

## Listen Up! If you like this, you'll love that.

### Famous: Mayday Parade

By Rachel Fritzman



Though their success has not been as overwhelming as the bands we have featured in the past, this band is making their mark with listeners everywhere. The band is known as Mayday Parade and they originated in Tallahassee, Florida, in the winter of 2005.

This quintet began to build a great fan base very fast thanks to the 2006 Vans Warped Tour. Although they weren't playing this time, they managed to gain over 10,000 fans. The band followed the tour and passed out their CDs to fans of the tour who were eagerly waiting to gain entrance to the concerts. They spent long days sitting outside the entrance making friends and, more importantly, fans during the tour. At the end of the tour, Mayday Parade had sold over 10,000 copies of their EP (extended play) without even playing one show.

It started to look like their hard work had finally paid off. In September 2006, they went on their first full U.S. tour with the band Brandston and Melee. This was followed by a second U.S. tour with Plain White T's. They even actually got to play at the next year's 2007 Vans Warped Tour. In the fall of 2006, Mayday Parade was signed with the California based record label, Fearless Records. "It was like reaching the final step at the top of a very long set of stairs. And Fearless believed in us and admired what we had accomplished on our own," guitarist Brooks Bretts stated in his interview with Fearless Records.

Mayday Parade is now touring across the United States co-headlining with All Time Low. I got to go to this concert last Saturday, and I feel that they sound just as good live as they do on their CDs. However, if you don't get to go to one of their shows, make sure to listen to their newest CD "A Lesson Learned in Romanticism." I promise you won't be disappointed.

### Unknown: Holiday Parade

By Julie Ridgley

There are many experiences in life to which almost everyone can relate. Life can be hard, but there are also times when everything seems perfect. This euphoric time is the feeling that the four piece band Holiday Parade hopes to recreate with their music.

The band put down its roots in Atlanta, Georgia. They were formed when lead vocalist Andy Albert, who had played in many local bands during the last five years, decided to get serious about his music. He states that he began writing songs "with the belief that if you want something done right you have to do it yourself." Andy joined up with drummer Jason Andrews, Bassist Michael Whitworth, and guitarist Rohan Kohli and Holiday Parade was formed.



This acoustic rock quartet is currently unsigned. They band released a full length album *Two Cheers for Tuesday* in 2006. They followed up with the EP *To You. From Us* two years later. The guys are dedicated to coming up with music that everyone can understand. "When I write songs I rely heavily on personal experiences and the things that mean the most to me in life. If you really think about it, everyone goes through similar, if not the same, experiences: first kisses, falling in love, friends and enemies, loss etc. We are all intertwined in this aspect.... so I write about all of them," says Albert in an interview with [absolutejunk.net](http://absolutejunk.net).

If you're in the mood for some tunes that will put a smile on your face and are a fan of Mayday Parade, Holiday Parade is for you. Pick up an album, EP, or befriend them on Myspace today.

### Downplay displays talent

By Jay Bates

Downplay played the night of Friday, November 21, 2008. They dazzled a sell out crowd of roughly four hundred fans including a major critic from Capitol Records at the Elks Hall on East State Street in Salem. The critic has been known to sign some very recognizable talent like Saving Able, Saosin and Matchbox 20. The concert lasted a magical hour and a half from about 10 to 11:30 PM.

Between the hour and a half of face melting riffs and catchy lyricisms, Downplay presented new songs like "Burn It Away" and "Save Me." They also played old fan favorites like "Maybe," "15 minutes," and the ever popular "Queen of New York City."

The band consists of (vocalists)Dustin Bates and (drummer)Brandon Hill, both graduates of Salem; (bassist) Chad White of Toledo; (lead guitarist) Nick Kiser of Columbus; and (rhythmic guitarist) Mike Mealey of Cleveland.

The talent recruiter Kim Stevens from Capitol Records seemed very interested and has stayed in contact with Downplay. He even requested a set list of favorite songs to preview to the president of Capitol Records!

