

# WAVELENGTHS

*Voice of the Greenwave*

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

## Dropout rates continue to decrease

**New programs help to improve dropout rates**

*By CARIE WILLIAMSON/News Editor*

Gaston County Schools' 2003-2004 dropout rates showed a continued decrease for the sixth successive year.

The annual dropout rate for students in grades 9-12 was 4.94 percent, as released on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 by the State Department of Public Instruction. That rate is down from 5.71 percent last year.

North Carolina requires that every child between the ages of 7 and 16 attend school under the Compulsory Attendance Law. Students who leave school prior to graduating and enroll in a community college or a GED program are counted as dropouts.

The state defines a dropout as a student who was enrolled in school at some time during the previous school year, was not enrolled on the 20<sup>th</sup> day, or has not graduated from high school or completed a state approved education program.

"Teachers, administration, parents, and students all have to work as a team," said assistant principal Torben Ross. "We have to make the school climate inviting to help students learn."

Last year in partnership with the Gaston County law enforcement agencies, the Gaston County School system implemented Operation Roll Call. Operation Roll Call goes to the homes of students who have poor attendance or drop out under the age of 16 with a social worker and police officer in an effort to get that student to school. The parent is liable if the student is a minor and can be prosecuted by law.

"There was an instance where the committee went to a home and the same day the mother was in my office asking why they had sent the sheriff to her house," said assistant principal Rebecca Wilson. "That child has been at school ever since, proving the effectiveness of the program."

Established in 2002-2003, the Dropout Prevention Task Force is composed of school personnel and community leaders who study ways to further reduce the dropout rate. Dot Guthrie, Gaston County Schools Director of Support Services, organizes informational meetings for parents, students, and teachers with a community leader speaker.

The extended day program allows students who are behind to graduate on time with their peers. The new peer tutoring program

**See 'Dropouts' page 6**

## Buses, walls, and honor garden defaced

### Vandalism strikes Ashbrook

*By CARIE WILLIAMSON/News Editor*

Early morning on February 13<sup>th</sup>, vandals spray painted black and gold profanities and vulgar pictures on the activity bus, signs, and walls and doors facing the student parking lot.

Ashbrook has not seen vandalism of this degree since the weekend of October 8-10, when the stadium and ticket booth were defaced in the middle of the fall sports season. Then, profanity had been painted on the field as well as an inappropriate body part painted over the 'A' at the 50-yard line.

According to assistant principal Rebecca Wilson, early morning on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>, two cars pulled up within a few hours of each other and parked in front of a surveillance camera. The tape caught the criminals' faces and will be burned onto a CD to serve as evidence in identifying the vandals. The students are suspected to be from North Gaston, as 'NOGA' was spray painted in numerous places.

**see 'Vandalism' page 6**

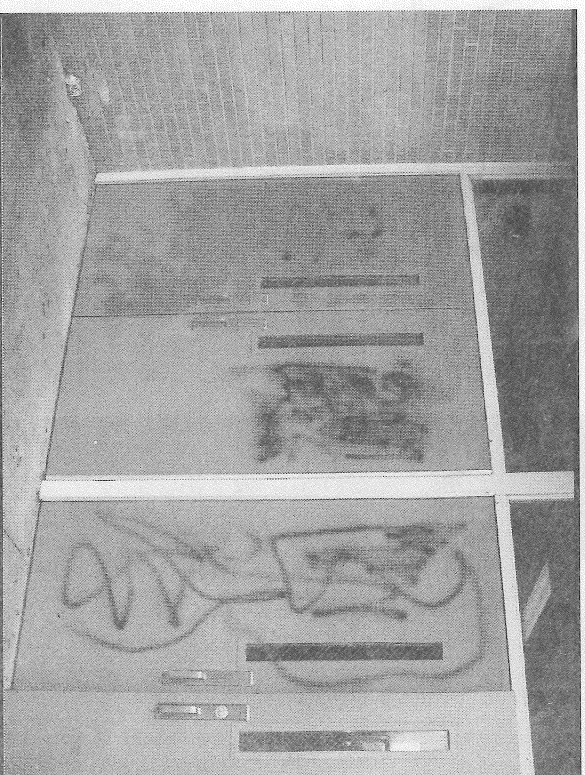


Photo by Ornina Bayoumi  
The doors entering the lobby outside the cafeteria are shown here covered in black and gold paint. Security cameras caught the vandals and the tapes will be evidence for identifying and punishing them.

## Make This One Count



Photo by Catherine Stover  
Sophomores Madison Fox and Adam Caldwell work diligently on their writing in Sharon Eccles' 10th grade AP Preparation English class. The sophomores have been practicing more than prior students because before the writing test has only been field test.

*By CATHERINE STOVER/Staff Writer*

This year when sophomores take the writing test, it will count. The writing test will be used by the state as a gauge to judge teachers in North Carolina.

Though before it was a field test, this is the first year the test will count. However, the test doesn't directly affect students' grades and is not a graduation requirement.

The scores students receive on the writing test reflect the entire school. These scores are used to check student progression, according to the North Carolina curriculum.

Grades from the writing test will be counted on the school score for the Adequate Yearly Progress, or AYP. Scores from the writing test will affect the ABC money and certification.

According to tenth grade English teacher Sharon Eccles, the skills that are needed to do well on the writing test include being able to write a good sentence, organizing an effective essay, including details, and elaboration.

In the past the writing test did not have a make-up date but this year it does. Ninety-five percent of students are required to take the writing test, because of the "No Child Left Behind" program.

