

(President's Column, continued from page 2):

contests and tryouts. When students begin to rag on a certain teacher in your school, be careful that you don't join in and add fuel to the fire. Have you ever talked to a teacher about one of your student's grade? Be careful! Asking if Susie is passing is one thing, but asking a teacher to show mercy on Susie is unprofessional and illegal. If I have a student who is on the verge of failure in a class, I will ask that teacher what I can do to help. Don't forget that we as band directors probably have more influence on our students than any other person with the exception of their parents. Let us use our influence in a positive way. Set the example.



I will fall heir to the honor of appointing area coordinators, all-state Band organizers, and all-state percussion organizers for the next two years. I know there are many in our ranks who desire an active role or know of someone who should serve in one of these capacities. I need your help in finding the right people. I believe the more people we have involved actively, the stronger our organization will be. Please contact me if you have suggestions or would like to volunteer your time and energies.

I look forward to our time in San Antonio. It is going to be a great year for ATSSB as we incorporate the second band. We have two great clinicians and a great new commission by Fred Allen. In addition we will be electing future leadership in a president-elect. I hope each of you will be there to cast your vote. We have three great candidates and I know our association will be in trusted hands. Drive safely enroute and I will see you there.

(Continued on page 4)

(Letter to the Editor, continued from page 15):

help and/or reinforcement of parts. From the podium I can read the score, play the various parts, and keep an eye on everyone.

My students have really enjoyed playing along with electric bass, drums, organ, and may other various keyboard-generated instruments.

Please note that I am not a pianist. I am a trumpet man. But, by using the keyboard on almost a daily basis, my keyboard playing is beginning to improve (I'm not up there with Van Cliburn yet, but I am improving!).

Hope this helps some of you guys and gals out there in the boonies like myself.

Sincerely,

*Michael Williams, Director
Harmony High School Eagle Band
Gilmer, Texas*



HELP YOUR STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

by Ed & Ann Lowes
La Grange ISD

Here is an idea to help your students to achieve success at the district/region tryouts or solo & ensemble events. I use a keyboard with a midi in & out plus a sequencer to record their district music and solos. I had no idea that this sequencer could do so much until I watched a demo at the local state convention. If you did not have enough experience in college keyboard, you could ask your choir director or your local church pianist to help you in recording your district music as well as your solo selections.

I have been recording class I, II, & III solos now for the past two years as well as preparing music for the district events. I use a Roland MT-200 Sequencer with my Yamaha Clavinova PF Model P-100 keyboard. Any other keyboard with midi in and out will work with this sequencer. This is a full size keyboard with touch control. Being a piano major was helpful, but you may need to practice your parts at a

(Continued on page 17)

Letter to the Editor

Dear Kenneth:

Just a note to let you know about a teaching method/strategy I use in my 6th grade beginner classes and 7th grade band rehearsals.

We are a AA high school just outside of Gilmer, and I am the band department. We have 66 students in the High School Band, 15 in beginning woodwinds, 32 in beginning brass/drums, and 21 in 7th grade band.

Two years ago there was enough interest in my high school band to begin a stage band. With no electric bass player and no keyboard to utilize, I purchased a Casio Pro-200 keyboard along with a small amplifier to use as electric bass/piano. One day during beginner class I noticed the keyboard was still set up from the previous evening's stage band rehearsal. Having separate woodwind and brass classes, my woodwind class was having trouble with precision on a beginner band arrangement we were working on. Since it was woodwind class we had no percussion students. I went to the keyboard, punched in the code for percussion, and began to play drums along with the group. Immediately the woodwinds stayed together and were no longer uncertain about where the beat was.

The excitement it generated with the students was unbelievable. They wanted to play the piece over and over. After this happened, it occurred to me that this group had never played with the brass class. I punched in grand organ and played the tuba/trombone line along with the woodwinds. I was not prepared for what followed. These students got even more excited about playing. I used the same procedure in brass class, playing the woodwind parts, and got the same response. Since then, I have begun to use the keyboard almost on a daily basis. Instruction on scale steps, tuning, major and minor, understanding why we have flats and sharps in scales, rhythmic training, style, and - everyone's favorite - pitch recognition. Yes!! - they are beginning to recognize selected pitches. I use the keyboard for many other aspects in the classroom. The opportunities to enhance the learning process have become endless.

