

WAVELENGTHS

Voice of the Greenwave

Ashbrook High School, 2222 South New Hope Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054

Vandals Create Problems

String of vandalism on track, stadium and facility worries administration, students

BY CARIE WILLIAMSON/
Staff Writer

The weekend of October 8-10, students from three different schools on three different nights vandalized Ashbrook's Bill Eccles stadium.

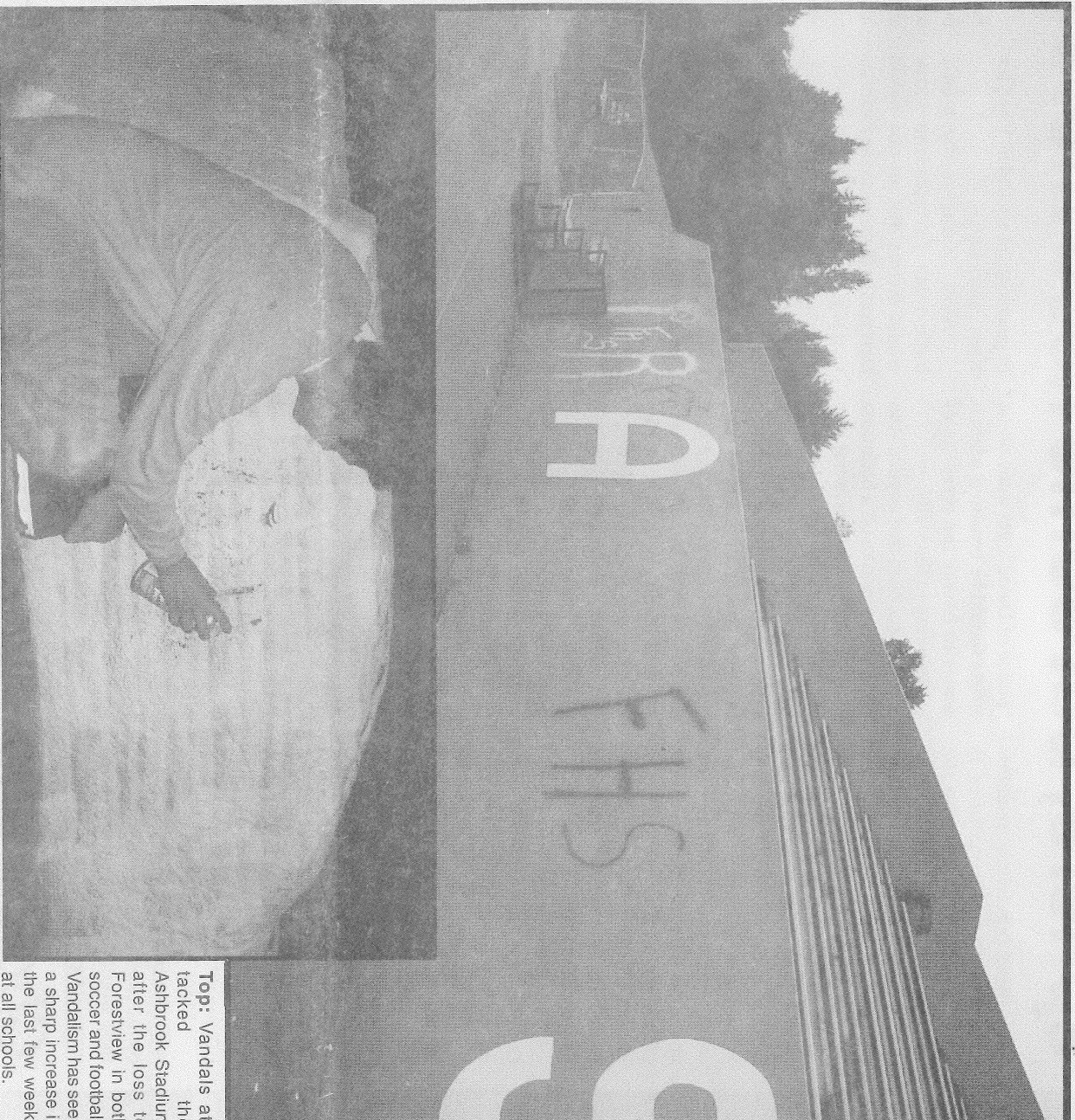
The letters T-R were painted in front of the word Ashbrook on each wall facing the stands. Profanity was painted on the field as well as an inappropriate body part painted over the 'A' at the 50-yard line. Items were stolen from the ticket booth as well as a banner taken from the front fence.

"We have video tape of some of the people, and we are in the process of identifying them," Lloyd White, athletic director said.

"The best we can tell, these are from three separate schools. We have the resource officers looking at the tapes, trying to identify cars and students from the other schools."

"The school will seek restitution and if we find out

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Photos by Preston Neill

Top: Vandals attacked the Ashbrook Stadium after the loss to Forestview in both soccer and football. Vandalism has seen a sharp increase in the last few weeks at all schools.

Diane Funderburk wins 'Teacher of the Year' honors

BY KERRY MEULMAN/
Staff Writer

Speaking English comes first hand to most of the students at Ashbrook. However, when it comes to the students who don't speak English well or not at all, Diane Funderburk is the teacher in charge.

Now in her seventeenth year of teaching, Funderburk was awarded the honor of

being Ashbrook's "Teacher of the Year."

"It was a big surprise," said Funderburk. "I just try and do my job the best I can, everyday."

According to last year's Teacher of the Year, AI Froneberger, the award is decided amongst the faculty.

Then there is a ballot and a runoff before a decision is made. Funderburk received

the most votes with Algebra II teacher AI Hess receiving runner-up.

"I used to teach Spanish, so I just switched over to English as a Second Language (ESL)," said Funderburk. "Basically because I saw the needs in the schools for someone who could teach ESL kids English, while being able to speak their language."

Funderburk is an expert in foreign languages and can speak many languages fluently. Her main purpose at Ashbrook is to teach kids that have moved to America from different countries how to speak English.

Her job may sound easy to the ear; however, it is not

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Photo by Preston Neill
Above: ESL teacher Diane Funderburk goes over a test for her students. Funderburk recently won the Teacher of the Year honor for outstanding efforts and contributions as a teacher.

Tardies out of hand, new policy instituted

BY CARIE WILLIAMSON AND JOURNEY QUEEN/Staff Writers

A new tardy policy going into effect the last week of October will leave Ashbrook students literally locked out of classrooms if they are tardy for class.

If outside of class when tardy bell rings, late students will report to a central location where their tardy will be documented properly. They will then receive a note to class. This takes the responsibility off of teachers when recording tardies.

However, the consequences for students

are much more harsh. After two tardies, the student receives one hour of after school detention (ASD). And the hours add on for each tardy until five, when they are given suspension.

"This policy was used at another school and it proved to be very successful," said Rebecca Wilson, assistant principal. "They cut down on tardies by 80% in the first week."

Many teachers look forward to the policy and think it will be very effective.

Snow days may be built-in

BY ABBY MOSKOWITZ/Staff Writer

Unexpected snow days have been a controversy to many students' plans for vacation. This past year, five school days were canceled because of snow. The days made up caused problems for many students.

"I find that make-up days are inconvenient," said Lindsay Kanwisher. "My spring break plans were ruined, and I think teacher workdays should be changed to snow days."

However, for those who care less about school, the make-up days were not an

issue for them. "When snow days are made up on our spring break, half the people don't come any way," said junior Jessica Boone. "So what's the point?"

Are make-up days worth all the troubles people go through or don't go through at all? In the alternative perspective, should they just be added in as a normal days off?

This answer lies in the hands of our County board

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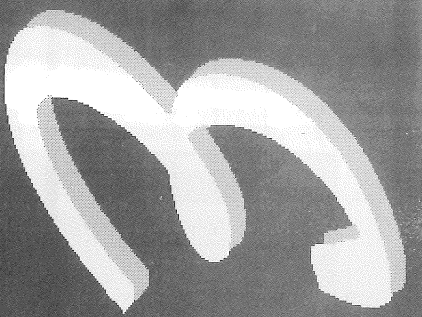
"I think planning ahead and building in snow days sounds like a good plan."

-Tyler Grant
Junior

"I think it will be wonderful. They tried it elsewhere and it worked great," said Anthony Giacobbe, teacher at Ashbrook. "It may be a rough first week but then it won't be worth it (the student's time) to be tardy."

Students, on the other hand, have varied opinions on the new policy. Because of the strict consequences, some students wouldn't bother coming to that class.

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The purpose of this publication is to apprise its readership of pertinent, school-related information and, as a public forum, to offer them the opportunity to publish their convictions in the form of letters-to-the-editor. An editorial board comprised of the editors and adviser reserves the right to review all letters for ethical standards and to edit them for accuracy.

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DIETORIAS

Student artists contribute to atmosphere, but some need more practice

Among our fellow students' quickest growing pastimes is spray-painting or coloring the various walls of our school. All of the pessimists and cynics label this art form "graffiti".

But true "graffiti" is a wonderful mode of expression that only shows the diversity and heritage of the people at Ashbrook. Who can forget those immortal words engraved in Sharpie just above the toilet on the wall of the middle stall of the boys' bathroom just outside of Mr. Stewart's former room? The students art reminded us where the joke is.

Sometimes, I just can't believe that those words were erased by their shameless critics.

However, it should be applauded if artists use the school as a canvas. Most of the time, whenever we divert our attention to nature's call, we are amused by all of the fine display of talent on the bathroom walls and the stalls. Sometimes, we leave class solely to find out who loves Jenny today (for a good time, call 867-5309).

Most students and teachers with fine tastes are as taken aback by the exhibits in the bathrooms as they would have been to see the unveiling of Michelangelo's

"Statue of David", yet some of the artists should be censured when it comes to having the privilege of contributing to the walls.

It is doubtful that anyone who fashions a swastika on a bathroom wall actually knows what the symbol means or what political statement they make by drawing a swastika. There is a major election in a few days, but there is no Nazi candidate, which negates the idea that they would be supporting a political ideology. It must be that students are fond of

the ancient Roman alphabet and are particularly engrossed with certain letters of their alphabet, since it is no longer 1935 and any relevance that a swastika may have had then has been negated by the outcome of World War II.