According to testing coordinator Pam Funderburk, students that take English first semester or are on the A/B schedule are at a better advantage than students that are taking English second semester because they would have had a better opportunity to learn more English that would be useful on the test. Also the students that took English first semester are at a disadvantage because students may forget what they learned by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Eccles is using the field tests that she got back from last year to help teach her classes how they should write on this year's test. She has analyzed the tests from last year to see what helped push students from a score of three up to the four.

"On last year's field test students did very well, a number of fours were scored," said Eccles. "Many

**See 'Writing' page 6**

## S.A.V.E.d by Unity Week

*By JOURNEY QUEEN/Staff Writer*

S.A.V.E., Students Against Violence Everywhere, will be arranging events each day of the week to bring awareness to Ashbrook students about uniting with others and to help students learn about their differences.

"Ashbrook is the most diverse high school in Gaston County. Unity Week especially needs to be celebrated here," said principal Page Carver. "The students are actually more alike than they think but they focus on their differences. If they learned more about each other they would become more respectful and accepting."

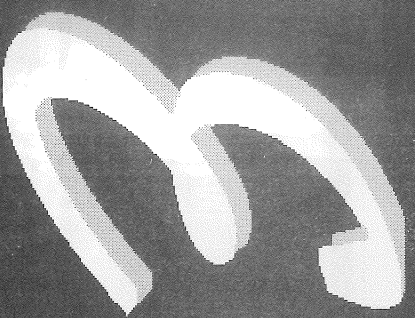
S.A.V.E. has been at Ashbrook for approximately eight years. The program started 15 years ago at West Charlotte High School. Alex Orange, a former student, was killed while trying to break up a fight at a party. His grieving classmates decided to start S.A.V.E. in his remembrance. That is also why the program's colors are purple and orange.

Currently there are many students involved in S.A.V.E. at Ashbrook. World history teacher Lindsay Fairbrother is the adviser of the program. S.A.V.E. has over 167,000 members in 44 states and four countries.

"I wanted to be involved with S.A.V.E. because I think it's for a valuable cause," said Fairbrother. "Violence is a very current issue and it does affect everyone."

The kick-off to Unity Week will begin on Monday. Every locker will have either an orange or purple ribbon taped onto it. For every third orange ribbon a purple one will be placed. This will symbolize how many people are affected by violence. There will also be an assembly and guest speaker during third period.

**See 'Unity' page 6**



WAVELENGTHS  
Staff

*Editor*

Bryan Cockfield, Sr.

*News Editor*

Caree Williamson, Jr.

*Sports Editor*

Powell Latimer, Jr.

*Artist*

Vonda Burris, Sr.

*Business Manager*

Omnia Bayoumi, Jr.

*Staff Writers*

Sherry Flores, Sr.  
Preston Neill, Sr.  
Journey Queen, Fr.  
Ashley Shaver, So.  
Heather Smith, So.  
Catherine Stover, Jr.

*Advisor*

Chad McAlister

*Wavelengths* is printed by Mullien Publications in Charlotte, North Carolina and has been published independently by students of the newspaper staff at Ashbrook High School in Gastonia, North Carolina since its inception in 1970. It is distributed free to the student body, faculty, and staff, by mail through journalistic correspondence between high schools across North Carolina, and by mail to its advertisers.

*Wavelengths* serves as a forum for its staff and readership. The *Wavelengths* staff strives to provide informative, fair, and accurate coverage of school-related events. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of the *Wavelengths* staff, whereas signed editorials reflect the opinions of the individual staff writer. Letters-to-the-editor represent the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the *Wavelengths* staff or its adviser. The *Wavelengths* staff is not to be held responsible for opinions shared through letters-to-the-editor but is responsible for editing them, as seen fit, for explicit language, incorrect grammar, or other considerations.

Views and opinions expressed in *Wavelengths* do not necessarily reflect those of the school, its administration, its students, or its staff.

*Wavelengths* does not publish poetry, form letters, petitions, or consumer complaints unless in purchased ad spaces.

All readers, including Ashbrook staff, administration, and teachers, as well as readers from other schools, may submit their opinions in the form of letters-to-the-editor. Topics must be school, community, or student-related and may be in response to a prior article or letter in *Wavelengths*. Letters must be signed (the author's name must follow letters that are e-mailed) and anonymity may be granted if deemed necessary. Letters submitted in any fashion become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or part, in print, electronic formats, and archives. Letters may be edited for content, length, language, grammar, or accuracy. Letters may be e-mailed to the staff e-mail address at [wavelengths@carolinarr.com](mailto:wavelengths@carolinarr.com), delivered to Chad McAlister in room 133, addressed to the *Wavelengths* staff and delivered to the front office, or addressed to the *Wavelengths* staff and mailed directly to the school. The staff and advisor may also be reached by phone after school hours (2:45 p.m.) at (704) 866-6600, ext 242.

# DIATORIALS

## Advanced Problem

In the preparation of students for college, many high school students are choosing to take classes that will give them a start on college curriculum. Nearly any first-year college course is offered in the form of Advanced Placement (AP) classes, from liberal arts to high levels of mathematics. Because these classes are weighted (in terms of grade point average or GPA), a number of students take AP classes not because of the material in the class, but because of the two-point bonus towards their GPAs. Therefore, a change in the implementation of the AP system should take place before students turn it into a cheap, efficient way to boost their GPAs.