I now leave the keyboard set up at my podium for instant

(Continued on page 16)

(President-Elect's Column, continued from page 3):

President-Elect's Column

by Ronnie Page

Eons ago when I was immersed in marching band, my parents' failing health, a time-consuming TIF grant, etc., my friend and "horn peddler" Mac Miller mentioned an idea that intrigued me. His notion was that we have many good bands playing great literature that should be of interest to public radio stations and he felt ATSSB was the perfect instrument to carry this out. Mac also calls on Kenneth Griffin so I asked him to mention this to him. I promised Mac that when my "floppy had sufficient space" I would pursue it.

In November I began nurturing a plan and called both Kenneth and Don Stockton with the idea. Both thought it worth pursuing and Don asked me to form a committee of the three Class Representatives and formulate a proposal for the State Board of Directors (SBOD).

The proposal the committee will present in February is found elsewhere in this newsletter. Please read it and offer any comments you have regarding the plan. Comments should be forwarded to myself or your Class Representative.

I would like to thank Mac Miller, owner of American Band Instrument Service in Tyler for planting the seed; our three Class Representatives Don Thoede, Eric Wharton and Gene Conway for their time, along with Kenneth Griffin and Don Stockton. George Strickland, candidate for President Elect also attended the committee meeting providing much insight.

It is time once again to thank all our Region and Area Coordinators for a job well done. From securing a site to assembling panels and guarding the integrity of the contest, organizing tryouts is a monumental task and an awesome responsibility. We participating directors do not always make the job easy when we do not read mailouts thoroughly or follow all rules. It would be wonderful if we each took a minute to jot a thank you note, or picked up the phone and called our coordinators to let them know we appreciate them.



The ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series

(Editor's Note: President Don Stockton instructed President-Elect Ronnie Page to head a committee to investigate the feasibility of an ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series. This committee included Don Thoede, Eric Wharton, Gene Conway, Ronnie Page, Kenneth Griffin, and George Strickland. It met at Don Thoede's home in Clifton on Sunday afternoon, December 16, 1996 and came up with the following recommendation to make to the State Board of Directors in February. KLG)

Institute a statewide tape audition program called the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series to select the most outstanding Class A, AA, and AAA contest program in the state. The program will follow a region, area, state audition process. Any eligible school may enter a tape. An eligible school is any school where the head band director is a regular member of ATSSB in good standing.

A band may enter any number of its contest selections up to the full three number program. Entries must have been recorded during the period from January 1 until June 1 of the current school year at UIL contest or at a contest approved by the SBOD or Executive Committee. Only UIL approved selections may be entered.

The SBOD will maintain a list of approved contests. Once a contest is approved by the SBOD it will remain on the list until such time as it is removed by SBOD action.

All tapes will be required to be submitted with an official entry form listing the title and composer of all selections and requiring the director's signature along with that of the principal or superintendent verifying the contest of origin. Verification of UIL approval to perform any number not listed in the Prescribed Music List must accompany any such entry. Tapes must be in the region coordinators hands or postmarked by June 1 via first class certified US Mail.

Entry fees will be designed to generate funds to cover all expenses involved in the process with the exception of judging. It is our expectation that we will be able to find qualified panels willing to volunteer their time in this worthy endeavor. A fee of \$50.00 per selection is recommended. (A band entering two of its selections would pay \$100.00; three of its selections \$150.00.)

A rotating system will be devised whereby the regions within each area will trade tapes to be ranked. Each

(Continued on page 12)

ATSSB All-State Band rehearsals

WEDNESDAY, February 12, 1997:

6:30 pm All-State Band Members Meeting with chair auditions to begin after the general meeting

THURSDAY, February 13, 1997:

SYMPHONIC BAND		CONCERT BAND
8:30 am	Organizational Rehearsal	8:00 am
10:00 am	Break	9:30 am
10:15 am	Rehearsal	9:45 am
11:15 am	Lunch	11:15 am
11:30 am	ATSSB GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	
1:00 pm	QUANTUM BRASS CONCERT	
2:15 pm	Rehearsal	2:00 pm
4:15 pm	Break	3:45 pm
4:30 pm	Rehearsal	4:00 pm
6:45 pm	Supper	6:15 pm