Dustin Bates, the vocalist of Downplay, and my older brother have great confidence that their music will become mainstream after two new song additions.

## Predicted top ten Christmas movies of 2008

By Patrick Simpson

1. *Twilight*  
Released: Nov. 21, 2008
2. *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*  
Released: Dec. 19, 2008
3. *The Day the Earth Stood Still*  
Released: Dec. 12, 2008
4. *Australia*  
Released: Nov. 26, 2008
5. *The Road*  
Released: Dec. 2008
6. *Revolutionary Road*  
Released: Dec. 26, 2008
7. *The Spirit*  
Released: Dec. 25, 2008
8. *Valkyrie*  
Released: Dec. 26, 2008
9. *Quantum of Solace*  
Released: Nov. 14, 2008
10. *Marley and Me*  
Released: Dec. 25, 2008

One of the most highly anticipated movies of the season is *Twilight*. It is based on the first of four books in a series written by Stephenie Meyer called *Twilight*. Directed by Catherine Hardwicke, the movie is about a teenage girl

named Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) who is a little different and never really cared about fitting in with all of the popular kids. Her junior year she moves from Phoenix, Arizona, to Forks, Washington, to live with her father. There she ends up falling in love with a boy named Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson). Edward is a vampire and the closer in contact they come with one another the more he must resist her scent. As others find out that Bella is human, Edward must fight to save her throughout the movie.\*

When asked about the movie, Tori Rudibaugh said that she had also read the book. Regarding the movie she said, "Amazing! I thought Kristen Stewart was a poor choice for Bella until the end. The fight scene was amazing. Also, I thought Robert Pattinson portrayed the role of Edward very well. And well, he's just hot."

Rachel Fritzman said she had also read the book and when asked about the movie she replied,

"I really liked the movie, but I liked the book way better. I don't think that they got Bella right at all. She looked like I imagined her to, but her personality wasn't right at all and that ruined it for me."

Dana Ackerman said that she too had read the book. When asked about the movie, she stated: "I was so excited to see the movie, and I loved it. Most of the characters were exactly how I pictured them to be, especially the vampires. I didn't think they did the car crash as well as the book, but the scene when Edward saves Bella from becoming a vampire was amazing. It seemed like he was really going to kill her right there. The kiss in the movie was the best kiss I have ever seen out of any movies. Ever. I went Friday night with my friends and then took my cousin and sister the next day. I can't wait for *New Moon!*"

\* <http://www.daemonsmovies.com/2008/08/21/top-20-christmas-movies-of-2008/>



## Christmas fun

By Richard Myers

Christmas is a lot of fun. It includes presents, family, and all of the food you could ever eat. And how about Christmas break? We go to the relatives, lie around, and get up late. What could be better than lying around and getting up late? I couldn't think of anything else I would want to do. But I asked some of our fellow students what they will do over break, and this is what they had to say.

Freshman Zack Myers said, "I will be going to my grandmother's on Christmas Eve. After that I will stay home and play video games. On New Years I will stay home and run around the house when the ball drops to take the old out and bring the new in."

Mark Pitts, a senior, replied, "I sit around, kind of like a bump on a log."

Josh Carroll, a senior, also replied, "I'll be traveling to North

Carolina to see my family for Christmas"

Freshman Corey Cody said, "Eat, sleep, and visit family."

Bilal Abd Rasul, a senior, exclaimed, "I'm Muslim!"

Senior Suzanne Waterbeck replied, "I plan to spend time with friends and family and celebrate my eighteenth birthday."

Senior Chad Anderson answered, "Probably put up lights, and get electrocuted in the process. Drink eggnog and sit around."

Jordan Stewart, a freshman, said, "I'm going to Florida to see my uncle and go to Disney World for my Christmas present. Then I will come home for two days after Christmas, and I'll stay up all night on New Years Eve."

No matter what people do over Christmas break, try to have some fun and celebrate all you can because you won't be able to after you come back.