Another clueless male decided that he would represent an organization on the wall with the letters "KKK". The problem is, when he actually spelled the name of the

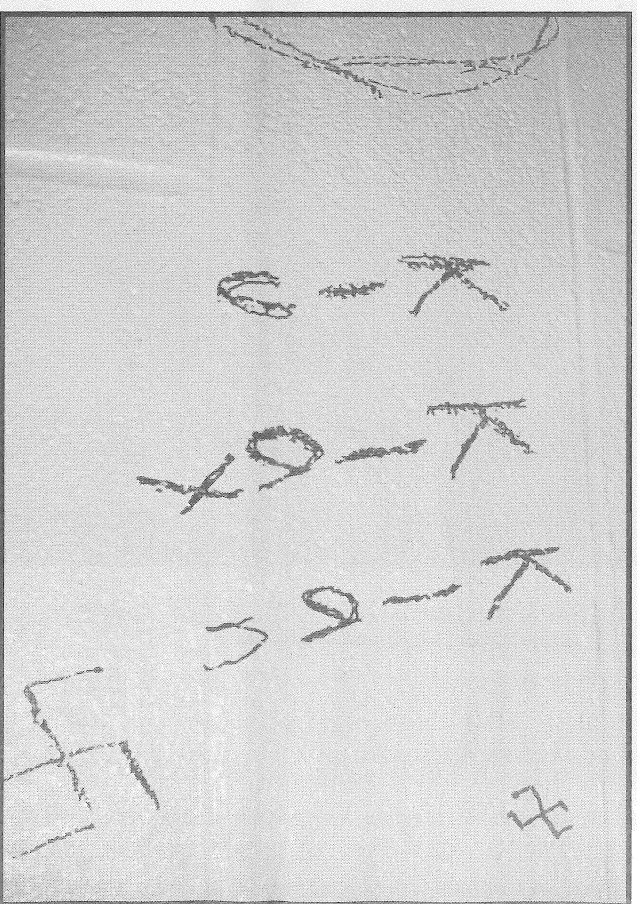


photo by Bryan Cockfield

Choice and Funding Weighy Issue in Cafeteria

by Abby Moskowitz/Staff Writer

Not only the hunger for food, but the hunger for money designs Ashbrook's cafeteria menu.

Ashbrook's cafeteria menu consists of unhealthy foods such as pizza, burgers, tacos, cakes, soda, and super doughnuts. According to published studies, these foods are known to cause obesity, hyperactivity, and lead to lack of concentration.

However, county officials seem to ignore these hazards to be cost efficient. In spite of concerns about adolescent obesity, unhealthy foods are becoming the standard for high school lunches because they come from the lowest bidders. It is apparent that food is being chosen not for its quality and health, but for its cost.

If the food is full of unhealthy substances with the cost being very cheap and satisfying then most likely the food will be chosen. The main concentration for choosing the food for a cafeteria should be to make sure it is healthy and a good balance for a teenager's diet.

Previous articles shown in *Gaston Gazette* explained the nutritious aspects of the meal they produce. In it they tell how they

organization, he spelled it "Klu Klux Klan". Get a klu.

Also, as far as the men's bathrooms go, common sense would dictate that no one would traverse the distance to the facilities to study for an anatomy quiz. Not to mention the fact that if they did, they would probably fail, because the taggers at this school are not skilled enough to incorporate a decent ratio of size or a three-dimensional view.

A simple solution is available. Funds should be diverted from the budget or from the student council treasury to purchase equipment and supplies for our young artists who have not yet developed their skills as artists. They can practice wherever they would like until it becomes tasteful enough to transfer to the walls of our bathrooms.

Or, until funding grows, or the level of artistic integrity has been raised, please just stop.

improve health in school food. One is the US Department of Agriculture's. They want to provide low cost and no cost for the price of food in public schools. Also, they want to boost the agricultural industry in selling the school food.

One school in Wisconsin completely changed its style of food in the cafeteria. Appleton Central Alternative High School switched from "grease to grains." They benefited from the local health food manufacturer, Natural Ovens Bakery. The new plan consisted of a salad bar and fresh fruit. Juices replaced sodas. Basically, they only provided students healthy choices.

"My students showed increased attention and listening skills", said teacher Mary Bruyette of Appleton Alternative School.

The change in this high school's food nutrition clearly shows overall positive effects for the school, students are no longer on a sugar high for the remainder of the day; everyone is in full concentration. Logically, this will build up a better overall grade average for the whole school. Students will grasp onto learning in a quicker more sufficient manner.

This is a hard task for any public school to achieve. The money issue would be a major

setback, because to find large amounts of food for public schools is not the cheapest purchase.

"Most public school lunch programs operate on a shoestring, so the lucrative contracts that the chains offer are difficult to pass up", wrote Kristen Schultz in her article "Change the Food, Change the Child".

This is a clear statement that refers to how Ashbrook's selection of food works. Gaston County Schools are on a fairly tight budget. Therefore, any type of food may be is definitely going to pursue its selection depending on the cost. Although, the choices for food may not have an outstanding overall result. It's okay, it's the best deal.

In this budget-wavering world, it is just inevitable that everything leads back to reality. Therefore, a sudden boost in the schools budget is the only solution to make Ashbrook's nutrition better. So this idea in a legitimate perspective will technically never work out.

With a limited amount of possibilities, Ashbrook has to improve the menu to a healthier satisfying food. It would be a difficult task in which to completely succeed in; however, there are still ways the students can take action to making everything healthier for themselves.

Letters to the Editor

New Tardy Policy Upsets Students

I am a concerned sophomore, and I believe that we have one of the best high schools in Gaston County. However, I do have a concern about the new tardy policy being implemented during the next six weeks' grading period. I believe that the new policy is a little strict. Although the policy may help the problem, I believe that it will cause more students to skip. It is better to have the students late for class rather than have them not come at all. As a student, I understand that tardies have become a major problem, and I believe that if the teachers and maybe even a few students got together we could come up with a better plan.

BY SOLITA JEFFERIES/Sophomore

I realize that we have to be in class for 90 minutes, but I feel like five minutes to go to our lockers and walk to the other side of the school isn't long enough. Five minutes doesn't seem long, but when there are many people in one tiny hall, all headed in different directions, students tend to stop walking every three steps. Five minutes flies by. Getting to a locker with two minutes to spare is good, but getting back in the traffic to get to class isn't. No wonder students are late for class. I hope you will take this concern with you when the new tardy policy is brought up. I think that the teachers and administration need to explore the halls and find the problem instead of punishing the students. The students aren't causing the problems, the problem is the bumper to bumper traffic to get to class in five minutes. Put yourself in our shoes...we're trying

BY BRITTANY KASE/Junior

I think that our school is okay, but there are a few things that I just don't understand and I think we should change. First of all, I think that the five minutes time length to get from class to class is stupid. I am able to make it to all of my classes except for Physical Education. I have to leave Coach Combs' room and go upstairs to my locker and walk all the way through the school to get to the

gym. I don't think that it would hurt to give us an extra two or three minutes to get from class to class.

BY JOHN HILL/Freshman

Café food, selection doesn't sit well

One thing that I don't like about Ashbrook is the food in the cafeteria. The food in the cafeteria is not good at all. It is nasty, and sometimes the food is cold. We, as a whole, need to take a vote to get new food in the cafeteria, such as McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy's, Subway, and Pizza Hut. Another thing that makes the cafeteria food nasty is how lunch ladies leave food out for so long that it gets stale. Almost every time I go to the lunch room to get some fries, they are stale. I don't know about you, but to me, stale fries are nasty.

BY COLBY CAMP/Sophomore

There are many issues that bother me and really need to be fixed. First of all, we as students don't enjoy bugs hanging out with us. When my friends and I settle down at the table, we constantly have to swat and dodge flies. Secondly, I think there should be a larger supply of chairs. My friends and I get annoyed when people continue to come to our table and ask if anyone's using this chair. Sometimes we end up asking because someone has snatches our chairs. Finally, students need to be more responsible about picking up their trash when they leave the cafeteria. Not only will this help custodians, but the students as well.

BY TEABERRA JACKSON/Junior

Disrespectful students being noticed

People in this school don't take care of what they have, like the chairs, the bathrooms, and many of the classrooms. They write on the chairs and on the walls of the bathrooms, which doesn't even make sense. Who cares if Jonathan loves Melissa? My point is that a whole group of people

should take better care of our school, because after all, it's where we spend the most of our day. I'm not saying that all of the students do these kinds of things, but most of us don't even care if the stadium is dirty after a game. Someone is always cleaning it but it doesn't mean we can throw as much trash down as we want.

BY CAUSTAVO CASTRERREZ/Junior

As a student at Ashbrook, I have a major problem with the lack of respect shown by the student body on several occasions. First is the student bathroom, particularly the smoking that goes on in them. I hate going into one and coming out knowing I'm not at a higher risk for cancer. It's pretty bad when students would rather check out of school to use the bathroom then use the bathroom here. Another incidence is the part that when I go into the senior courtyard, I expect to see seniors only. Same goes for the senior parking spaces, I expect to see only cars with senior parking passes on them. In the hallway some students seem to be completely unconcerned with whether the people stuck behind them make it to class on time after all, everyone wants to know who broke up with who, or whether so and so likes Bob. Also, I've noticed that during the assemblies the majority of the students not only don't pay attention, but some of them are just rude, yelling out and that kind of thing. In general I think that the student body should work on the respect.

BY BRETT HOFFMAN/Senior

Fixing the hallway congestion

I'm a sophomore, and this is my first year here at Ashbrook. I came from Ben L. Smith High School in Greensboro. I love the school and all, but the hallway situation is out of control. I remember a similar situation that we had at our middle school, called Jackson Middle, back home and the principal came up with a good idea. They placed tape right along the middle of the hall, like out on the streets. Students were to walk to the right of

The Editors go Head-to-Head:

Ashbrook's New Tardy Policy

Bryan Cockfield
Preston Neill

-New policy is last resort, irresponsible students need discipline

Upon entering Ashbrook High School on a typical school day, it is not not wondered by anyone as to what the actual purpose of the school is.

It must be that the school was put upon this earth so that students could leave it.

And the teachers can not accomplish this goal unless the students are actually in class, which is surprisingly difficult for some students, especially those who find it too easy to suddenly fall deathly ill during lunch and who also find it too hard to finish last night's calculus homework.

But apart from the students that skip school entirely and make no effort to get to class, there are stragglers that linger in the hallways and who are, of course, too good for any teacher to tell them what to do. They deserve to be in the hallways, disrupting class for the students who are concerned with their classes or their grades.

It is about time that the administration started to crack down on the problem of getting truants to class. It should not be a problem in the first place, but sadly, some of the administration and some of the teachers have become so slack in the enforcement of their rules that students

have found more and more loopholes in their quest to cut class, or at least not be on time for it.

The new policy states that any student locked out of class after the bell must check in at a table, run by teachers during their planning periods, and that those students who are late, even by the narrowest of margins, must serve a period of after school detention.

If all goes well, then the teachers will be able to spend more time planning on how to not leave children behind and less time on trying to get those children to class in the first place.

It will be the best of all possible worlds when there is no more problem with getting students to class on time, and a harsh punishment for being late needs to be in place. Instead of teaching kids that they will have a slap-on-the-wrist punishment like Saturday school seems to be, they will have something more cumbersome to deal with. They don't want to be in school any way, and they will definitely hate being at school for four extra hours after school, as opposed to coming to class thirty seconds quicker.

If they come at all.

-Policy sets itself up for correcting an old problem, but creates new ones

The new tardy policy has not been put in place yet, but it has already incited many complaints from students and easily could produce an adverse result than its intended goal.

For the uninitiated, the new policy states that for every tardy after your first one, the student in question has to serve one hour of after school detention. For every tardy after that, another hour is added to the detention, until the fourth one, which then results in a suspension.

I believe that teachers should have as much of the 90 minutes as possible. However, to tell teachers to lock the doors and keep a student out of class seems more detrimental to the students than anything by keeping them out of class even longer than what little bit they would have been absent in their tardiness. Making students wait to be gathered by teachers, who have sacrificed the first ten to twenty minutes of their planning period, when the students could be right at their class, seems to be a burden for the teachers and a pain for the students if they are going to miss more instructional time.