FRIDAY, February 14, 1997

SYMPHONIC BAND		CONCERT BAND
8:00 am	Rehearsal	8:30 am
9:30 am	Break	10:00 am
9:45 am	Rehearsal	10:15 am
11:15 am	Lunch	11:45 am
1:45 pm	Rehearsal	2:15 pm
3:45 pm	Break	4:15 pm
4:00 pm	Rehearsal	4:30 pm
6:00 pm	Supper*	6:00 pm

*Bands will switch places

SATURDAY, February 15, 1997:

SYMPHONIC BAND		CONCERT BAND
8:30 am	Rehearsal	8:00 am
10:15 am	Break and dress for concert	9:45 am
11:30 am	Concert*	11:30 am

*The Concert Band will perform first. The Symphonic Band will meet in the Banquet Hall and perform immediately after the Concert Band

NOMINEES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

DAVID SMITH and his wife, Karen, have made Banquete their home and have three sons: Brian, Chris and David. Holding both a bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Texas A&I University, Mr. Smith has been employed as the music teacher and band master by Banquete ISD for twenty-eight years. Teaching two elementary music classes and four band classes, Mr. Smith touches the lives of over 300 students each day. His program has been used as a model for undergraduate students by area colleges and the high school band under his direction has filled the trophy case to overflowing with first division and sweepstakes awards, the coveted TMEA honor Band Award and may Outstanding Band trophies from numerous festivals and contests from around the state. Mr. Smith is a charter member of the Epsilon Delta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi, a charter member of the Banquete Lions Club and was one of the many directors who helped get ATSSB off the ground and running. He is member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, TSTA, and NEA. He has served on the ATSSB State Audition Review Committee, has been ATSSB Region 14 Coordinator and Area E Coordinator, and has overseen region and area auditions at Banquete each year.

SCOTT STEPHENSON is a 1982 graduate of Ballinger High School and a 1986 graduate of Angelo State University. His hobbies include boating fishing, and scuba diving. He has taught ten years: four years as assistant director in Ballinger, one year as head director in Junction, and the last five years as head director at Ballinger. He has earned several First Divisions in Concert and Sightreading and this past year earned the first Sweepstakes in Ballinger in twenty-two years. He has been very active in ATSSB since its inception. He has had numerous students in the All-Region, Area and All-State Bands. He has served as Region VII Coordinator for the past three years and ran the computer tabulations at Region, Area and State for several years. He has also served as assistant camp director at the Angelo State University Band Camp for eleven years (doing all of the student scheduling, faculty teaching assignments, and room assignments for over 1100 students and teachers). He is a member of TMEA, TBA, ATSSB, TMAA, Kappa Kappa Psi, and Phi Mu Alpha.

GEORGE STRICKLAND is currently serving in his twenty-fourth year as a public school instrumental director. At the present time, he is the head band director and district music coordinator for Glen Rose ISD. Although a graduate of Lanier High School in

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(Nominees, continued from page 9):

Austin, Mr. Strickland has always desired to teach in small schools, beginning his student-teaching under James Mallow in Brady. He spent five years in Robert Lee, six in Comanche, seven in Henrietta, and is in his sixth year at Glen Rose. Bands under his direction have been successful in marching, concert and sightreading with consistent first divisions and sweepstakes awards. His marching bands have competed six times at the area level and three times at the state level, placing as a finalist once. His students have been successful in solo-ensemble, District, Region, Area and State competitions. He has also been the cooperating teacher for six student teachers. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, Phi Beta Mu, TBA, TMAA, and ATPE. He has served as the ATSSB State Taping Coordinator and has served on the State Audition Review Committee. He has been TMEA Region President and Secretary/Treasurer and served on the UIL Music Advisory Committee and the Area B Marching Contest Committee. He has also hosted district bands, marching contests and concert-sightreading contests. He has been the director of the Howard Payne University Auxiliary Camp for the past sixteen years and is on the administrative staff of the Angelo State University Band Camp. Mr. Strickland, along with his wife Melinda and son Jeremy, a high school senior, is an active member of the First Baptist Church in Glen Rose where he serves as a deacon, choir member, and sound committee chairman.

NOMINEE FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

KENNETH L. GRIFFIN has been director of bands at Van High School since 1978. He previously taught in Paris and Kilgore. Under his leadership the Van band has received the Sweepstakes Award for the last eighteen consecutive years, was named the TMEA AAA Honor Band in 1986, was the 1986 AAA Sweepstakes winner at TSSEC, and was selected as Outstanding AAA military marching band in 1989 by the National Association of Military Marching Bands. He is a published composer, with a concert march entitled "Talio" in print recently from RBC Music in San Antonio and one entitled "Day to Day" just released by Gore Music Publishing in Denton. He has been the Executive Secretary of ATSSB since its inception in 1991. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, and Phi Beta Mu. He is married and he and his wife Jeannie have one daughter, Alecia Lawyer, who is a Juilliard School of Music graduate and professional oboist.