Indeed there are students who use the AP academy to its fullest for the education rather than the GPA points. There are students, however, whose only goals are to become the valedictorian or the salutatorian of their graduating class and work to achieve these goals by taking AP courses that will not benefit them in any way, except their GPAs. Students who have no music background whatsoever wake up for school hours earlier to take an AP Music Theory course for the sake of the credit. Others drop more advanced AP courses such as calculus for "AP-light" courses such as psychology because they know that they will get the same amount of credit in either class.

Universities that started the advanced placement system are actually starting to refuse to honor credit earned through their own systems because the students are no longer preparing themselves for college curriculum through the AP courses. Even if students are able to pass the course and get a 3 or better on the AP exam, some universities require that the student pass the university's own placement exam to opt out of a class, if the university allows the student to opt out of any classes at all. At the Naval Academy, for example, a student must score 5 on an AP exam and score 100 percent on the Naval Academy's placement exam to gain credit for a class. Universities are discovering that the names and grades of classes on a high school transcript don't carry as much weight as they used to.

But the biggest problem for teachers, students, and administrators alike is that students are now more apt to perform to the bare minimum than they are to think "outside of the box." Most of the teachers in the AP Academy and probably many more will agree that students are, for the most part, more likely to cut corners on anything rather than put forth the time and effort to do something with their education. This lackluster attitude is magnified with the advent of the AP Academy. For example, there are now 76 students in AP

Psychology classes compared to five students now in analytic geometry 3 (Calculus BC) and Physics C combined. Given this evidence, it is acceptable to believe that these 76 students would take a class called "AP Sleeping" if they knew that they would be getting extra points for it.

Vocational education also takes a blow from the AP Academy because some students will be left out of the loop if they drop their AP classes to take a regular vocational class that they are interested in. Almost all of the students who plan on majoring in pre-med or another medical area will not take allied health sciences or medical sciences before college, much the same as a hopeful architecture major would not take drafting. The AP Academy creates a paradox for the vocational wing: since the honors students are occupied in AP classes, the at-risk students are slung into vocational classes because there are no other electives for them to take. Because of this, a full-service auto repair garage in the vocational wing is now a classroom for at-risk students.

The "AP conservatives" may claim that nothing is wrong with the system, even though the universities that initially started the advanced placement system are refusing to honor credit, the students have started to take

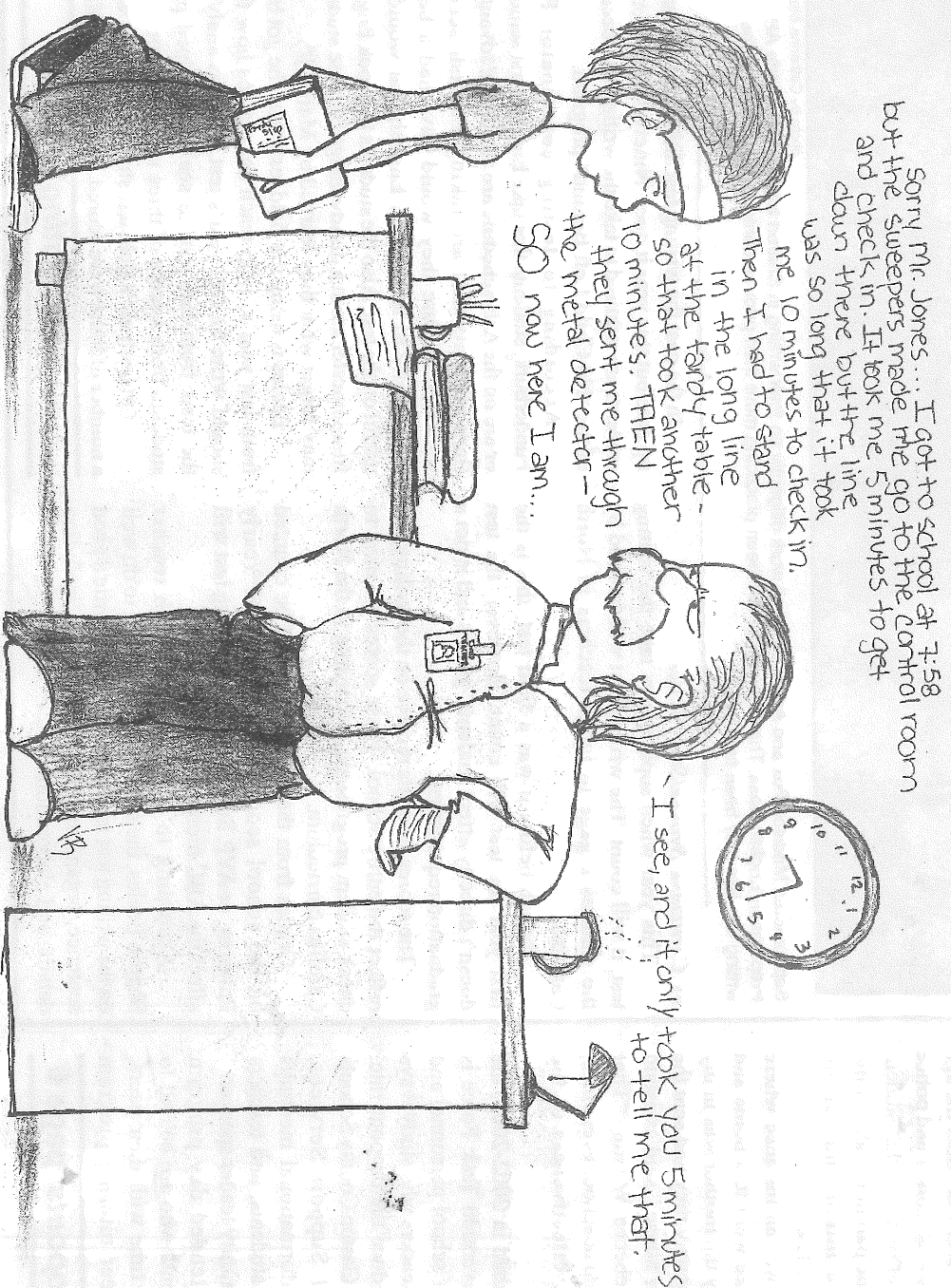
advantage of the system for its two-point bonus, and the vocational wing has been almost entirely disseminated by at-risk students. But perhaps there is a solution to the problem. If the 6-point weighted GPA scale was eliminated and replaced by a 100-point numerical grade scale with only a small bonus for AP and Honors classes, we would be able to take advantage of the lazy attitudes of the students. If the students weren't gaining an extra 50 percent to their GPA for an A in an AP class, they would be less inclined to take AP classes unless they showed sincere interest in the course study. The 70 students that are in AP psychology for the credit would take other classes, leaving students who care about their education unhindered in their advanced studies classes. For that, we might even get the full-service auto repair shop back.