Aside from tardies, attendance is a problem at school anyway. Under the new

the hall, and if anyone was caught walking down the wrong side, they had to turn around and walk around again (on the correct side of the hall). I'm not sure if this method would be effective here at Ashbrook, with all the students, but it is worth a try. Maybe teachers could stand just outside of their classrooms to catch those who disobey. This solution may be juvenile, but so is the situation. Students should be aware that they are not the only persons in the hall, other people have things to do, mainly getting to class on time. Countless times I've been run over by large groups of friends taking up the whole hallway. I hope this letter helps in some way to form ideas to better the situation.

BY SHELVANA LYNGEN/Junior

Restrictions render school PCs useless

Someone in the educational hierarchy thought it would be a wonderful idea for students at Ashbrook High School to have fast, brand-new Dell computers that were mass-produced to be cost-effective to the purchaser. Great idea! But for every action, there is an opposite (but equal) reaction, so someone else in the educational hierarchy decided to put restrictions on those computers, completely negating their usefulness. These restrictions include Novell Client, an application shell that tells the computer that it can't run any programs except those in Novell Client, unless an "administrator" tells it to. On these computers, a non-administrator user can not use the right mouse button to close those pesky pop-up ads that appear while surfing the web. And common sense would dictate that another popular restriction on networked computers known as Websense would block these pop-up ads, but no. Websense blocks sites that students should never see, or even know about, such as Google, AOL, Encyclopedia Britannica Online, Yahoo, and other sites that would contaminate the minds of our students if they weren't filtered.

BY BRAD SHAW/Senior

STOP! Hey, what's that sound? Making your vote count

BY KATHERYN HANNON/Staff Writer

The warm aroma of freshly brewed coffee greeted nervous poets. Friendly people chatting on comfy couches calmed the nerves of students that were coming to read their poetry.

On Thursday, October 7th, Ashbrook's poets and poetry lovers gathered at Clay Café for the first meeting of The Society of Teenage Original Poets, or STOP. The students met together to share their emotions through poetry.

Senior Sally Peach developed the idea for STOP. Last summer, at Governor's School, she would gather with other students for poetry readings and she really enjoyed them.

"Governors School did poetry reads, it was fun and emotional," said Peach. "There was nothing like that here so I wanted to start it."

Twenty people attended the first STOP meeting. Peach broke the ice by reading the first of the many poems that would be read throughout the meeting.

The students that had brought original poetry expressed themselves by reading a few of their poems. Senior Trey Taylor read two of his poems, "Lighting Rod" and "Guilty Hands". "Lighting Rod" deals with a person isolated from society and takes everyone's blame. "Guilty Hands" is about the misperceptions of actions. Taylor's poems were applauded by the crowd with snaps.

Not all the people that attended the meeting write poetry or wanted to read what they had written in front of people. Those people can still enjoy the meeting by sipping on coffee while listening to what others had written.

"Great ideas spark creativity in people," said senior Spencer Gill. "If you're not a poet then you can listen to what others have written."

The students that were at the meeting like Carolina Garcia thought that it was a good experience and said that they would come back if their was another meeting.

"I thought it was a cool experience," said Garcia. "I met new people and enjoyed the really good poetry," sophomore Carolina Garcia said.

School and national leaders are attempting to close the gap between in young and old voters.

According to U.S. Census Bureau, in 2000, 42% of 18-24 year old citizens voted compared to 70% of citizens 25 and older. Ashbrook High School alone holds over two hundred people that are in the demographic.

Mary Layton, Ashbrook's Democratic Club advisor, feels it is an obligation to vote.

"Anyone who is old enough to vote, and doesn't, is losing a great opportunity as an American citizen," said Layton. "Going to vote is exciting, and if you do not, you lost the right to complain about the government."

The Young Democrats along with the Young Republicans are hoping to create an interest in voting among eligible Ashbrook students. They hope the student led debate and will draw attention to their cause.

"Voting is vital because this election is crucial," said young Republican member, Zane Albayati. "This is one of the most important in United States history."

Ashbrook's new political clubs mirror the efforts of many national star and celebrities.

Recently Sean Puff Daddy Combs, a major rap artist, created the slogan, "Vote or Die" to so encourage others by performing and advertising voting.

Also, on the MTV Video Music Awards, several other celebrities showed off the apparel with the slogan to get the message across to voters. Broadcasting commercials and other ads have been filled with celebrity endorsements. U2 supported democratic

candidate Senator John Kerry. Several well-known people have been campaigning for candidates and get their voice to be heard.

"Everyone needs to be active in the election for President," said senior Young Democrat David Moore. "The government affects everyone, and it is our responsibility to determine the future of the United States."

Ashbrook High School stands as a voting precinct for the community. Russell Parker, the Young Republican Advisor, feels it is his duty to encourage everyone to vote.

"A lot of people don't think their vote counts, but it does. The last election showed that," said Parker.

Presidential debate among students broadens horizons

Facts were stated, opinions were made, and even some positions were challenged during the Young Republicans and Young Democrats 2004 Presidential debate held October 5th, 2004.

Over 150 students attended as well as teachers, administrators, reporters from the Gaston Gazette, Dr. Ed Sadler, and a few other members of the community.

"The debate was a fantastic success. It exceeded all of my hopes and dreams," said Mrs. Layton, advisor for the Young Democrats.

Sally Peach and David Moore represented the Young Democrats, while Rowdy Daniels and Zane Albayati represented the Young Republicans.

Each side had 15 minutes to speak about the main planks in their party's platform. The main topics for the debate were the war on terrorism, education, energy, jobs, and taxes. Then, each side was asked a series of questions and the

opposing side was allowed a rebuttal.

"The hardest part was the weight of listening to your opponent then speaking and knowing you didn't change the opinions of others," said Moore.

While the democrats continued to challenge the past plans of the Bush Administration, the republicans defended them and proved how they helped America. The main topic that the sides feuded about was the war on terrorism. Democrats discussed the fact that Bush made the wrong decision by putting America into war with no allied support.

"Bush says we have a strong coalition in Iraq yet there are no other countries suffering as much as we are," said Peach. "The UK, our strongest ally, has suffered 68 fatalities; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; and it goes downhill from there."

Republicans disputed that President Bush had the right to

invade Iraq, based on many reasons.

"After 12 years of diplomacy failed, war was the only other option. Democrats will say that President Bush rushed to war and that he didn't go to the UN first," said Albayati. "President Bush went to the UN six months before the war began and 17 different resolutions were devised between 1991 and 2003 stating that Saddam Hussein must disclose his weapons of mass destructions or face serious consequences."

Members of the audience then were allowed to ask representatives direct questions pertaining to any topic about their party or the opposing clubs party.

Some of the main questions asked during the debate included how Kerry and Bush felt about gay marriage, abortion, plans for the war in Iraq, bi-lateral conversations with North Korea, and past history of both candidates.



Photo by Madison Fox

Senior Sally Peach, president of the Young Democrats club, prepares notes during the student-led presidential debate. The debate served as an informative media for all types of local voters, and the participants hope that it will inspire more students and other citizens to go out on election day to vote for their candidate of choice.

Students emphasize rigorous AP course load

BY CARE WILLIAMSON/Staff Writer
While college requirements remain the same, competition to get in is rapidly increasing. Students at Ashbrook are overloading on Advanced Placement (AP) courses in hopes of getting into the college of their choice with a decent scholarship.

Ashbrook ranked 263rd in a 2002 ranking by Newsweek, according to the number of AP tests taken by students at a school in 2002 divided by the number of graduating seniors. With sixteen AP classes offered at Ashbrook, 178 students have taken the opportunity to increase their GPA and accelerate their learning.

According to Grant Sparks, guidance counselor, the amount of students in the AP program has increased in the past 10 years, though remained steady over the past few.

"Students taking harder classes have an easier transition period into college," Sparks said.

"AP coursework is at college level, and students get used to a larger workload."

"I take advanced classes because I like a challenge," said junior Jenna Landstoffer. "I want to get into Notre Dame on scholarship so that my parents won't have to worry about it so much."

Ninety-seven percent of upperclassmen polled are college-bound.

However, only 21% make the effort to pull ahead by taking one or more AP classes.

Among Ashbrook's upperclassmen, class levels are split. The majority of students don't take any AP classes and the next-highest group takes four or more.

Many students say they don't want that much work. Whether or not AP classes are hard, they have a higher grade point scale, which helps out GPA in the long run.

The same trend occurred when four AP classes, plus a Music History class before and after school, said that she spends about two hours each day on homework.

"My teachers give a lot of homework," Kessell said. "A/B schedule helps out, but it seems like they double it on us because we have two days to work on it. Add a few quizzes and occasional tests to study for, and it's a lot."

However, many students don't seem to be picking up the

pace to meet the demands of their classes, which may lead to disappointment when it comes time to fill out college applications.

"Ashbrook students are at somewhat of a disadvantage because we offer more AP classes than other schools," said Sparks. "If a student from another school takes 4 AP classes out of the 4 offered, it looks better than a student at Ashbrook taking 4 out of the 16 offered."

Yet many students wanting an easy course load don't realize the advantages to taking AP classes. They have a larger grade-point scale, offer an insight into college-level work, and help students to get into the college of their choice.

"Many students wanting an easy course load don't have a good perspective of what it takes to get into the college of their choice," Sparks said. "For a student wanting to get into Chapel Hill, it comes down to top 10% of class rank and 1200+ on their SATS."



Artwork by Vonda Burris

Project Greenwave to show off versatile Drama Department talents

HBO spinoff will showcase three separate student-led productions

By CARIE WILLIAMSON/Staff Writer

Three shows, three directing teams, three nights on the line.

"Project Greenwave", a spin-off of HBO's popular reality show, "Project Greenlight", began last April when directors submitted applications with their proposals for the plays that they intended to direct. Jonathan Buckner, drama advisor, chose three teams to compete based on experience, choice of plays, and desire to direct.

However it all boils down to November 11th, 12th, and 13th in the Ashbrook auditorium, when each team has one night to direct and perform their play just right. Based on Buckner's judging, the winning show will perform the following weekend, November 18-20.

"Students who displayed willingness to commit to the project and had a creative approach to directing were chosen as teams," said Buckner.

Senior Doug Branson, director, and senior Blake Williams, assistant director, will be showing "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare on Thursday night, the 11th. Shakespeare is famous for romantic tragedies, and his play falls under that category.

Each play has it's own personality, with "A Midsummer Night's Dream" being an old-English classic romance while the next show, "Backstage" is a romantic comedy in a more contemporary setting.

As the directors of "Backstage", a combination of "Next" and "Anne-ariky", junior Ramsey Davidson, director, and junior Jennifer Fink, assistant director will have Friday night to make it perfect. This show is about a play within a play and the drama that goes on "Backstage".

"We've had so much fun putting this show together, even though we've hit some rough spots," said Davidson. "Our actors have really pushed hard to make up for it."

The third and final play, taking place on Saturday, November 13th, is "Plaza Suite", directed by the team of junior Britney Romine and junior Justin Kistler.