(Executive Secretary's Column, continued from page 6):

for state office can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

I know all of you are breathing a little easier now that the audition process is just about over - I know I am, along with your Region and Area Coordinators and the State Taping Coordinator. However, the State Chair Audition Coordinator (Neal Sutton) and all of his helpers and the judging panels being organized, the All-State Symphonic Band Organizer (Tom Hall), All-State Symphonic Band Percussion Organizer (Wayne Dannheim), All-State Concert Band Organizer (Daniel Aleman), and All-State Concert Band Percussion Organizer (Thomas Galvez) still have a job ahead of them! The convention-clinic and concerts (both of them!) will take a LOT of preparation, advanced planning and organization. We have booked the rooms for you and your students, reserved the Scottish Rite Auditorium and purchased liability insurance for the time we will occupy it. Mike Hardy has made arrangements for temporary lighting in the auditorium, stands and percussion equipment have to be provided before chair auditions begin on Wednesday night, programs have to be completed (Mike Hardy, again), badges for the students have to be made and personalized (my wife Jeannie types them in), TMEA stickers have to be purchased (\$5 each!) and attached to the badges so the students can go to TMEA exhibits and activities, not to mention many other activities taking place in the background as we prepare for the clinic. All of the people involved give so much of their time to make it a success. It would not be possible if it weren't for their dedication to the profession and the students in the All-State Bands who benefit from their efforts.

I would appreciate it if you would go by the exhibits and thank FRUHAUF UNIFORMS for providing the All-State Band patch for each student. Also, thank CALDWELL MUSIC COMPANY for providing the programs (for the sixth straight year). While you are there, go by CODA MUSIC and thank them for including more UIL PML solos in their repertoire list (but insist that they still have a long way to go!).

I hope to see a lot of you at the convention.



(ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series, continued from page 11):

region coordinator will assemble a panel (or panels) of judges to select the advancing entries. Class consciousness shall be encouraged in each panel.

Using a 5-judge panel and the Olympic scoring method the panel (or panels) will rank all marches in each class, then all other concert selections. The two highest ranked marches and 3 highest ranked concert selections in each class will be forwarded to the area coordinator on or before June 15th.

A rotating system will be devised whereby areas will trade tapes to be ranked. Using the same procedure as at the region level the area coordinator will assemble a panel (or panels) to select two marches and three concert selections to be forwarded on to the state chair on or before July 1st.

Again using the same procedure the state chair will convene a panel for each of the three classifications at TBA in San Antonio to select the outstanding march and two concert selections to be named as the ATSSB Outstanding Performance for each class.

No conductor's scores shall be used in any level of competition. Purely aesthetic standards are to be considered for ranking.

Each selection must be entered on two individual audio cassette tapes which conform to the technical requirements outlined on the official entry form. One set of tapes will be maintained throughout the process as a backup. (If a band enters all three of its contest selections it must enter each selection on an individual tape each with a backup for a total of six tapes.)

The entire process will be overseen by the Class A, AA, and AAA representatives elected by the membership. If the last digit of the school year divided by 3 leaves a remainder of 0, then the 3A representative shall serve as state chair; if the remainder is 1 the 1A representative is chair; if it is 2 the 2A representative will chair. (ex. 1996-7 school year - 7 divided by 3 leaves a remainder of 1, thus 1A.) This will rotate responsibility equally between the classes. The Class Representatives will serve as a committee to study and review the process as needed, with the presiding class representative as chair.

After selection of the three Outstanding Performance programs at TBA a contract will be entered into for producing a compact disc of the winning selections combined with the All-State Band performances. Printed matter included with the CD will include full program notes and biographical information on each director and band represented.

(Continued on page 13)

(ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series, continued from page 12):

The CD will be available for retail sale and distributed free to each public radio station in the state. We will seek broadcast of our programs statewide. Corporate funding will be solicited to encourage Public Radio International and National Public Radio to program our performances. These CD's will provide a vital series of contest reference recordings and will serve as a standard for small school band performance.