The term "Advanced Placement" has become an oxymoron because a majority of students are taking AP courses just for the credit they should earn towards their GPA. "AP" now has a tendency to refer more to the weight the class has on a student's GPA rather than to what the student actually learns in the class.

It's time for this slack attitude to end. Real students have a right to take the classes they want without interference from grade-grabbers.

2222 NEW HOPE

By VONDA BURRIS



## Apathy shown for small, important clubs

"There is a SAVE meeting in room 201... A HOSA meeting in Mrs. Adam's room... Anyone interested in Environmental Club: meet after school," and the school is empty. Specialized clubs are getting shafted. Doesn't anyone care anymore? I began as a freshman wanting to be in every club, I wanted to meet people, make this huge school a little smaller, and possibly befriend a senior who would take me home in the afternoon. Now as president of SAVE and having a whopping attendance of five people, I see that maybe students aren't interested in helping or just not interested at all. Students Against Violence Everywhere, isn't that what we need when we have fights at school, a war going on, and a city council member domestically abusing his wife? I feel that SAVE is overlooked just like HOSA and the Environmental Club.

Whatever happened to kids wanting to be doctors or just wanting to help others? HOSA is known for their blood drives and competitions. My sister was president last year and now she is doing some athletic training (like what LC does) in her spare time at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Her experience in HOSA is helping people now, but when you don't have members there is no way to compete, no way to learn, and no way to help.

I am getting tired of hearing people complain about the name "Trashbrook" and then deciding it isn't their fault. That is not the environmental club's job to clean up after us. But they do try to better the environment, see those boxes in your class for bottles? That's their doing, but it's hard to contribute more when their attendance dwindles.

We can't be expected to protect the abused, the hurt and sick, and the world when nobody cares and nobody supports these clubs.

MADDIE KRUM/Senior

## Traffic Headaches=ASD

Since the new tardy policy has been in effect, an immense number of students have complained about serving after school detention (ASD) due to traffic.

Traffic has not changed since the beginning of the school year. It is also not an excuse for being late to school. As a normal

part of driving, all drivers deal with traffic at some point during the day. The tardy policy is set up to give a one-time free pass for the first tardy. This pass is not for the mornings you are lazy or decide to get breakfast. It was created to help when other problems arise.

Dealing with traffic is normal to me because I drive in from Charlotte. I give myself 45 minutes to make a 30-minute drive. This extra 15 minutes is to serve as a buffer in case I run into traffic, there is an accident, or any other circumstance I may face. On inclement weather days, I wake up early so I can leave earlier than normal. If I do not make it to work on time, I have to suffer the consequence.

I am astounded at the number of students who leave their house with barely enough time to get to school and act surprised to find traffic congestion at 7:45 to 8:00 on any given day. We are fortunate to have a police officer help direct traffic, but we can not count on that. Ashbrook does not pay this officer to help with traffic. He or she is here as a courtesy. If the officer is needed elsewhere in the city, police matters take precedence over traffic at Ashbrook.

Why do you, the student, think the staff of Ashbrook has become so strict with students arriving to school on time? Tardies were excessive. If this were a job you were paid for, you would be fired by now.

Why do you think the punishment is severe? The answer is the same reason you go to school to begin with, to get an education. If the students are not in class, the educators cannot educate the students.

The cafeteria opens daily at 7:00 AM for those who arrive early. The front door opens at 7:30 AM. The school also provides free, reliable transportation... the bus! For those who choose not to get up early to use this transportation, the risk of ASD is eminent. You have a choice, leave the house early enough to arrive to class before 8:00 or suffer the consequence.

REBECCA WILSON/Assistant Principal

## A Misappropriation of Funds

I recently read in an article in the February 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Gaston Gazette* that our school superintendent, Dr. Ed Sadler, has received a seven percent pay raise. This was given to him by a vote of the Gaston County School Board.

## Letters to the Editor

This pay raise is atrocious, unnecessary, and completely out of line. I have not followed Dr. Sadler around on a day to day basis or watched him work at his job, but it is my understanding that almost all of the school system's administrative work is done by lower-level administrators. If the school board has thought that the school administration office has recently done a superb job in dealing with the schools, then their rewards should be given to hard-working people like Director of High Schools Mark Hollar or Director of Compensatory Education Dr. Pat Sudderth.