"Plaza Suite" is a play originally directed by Neil Simon though starring Philip Wright, Britany Allen and Jason Eckerd, just to name a few here at Ashbrook Dramatic, funny, and romantic all describe this show and it takes place in a hotel, all in the same room.

"We couldn't choose one (a play) with too many characters and we didn't want to do a musical," said Romine when asked why they chose "Plaza Suite". "It had to be appropriate for school and we didn't want to do a mystery because they're overrated."

Three separate practices for three different plays can get a little hectic. All of the teams rotate on a daily basis so that each can have a fair share of the stage. The teams that don't have the stage go out in the hall or outside to rehearse.

"I like the fact that everyone who wanted to, had a part in Project Greenwave" said Williams. "That experience is something that is very important to everyone, especially the freshmen and sophomores."

Want to go? November 11th, 12th, and 13th at 7 pm will be the competition for each show. The following weekend, November 18th-20th will be the winner's weekend to perform.

"If we win, it will be great," said Fink. "But if we don't then we will support and help out the winner in anyway possible."

Robitussin supplies new high

By AMBER RAMEY/Staff Writer

A common cold remedy is now aiding teen drug abuse.

Robitussin and other similar cold medicines are a new trend of getting high. Ashbrook High Schools students have come across this new fad and are naively taking advantage of it.

Today's teens call it "Robo-trippin." "It's a way of getting high by consuming well over the recommended dosage of Robitussin.

The drug Dextromethorphan (DXM) in the cough medicine is what causes the high but can come with costs. Some side effects of robo-trippin include dry mouth, blurry vision, numbness, nausea, and vomiting.

One Ashbrook High School student I spoke with first started robo-trippin when his brother offered it to him at a home football game his sophomore year at Ashbrook. He told him that it was fun and he should try it. While already under the influence of alcohol, he made his decision to robo-trip easily.

"It made me feel like I had weights tied down to my arms, legs, and head," said the student.

He first drank a glass of milk about 45 minutes before drinking the cough syrup so he wouldn't experience any nausea, then he downed six ounces.

"Usually people start out with only four ounces," he said. "But I did six."

His first time was "awesome" according to the student. He liked the high feeling of not being able to control what he was doing.

"My hands and feet were numb" he said. "I could barely lift my head."

Though at first it was a fun experience for him, after time passed things didn't seem so fun anymore. He said he had trouble keeping his priorities in order.

"I couldn't and didn't want to focus on school anymore" he said. "When I did go to school I couldn't remember things as easily, all I could do was sit there."

Using Robitussin for actual cold purposes can have its side effects so when abusing it the side effects can worsen. When the student robo-tripped he got a "paranoid and scared" feeling. He once thought he saw an insect on his arm, freaked out, and ran to hide. He said he was embarrassed by what had happened but he had no control over it. Other effects he experienced were extreme insomnia, which caught up to him when the high wore off, and he could not feel pain.

Though Robitussin isn't illegal and is easily obtained over the counter, it can still have the same mental effects of harder drugs. The student told me that even though it was cough medicine and some don't consider it a drug, he still felt like "a druggie" when he was on it.

It finally got to the point where his friends were doing nothing but constantly asking him to quit. At first he said he blew them off.

"I didn't care what they thought about what I was doing," he said. "I was just having fun."

Eventually, he saw what great friends he had and that they actually cared about him. Knowing there were things more important to him than getting high and getting high wasn't worth losing friends over, he listened to his friends and hasn't robo-tripped since.

In particular, this teen chose not to drive while high or make any other careless decisions that could possibly impose harm on anyone, but some aren't so lucky. According to The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), at least 14 people have died from taking excessive amounts of DXM.

No students 'cooking at the 'Brook'

By AMY PERLMAN/Staff Writer

Ashbrook's lack of a culinary program denies some students opportunities for later on in life.

Students that could benefit from it are ranging from ones who plan to go into culinary arts, those trying to learn basic food preparation, and for those just looking for some needed skills later in life.

Former Ashbrook student Jamie Soles is currently enrolled in Central Piedmont Community College's culinary program. She plans to obtain an associate's degree within the next year.

"I would have loved to have had the opportunity to study something that I felt was useful to me" said Soles. "I would have much rather spent my time preparing for my course load now instead of taking random computer course or being a peer helper."

North Gaston High School has culinary classes. The first course introduces students to basic food production with an emphasis sanitation, safety,

and basic food preparation. Skills in mathematic, science, and communication are reinforced.

The idea of a culinary class could be compared to that of a shop class, not all students would be interested in taking the class, but for some it would open many opportunities after high school.

However, according to admissions office, a student could possibly waive some of the prerequisites by completing them in an accredited high school program.

Now that more culinary schools are coming to the area, students will be open to more opportunities after high school. Besides CPCC, which has had a culinary program for some year, and also a very highly recognized school, Johnson and Wales.

Soles feels as though she missed a golden opportunity by not having a culinary program available to her.

"I really could have been much further in my studies and preparation if I had had the opportunity in high school."

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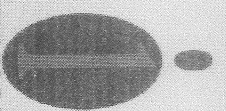
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THE MEN BEHIND Honoring the

Ashbrook's 30-year history is full of memorable coaches. To landmarks around the school in memory of the achievements in a series of features of

The Driving Force

John Kinlaw

John Kinlaw was one of the early softball coaches at Ashbrook and served as an assistant football coach. He served as the driving force behind getting the baseball and softball fields from being a cow pasture and unused land into what it is today. Kinlaw also served as the athletic director after stepping down from the coaching position. He was the athletic director for five years, and currently has the whole softball and baseball complex named after him.

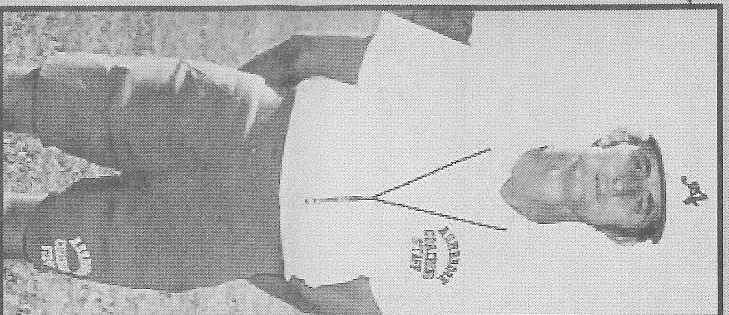


Photo courtesy Leaves of Green
Above: John Kinlaw, as seen in this picture from the 1974 Leaves of Green, played an integral role in the development of the baseball fields we have today.

BY PRESTON NEILL/Co-Editor

Ashbrook High School has long been associated with a strong athletics program. However, to maintain the rich history of Ashbrook sports, something needed to be done around the school to remind the students of the people before their time.

That 'something' became the idea to go around to all the athletic facilities and name them for people that had made outstanding contributions to the athletics program.

"It was done basically out of a need to create a sense of history here," said current athletic director Lloyd White.

Before the first Ashbrook-Forestview game, Bill Eccles was the first coach to receive a dedication when he had the football field named after him.

"It's really quite a feeling. I was really appreciative of it," said Eccles. "But to be thought of like that really took me by surprise when it happened.

"He was an easy choice because he has been apart of the football program for 30 years," said White. "Then Principal Bob Wilkerson, and I decided to name the field, it was a logical choice to honor him. After

that we started looking around to do what else to name."

The gym turned out to be the athletic site to be named. It would be named for Larry Rhodes, the Ashbrook varsity basketball head coach and cross country coach. He came to Ashbrook from Ashley High School with fellow coach Everette 'Shu' Car Ashley in 1967. He later would return the big game when James Worthy was the basketball player for him in 1979. He would eventually lose to Hunter Huss School in the state championship, having beaten them already four times in the regular season.

The other major facility to be named is the recently re-done baseball and softball complex. When building the new complex, administrators didn't have to look far for a name. John Kinlaw had served as the softball coach until he took over as athletic director in 1985. He had played a monumental role in getting a baseball and softball field at Ashbrook. To honor him, when they opened the new complex

A Voice of Reason

Robert Mason

Robert Mason was valuable to Ashbrook in athletics and in its social aspect of the school. He served as a coach for the Ashbrook football team, and then later as an assistant principal with Shu Carlton. He was very instrumental in the integration of students in to Ashbrook High School.

"He was the most highly respected black educator in our area," said Lloyd White.

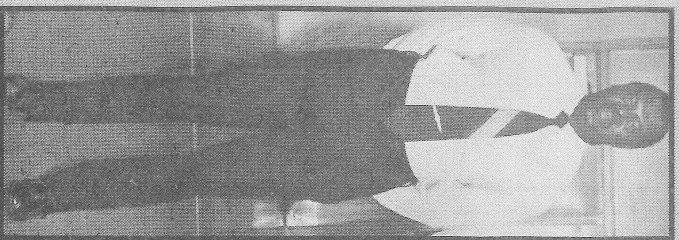


Photo courtesy Leaves of Green
Above: Robert Manson served as an assistant football coach at Ashbrook. He then served dual duty as assistant principal and coach.

Building a Legacy

Bill Eccles

Bill Eccles has been with the Ashbrook football program for over 30 years. He first was a junior varsity coach before being bumped to the varsity coaching staff. He took over as the head coach in 1989 and coached until 2000. After he retired, he later came back to the game to resume coaching the junior varsity football team at Ashbrook. When the naming process first game about, he was a logical and easy first selection to have the field named in his honor.



Photo courtesy Leaves of Green
Above: Bill Eccles has been with Ashbrook athletics for almost all of its history. Aside from just serving as football coach he has also been the wrestling and tennis coach.

AND THE WINNERS: Coaches of Glory

Honor these men, Ashbrook has started the process of dedicating and accolades they have brought the our school. The second part of micling Ashbrook's history.

at the end of 2003 they named the site for him.

With the major facilities already named, and more instrumental people left to honor, the Ashbrook administration turned to the roads around the school.

The road leading to the baseball complex is named after Jerry Carpenter. An assistant coach for football the first three years, he assumed the head coaching position in 1974. In his only year of coaching he took the team to and won its first of two championship game appearances. Carpenter also served as a baseball coach.

Shu Carlton served as the first athletic director of Ashbrook as well as the first football coach. Carlton served as head football coach for the first three years, when Carpenter took over. Carlton later took over the role of principal at Ashbrook for three years. The road leading to the football stadium and student parking lot bears his namesake.

Robert Mason helped Ashbrook in athletics and with some of the social problems Ashbrook would encounter in the

1970's. The road in front of the school

connecting Shu Carlton Drive and Jerry Carpenter Drive is named for him. Mason served as an assistant coach at Ashbrook, and eventually took over as an assistant principal, when Carlton took over as the principal. Mason served as an instrumental part in the integration of Ashbrook High School.

"Bob Mason was probably the highest respected black educator in the area," said White. "It didn't matter if you were above him in rank or below, when he spoke people paid attention."

While there are many places already named, there are still many places left to be named for major contributors to Ashbrook.

"The stadium will always be called Ashbrook Stadium," said White. "But as far as the other facilities, we still have the baseball and softball fields, the baseball stadium, the new soccer field and complex, and the cross country court. We also have the basketball court and the tennis courts, but would have to go through the city for those."

