting cars out on the lawn. We also saw three elderly folk doing a little "front porch sittin'."

The show went really well, which was good because our of about 750 seats was almost completely sold out. That was great to see because earlier during tour, our crowds had been quite sparse. The band seemed to be getting pretty bold with their pieces. They added Star Wars into Journey and modified some of the lyrics of other songs to their liking. It was great to see that Buddy came to the show, and he talked to me a little as I ran my spot light. During *Hopak* the dancers yelled "Buddy" which brought a big grin to his face.

Take down meant that Peter would scale the ladder many more times as we used ropes to lower the studio spots. During the show some rain showers had moved in which meant we had some humidity to deal while loading the truck.

Emilee and I had a great host mom for the night. Her name was Charlotte. She had grown up in Douglas and had a thick southern accent. When Vickie called our names and said we would be with her she yelled, "I knew I was going to be with y'all." She had the classic southern girl story of growing up in a small town and then moving out after high school to find herself. She had been a member of the church for 15 years.

Thanks to everyone's help it was another great day on tour!

**Friday May 20, 2005, (Emilee Tikalsky)
Douglas, GA to Atlanta, GA**

This morning we met at the local stake center in Douglas, GA at 8:00 a.m. We departed for Atlanta and a four hour bus ride again! The first hour we took some quiet time, and then the usual sours and stars. It is fun to recognize our teammates and the good and funny things they do. We watched Hidalgo for the last leg of the journey and reached Atlanta about 1:00. Our show was scheduled in the Earthlink Live, a dark theater more suitable for a rock concert.

After the usual crew inspected our venue, they returned to a bus full of movie watchers. We had to finish the last little bit of the movie before we heard the crazy news of our "latest and greatest venue." Jamon tried to pump us up.

We had very little set-up: two studio spots and the band. NICE! People scattered for our break time: readers, walkers, sleepers, disc players, and the like. We met for blocking to get used to the stage. The front of the stage was the end of our space. A step past the PCC would have been fatal. The side entrances were a little hairy as well with only one wing with stairs for the entrance and exit on stage right.

We had a catered dinner there in the "Red Room." Our cuisine for the evening included BBQ chicken, coleslaw, beans, and peanut butter cookies. We had time to ourselves after dinner as well because the show time wasn't until 8:00. Some of the team went to Peachtree Park, which was a ways away, to play Frisbee.

Six of us went to a reception for the VIP guests. We dressed in various costumes: Hungarian, Indian, and Ukrainian. The people in charge of the venue had us take pictures with every guest. The band played some beautiful background music. I appreciate them sharing their talents with us. They make such a wonderful atmosphere. The fun part was seeing the purple vinyl curtains, huge mirror, and little tables with booths of leopard skin print. Weird decorations!

The show was a riot, especially the in between talk in the ladies' dressing room! Crazy energy and kind of a crazy show with the uneven stage, tight quarters, and run in front. In Irish, Aubree decided she would like to be the star at the end of Keltatak, so she put her hands on her waist. When Ed came backstage, we suspected he would comment on it. Much to my surprise he asked all of us to do it. We heard a lot of fans clash in Korean. Abby jumped in for Cynthia in Journey and danced with her hubby. She also took Crystal's place in *Hopak*. We all appreciate seeing her cute face on stage. James accidentally mixed up four dancer's clogging shoes, so they were dashing madly to find their own in time to get on stage.

We met the bus to drive to a stake center to meet our host families. This is different than usual because our host families usually meet us at the theater. What an adventure this day has been. We will remember this one for sure. I appreciate watching everyone rise to the occasion and making the best show possible. Hooray to the technicians who work hard to make every show look good in lighting and sound.

**Saturday May 21, 2005, (Peter Lamb)
Atlanta, GA**

We had an exhilarating day in the Atlanta area, but first we need to provide an injury/sickness list up to this point on tour:

Nate: stubbed toe
Lindsay O: constipation, steamer burn on right arm, injured right foot
Justin: scraped elbow, swollen left foot
Gregg: bum knee...and a paper cut
Dave: bad ankle, cut fingers, pulled left hamstring, sand cuts from Biloxi beach
Cynthia: knot on head (Nollo's stick)
Megan: broken heart, broken tap, allergies
Marie: sprained ankle, mosquito bite on right shin