However, this is definitely another situation where the core of the school systems, our teachers, have been forgotten. It is an obvious and accepted fact that the school board cannot afford to raise the salaries of its 2,028 teachers, or even give them bonuses. The school board has still given a bad sign to the teachers, and spent taxpayers' money unwisely. With the average teacher salary at about \$37,084 (with an additional \$1,971 local supplement), it is ridiculous that the superintendent is now making over \$130,000 in salary, alone (plus collecting retirement on top of that). The school board has basically left the teachers behind and said that they do not value teachers' work. The teachers work hard, and probably much harder, than Dr. Sadler does.

I also believe that Dr. Sadler himself is at fault for accepting the raise. Hopefully he knows that the school system's budget has been in crisis, and year after year the school board has had a hard time paying for all of the system's expenses. I think that he should have declined his raise in the interest of the school system's budget. Of course, the school board should have never offered him the raise, considering the budget. Still, Dr. Sadler was not forced to accept his raise.

I feel that I speak for many parents and teachers when I say that Dr. Sadler's recent raise is out-of-line and impractical.

CRAIG RAWE/Senior

## Don't Blame Me

As a result of my editorial published in an issue of *Wavelengths*, I have been called everything except a child of God. The purpose of an editorial is to express your

opinion, but it doesn't say whether it has to be good or bad. Unfortunately, my last editorial was one of more constructive criticism. I simply explained to our school how people view our basketball team. I explained that people see our team as not entirely representative of our school. I suppose maybe the way I explained it was too brash. Maybe you didn't like the allusion to the forty thieves and maybe you didn't like the analogy between our team and thugs. So I apologize if I said something that may have offended you, but it is also my opinion.

I am not sure that I was fully understood. I know most of the players on the team personally; I played with them for over a year. I know they are not thugs. I also know that they are good people who work hard in practice to win games. I know how much they work so that we have an above average basketball team to go alongside our above average football team, our above average baseball team, our above average track team, our above average cross country team, and the rest of our above average athletic teams. So my question to the varsity basketball team is why do you want to look less than distinguished on days when the spotlight is specifically on you? I personally do not have the right to be identified with the team, nor does anyone who isn't on the team because we didn't earn it. For someone to mistake me for a member of the team is disrespectful to the sacrifices you made to get on the team. I am not the one running suicides at the end of every practice. I am not the one out taking charges at practice. You earned your spot on the team, and people should know who you are on and off the court. People should know that you are the 12 best basketball players at Ashbrook, and the ones prestigious enough to represent our school to the rest of the state.

Varsity basketball players, be proud that you are representing Ashbrook. No one should be able to question your devotion to the school. No one else knows the sacrifices you had to make to put on that jersey. But we do know how much people look up to our school, and also because of their extremely high profiles how much people look up to our sports. So all I'm asking is that you represent yourselves proudly. Wear our colors proudly and distinctively, because not to do so is demeaning to yourselves, your team, and your school.

PATRICK MCCARTEN/Senior

Finding That Perfect Gown Just Got A Little Easier...

**Bedazzled!**  
Bridal & Formal

The Hottest  
Prom Shop  
In  
North Carolina!!!

We carry the latest dresses from Excite, Mori Lee, Alfred Angelo, Aurora, Night Shows, J. Mc Cormick, Delta Formal, Ganargoby, Aesthetics, and introducing the sizzling new Bedazzled Prom Collection!

The best prices, sizes 2-32W, AND WE ALWAYS REGISTER ALL OF OUR DRESSES!!!

Save An Extra \$15 On Any

Prom Dress

With This Coupon At Bedazzled

The gown must cost \$150.00 or more to receive the discount, this coupon can not be combined with any other offers. Expires 4-15-05

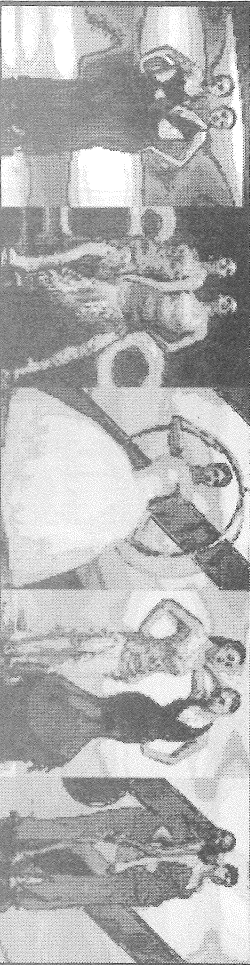
Westfield/Eastridge Mall

246 N. New Hope Rd.

Gastonia, NC 28054

704.865.3492

www.BedazzledBridal.com



Carolina  
Surgery

Mark S. Moskowitz, M.D., F.A.C.S.

General, Vascular, and Thoracic Surgery

www.carolinasurgery.com

1089 X-Ray Drive • Gastonia, NC 28054

Phone (704) 864-8377 • Fax (704) 866-5206

# Must Be Somethings



BY OMNIA BAYOLMI & HEATHER SMITH/Staff Writers

Karyn Love was once a student who tried to enjoy her days at Ashbrook. Love would occasionally sneak off to lunch with friends, but she did not always find the easy way in. Love recalls the time when she snuck out with a friend to go eat lunch at McDonalds.

"One day we left for lunch and when we came back the assistant principal, Mr. Robert Mason, was standing in the front drive and we couldn't get back into the school." "Our books were in the library with our fourth period teacher and we couldn't get back into the school until fifth period."

Fifteen years ago, Jonathan Buckner sat in the rooms of Randall Love and Mary Layton as a student.

