

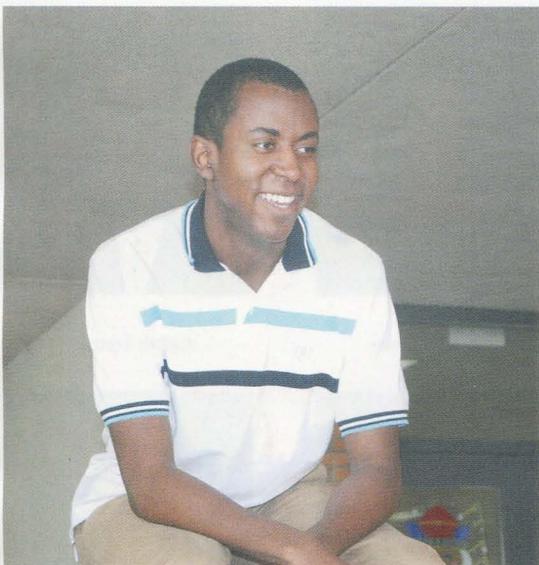
"I wish I had paid more attention in math class. I am only now in Geometry, and I am a senior," **MARISSA LISKEY**, 12.



"I wish I would have realized the importance of applying myself to get a better grade. I've always been a goof-off and made bad grades." **DALLAS SCHEAN**, 12.



so misunderstood. Just because you like someone doesn't mean you love them." -Austin Wright **HOOVER, ELAINE** "Being happy doesn't mean everything is perfect. It means that you've -Blades of Glory **HUTTON, BILLY** "If you cut corners in this gym...you'll cut corners in life." -Coach Moore **JACOBSON, JAIME** "Do or do not, there is no try." -Yoda



IT'S O.K. TO BE GAY

Living in a small town where so many people seem alike, sometimes it is difficult for people to really be comfortable and confident about whom they really are. For Zac Mitchell, this is no longer the case. Zac has been openly gay all throughout his high school career. "I came out to the public my eighth grade year. Someone at school had made a gay joke about me and I was like, 'I am gay, so what?'" tells Zac. Before he came out about being gay, he had always been nervous about what people would think and how they would react. "It was alright. It wasn't as bad as I had thought it would be. The girls were all so excited and the boys were pretty much half and half. Some of them didn't care and seemed like they had always known, but some weren't okay with it," he adds. Zac's

family had known that he was gay since he was three years old. "They knew when they saw me kissing a boy behind the monkey bars," tells Zac. Zac has gained a lot of self-confidence since coming out to the public. "There will always be people who bully me for being gay, but I don't care. It doesn't affect me and it never has. That's probably why they keep doing it," tells Zac. He has hopes that he can help people who are struggling with coming out about being gay themselves. "As a person who is all about love and peace, I know that you can't be fully or truly happy until you are confident in who you are. I donate money to gay right programs. A lot of people don't know the things I do for the community. My family donates 500 dollars a year to a breast cancer foundation and we always donate money to parades and other functions for gay rights and acceptance," tells Zac. Zac has really become confident in himself and is open to trying new things to find out who he is. "Me and my friend Ashanti were in Nashville. A lot more people are out about being gay their than there is here. Ashanti was like, 'Do you want to cross dress?' and I was like 'Oh my gosh, yes, I would love to!'" tells Zac. "Cross dressing was so much fun. It was funny, so many straight guys came and hit on me that night," **ZAC MITCHELL**.