Anthony: cut hair, burned arm (focusing lights)
 Summer: bruised foot, worst allergies EVER, allergic to South Carolina
 Jana: cut left index finger, allergies
 Jeff: scuffed left toe (diving board), sore “mixing” fingers...poor boy
 Linsey D: injured shoulder & neck, sickness approaching
 Russell: allergies, bad sneezing
 Crystal: chronic sinus infection, endless sickness
 Ben: frisbee bruise on right forearm, bruised head (hit a pole in the dark)
 Scott: threw out back
 Jamon: snake bite on left forefinger, shin splints
 Hillary: choking cough (due to excessive singing of “Go Ye Now In Peace”)
 Spencer: raspberries on hip and elbow (but what a DIVE!)
 Shelley: allergies, steamer burn
 Derek: perfect
 Abby: head full of fluid (what a beautiful head, though ☺)
 Peter: bruised left hand, sand burns, bruised left thumb (FAST frisbee)
 John: scraped chin
 Bob: scrapes all over body (attacked by trash can and pylons)
 Jasmine: back gave out
 Rustin: headcold/sinus infection, rolled ankle
 Lindsay G: first mosquito bites of ‘05
 Kim: vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, EXTREME Andrew sickness
 Carrie: bruise on right arm, pinches
 Lacey: lovesick
 Aubree: killer allergies, big unexplainable bump on right knee
 Bryan: threw out right shoulder, multiple focusing burns
 Emilee: strained left knee (due to hip misalignment)
 James: spider bite, shin splints (Scottish)
 Leisha: headaches, nausea, nightmares, intestinal sickness, spider bites
 Teri: pinched nerve in right ear
 Roy: perfect...grrrr
 Ed: emotionally crushed
 Vickie: nothing!
 Buddy: mentally abused (front of the bus), headache

Now that we are all aware of what our teammates have been dealing with on tour, let’s get back to Atlanta!

We had the best morning ever on tour! Why? We didn’t have to meet until 11 o’clock! We all enjoyed a leisurely morning, then gathered at Pete Richards’ home for a little dip in the pool, a rest on the couch, or a snippit of Star Wars on the big screen. Then we loaded up and headed off for Stone Mountain Park.

We were greeted at the park by Ed, Vickie, and their sons Trevor and Brent who drove 6 hours from their homes in North Carolina to spend a day with us. We had roughly 4 hours to thoroughly enjoy ourselves, and that we did!

A small group of about 10 set off on foot to attempt the grueling 40-minute hike up the sheer cliffs and granite faces of Stone Mountain. Fortunately, they made it. Another larger group opted out of the workout and instead hopped on the tram that climbed right up the sculpted face of the mountain, making the climb in just under 2 minutes. Great times were had by all atop the bald wonder, which mostly just served as a scenic spot for a picnic.

Other activities at the park included miniature golf, the Scarlet O’Hara Riverboat, synchronized pedalboat riding, a treehouse challenge that was rigged for the girls side, a 4D smash hit feature recounting tall tales of the South, and eating, eating, eating. All in all it was a much-needed, very relaxing break from the rigors of daily setups and shows.

When we were done at Stone Mountain, we headed back to town and the Earthlink Live arena. We were treated to pizza and wings and enjoyed preparing for the evening’s show without actually having to set anything up! The show went well and we were fortunate to have previous PAC members Trevor Austin and Clay Merrill in attendance.

The highlight of the post-show activities was a contest pitting the loaders of the equipment truck against, dum dum dum...Marie! A challenge was made that the entire truck could be loaded before Marie could pack her own costume bag. Though it came down to a photo finish, Marie edged out the truck monkeys in what has become a legendary contest of sorts

**Sunday May 22, 2005, (Abby Lamb)
Snellville, GA to Buford, GA**

What a treat the Sabbath is! The older I get, the more I look forward to Sundays. On tour, it means no set up or strike, no sweat guards, and for me, no 16-pair snake (a cable that's heavy enough to break your back if you let go of your core) to take up to Jeff's sound board! When Christ says "Take my yoke upon you...for my yoke is easy and my burden is light," I have a deeper appreciation for His ability to release spiritual burdens!

Beyond the break from routine, today was a special treat for a much more significant reason. Our host families lived in the Lillburn stake which was experiencing a change in stake presidency. The presiding authorities happened to be Area authority Elder Soares and our youngest apostle, Elder Bednar! Some families arrived at the stake center as early as 7 am to get seats. For those of us who didn't arrive until 9:15 or thereafter, the parking lot had extended to the lawn and the pine needle beds, and even the school parking lot down the street. The actual meeting was held in an overflow gym and it was broadcast into the chapel of the stake center. Some people received a scare by a man in a trench coat who was pacing the chapel before the meeting began and was so distraught when he found out that Elder Bednar wasn't even going to be in that chapel. Luckily, Elder Bednar had an entourage of high priests to surround him at all times.

Elder Bednar's first address was directed at the presentation of how the new stake president had been chosen. He quoted the 5th article of faith four times, verbatim, in his talk, so that by the last time I was finally catching on to the simple truths embedded therein. He reiterated the fact that callings come from the Lord, not through men. The Holy Ghost, which we all have, can reveal to those in authority the person who the Lord has been preparing for the position. In his later address, he directed his comments to those not of our faith for the reason that we have prophets and how we work by revelation. It was a perfect talk for the members as well to build our testimonies of the fundamentals of the gospel and help us in our missionary work in encouraging others to know for themselves. Many of us in the group have had missionary opportunities, mainly strengthening the Saints, where these fundamentals can come into play. As we sang the final song, "How Firm a Foundation," Elder Bednar got up at the end of the song and said "We'll now sing the 7th verse." He proceeded to read the words to us, that Christ will never, no never forsake us. Needless to say, Peter and I needed a few Kleenex by the end!