At each level of competition the official in charge shall immediately mail a full list of results to each director who has a tape entered. These letters should be of a congratulatory nature and be suitable for local publicity.

Each director represented on the final program will be presented a plaque with a gold copy of the CD mounted on it. The runner-up for the march in each class, and the runner-up for the concert selection in each class will receive a suitable certificate. Presentations will be made at the general membership meeting in February each year.

It is with the greatest humility and honor we serve ATSSB, and we hope this represents a plausible proposal. It is believed that if the SBOD acts favorably we are prepared to select the first in our series this spring. The CD would be available in the fall of 1997. Don Thoede has graciously agreed to undertake the task as the first state chair should approval be forthcoming. The responsibility in the future years would be determined by the formula in the proposal; Class 2A representative in 1997-98, 3A in 1998-99, 1A in 1999-00, etc.

If you have suggestions of non-UIL contests for possible placement on the approved list, contact Ronnie Page, Kenneth Griffin or Don Stockton before the convention so they can be presented to the State Board of Directors for approval should this proposal be enacted for this school year.



(Executive Secretary's Column, continued from page 5):

membership renewal slip noting the increase if paid after October 1), and I sent a reminder at the end of September to all schools whose director had not yet joined. If you don't think this policy should continue, be sure to let your Region Coordinator (or any State Board member) know before we meet in February.

A reminder about piccolo and Eb clarinet: If your flute or clarinet player that made the All-State Band would like to play piccolo (flutes) or Eb Soprano Clarinet (clarinets), have them bring their piccs/effers to San Antonio. After regular chair auditions are completed for flute/clarinet, we will hold separate auditions for these two instruments for each of the bands from among those students interested in it that were selected for their respective bands. One piccolo and one soprano clarinet may be selected from among the Symphonic flutes and clarinets; also, one piccolo and one soprano clarinet may be selected from among the Concert flutes and clarinets. If no one auditions on these instruments from one, either, or both bands, then the instrument will not be used.

A word about housing: You must prepay for your room and/or your student's portion of the room at the Ramada Emily Morgan! The cost (including applicable taxes from which we are not exempt) is \$78 per student (if four to a room) or \$105 per student (if three to a room) or \$312 per room for directors (split any way you can among directors sharing the room with you!). Make sure you include the student name and school (or director's name and school) and Form 14 code number if you remember it (A1, B3K, etc. - don't worry about the code if you can't remember it; the most important thing to remember is to include your names and schools with the check you send). Remember to take care of this before February 5 or you will lose your reservation!

We plan to hold our ATSSB Business Session in the Scottish Rite Auditorium at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 13. Elections for President-Elect and for Executive Secretary for 1997-99 will be held at this meeting, as will voting for or against Constitutional amendments, so I hope you can make plans around the busy activities in San Antonio at that time of year to attend. A short biographical sketch of each candidate

(Continued on page 7)

Executive Secretary's Column

by *Kenneth L. Griffin*

By the time you receive this Newsletter, you will have already finished with Area auditions. I hope the audition process went well for all of you and that you made satisfactory room reservations - not only for your students that were selected for the ATSSB All-State Bands, but also for yourselves!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Don Stockton for his two years as President of ATSSB. He has provided refreshing guidance for our Association and his influence will be missed in that capacity (even though he will continue to be a strong voice for input as Region 10 Coordinator!). We have been most fortunate to have the professional guidance and foresight of people like Mike Marsh, Fred Pankratz, and Don Stockton to lead our Association and I look for that to continue with Ronnie Page in the coming two years.

The Executive Committee met by conference call several times to deal with appeals and once in person to look into the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series (see article elsewhere). At one of these meetings, it was decided that we should sponsor a performance by the QUANTUM BRASS, a professional brass quintet currently in residence in northeast Texas under a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and other funding sources. They are scheduled to perform in the Scottish Rite Auditorium at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 1997. We have shortened the rehearsal times for both bands that morning so we can have our General Membership meeting at 11:30 a.m. in the Auditorium also. We hope you, the all-state students, and any interested director (regardless of classification or membership status!) will be able to attend the free concert.