Heart of a Champion

Jerry Carpenter

Jerry Carpenter took over the head coaching job in 1974 when Shu Carlton stepped down from the position. He coached only one year and took that team to its first of two state championship football games. It was the only year he was the head coach of the varsity team. He also served as a baseball coach at Ashbrook for a number of years. He currently has the road leading into the baseball complex named after him

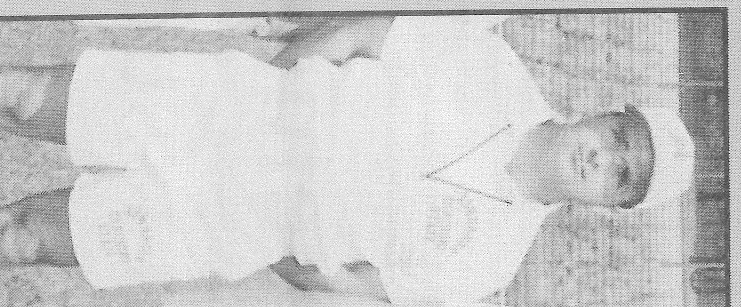


Photo courtesy, Leaves of Green
Above: Jerry Carpenter only coach the varsity football team one year and took them to a state championship. Aside from coaching football, Carpenter coached baseball.

Our First Coach

'Shu' Carlton

Shu Carlton was the first Athletic Director at Ashbrook High School, as well as the school's first football coach. He came from Ashley High School after it was shut down and merged with Holbrook into Ashbrook High School. He coached the varsity football team for the first two years at Ashbrook He later became the principal at Ashbrook for three years. He currently has the road leading into the student parking lot and stadium named for him.

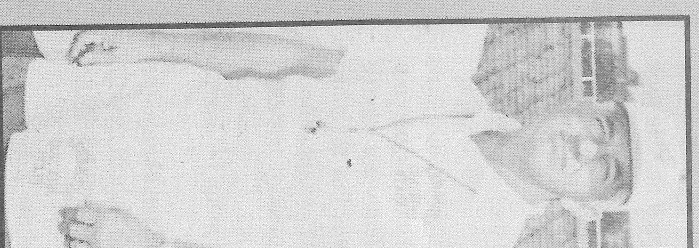


Photo courtesy, Leaves of Green
Above: Everette Shu Carlton came to Ashbrook to become the first athletic director and football coach. He later assumed the role of principal after leaving the team in 1973.

The Coaching Icon

Larry Rhodes

Larry Rhodes came to Ashbrook from Ashley High School. He coached the basketball team at Ashley to a state championship in 1967, and later took another team in 1979 to the championship only to lose to Hunter Huss. He was also the first cross country coach at Ashbrook. A fixture and coaching icon for over 25 years ('11 with Ashbrook)', Rhodes has the basketball gym named for him



Photo courtesy, Leaves of Green
Above: Larry Rhodes came to Ashbrook four years removed from his state championship season at Ashley. He later would return to the state championship in 1979 under the Ashbrook name with a team lead by future NBA Hall of Famer James Worthy.

1994: Student Body President 2004: US House of Representatives Hopeful

BY OMNIA BAYOUMI/Staff Writer

Ten years ago, a North Carolina representative and possible senator walked the halls of Ashbrook High School. Then, he was a well rounded, athletic student who developed into a well known representative leader.

State Representative and Ashbrook High School class of 1994 graduate Patrick McHenry became the Republican nominee for Congress in the Tenth District by advancing in an aggressive four-candidate primary and then winning a runoff election. He currently represents North Carolina House District 109.

McHenry is a licensed real estate broker and agent and is the owner of McHenry Real Estate, a property and management firm. Patrick McHenry is also a member of Gaston Chamber of Commerce, the Gastonia Rotary Club, the National Rifle Association and Saint Michael's Church.

McHenry was student body president of Ashbrook High School. He ran cross country and was involved in clubs such as Civitans and student government.

In a recent meeting with the Ashbrook young republicans, McHenry told them although he was not a perfect 'A' student in high school he was a driven and motivated student and that is the reason he is where he is now.

Retired teacher Sherry McKenzie, who taught McHenry at Ashbrook, remembered his hard work and enthusiasm.

"He was very active and involved in everything" said McKenzie. "He did a good job in school."

McHenry said that being student body president influenced his decision to get into politics.

"I was always interested in doing something to help other people and that actually had an impact," said McHenry. "I saw student government was an opportunity to do that and once I got involved in college, I was interested in politics because I saw that you can actually have an impact."

McHenry said he always strives to improve things and that he focuses on education in school systems. He believes that there is always room for improvement.

"I think we can improve. I think that there are a lot of great teachers, a lot of great people who are working hard to help students learn and improve themselves. And I think that we always need to try to survive and improve. Get a better system."

Not only does he believe that things need to improve need to improve he also believes that school authority needs to be put at local levels because different needs should be met for different locations.

"I think that you can make a difference the closer you are to the people", said McHenry. "I think for instance you can call a school board member better than you can call the state administrator of schools."

"You can see somebody at the super market and have discussion with them who

is a school administrator but superintended republic of constructions in Raleigh and try getting a return phone call from him, it's not possible. And so I think that it is better when people actually know their local concerns because each area has sort of a different concern."

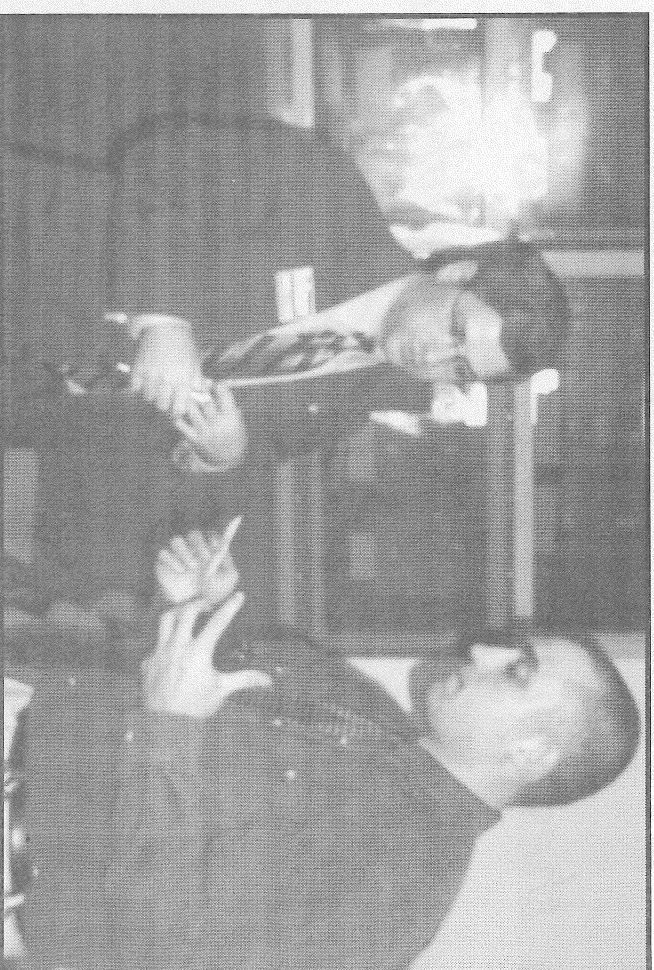


Photo by Omnia Bayoumi
Robert Stisson, business education teacher at Ashbrook, discusses issues with Patrick McHenry at a Young Republicans meeting held at Ashbrook. Stisson and McHenry attended Ashbrook together 1993-1994.

Lack of enforcement of school policy Leads to health issues with students

BY HEATHER SMITH/Staff Writer

Teens smoking in Ashbrook high school bathrooms cause problems for the students and administrators.

According to a recent survey Ashbrook students took majority of the students feared the consequences of second hand smoke and that the administration wasn't doing a good enough job of preventing students smoking in the bathrooms.

"I think the administrators have done as much as the can, if they go any further then they might violate someone's rights." Marty Current, a freshman at Ashbrook said.

Yet Senior Casey States had a idea. He said that the school should give people a place outside to smoke, but only if the have parental permission.

According to the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System not only are the students that smoke hurting themselves but they are also hurting others around them, creating an uncomfortable situation for students. Second hand smoke can pretty much be as bad as smoking.

Elizabeth Gardner, a student at Mt. Lebanon High School voiced her concern in Pittsburgh's Post-Gazette.

"You'd go in the bathrooms smelling normal, then you would come out smelling like you had been smoking and then the teachers would look at you funny."

Gardner eventually had to learn to pick the right bathrooms at the right time.

A smoker's exhale is called secondhand smoke. Second hand smoke is also the smoke coming off the end of a lit cigarette, or a cigar or pipe. When students smoke in the bathrooms that are enclosed everyone else smokes too.

"I started smoking two years ago while being under the influence by my brother," said an anonymous Ashbrook sophomore speaker who has smoked in school

bathrooms, and has not been caught as of now.

Victoria Kistler a sophomore at Ashbrook believes their family, friends, or boy/girlfriend influences teens. Hector Alavera a freshman at Ashbrook believes the media has a great influence on teens. The media may convince some teens that smoking is "cool" or sexy. The media continues to glamorize the use of tobacco in

movies and videos despite health warnings and the known addictive nature of the substance, say researchers. Teens that have lower self esteem and have poor body images are more likely to smoke than teens that don't have a low self esteem and a poor body image, believes Dr. Richard S. Strauss.

Many schools are struggling with ways to prevent students from smoking in the bathrooms at school. According to Newburyport Daily News Gloucester, Massachusetts, students that are caught smoking in Gloucester High bathrooms are facing fines up to \$75.

"The fine certainly serves as a deterrent" said Frank Pattilo, principal of Montour High School. The school also fines students if they smoke in the bathrooms.

In February 2002 the School Committee approved that school officials at Gloucester High could write tickets to students for smoking. Or the more effective way is to follow the law. Gov. Ridge signed a law in December 1996 saying school districts have the power to start prosecuting students who smoke on school grounds or posses tobacco.

According to experts they say that more girls are seen smoking than guys. But according to students that got interviewed at Ashbrook they thought guys are seen smoking more.

"Personally I see more girls smoking... but I see guys to so I don't know about the same." Katherine Dodd a freshman at Ashbrook replied when asked who she thought is seen smoking more.