We had a nice relaxing afternoon to spend with our host families and it was great to have a warm meal rather than a sack lunch! Just a glimpse into one of the great families we've stayed with: Our family were recent BYU grads from Washington and Chile with a 4 year old daughter who spoke Spanish in the home and at church, then English everywhere else. The mother had endured a recent strike of leukemia and the chemotherapy that comes with it, yet miraculously was pregnant again. Miracles have not ceased, just as Elder Bednar told us.

There was a unique experience during the break among some members of our group. Ever been to a cat funeral? Well, there's a first time for everything! But unfortunately, the host family of Bob and Jasmine had lost their cat to kidney failure. So in all seriousness, but not really, they had a viewing in a coffin lined in green satin, everyone gave their last stroke to the cat, the coffin was buried and a prayer was said. Here lies Jefferson, so said the tombstone, even though the cat's name was Romeo. ☺

We met Buddy and the bus at 4:00pm to drive north to the Buford area where we were met with another dinner made by the members. It's a good thing we hadn't eaten all day... Actually it was the first time we ate lasagna, which was a surprise considering it was almost as common as meat sandwiches on midsemester tour! Jamon has developed a great spiel that he gives to thank our hosts for the food and ask for a prayer. He and Marie have taken on the daunting task of being team leaders, and we owe them a lot of thanks!

After practicing our fireside songs, as led by the lovely Jana and Emilee, we gave a youth fireside. Ed usually asks the married couples to stand in his group of introductory questions. We had all planned to stand up, but Ed didn't ask the question - thwarted! We were delighted to hear from Jana, our future missionary, Dave who loves the phrase "ya'll", Hillary, for whom it was her first time ever speaking on tour, Russell, who spoke on the blessing of the spirit, and Aubree, who shared testimony and the closing scripture, Moroni 10:32. There were many in the audience who were touched and it was a great way to give our last fireside of tour. One week left!

**Monday May 23 2005 (Anthony Dunster)
Budford, GA to Aiken, SC**

The theme of the day today was "Star Wars" because we went to the theater and saw episode III today. On our way to Aiken, South Carolina we watched episode II on the bus then we stopped in Augusta, GA to see episode III. Many of the girls braided their hair in different Princess Leia type hair styles. By the time we got out of the movie it was about 4:00pm. We then continued on our way to Aiken.

Upon getting there we went to the chapel to meet our host families. After going home with our host families to “settle in,” we all met at the local bishop’s house for a BBQ. They had a swimming pool, ping pong table, trampoline, volleyball net etc... The BBQ consisted of regular hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, etc... We spent the rest of the evening playing, eating and relaxing.

**Tuesday May 24, 2005, (Leisha Bjorn)
Aiken, SC**

The commentary and opinions given in this broadcast are strictly their own, and do not reflect the views of the author.

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to tonight’s Trustful Tuesday Tidbits newscast brought to you by channel Veinte Cinco “La Quinta.” Tonight’s top stories are: Ed the Undanceable, Slip Sliding on stage, Sticks too close for comfort, a Musical Moment, and we have a new highlights section!

Edwin Gean Austin was finding a burst of folk dance energy trying to entertain the front of the bus with his presumed “clogging skills”. Most of those in the back of the bus have been released from the hospital. However, the unfortunate eye witnesses in the front of the bus are still in the ICU with dire need of long term psychiatric care and Lasik surgery. Edwin continued his “Skills” by transitioning into a disastrous attempt at Indian. No bodies have been found. Keep your day job, Ed.

And now time for our Music Minute. The popular song “The back of the bus rocks” continues to hang on to the number one spot of “most sung song no matter how annoying it may be to those in the not so rocking front of the bus” popular vote listing. The Number Two spot is “Aint It Great to Be Crazy?” A fun new song brought to you by Buddy B. Busdriver. On a sadder note the song “The front of the bus is sophisticated and educated so take that you crazy back seaters!” has died today, no one attended the funeral.

After a magical musical mandolin medley display by Scotty which proved that even a dancer could learn to play a mandolin, a craze took over the team. Soon even techs were testing for their own musical talent. Abby, the infamous back stage dancer was taught guitar by Jeff the Elvis wannabe. Also, Maestro Russell, the famous teacher of Scotty, simultaneously taught both Derek the Infamous Understudy, and rising lighting diva Leisha how to play the violin. Where did this wave of techi-musicians come from?

