

Playwriting 101

Community play focuses on anti-violence

BY CHRIS MARTIN
Staff writer

Jonesboro. Once a small, peaceful town — now a loaded word, synonymous with the plague of youth violence in the country.

Regardless of the media hype, regardless of the gun control issues, regardless of who to blame, the cold facts of children murdering children remains.

The situation has sparked endless discussion among parents, teachers and other responsible adults, but the lack of dialogue with children seems to only add to the problem.

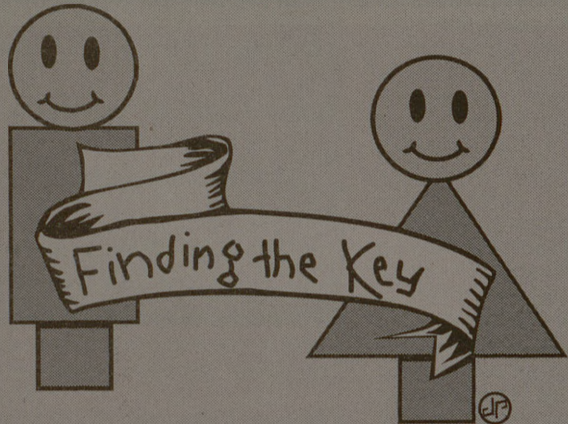
This Friday the Friends Just Peace Institute is hosting itself as part of the solution with "Finding the Key," a free play for the community that takes a serious look at children and violence in society.

The play, which is being held at 7 p.m. at Friends Congregational Church in College Station, was written by "magination Station" director and local playwright Randy Wilson.

"It's an anti-violence play that shows how a child's life can easily evolve into violence," Wilson said. "I was commissioned to write it last fall, before the Jonesboro incident, but those events certainly make it more relevant."

Phyllis Frederiksen of the Just Peace Institute said the play was commissioned with help from grant by the Brazos Valley Youth Grant Program as an attempt to get people to think about peace and justice issues.

"Children and violence is getting people's attention now, and people want to know 'what can we do,'" Frederiksen said. "The play urges us to start with our own children and ourselves, and



we want the whole community to have an opportunity to see the play's message."

The play is 20 minutes long, features choreography and music and will be performed by the young actors — or "magineers" — of "magination Station."

Although the play is geared toward a young audience, Wilson said there is something for all age groups.

"Surprisingly, it works for all ages," Wilson said. "It targets 4th to 6th graders, the real at-risk age. But the adults who have seen it loved it. The school audiences really loved it. Even the private schools who saw it loved it — and that's a tough audience."

Wilson said he feels that even the college crowd can benefit from coming to the show.

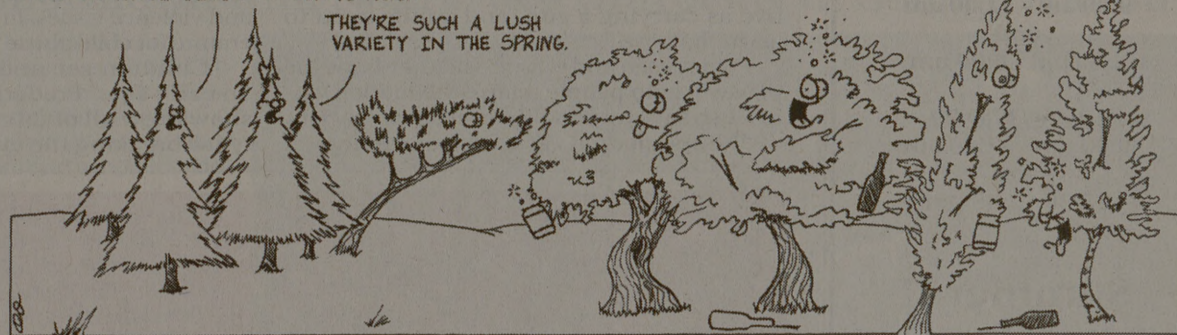
PLEASE SEE **PLAY** ON PAGE 4.

Sketch

By Quatro

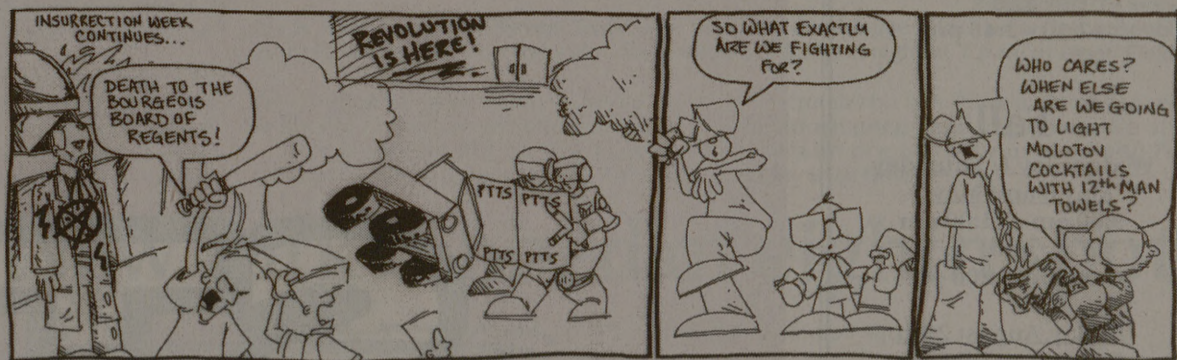
THERE GO THOSE DECIDUOUS IDIOTS AGAIN.

THEY'RE SUCH A LUSH VARIETY IN THE SPRING.



Ewe Hall

By JED



Simel & Lewis

By Mell



Angelic film takes No. 1 spot at weekend box office

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The supernatural romance of *Angels* soared over the marooned *Lost in Space*, *Titanic* sank to third place at the box office over the day weekend, according to industry estimates.

In *City of Angels*, Nicolas Cage stars as an angel who chooses between immortality or human life when he is in love with a heart surgeon, played by Meg Ryan. The film earned \$16.1 million in ticket sales.

Lost in Space, based on the campy 1960s television series, dropped to second place with \$13.6 million, a week after its debut derailed the 15-week run of *Titanic* as North America's No. 1 film.

Here are estimated grosses for the top movies at North American theaters for Friday through Sunday:

1. *City of Angels*, \$16.1 million.
2. *Lost in Space*, \$13.6 million.
3. *Titanic*, \$8.7 million.
4. *Species*, \$7.4 million.
5. *The Players Club*, \$5.6 million.
6. *Mercury Rising*, \$5.3 million.
7. *Neil Simon's The Odd Couple II*, \$5 million.
8. *My Giant*, \$3.1 million.
9. *Grease*, \$2.65 million.
10. *Primary Colors*, \$2.6 million.

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but it's a free country
and nobody should be
forced to like them.
— mark, age 8

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