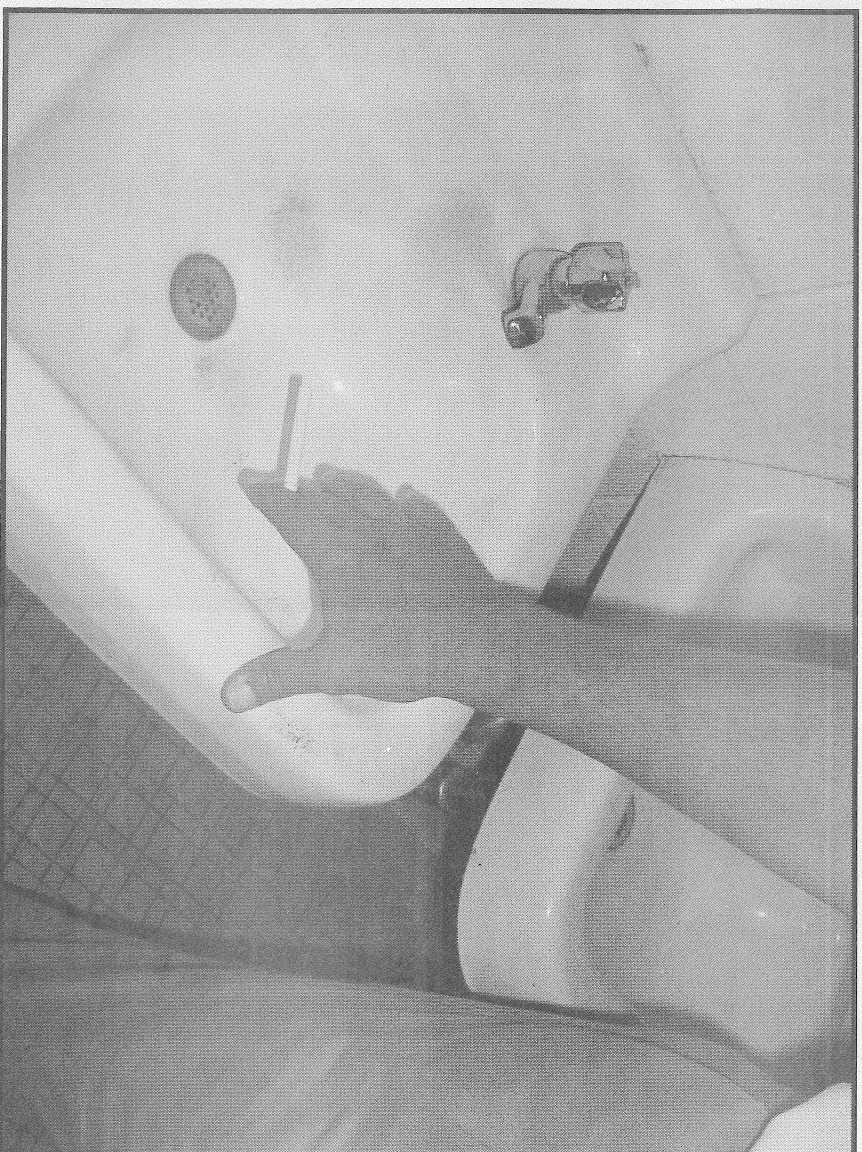


Photo by Preston Neill
Above: An Ashbrook student sneaks a smoke in a downstairs bathroom. Smoking in the restroom has become the rule, rather than the exception, as the enforcement of the 'No Tobacco' policy has become slack.



Leah Hollar was nominated as Carousel Princess 2004 by members of the faculty. Senior women in the top fifteen percent of their class competed for the title. Leah feels that the program represents Ashbrook by recognizing women that exemplify scholastic achievements, community involvement, charisma, and other outstanding qualities.

Recently crowned Homecoming Queen 2004 is Amanda Evanega. She is a varsity Greenwave cheerleader, member of teacher's cadets, and is homeroom president. Amanda feels that being crowned as Homecoming Queen is a great boost for her self-confidence and an excellent opportunity to be a role model.

Right: Amanda Evanega is shocked to hear her name called as the 2004 Homecoming Queen.

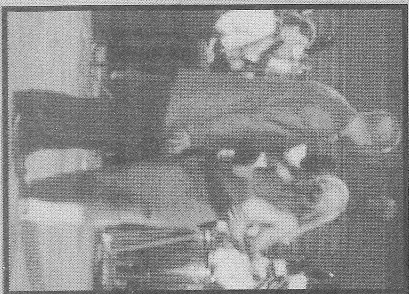


Photo by Preston Neill

Vandals continued from 1

who stole the items, the items are valued enough that there could be a more serious charge."

The value of the items stolen, plus the restoration of the stadium and field comes to a value of about \$700, according to White.

These acts of vandalism occurred the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights following the home game versus South Point. The following Tuesday, White said over the morning announcements that the vandalism at the stadium was a "classless act" and that acts of revenge should not be taken.

In what may be a related story, Forestryview's athletic facilities were vandalized. According to school officials, jaguar statues, press

box, and track area were defaced with eggs and paint. "Vandalism in any form affects how people feel about themselves. If not only belittles a school but it also belittles the school's community," White said. "It bothers me that kids have that little regard to other people's property."

Tardy continued from 1

"If I'm late, I'm not coming at all," said junior Nick Karam. "I don't want to serve an hour of ASD for being a few seconds late."

Even though most students have said that they don't like the new plan, they agree with teachers about the efficiency of it.

"I think it will be more effective than the policy is now. I just don't want to serve those hours of detention, so I guess I'll get to school on time," said senior Brandy Hamilton. "That will be my motivation."

Snow continued from 1

members who make these decisions. According to principal Page Carver school will be cancelled by teams strategically set up throughout the county. They are in various locations such as McAdenville, Bessemer City, and other districts to predict whether it is too risky to drive to school in the current conditions.

These districts are in one county, so if one is dangerous, then all the schools are called off. For snowy days like these, spots on teacher workdays and parts of spring break are used to make the days up.

Carver explained that if the missed days were added after graduation it would cause many inconveniences.

"I like snow days," said sophomore Carolina Garcia. "I just don't think we should have to make them up, but if we did it should be at the end of school if it were mandatory."

If the date of graduation were to change then all the invitations, decorations, and all the other things purchased for the ceremony would be a problem. The family members of the graduates would have to reschedule their stay and other affiliating chaos would occur. Therefore, that option is a misleading direction.

Mr. McGill is the main coordinator of the whole graduation ceremony. Therefore, he is responsible for all these decisions.

"I'd do anything that Dr. Sadler or Mrs. Carver told me to do though," he said. "Whatever puts a smile on their face."

The dates taken off from snow day occurrences of this year would be spring break from March 29th-31st, the teacher workday on April 1st, and winter break from December 20th-21st. These days were planned to revolve around the prediction of when it will snow. There are many directions the weather can take but there is no precise way to know.

Many different opinions will have to combine to conclude this issue to an agreement. However, statistically the program may not work out perfectly because the weather is just unpredictable.

"Predicting snow days is basically a guessing game," said Carver.

Teacher continued from 1

all fun and games. Teaching the kids to speak and learn the English language in class is only part of her job. She also has to do a lot of translating in all classes including biology, algebra, chemistry, United States history, and others.

"Sometimes I wish I was more than one person," said Funderburk. "It's hard; it's a lot of work."

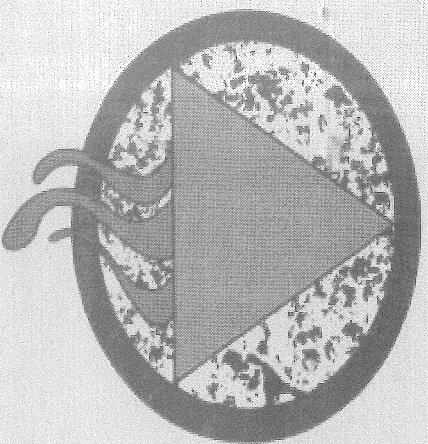
She has 64 students in all, meaning she has 64 jobs. Her job is to teach English, but she has to help out with each student differently according to their ability.

She also helps out with the guidance office whenever a foreign student's parents have problems. She translates for them, helping both the parents and the guidance counselors.

"Mrs. Funderburk works hard," said counselor Grant Sparks. "She hasn't got a lot of free time and when she does, she spends her time in other classes helping kids with problems." Also, if there is a problem with any of her students' discipline, she has to translate for them when they speak to their counselors.

"I enjoy my job," said Funderburk. "I just get tired sometimes."

Her job at Ashbrook is appreciated by many, and she is truly respected and thought of as a great teacher by many. "Mrs. Funderburk helped me understand the English language," said Pratik Patel, one of Funderburk's students. "She helps everyone, and is a very good teacher."



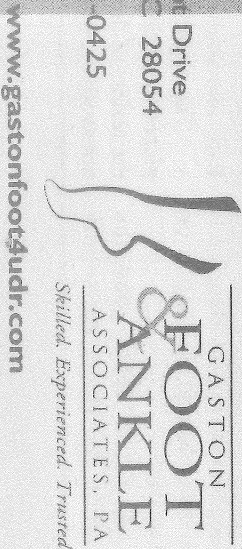
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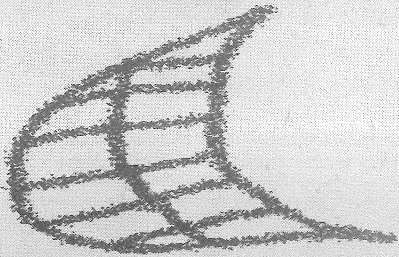


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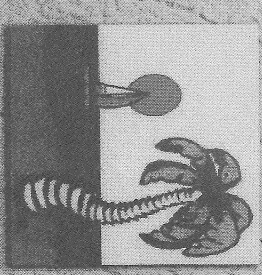
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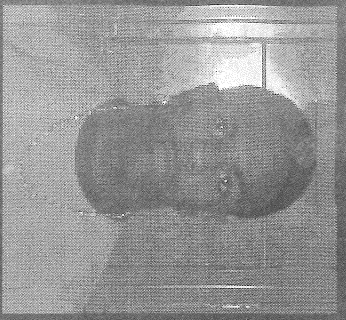
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S

Top Performer:

Patrick Hall
Sophomore Fullback



The sophomore fullback plays a significant role for the 6-3 Greenwave football team. Hall rushed for an important score in Ashbrook's upset of South Point. Also, Hall has blocked effectively for an Ashbrook offensive attack that averages 359.9 yards a game, good for second in the conference.

Spotlight Game

Football

Ashbrook 31
South Point 27

Ashbrook ended South Point's conference unbeaten streak on 10/8/04. Senior QB Cole Russell connected with junior WR Devin Harris on 68 yard touchdown pass to win the game with 55 seconds left in regulation.

Ashbrook's Big South 3-A

Statistical Leaders

Soocer: Junior Alden Brooks is second in the conference in goals scored.

Football: Junior Devin Harris ranks third in receiving yards per game.

Football: Senior Eric Boyce, despite missing the first three games, still ranks fourth in the conference in rushing yards per game.

Golf: Freshman Leila Maackie finished third in the women's Golf tournament to lead the Lady Wave.

Tennis: Junior Nina Burgoon won the women's tennis conference tournament, on her way to the state playoffs.

Cross-Country: Sophomore Brittany Walker set a course record while winning the conference cross-country meet.

SPORTS

1973: A REMATCH

BY BRYAN COCKFIELD/Co-editor AND POWELL LATIMER/Staff Writer

It's one thing to watch a women's tennis match. It's another thing entirely to experience a tennis ball come at you like a freight train and then try to hit it back.

The women's tennis duo of Nina Burgoon and Betsy Hauer was something that these two sports writers had never seen in action, but general impressions had told us that women who play tennis are little more than pretty girls in short skirts.

However, we were open-minded enough to accept the proposal to play the best doubles pairing on the team. What better way to write about the successful women's tennis season than to play the best players on the team?

As two reasonably athletic males in decent shape, we expected to be only mildly beaten by the two ladies. Our expectations were much too high.