On location at Chukkar Elementary, the song “Slip Sliding Away” has found new meaning. During one of the first dances, sources claim that Hillary made a faux pas on her entrance which caused her to fall abruptly on her rumpus requiring the help of a nearby dancer to pull her up. In a press conference, Hillary has claimed that she decided to change the dance move, and teach the audience the need for teamwork, which included her looking like she had fallen on her bottom and have someone graciously help her up. Well, that’s what she claimed. But even Hillary’s “Educational Dance Move” can’t compare to the virtual ice skating performed by the Rapper Sword Quints who, if not for the strong holds of the dance, might have found the taste of tile floor similar to chicken. As it was, they could hardly keep themselves from falling over laughing from the hilarity of it, and their smiles were the biggest ever. The turtle waxen floor almost claimed another victim as James nearly twisted his ankle during Scottish, but corrected the slip of the slippery step with an incredible feat of strength. Abby Lamb also made her debut today dancing French Canadian with her husband Peter Lamb, no injuries to report from that dance but the students made quite a rumble when she gave Peter a scandalous peck on the cheek. Last, but not least, a big hubbub was raised over the Mek dancers in an intimidating move when they jumped off the stage at the students in an asynchronous, “anticlimactic” manner. The parents have not filed assault charges as of yet, and official BYU commentators have issued a “No Comment” statement.

That successful performance granted the comment “Best Assembly this school has ever had” by the local authority and highly acclaimed critic of live folk performances, Justin Scott who will graduate from first grade in a few weeks.

In local news, traumatized Wal-Mart employees were seen screaming into the streets. Further investigation revealed that those employees endured over two hours of some kind of “invasion of strangely happy identically dressed humanoids”. Boas were worn and few items were actually bought. On a side story the book “How I survived two hours at a Walmart and why I didn’t sue Ed for making us stay there” by Megan is a New York Times Best-Seller.

This just in: Thoroughly Modern Millie has just made its comeback as a Tour Hit. A local Folk Dancer commented by saying “Yaaah Yaaah”

And now for our newest section of the newscast: the family favorite February fantastic fifty five factoid flash flaunting flirty fish fingers for forty four faction finding facts. Whew! Say that forty five times fast, to begin:

Dave slipped setting sets serendipitously south on the stage
Bob’s suspenders popped off ruining the tunnel.

Derek wanted to run onstage after his gloriously attractive wife doing soft shoe. Restrain him boys!
Canadian bacon is just normal circular cuts of typical ham.
Israeli girls posed hoping to make the next Cougarettes cut.
Jamon stuck it to the man sticking to his stick; he strutted to the stage soloing his stick, what a kick.
Peter likes to scare old ladies by dancing close to them while twirling a stick and asking them for all their money.
Lindsey O.'s braid nearly fell out during Korean nearly causing war with N. Korea due to mistaken symbolism.
What wouldn't Derek do to dubiously distract dazzling dancers during daring dives and dance? Shuffling? Shark hands?
A Parrolet is actually the smallest breed of Parrot
Old ladies jaws dropped and most lost their false teeth, causing a large distraction of identifying their teeth during Jamon's Jump Kicks
Justin stepped on his pants during coffee grinders...loser.
Jamon breaks orbit/head during the toss in *Hopak*
A Baptist revival occurred in seat 12A during "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

Obviously "The show was better than anything on Broadway"
Korean Fan: "You are very impressing"
The moon was found inside a local streetlamp, as photographed by the Weekly World News' newest photographer Kim
The atomic weight of Hydrogen (H) is 1
Lacey and Megan hate each other?

Well, that wraps up tonight's newscast. Join us next time as our Muckraker Matriarch Molly will explain more of the top secret video provided by an anonymous source named Jeff. And tune in to tonight's sports broadcast where we will show the highlights of the decidedly Ultimate of Ultimate Frisbee where Spencer gained a raspberry for his Ultimate Catch, find that only on ESPN 8 the OCHO.

Kudos to the Dynamic Bjorn Duo

Wednesday May 25, 2005 (Various entries)
Aiken, SC to Marietta, GA

Next stop, Marietta, GA. We met at the church at 9:00 am and loaded up the bus. We drove for about 4 hours and we watched the rest of "Thoroughly Modern Millie." It took all morning to get here, so we went straight to the theater. Upon getting to the venue, McEachern High, we set up everything. It was a quicker set up, but we were told to enjoy it because tomorrow would be a doosey. The focus took a bit more time than usual because the patch was frustrating. We went to a nearby church for dinner. It is really neat to experience the generosity of the hosts and members in the places we visit.

Today was the second to last show. It seems unbelievable, since at the beginning of tour, the end seems forever away. We went home with our host families after taking down the set. What a blessing to be able to stay with so many different families and members of the team.

Thursday May 26, 2005 (Roy Brinkerhoff, tour manager)
Atlanta, GA (Marietta), to Huntsville, AL

The day started early, at least it sure seemed early. We made our way through the suburbs of Atlanta until we finally got on the Interstate. About this time, Roy remembered we had a time zone change as we entered Alabama. We all could have slept in another hour! Thanks Roy!

It was a very good sleep day on the bus. Everyone quieted down and no eyes were open. Of course we all could have done the same thing, and more comfortably in a bed had we not left so early. Thanks again Roy!