Our 4-Year All-State Band Scholarship Fund stands at \$8923.30 - up from the \$4,653.75 reported in the October Newsletter. This increase is mainly because of the 169 members who joined after October 1, paying an additional \$25 in dues which went into this fund! Dues were increased to \$50 after October 1 by the State Board of Directors last February - we reported it in the General Membership meeting then, in the April Newsletter, in the July Newsletter (which included a

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FINANCIAL REPORT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS February 13, 1997

Amount in checking account 6-30-96 \$ 13,607.56

RECEIPTS:

Dues and patches..... \$ 23,432.50
Interest on checking account \$ 197.33

AVAILABLE FUNDS \$ 37,237.39

EXPENSES:

Patches \$ 7,859.16
Overpaid dues \$ 50.00
Returned checks \$ 50.00
Postage \$ 773.51
Office supplies \$ 550.12
TMEA \$ 1,175.00
TBA \$ 531.00
TBA Clinician Honorarium \$ 200.00
All-State expenses \$ 75.85
Scottish Rite Auditorium \$ 1,632.80
Commission \$ 1,500.00
Executive Secretary stipend \$ 3,000.00
SBOD expenses \$ 240.00
Newsletter expenses \$ 142.07
Deposit to Scholarship Fund \$ 4,050.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 21,829.51

BALANCE:

Amount in checking account 12-31-96 \$ 15,407.38

The **ATSSB Newsletter** is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. Articles of interest to its members are encouraged as are letters to the Editor. All must be signed and may be subject to editing for length and/or content and may be anonymous if so requested. Send all correspondence by email to **KL2000G@aol.com** or **klgriff@tenet.edu** or you may snailmail them to ATSSB; P.O. Box 1508; Van, Texas 75790.

("HELP YOUR STUDENTS", continued from page 16):

slower rate. The great advantage here is the sequencer allows you to play over and over until you get it right. Once you have recorded the music as digital information, you can save it on a floppy disk or transfer it to tape. Since your district music will return in the future, you will be prepared for the next time the same music is used. This also goes for music from the PML. The sequencer allows you to play back your recording at any speed with no loss of tone quality. You may generate a clarinet, flute, sax, trumpet, or timpani sound to help your kids identify the BIG picture with their musical selections. This is a big help for those students who need the slow speed when preparing their music. It also gives them a perfect pitch to match if you set your system up right. For your gifted students, you may want to push them more quickly to the tempo needed to perfect their selection. You can easily transfer these tunes to their tapes for them to play over and over at home. You do NOT need to tie up your computer. You do NOT have to buy any special units of music. Just record what you need at your school for that year and save for the future.

When you are ready for solos, you may record the instrumental sound on the right side and piano accompaniments on the left side of the tapes. They can then practice with a keyboard & instrument sound at home or after school. Students must follow the keyboard, but you can produce an audible metronome. If your student can perform with a metronome, they can perform with more freedom after they mastered the proper tempos.

With or without private lessons, this is a great way to reach all of yours kids in preparing district music as well as solos for contest, concerts or special events. I find recording class I piano parts very helpful. This frees me up to get up and watch my soloist perform and check their music and embouchure, while the keyboard is playing for me by way of the sequencer. If the music requires retards or tempo changes, I can plan it in the system. This frees up my computer to do clerical work as well as drill charting with an Apple Presentation System connected to my TV screen (another future story)...

For more information you may reach us at:
wlowes@tenet.edu



(President's Column, continued from page 1):

unprofessional comments. The most common is, "I did not hear one real musician. Those (instrument)s are just terrible." I wonder how many students have heard this comment, especially just after they finished trying out in that teacher's room? I, too, have served on judging panels where it seemed that the students were not doing very well. When I get in that kind of mood, I ask myself, "Would I like to have this student in my band?" Almost every time, the answer is "Yes." Many of my students who play really well have gone into a tryout or into a solo performance and bombed. This happens to the very best. I learned a hard lesson some years ago. I had just finished judging at region tryouts and made the comment that the first chair player in the section was really a poor player, implying that the whole section was bad. I later found out that the student in question was suffering an emotional letdown from a death in his family that occurred just a few days before tryouts. I needed a shovel to dig myself out of that one. Not too long ago, I was judging tubas at Area. A director on the panel commented that this bunch of tubas were not of all-state caliber. My first thought was that I sure wish that I could recruit the last three chairs! By the way, my son was among those who were trying out. Did I mention that he has made all-state two times so far?