Who would have known that after graduating he would become a teacher along side of them?

Fate has a way of bringing the students of Ashbrook back as teachers. Several of them wanted to come back to the halls of Ashbrook as teachers such as Buckner, theater arts teacher at Ashbrook High School and is in the graduating class of '94.

"It's been 14 years since I graduated Ashbrook," Buckner said. "Since I was 16 I had decided to teach to make a difference in this world."

Buckner was not the only one that felt that way. Psychology and Teen Leadership teacher, Love, class of '77 and Tripp Griffin, Geometry/Calculus teacher and graduating class of '90, also attended Ashbrook and came back to teach for the simple fact that they enjoy teaching.

"Since high school I decided that I wanted to be a teacher," said Love. "I consider it an honor to teach because I have had good memories of high school and I have respect for all the teachers I had."

"I feel that it is a chance to give back to the school because I received an excellent education," said Griffin. "I feel that current and future students should get the same education."

There are those who came back for the fact that there was unavailability of jobs or fate brought them back.

"I never planned on being a teacher," said Jeff Guzauskas, class of '98 and Geometry teacher. "I wanted to do something in the financial sector, but I was comfortable coming back because I was aware of my surroundings."

Principal and class of '74 Ashbrook alumnus Page Carver had no desire to teach either.

"I had no intention to go into teaching or the education field, I was trying to fight the family trend," said Carver. "My mom, aunts, and uncles were all teachers."

"I attended Appalachian State University in hopes of becoming a business major but realized that was not what I wanted to do the rest of my life."

Sticking to family trend, Carver went into the education field and became a special education teacher.

Later she moved to become principal at McAdenyville Elementary School and then Grier Middle School.

"I believed that Grier is where I would be until I retired but found a good job opportunity at Ashbrook to become principal."

Carver says she loves being back at Ashbrook and has never regretted her college decision.

"There is nowhere else that I want to work," said Carver. Sherri Sparrow, class of '78, planned on teaching but did not believe it would be at Ashbrook.

"I planned on teaching mentally challenged students but I did not plan on coming back to Ashbrook," said Sparrow. "Mrs. Carver knew that I had a son that age and she saw how I reacted with kids and that I liked them. I guess she thought I would do a good job."

As many students view the teachers of Ashbrook as disciplinary, back in their time of high school they also knew how to get around the rules.

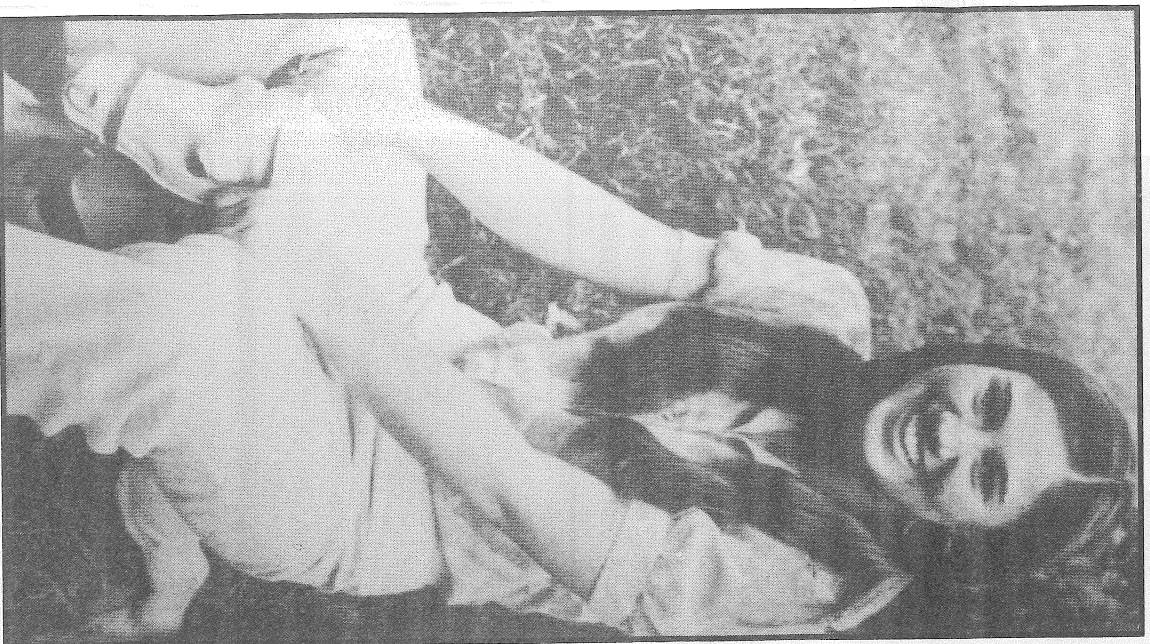
"Occasionally we would sneak off for lunch and Mr. Robert Mason would stand guard to catch us before we left," said Love. "I had a great time in high school."

School wasn't always about getting in trouble or sneaking off, some just had fun.

"I remember always coming to school early so I could eat breakfast in Mr. Kiser's room" said Griffin. "My friend and I would bring bags full and we would go in the back room to eat."

That usually doesn't happen often at Ashbrook anymore. It is not the only thing that has changed at Ashbrook.