After a short ride, at least it seemed short, we pulled into a rest stop in Alabama. Probably the most picturesque rest stop on tour. Most were immediately drawn to the veranda off of the back side of the Visitors Center/Restroom building. Soon the 20 or so rocking chairs were filled with Folk Dancers, rocking and staring out into the forest. An idyllic scene, the only thing missing was a mint julep in everybody's hand.

The snickers races were next. Getting back on the bus, someone noticed a Snickers bar laying in the air conditioning vent track over our heads. Soon the zip of the Snickers bar flying down that track was heard as competition grew to see who could slide the Snickers bar the length of the track. Eventually, the roar of the Snickers

races died down. But throughout the day, just as you were going back to sleep, could be heard that unmistakable sound of the Snickers again flying down the track. Who keeps doing that?

Throughout the day, and especially as we arrived in Huntsville and began preparing for the performance that evening, the band seemed strangely secretive. They could be seen huddling together, whispering, laughing, chuckling, colluding together. Often a head would pop up, look at someone, then duck back into their little pack. What were they up to? Between dinner and the show we found out. Following are the lyrics to the "Tour in Revue."

"Refractions" A Play on Words

Strike:

Strike, strike, strike, strike, strike,
It's time to
Strike, strike, strike, strike strike

put away this, put away that
Scotty says he's not ready for that

Chorus

Put away the lights, give me that tie
put away the mike, its time to...

Chorus

Where's the bottle? where's my hat?
Kim, give me my curly wig back

Chorus

we like to stike

berthas....trees....props....costumes...

Going Home:

You're with us, come on let's go
you must be famished after that show
all that dancing makes you thinner
come home we've fixed you second dinner

We didn't know if we'd get girls or boys
so we planned for both so we think you'll enjoy
cookies, popcorn, soda pop, cake
there's also a pot roast I'll put in to bake

Don't button your pants or you'll pop a seam
the food flows in a steady stream
there's no time to work it off cause it's time to eat again
Welcome to the south Ya'll where mealtime never ends.

Host Fam:

Turkey and ham- those words that I hear
Somehow they always seem to ring clear

We want PB and J

But that's not okay
we get ham.....from our host fam

Family, family you're not ours
how will our bags ever fit in your cars
we love your kindness, we love what you do
we love your kid who says, "my room is for you"

we love our ham.....from our dear host fam

you're talking to us
its getting so late
we hear our beds calling our names
we love your stories, your spirit too
but how much can we really hear about you
Chorus

The Bus:

1...2.....3.....Crystal!!

We ride on the bus all day long,
all day long, all day long
We ride on the bus all day long
all through the south

The boys on the bus go (star wars song)
All through the south

Ed on the bus says "Hey you guys"

Kim on the bus says "hello?...Andrew?"

Roy on the bus says "20 minutes"

The back of the bus says "the back of the bus rocks....."

Vickie on the bus says "have some vitamin C..."

Free time:

Free time, is it really free?
We go to Wal-Mart for an hour, two or three
Free time, is it really free?
You can go to a movie, you can go to a movie, You WILL
go to a movie with me

Free time, is it really free?

I just started having fun, but wait the time is done?
Free time, is it really free?
You can sit on the grass by the bus beneath a tree

We do appreciate
Please do not negate
there is no debate
its a fine time.....Free....time!

Oh free time, you are a fine time

Friday May 27, 2005 (Vickie Austin)
Madison/Huntsville, AL

It was another beautiful day on tour – even better because we got to sleep in. 10 am was the magic meeting hour for the bus and our excursion to the U.S Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville.

The Space museum was out of sight (pun intended). We learned of the history of rocketry and the time line of the United States’ space exploration program. It was interesting to see some of the “primitive” hardware used at the beginnings and how it evolved through the years - even that the inside of the space capsules were very small and still looked somewhat archaic in its advanced state.

Many wandered out to the different rides offering a small rendering of what it might be like in space. The G force ride seemed to offer the most results as many came out complaining of motion sickness. We also saw an IMAX movie entitled *Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag*. This movie didn’t help those already affected by the ride. If you weren’t sick before, you probably were after the movie. It was awesome.

Another fun thing at the museum was watching the spray paint artist at work. This guy created space masterpieces while the audience watched. He sprayed to the beat of far out rock music and had to work very fast as the paint dried quickly. He really came up with some cool paintings.

After the museum we went back to Madison to the Zittings’ (one of our host families) house for a pool party. It was a lot of fun and nice to have a different kind of a day. Most played in the pool, while some napped. There was plenty of pool volleyball, swimming races and Ultimate frisbee.

Dinner was at the stake center and then we prepared for a stake activity with the youth. We had some great interaction with about 40 youth and leaders from the stake playing games and doing some recreational dancing – Aki Do So, Cumberland Square, Zemer Atik and Bhangra. Everyone involved had a good experience.