Have you ever told your kids that so and so judge was brain-dead and would not know a good band if it walked all over him? What did you teach the students? The year that my band won honor band, we received a 1-1-2 on the stage. I asked those students if they personally did not make a single mistake in the performance. I told my band that we had a lot of work to do. It was obvious that not all agreed that our performance was of honor band caliber. I used that judge's comments as my lesson plan for the next two weeks to prepare for the State Wind Ensemble Contest. The rest of the story is history.

I learned a long time ago that the students will believe what you say about your performance. Tell them the truth, they can handle it. Use your rating to improve your band. If you tell the students that the 2 was a bad call, they will believe you and decide they do not need to improve. On the other hand, a 2 can be very helpful when it comes time to motivate the students to be the best they can be.

The professionalism goes farther than just

(Continued on page 3)


ATSSB NEWSLETTER
 Official Publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands
 Volume VI, Number 3
 January, 1997



President's Column
by *Don Stockton*

As I write my last regular column for the Newsletter, I would like to thank you, the membership, for a fantastic two years. The cooperation that we share with each other is extraordinary and for this, I am in your debt. You have made my tenure a true pleasure. I leave office knowing that our organization is in good hands with Ronnie Page at the helm. Ronnie has some really great ideas for us and I am anxiously waiting for them to unfold. I know that we will all continue to contribute our talents to ATSSB so that Ronnie, too, can have tremendous success as our new President. Ronnie, the membership and I salute you. We wish you a pleasant term.

I cannot close out my term without mentioning the person who is responsible for making our Association run so smoothly. We are extremely lucky to have Kenneth Griffin as our Executive Secretary. I don't know how he finds the time to operate one of the finest bands in the state and run ATSSB so efficiently. He is the real leader of our organization. We are truly blessed because of Kenneth. I just can't find the words to describe how important he is to us. Kenneth, my personal thanks go out to you for making ATSSB a first class organization.

Please allow me to say a few things about our teaching profession. As teachers, we have an obligation to our students and to ourselves. This obligation is to be a professional. We just finished region tryouts and during these I have heard and have been told about several

(Continued on page 2)

ATSSB State Board of Directors

ATSSB Executive Committee (State Elected Officers):
 Don Stockton, Warren HS, President
 Ronnie Page, Overton HS, President-Elect
 Kenneth Griffin, Van HS, Executive Secretary
 Gene Conway, Wortham HS, Class A Representative
 Eric Wharton, Beckville HS, Class AA Representative
 Don Thoede, Clifton HS, Class AAA Representative

Region Coordinators:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Rick Ball, Sunray HS | 11 Michael Hardy, Somerset HS |
| 2 Dennis Teasdale, Jim Ned HS | 12 Sandy Brown, Karnes City HS |
| 3 Elmer Schenk, Howe HS | 13 Bill Harrison, Edna HS |
| 4 Greg Rose, Pittsburg HS | 14 Ron Welborn, Ingleside HS |
| 5 Pat Autry, Whitesboro HS | 15 Tom Stirzaker, La Feria HS |
| 6 Jesse Lotspeich, Crane HS | 16 Richard Herrera, Brownfield HS |
| 7 Scott Stephenson, Ballinger HS | 19 Jim Smith, Tarkington HS |
| 8 Jeff Comp, Academy HS | 18 Ed Lowes, La Grange HS |
| 9 Alfred Angerstein, Kinkaid | 21 John Canfield, Rusk MS |
| 10 Don Stockton, Warren HS | 22 Forrest Perry, Van Horn HS |

Area A Coordinator (1,6,16,22): Britt Gordon, Sundown HS
 Area B Coordinator (2,3&20,5): Louis Thornton, Wylie HS
 Area C Coordinator (4,10,17&19,21): Mark Melton, Panola JC
 Area D Coordinator (7,8,9,18): Jeff Comp, McLennan CC
 Area E Coordinator (11,12,13,14,15): David Smith, Banquete HS

All-State Symphonic Band Organizer: Tom Hall, Aledo HS
 All-State Symphonic Perc. Org.: Wayne Dannheim, Kennedale HS
 All-State Concert Band Organizer: Daniel Aleman, Pearsall HS
 All-State Concert Perc. Org.: Thomas Galvez, Medina Valley HS
 All-State Band Seating Tryout Organizer: Neal Sutton, Atlanta HS

Use your Membership Roster for telephone numbers or addresses

ALL-STATE CLINIC February 12-15, 1997:
 Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser, Symphonic Band Clinician
 Dr. Gary Garner, Concert Band Clinician