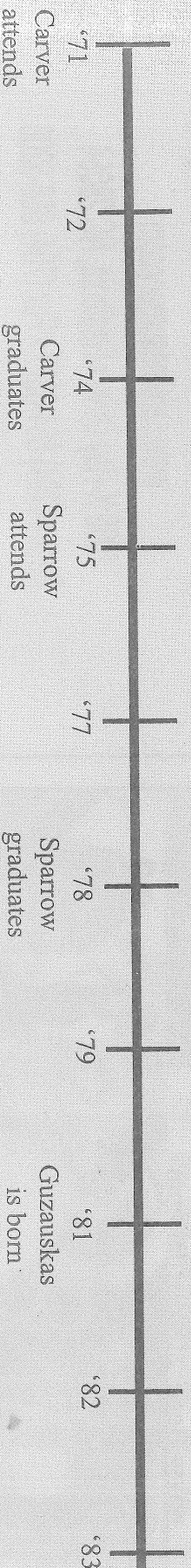
"Ashbrook has changed a lot," said Buckner. "Relationships are a lot more informal, which usually leads to disrespect



Top left: Karyn Love during her years at Ashbrook High School. Love was in the graduating class of '78.

Top right: Love as a current teacher at Ashbrook High School. Love teaches AP Psychology and Teen Leadership.

Above: Carver in the year of '73-'74 as a senior at Ashbrook High School.



# Green in the Water



But also it leads to more honest relationships with the teacher.”

Griffin also recalls that even though students associate with different groups and people, their attitudes now change depending on who they are with at the moment. He commented on the fact that students didn't understand what teachers at Ashbrook have to deal with, but he gets it now because he is the one who has to deal with the students.

Sparrow has also noticed a difference from her days of high school to high school today.

“The students were more closely knit then than today,” said Sparrow. “And there were not as many fights.” “If bothers me to see the apathy that the students have towards the school and I believe that we earned the name ‘Trashbrook.’”

Not minding the change, Guzaukas admits that maturity level at Ashbrook has decreased since he has attended it.

“I have to say maturity level is lower for the fact that freshmen are now included in high school.” said Guzaukas.

In his years of high school, Ashbrook only consisted of sophomores, juniors, and seniors. This was not only for Guzaukas, but for all the Ashbrook graduates teaching today. Carver also believes that many transitions have occurred over the years at Ashbrook.

“We had six periods in a day, not as many choices for classes, and definitely not as much laboring and stressing over standardized tests,” said Carver. “For yeahbook, the students got to choose who was to be on it and we had no computers, so all of the layouts were done by hand on poster board.”

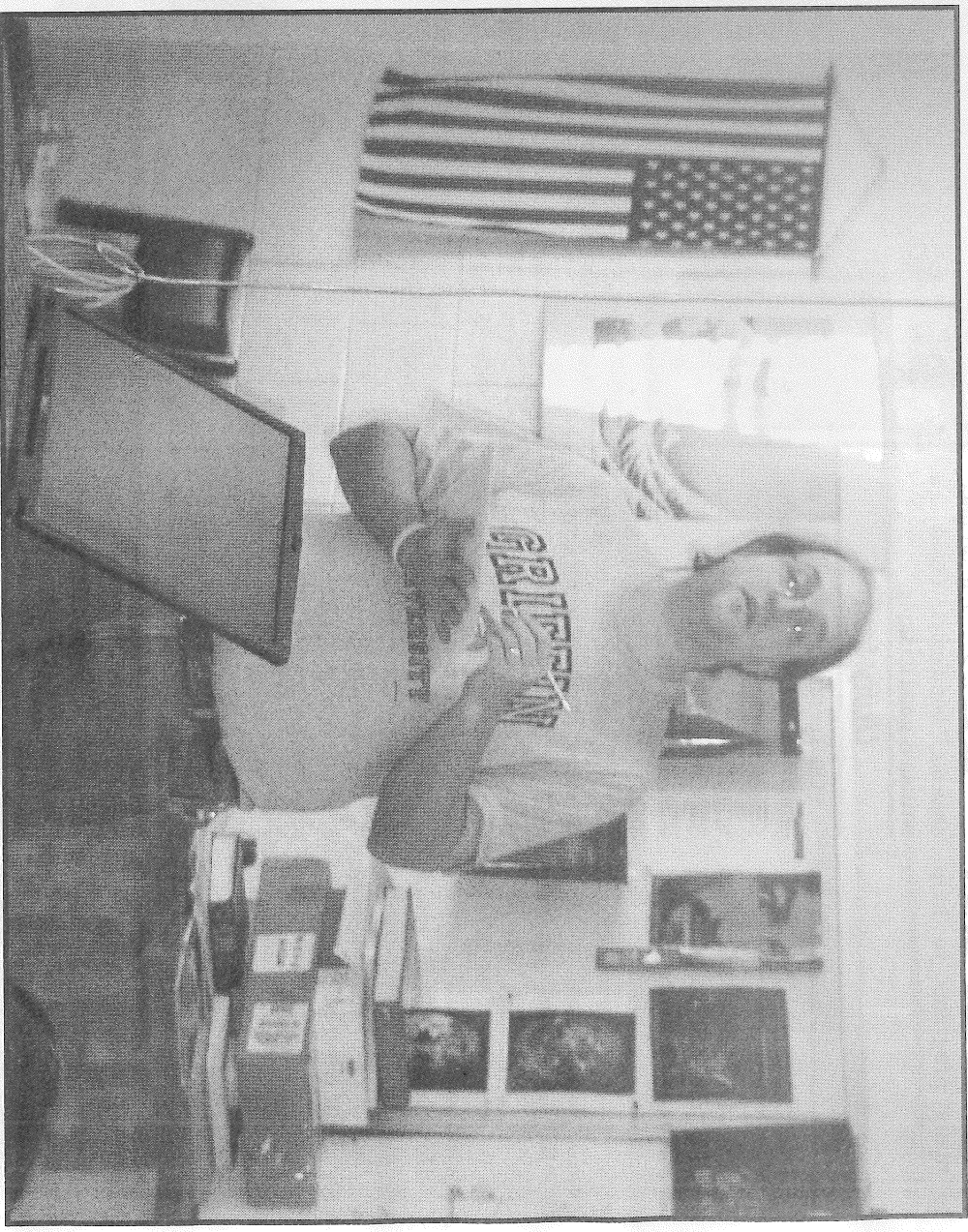
Although there were many differences there were also many similarities.