We boarded the bus again for our trip to Birmingham to our motel. On the way the students played Chubby Bunny. I couldn’t watch because it makes me “sick.” They did two rounds. Carrie Porter, our fearless guitar player, was the overall winner at 15 1/2 -16 marshmallows. Spencer conceded at 15. Ed and Gregg gave up on 10.

We got in late to the motel, had a brief group meeting and prayer and prepared to depart the beautiful South for home on the morrow. It was a wonderful day – full of all types of activities – a good day to end our sojourn through a part of the United States I’d never really traveled. It was a fitting end to the trip.

Saturday May 28, 2005 (Ed Austin)
Huntsville, AL to Provo, UT

A history of the People of the Team given through Edwin Austin, chief, on the 28th day of the month of May—this being the last day of the Southern States Tour.

Hearken, oh ye members of the PAC, the People of the Team who today will fly back to their own land, high in the mountains, even on a great bird, and behold the time cometh soon.

2 But in as much as there is one last day to speak of, even so shall I write of it now as I have been commanded by certain stewards of the tour report.

4 And it came to pass, that as the sun rose, there also arose a people of great excitement, even from their beds, to begin preparations for the great journey which lay ahead.

5 For the people were exceedingly glad, this being the 28th day of the 5th month of the year 2005, a day designated on a written itinerary as the “Day of Return.”

5 And behold, the people did arise from their beds and so great was their joy that, behold, a certain Spencer and a certain Derek appeared out of their bed chambers for breakfast dressed in their robes of sleeping comfort.

6 And behold, a great many saw them and wondered at their attire, for behold, even the hair upon their heads spoke of a long night of rest. But in as much as they did not seem to notice the reactions of others around them, they commenced to wander among those who were dressed, and their eyes

remained closed, and they did eat. And we did mourn quietly for them.

7 And behold, a commandment had been given to begin loading the bus at 10:00 am and never before had there ever been a greater number of people obeying the commandments of the chief. And the leaders did marvel as the bus became full, and it was good.

8 But in as much as the bus was about to roll forward, and there being one empty space, a great effort was made to find the one still not there.

9 And it came to pass that the time of departure came and passed and the one was not to be found. But in as much as the bus continued to wait, behold there finally appeared the one being looked for, and her name was Crystal the Confused.

10 And we did go forth upon the bus—loading and sitting, moving off, moving on, sitting again, eating, moving off and unloading. And thus we see that touring is one eternal round, it changeth not, and it is the same yesterday, today, or forever.

11 And it came to pass that the bus did roll forward, and the people did sit, and the people did move off, and the people did unload. And in as much as they followed their leaders, they arrived at the check-in for American Airlines, flight 477 departing for Dallas.

12 And it came to pass that all went forth two by two to check-in their baggage and confirm their seats.

13 But behold, two could not be seated, for two did not have seats, or it was at least thought that two did not have seats. And the two were even Bryan and Jasmine.

14 Now Jasmine, being fancy in her words and experienced in the art of convincing others, was given a seat almost immediately, and her grief did turn to joy.

15 But behold, Bryan's seat did not come quickly; only after much grieving, and much sorrow, and much gnashing of teeth. But eventually it too did come, and all was finally in order, and Bryan found comfort, and so also did Emilee, his wife, find relief.

16 And the people did dwell at the gate.

17 And the People of the Team had harkened to the pleading of their leaders, even they who were sent forth to lead and to guide them. And the leaders did rejoice in the people for they truly had made themselves appear beautiful. And the women used makeup, and the men wore clean shirts, and there was much rejoicing from all who beheld them.

18 And behold, there were many, indeed, who beheld them and they were exceedingly glad.

19 But, again, there was the one who wanted a large, spacious, cheap, house.

20 And behold, the skies did weep loudly, and the sun disappeared, and there were thunderings and lightnings and all manner of fear.

21 And behold, the plane was delayed and The People of the Team were grieved. Even so, time passed quickly and in time the plane did fill; and it flew, and it was good.

22 Now behold, after landing in Dallas, the People of the Team did build themselves fortresses at gate C28.

23 And it came to pass that the skies continued to cry and the sun remained hidden. And there continued to be all manner of thunderings and lightnings, and natural confusions.

24 And it came to pass that flight 1925 taking the People of the Team to Salt Lake City was also delayed.

25 And in as much as this new plane would also leave late and would also be delayed—the people were sad.

26 But behold, they began to comfort themselves with Manchu Wok, Chili's, Haagen Daz, and (that card game.) And the People of the Team amused themselves well. And the time moved by quickly.

27 And the new plane eventually did become full, and it did fly high. And all of the people thought it was good.

28 And the People of the Team were excited. And they did share their excitement with all who were in the plane. And they were one with the people of the plane, and the people of the plane became one with the People of the Team.

29 And the plane was hot, and it did not cool off. Even so, all who were in the plane were one, and all who were in the plane were hot.

30 And behold, when the People of the Team spoke, the whole plane shook. And the People of the Team did speak loudly. And all the people of the plane did listen.

