February 2019

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Recommended Citation
Available at: https://dc.swosu.edu/sayre_student_anthology/vol1/iss4/16

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**His Barbed Wire Halo ~ by Chelsea Coffey**

Being in a room with somebody and automatically feeling warmth there is an amazing thing. Maybe it’s because of a person that has a smile a mile-wide and a laugh that’s graceful. Just being around a certain person makes everybody have the same feelings as him. He will always have a mile-wide smile and graceful laugh. This person could be worried about so many things, but never worried about himself.

I have a person like that, my best friend. I should actually say I had a person like that. My best friend just recently passed away on Halloween morning. Only being a few weeks ago, it still doesn’t seem real. My best friend Seth Gardner Rutledge was sick his whole life. He had Cystic Fibrosis from the time he was six months old. I was having a hard time with him being gone, so my father sat me down and talked to me.

All I could think about was it wasn’t fair. God had put this amazing person in my life, then took him away from me. It was then my father said, “Wasn’t Seth put in your life to teach you something? Didn’t you learn something from him?” He did teach me something. To never give up on myself, to never hold anything back, even if there is pain to live on through it because life can be short. He told me before he passed that I was an amazing gift from God. Knowing I had that kind of impact on his life will warm my heart forever.

Aaron Watson sings the lyrics “Showing off his band new spanking wings and his barbed wire halo” they mean so much because, that’s how I picture him being in heaven. I miss him every day and think about him everywhere I go. He’s here, always influencing me in my life still. I can’t step into that room and feel the warmth of his smile anymore, although I can feel the warmth of his grace among me today. Now he never has to struggle to breathe again.