In a battle-of-the-sexes match resembling a sad version of the Billy Jean King vs. Bobby Riggs match

in 1973, only without the chauvinism or skill on the part of the male side, these two sports writers took on the all-star women's tennis doubles team of Nina Burgoon and Betsy Hauer.

The match results were so staggering that only the bare facts do them justice: in two sets of a best-of-three match we lost 6-0, 6-0. The highest total that we amassed in a single game was 30 points given by the pure compassion of Burgoon and Hauer on double faults. The only point that we truly scored was when a blistering backhand by Burgoon reached skin before a racquet could intervene and rebounded off a knee onto the other side of the court.

Burgoon could have easily finished the kill had she not rushed to assist the wounded knee and broken pride of the victim. We were originally unaware that the match had started, since the ladies' shots traveled faster than our eyes could see. It was all that we could do to guess where the ball was and swing the racquet at

random intervals in the hopes of making contact.

On the rare occasion that one of us did make contact with the ball, the racquet would be knocked from our hands by the force of the ladies' shot.

After experiencing their skill firsthand, we can safely say that we struggle to find anything more beautiful and more frightening than watching Burgoon or Hauer go into a graceful windup and make perfect contact, and then realizing that they shoot to kill.

Thus humbled, we decided to end our humiliation and limped off the court. Through our defeat we gained a new respect for women's tennis. These women are just as athletic as any other male, if not more.

However, the team is not confined to beating two foolish writers. The team was undefeated in the conference tournament, held October 12, completing a season with only one loss. Burgoon and Hauer are particularly effective, going undefeated in doubles play throughout the season. Burgoon is also undefeated in singles play on the season.

As far as depth goes, the Burgoon and Hauer are solidly

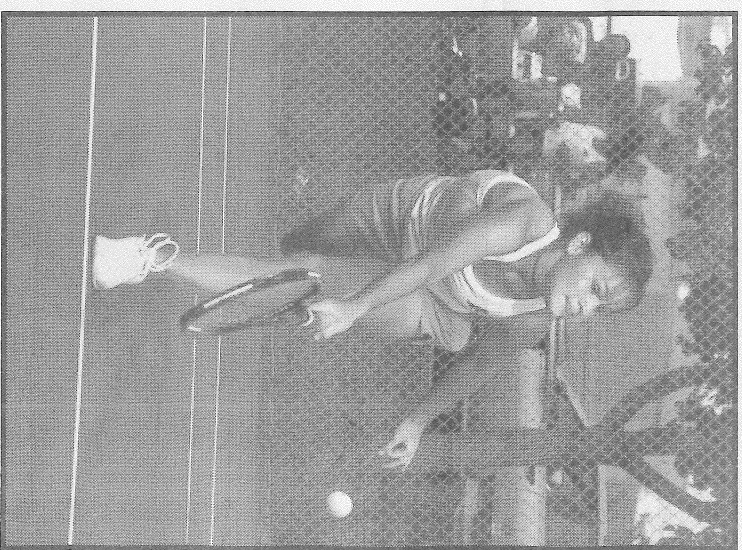


photo by Preston Neill

backed by Ashley Burgess and Kathryn Hannon. Coach Richard Carsner has used many different people including seniors Anna Mackie and Ashley Whitesell, junior Meredith Lisle, and freshmen Ashley Moore and Sarah Geyer to fill out the lineup past the number four position.

The team's depth has carried them through a highly successful season, including a conference championship and a 3-0 record against Charlotte schools, which include 4A powerhouses Myers Park and South Mecklenburg.

The women's tennis team has played the regional tournament, but the results of the tournament were not available by press time.

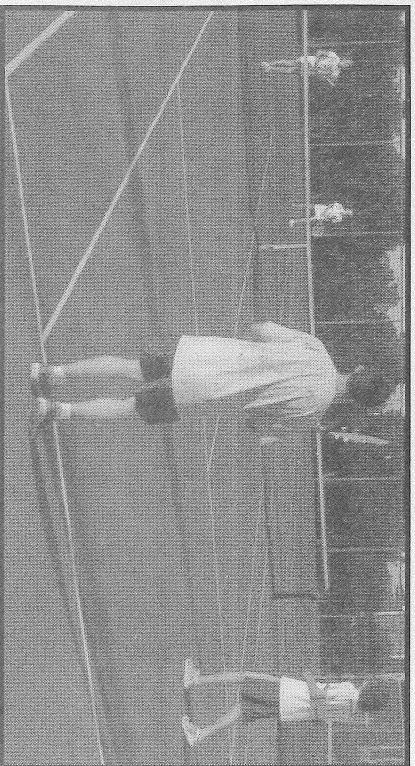


photo by Preston Neill

Above: Betsy Hauer and Nina Burgoon (background, left to right) prepare to launch a lofty return by Powell Latimer and Bryan Cockfield (foreground, left to right). The match was a slaughter, as Burgoon and Hauer won 6-0, 6-0.

Two Minute Drill

Countless times in professional sports, players who have been charged with crime are allowed to play in their games while out on bail or if they are otherwise released. One of the more recent examples of this is Minnesota Viking Randy Moss and, more recently, Baltimore Raven Jamal Lewis.

Moss has been charged with the possession of a small amount of marijuana. He has also "pushed" a police officer with his car.

Nonetheless, he was released to play in a football game the following Sunday against the Seattle Seahawks. Gaston County has apparently adopted some of professional football's policy.

For instance, one school has an athlete who has 21 excused absences prior to his athletic

season. According to Gaston County policy, he should not be allowed to play in the next semester of sports because he has missed over 13 days of school.

At another school, a student athlete has been charged with felony assault and a misdemeanor. has been put on probation, and also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia on school campus. Moss was kicked out of Florida State University for his drug problems.

So, which student do you think Gaston County allowed the privilege of playing sports this season? Believe it or not, the student athlete with almost four criminal charges has been allowed to play with his team, whereas the one with 21 excused absences has been dismissed from his team.

by Bryan Cockfield

Maybe that is why Gaston County is "reviewing" their athletic policy. For a team to find a loophole in the law that allows a player who has been charged with criminal counts almost four times to play sports in high school is morally unjust. Being on a sports team is an honor, not a right. The county should realize this and take his sports privileges away.

Players and other school officials who use sports to avoid the consequences for their actions are unethical. This idea is similar to the thought that playing sports is a job, and players can go on strike when they think they don't get paid enough to play a game.

The North Carolina Athletic Association explicitly prohibits students who have been convicted of felonies to play any sport, and

allows individual counties to enact tougher athletic policies. Apparently, Gaston County has overlooked this guideline.

Moreover, why would a coach submit the rest of his team to endless ridicule? Allowing someone with a criminal record, no matter what their athletic ability, should never be tolerated. One of the bonuses of being in high school is being a part of a team of legitimate students. Policy needs to be changed.

Gaston County shouldn't question the athletic standing of a student that has been charged with any crime, no matter how small. Criminals, felons, or drug users shouldn't be allowed to play any sport, whether they play professional, collegiate, or high school sports.

The Clean Sweep

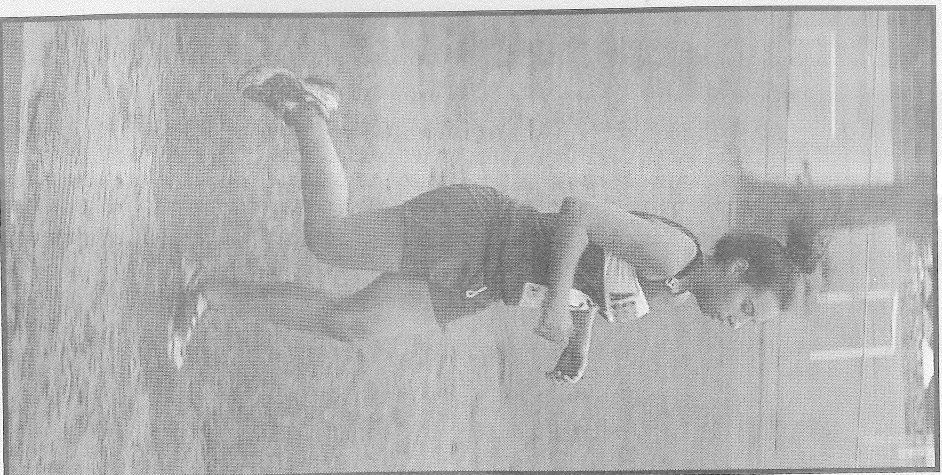


photo courtesy of Al Hess
Senior Maggie Azar finishes a 5k race at Ashbrook. Azar was the captain of the girls' team.

Ashbrook cross country finished with the perfect ending to a near-perfect regular season, winning both the men's and women's conference meets.

The men's team placed six runners in the top 15 in route to a conference championship. The team won despite East Lincoln taking first and second place. All of the team's top 7 runners finished the 3.1 mile course in less than 20 minutes. The team was lead by Senior Craig Rawe who placed fifth in a slightly disappointing run.

"If we had lost I would have been so disappointed," said Rawe. "It felt so good to beat [East Gaston]."

Rawe has paced the men's team for the past two years, consistently finishing in the top three in any given meet. However, what brought the team this year's conference championship and its top-ten state ranking, according to a recent coaches poll, is the five-pronged attack of Seniors Austin Munnell and Bryan Cockfield, Juniors Max Morris and Powell Latimer, and Freshman standout Chance Walker. These five runners close the gap between themselves and Rawe each meet, and thus elevate the team to new levels every time out. Other key roles are played by John Beveridge, and David Sanders.

Britany Walker led the women's team and the rest of the field by a considerable margin, breaking her own record (set last year) with a time of 20:54. Her first-place conference finish led the women's team to an upset win over East Gaston 38-41. Catherine Stover, Jessica Allen and Emily Massey also finished in the top ten, while Allie Hess and Maggie Azar filled put in strong runs.

The scoring system for cross country gives points based on place overall. The first-place runner gets one point; the second-place runner gets two points, and so on with the top five runners from each team counting towards the score. The team with the least amount of points wins the meet.

The men's team showed its dominance early on in winning the county meet by placing six runners on the all-county team, beating their top rival East Gaston by two points. The season was especially sweet for Coach Al Hess, being the first time in his six-

year tenure that the Ashbrook men have been both county champions and conference champions.

"It does feel good to come home with the trophy," said Hess. "It's just a total team effort. Everyone busted their tails."

Coach Hess was awarded coach of the year for both the men's and women's teams.

Walker is undefeated in conference meets and holds the record for holds two consecutive county championships. Her dominance has contributed to the women's team finishing second overall in the county meet, and. Her presence alone lifts the women's team from "run-of-the-mill" to "great".

While Walker is the undisputed leader of the women's team, all of the runners behind her, while having all struggled during the season, have produced solid finishes every meet. Senior Jessica Allen, Junior Catherine Stover, and sophomore Emily Massey all contribute to the Greenwave's success. As the elder members of the team, Stover and Allen provide valuable leadership for talented



photo courtesy of Al Hess

Women's golf finishes conference, advances to regional tournaments

The Ashbrook Women's golf team wrapped up the season with a second place finish in the conference tournament.

Freshman Leila Mackie, senior Beth Ann Urban, and junior Morgan White finished 3-5 respectively, in the Big South 3A tournament.