31 And one voice spoke even above all the rest, and all the People of the Team listened, and all the people of the plane listened also.

32 And the People of the Team outnumbered the people of the plane, and they were one. And the team kept speaking loudly, and the plane was not peaceful. And the people of the plane did not speak. And the People of the Team spoke even more loudly.

33 And the plane landed.

34 And many were there to meet the People of the Team. And these were they who had a significant person of the opposite gender to meet them: Aubree, Ben, Kim, Leisha, Carrie, and Lacey. And it came to pass that there were tears of joy and much rejoicing; even hugging, and many smiles. And the people of the opposite gender meetings were exceedingly glad.

35 And it was good.

36 And the People of the Team had become one. Opposition, pain, fatigue, and length of days had done much to confound the hearts of the People of

the Team. But behold, they did endure to the end. And much good will be remembered of this people by future generations, and their desires to serve will continue to bless lives.

37 And it is written that this people shall remember the hearts of the people we met; their faith, their hearts, and their desire to give of themselves.

38 Remember their smiles, and their delight in your many talents. Remember their comments regarding how you made them feel; how each of you glow.

39 Remember each place, each person, each heart. Remember your role in the team and how you took part.

40 And behold, remember also those among us, even Abby, Aubree, Carrie, Crystal, Cynthia, Emilee, Hillary, Jana, Jasmine, Kim, Lacey, Leisha, Lindsay, Lindsay, Linsey, Marie, Megan, Shelley, Summer, and Teri.

41 And Anthony, Ben, Bryan, Dave, Derek, Gregg, James, Jamon, Jeff, John, Justin, Nate, Peter, Robert, Rustin, Scott, Russell, and Spencer.

42 And Ed, Vickie, Roy and Scott.

43 And remember that Father in Heaven loves all who will serve with a willing heart. He loves all those we encounter along the way. He loves each of you, personally.

44 And behold, our work was good.

Note: (Hurricane Katrina hit these good people, the Saints in the New Orleans, Biloxi and Gulfport areas, on August 28th, 2005. Our hearts go out to them and their loved ones.)

PAC Monkeyshines
(The daily floor play/stage gags that occur each show)

Each night, the audiences attending Reflections see a show of energy and precision. However, what they don't see are the little pranks and fun traditions that are shared amongst the dancers. These are things like the little opera that occurs during the end of Szatmari or the fact that Em gives Bryan a wink in almost every dance she does or that Gregg butt punches Bob during *Hopak* and if the situation presents itself – as Bob goes on for the 3 couple irish. Some are funny, some are painful, and some are just plain cute. We are going to give you a look into some of our dances and what is actually going on onstage.



Good luck “rocks” pounding fists before show begins

The narration finishes and Peter begins his un, duex, cat’s meow! Scotty comes out with Jana and sings line one in his dirty Frenchman voice really loud at Hillary as she giggles. Then we line up and Jana and Marie give Fritz a kiss. In the back ground Em and Linds wink at each other and Marie and Jana give each other the ooo” faces after kissing Fritz – Jana’s reason being that she just got lip liner on his cheek again. Oops, sorry Fritz. Jamon and Nate always fight as Nate tries to spin Jamon coming out of the family portrait. We finish our little dim da diddle daddle part and get into the x. Scotty says in a mechanic voice to Jana “I am a robot. Must destroy all humans.” We swing into the circle and Spencer sticks out his tongue at the band as we pass them or pretends throw up. Lights out.

Running Sets begins with Marie, Summer, and Jana backstage acting out Pig in a Pen, actions and all. Marie sways for John during the song and refuses to hold onto Rustin’s hand for a long time. Scotty is suddenly off the stage and then sings the wrong words to Jasmine and Bob. Can it get any worse? Well, John smacks Justin’s behind in the tunnel and then Justin tries to trip Fritz. The insanity continues as Meg and Dave try to one up each other in Ol’ Joe Clark. Description is irrelevant. They are too crazy for words. We “back it up” and all the groups latched onto the chicken strut as we go backwards. As we circle around, we see Cynthia and Gregg having fun with wigs – grandpa’s beard in the armpit, on Cynthia’s head, in Gregg’s hair, floating by itself. There’s more entertainment happening just offstage than onstage folks! Marie and Shelley give cute faces as the girls go into *Running Sets* circle and Summer and Jana yell “let’s go girls!” The band laughs at *Running Sets* finale as Derek frantically holds on as he is being swung almost offstage each night. Derek, the band says your facial expression is just priceless.

Time to clog. Probably everyone’s favorite tradition is “Get ‘er done, Grandpa” said by the one and only Kim in the Curly Wig. It got laughs every night. And then there’s Megan’s endless singles... But wait, what’s this? Here comes everybody! Shelley brings Lindsay O. in on her back and Scotty always cartwheels on. Shelley has fun by crossing her eyes at her small group, and then when James gets “too close” during duets to Aubree, she shoves him on his behind. Then, there goes Bob offstage during the clapping part, but Dave’s still around saying hello to Carrie about a million times as he passes her. Don’t forget the murder in the dark during clogging circles – Jas is usually the target. Before Grandpa’a great moment, the band enjoys the behind wiggle he gives especially for them. You go Grandpa.

The Irish Suite. Ah, “so pretty” says Summer as she spins Shelley under. And Jas looks and smiles at Shelley during the soft shoe. This array of loveliness and ease would never be suspected to be right after the anxiety attacks the girls had while waiting for Crystal to come for the soft shoe. Luckily she made it, and she looks great folks. Here comes Bob and Hillary. A nice little love scene? I think not. Try warfare – thumbwar that is, up and back, battling all the while. Shelley and Justin count off to Jana and Nate with extreme facial expressions and Shelley does a little bob up on count seven that always makes Nate laugh. Hard shoe is on again and Em grabs Scotty’s hand to get into the star. Em then sends a wink over to Meg in the circle and another to Gregg in the X. I feel the love! Well, Dave can’t be outdone, so he tries encouraging Summer to “push it back cuz we’re gonna party” right before the V. Murder in the dark still ensues – Jasmine is still the target. Nollo greets Shelley as she re-enters for the end of COTC with a friendly, “hello” and then he lets out a forceful “dah, dah, dah!” at the end of the COTC block. Not to be outdone again, Dave sends a psycho crossed-eyed face during tag in COTC. Dah dah dah – it’s intermission!

(frantic braiding party going on backstage)

Before *Israeli* starts, the curtain is down and the guys decide to give a demonstration on modern dance. Not bad. Just before the curtain's up, Summer is sure to get the wedgie. As the dancers enter to the "Da da da da! Dum da da da!" music, Dave always lets out his high pitch giddy laugh in the circle train. We get to the "strike-a-pose" part, and Summer arches her back and looks up at the sky as if to say, "I just touched something really gross and I'm waiting for the heavens to cleanse me." (That was a direct quote from her partner.) And we shan't forget the lovely Israeli lift when Dave knaws on Megan's booty. Hey Opa!

Indian

Leisha's lighting cue for Indian: "and up...and down..." Em and Jas also enjoy their tradition of smiling at each other in the beginning circle. Circle of Life that is – hakuna matata!

Bottle and Stick

Bottles and sticks, a dangerous combination. Yet, most keep their composure, especially the girls who are harassed night after night by strange men with sticks. Aubree is not afraid. She makes cross-eyed faces at the stick boys every night to prove it. The boys, on to new games, engage in pointless conversations during stick dance circle. Profound things like, "Do you want fries with that?" Gregg and Scotty fight over who gets the "fatty" stick – and Scotty almost always wins.

Szatmari

Hungarian Suite has only just begun – well, the pranks therein, I mean. Shelley pumps the girls up back stage by telling them to "shake it." Dave growls at Summer, Shelley, and Meg as they enter 'cause they're so hot! Megan flirts back with Dave and Gregg as she comes on. But Dave's on to the next, winking at Shelley as he makes his way to his partner. "So beautiful," he tells Jana as they spin. Dave and Shelley look at each other and Shell winks as they move to their partners in *Szatmari*. Shelley and Nate always build each other up for the *Szatmari* turn. You can often catch Dave singing in *Szatmari* – lay lay lay. And don't forget the *Szatmari* opera that tops everything off!

Korean

Cynthia usually makes funny faces at Summer behind her fan at the beginning. During the dance, Lindsay and Crystal also make faces and talk behind the fans. Often, Megan and Shelley's fans always get stuck together. Lindsay O. and Cynthia can't help but bump butts. All the girls whisper the exit of *Korean* in the end flower

Hopak

Jasmine gets Jana in the rear during *Bread and Salt*
Saying hi to Dave and John after Marie and Crystal duet
Family picture – need we say more?
Marie, Linds O and Em T. opening mouth like cymbals during back handsprings
Gregg says "of Disney" after the final narrations
Summer and Shelley blow kisses when boys do back handsprings
Spence pulls Marie's braid
Emilee squeezes Crystal's hand before Marie and I leap-2-3 out for our duet
Dave goes "wee" before Cheramosh
Megan and Summer reject Nate at the end of every *Hopak*, during the tag.
Gregg and Fritz put butter on Bob's sleeves before he does two man – in memory of Oakland, CA last year
Emilee always smiling at Lindsay during *Hopak*
Nate chasing Summer and Megan, which has ended in Summer and Megan chasing Nate and fighting over him...not true...true
Bob and Cynthia always nod at each other in *Bread and Salt* – great way to start the dance
Emilee winks in *Hopak*
Gregg and Bob tickle Cynthia's chin as the girls do the head thing in the block
Sometimes Nate tickles Cynthia on the present after reel back in *Hopak*
Scotty Horman's names for *Hopak* trick steps: the Three Pretties (three girls who twirl across), the Feather Duster (Jana B.) and always saying "good show everyone as we sign off head set

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