Coupled with the team's conference success, Mackie qualified for the state finals during the regional tournament in Rutherfordton on October 19. The freshman shot a 99 over a round of 18 holes. Last year's state qualifiers, White and Urban, barely missed the cut-off when they shot a 108 and 109, respectively. The qualifying score was a 107.

"It's disappointing that they were so close," said Coach Steve Hudgins, "especially after they qualified last year."

Urban's trip to states last year allowed her to become a better golfer this year.

"Going to states last year has helped Beth Ann in her leadership and her goals for the season," said Hudgins.

Urban's leadership was evident in the play of her teammates. White and Mackie shot an average of 49 to solidify the line-up.

In addition to her state

championship appearance, Mackie put on an impressive show in her first year playing for the Lady 'Wave and has established herself as one of the best freshmen in the county, according to Coach Hudgins. Mackie has consistently finished among the top three golfers on the team.

Mackie's strong play has allowed the team to better cope with the loss of last year's number four player, senior Anna Hardee, to a season-ending back injury early in the season. This injury has allowed Mackie and first-year player junior Carie Williamson to get more playing time to development for next year.

With the injury to Hardee, the success of the team was dependent on how well Mackie played early as she tailored her skills to the high school level. Mackie, however, did not feel any added pressure.

"I've just tried to fill in for Anna as best I could," said Mackie.

The team feels that without Mackie's performance this year, the season might not have been successful.

"She's (Mackie) stepped up and played well for us this year," said Hudgins.

Forestview wins; doesn't matter

Ashbrook men's soccer lost to Forestview 3-0 on October 20. Unfortunately for Forestview, it didn't matter.

Ashbrook won the Big South Conference championship with wins over Hunter Huss and Berry Academy despite their embarrassing loss to Forestview. Their championship run concludes a season that included the Greenwave's first victory over Forestview in the last 3 years.

While the Greenwave seemed to be on top of their games in the first Ashbrook-Forestview matchup, they seemed to regress in the second game. Ashbrook's usually suffocating defense allowed three goals, one of which occurred when Goalie Steven Love jumped too early and allowed the ball to bounce

over his outstretched arms. The other two goals came on breakaways where the defense simply got outran.

The offense also struggled in the last Forestview game. While junior forward Alden Brooks was impressive, he was the lone bright spot of the night. The rest of the offense was ineffective, scoring no goals and failing to capitalize on several key opportunities.

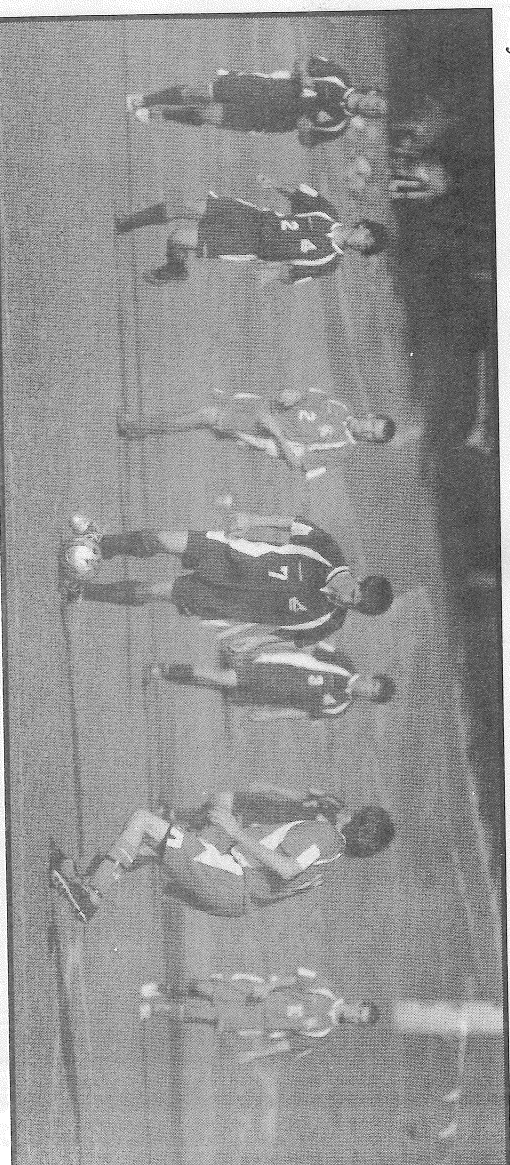
"We just played absolutely horrible," said junior Chris Long. "We weren't playing for anything. They were playing for pride."

However, in the following two games the team reenergized itself with convincing wins over Berry Academy and Hunter Huss. Granted, neither team truly constitutes a challenge to Ashbrook, but the Greenwave

showed something unusual for such a one-sided match-up. While most teams would have taken two games against the bottom end of the conference as an excuse to play lax, the team played hard and was completely determined.

This may be due to the tactics of new head coach Jamie Beltran. According to the players, Beltran insisted on a new, harsher practice. "He told us we had to stop messing around in practice," said senior Peter Haley. "Which is completely true."

The players certainly seemed to embrace the desires of coach Beltran, which bodes well for the upcoming state playoffs. Ashbrook will need to be on top of their games, as they face a possible third-round match against T.C. Roberson, which is ranked third in the state.



Above: Alden Brooks tries to get past a South Point defender. Ashbrook proceeded to win the game 3-0 and currently leads the conference. Brooks also leads the conference in goals scored.

Wave Loses in Short Term, One Big Loss, Builds for Long-Term Two Big Wins

Successful JV season gives hope for future varsity results

After a sub-par season, the Ashbrook women's volleyball team hopes JV success will yield future varsity results.

The Lady 'Wave finished the season with a less than spectacular record of 4-16. Captains, senior Maddie Kirlin and junior Jessica Boone, helped hold the team together even through the tough season.

Coach Brian Horne said, "Even though it was a tough year, they did their best and led by example."

Despite the record there is hope on the horizon. The development of a solid nucleus for next year appears to be in the making. Sophomore Jordan Bolick led the team in kills, while fellow sophomore Angela Runyan played significant minutes.

An additional sign of hope for next year was the 15-4 record of the JV team. Freshmen Heather Carnes and Jordan Hutchins and sophomore Katie Farmer led the JV team. Horne hopes one or more will play a significant role on varsity next year.

Horne also feels that having a strong JV team is even more important

that in the Big South 3A, due to the fact that while nearly all of the surrounding conferences have an established middle school volleyball program, while there is no such program in Gaston County.

"In our conference it is important to have a good JV team," said second year coach Horne, "We're still teaching fundamentals and there is a learning curve."

After two straight successful JV campaigns, Coach Horne hopes the success will pay dividends in the coming years.

"Hopefully the positive momentum we've gained through JV's success will propel us next year," said Horne.

Ashbrook comes up big against South Point, East Gaston, Falls short in bid to beat Forestview

Ashbrook football has a long history of exciting games and big wins, a streak that has continued with games against South Point, East Gaston, and Forestview.

South Point fell to the Greenwave 31-27 in a game that snapped Ashbrook's two-year losing streak to the Red Raiders. Junior Devin

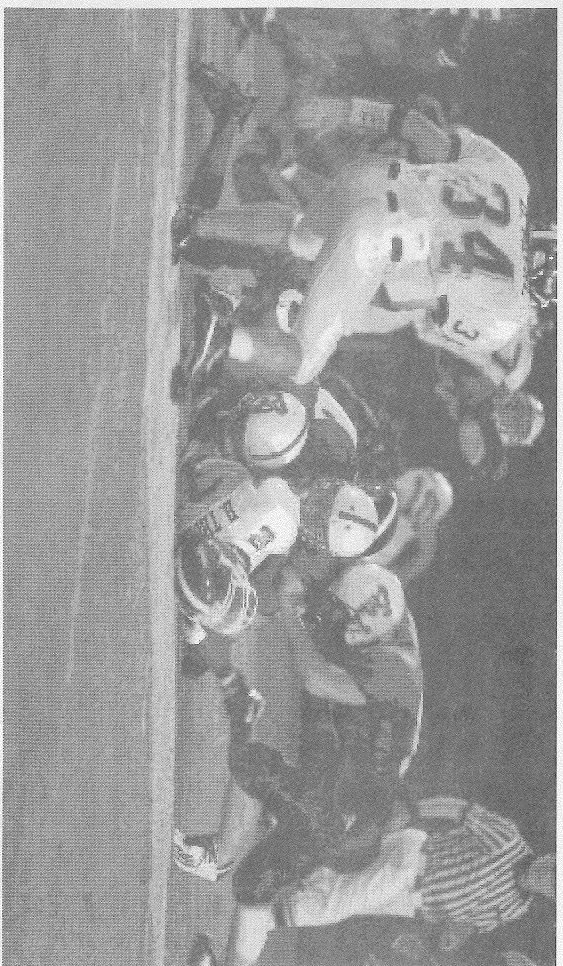


photo by Powell Latimer
Ashbrook defenders Junior Antonio Serratt and seniors Brandon Johnson and Andrew McKay make a stop on third down. The inability to stop Forestview on third down led to the Greenwave's defeat.

Harris and Senior quarterback Cole Russell led the Greenwave to victory on a 93-yard touchdown drive as time expired. Harris gave Ashbrook the win with a 69-yard touchdown reception. South Point is the defending conference champion and state champion from last year.

"We'd been waiting to play that game [against South Point] since last year," said junior linebacker Brandon Newton.

The Greenwave beat a feisty East Gaston team the week following the South Point game 35-21. Ashbrook shot out to an early 21-0 lead with their potent offensive attack. East Gaston responded with two onside kicks, and scored 14 unanswered points in the third quarter to renew their hopes.

However, the Greenwave defense stymied the Warrior's rally in the closing minutes. The Ashbrook secondary intercepted East Gaston four times, twice by Senior Cornerback Tremain Boone.

The Greenwave's unbeaten conference record ended at Forestview with a 28-25 loss.

Both junior receiver Devin Harris and senior tight end Josh Sparks missed catchable balls on critical third-down and fourth-down conversion attempts. The Ashbrook defense also struggled, allowing Jaguar running back Josh Jackson to rush for 146 yards and three touchdowns. "The team wasn't clicking like we should," said Harris. "We probably didn't practice like we should, and that followed us into the game."

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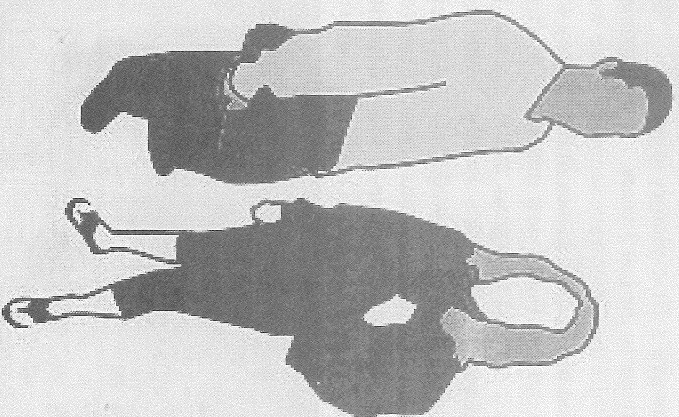
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