“Trends are coming back,” said Griffin. “The alligator shirts were the ‘in’ thing back then, and now the up turn collars and bell bottoms.”

“Many of the styles today are similar to what they were in my day,” said Carver. “We had platform shoes.”

However, similarities weren't always about trends but also about events.

“Another similarity I noticed was the fact that in my days of high school we had the Vietnam War going on and now there is the war in Iraq happening,” said Carver.



For Carver it was odd seeing things that she experienced in her day, happening to students today.

Every single one of these former students came back to the halls of Ashbrook to make a difference as teachers, and a fine difference they are making.

“I came to make a difference,” said Buckner, “And teachers effect more concretely than anything else.”

Ashbrook hopes to continue the tradition of bringing back the students of Ashbrook back as the teachers. Ashbrook offers a program that allows the students to step into the shoes of teachers. Senior Amanda Evanega was active in Teacher Cadets. Evanega took the class because she one day hopes to become a teacher.

“I thought the class was awesome, it gave all the girls the opportunity to become friends. It would've also been cool if we could have got guys to join because it's not only a class for girls,” said Evanega.

“I don't plan on coming back to Ashbrook because I like to travel.”

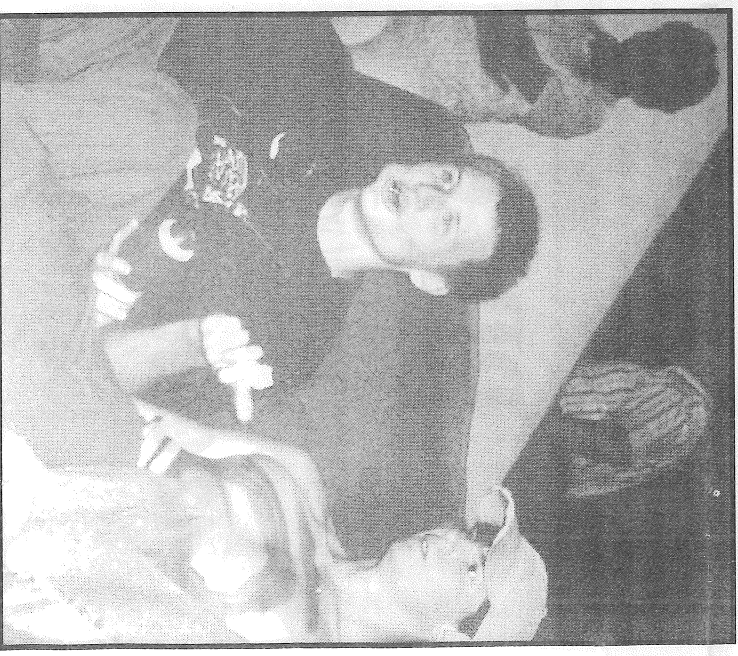
Senior Caitlin Cavin was also a student that got the opportunity to take this class. Cavin told *Wavelengths* that she wants to become a kindergarten teacher, and probably teach here with Gaston County Schools.

“The class was a really good experience and a lot of fun,” said Cavin. “Some people who took the class and didn't have future plans in becoming a teacher finished out the class wanting to become a teacher.”

Top left: Tripp Griffin as a senior at Ashbrook High School. Griffin was in the graduating class of '90.

Top right: Griffin today as Geometry and Calculus teacher.

Center right: Guzaukas was the ultimate coach potato. Guzaukas was shown here, attempting to rally school spirit on the “spirit coach.” Bottom right: Guzaukas as a Geometry teacher at Ashbrook.



'87	Griffin attends
'88	
'90	Griffin graduates
'91	Sisson attends
'94	Griffin graduates
'95	Guzaukas attends
'97	
'98	Guzaukas graduates
'00	new century
'02	Guzaukas teaches Ashbrook

**Dropouts from 1**

offers struggling students a connection with another person at school. According to Ashbrook social worker Sybil Guyer, students who have someone at school that they can trust and talk to tend to come to school more and have better grades.

"If you can't graduate from Ashbrook, you can't graduate from anywhere," said Guyer. "We have so many programs to help students."

**Writing from 1**

students were one point away from the four score, so I am trying to find out what students should do this year to achieve a better score."

Though it is very difficult to get the perfect score of a four, the test is scored so many students have an opportunity to pass.

Eccles feels the test is geared to some students over others.

"The test is geared to brighter students," said Eccles. "Good writing is good thinking."

**Unity from 1**

On Tuesday there will be an "International Buffer" held after school. Anyone who wants to may bring food from a different cultural background and everyone who attends will be able to sample each dish. Wednesday morning S.A.V.E. members will be selling hot cocoa. The theme to this activity is "Don't let anger heat you up."

Also on Wednesday during lunch there will be a banner everyone can sign to support non-violence.

The Unity Circle will be held on Thursday. During third period instead of going straight to fourth everyone will go outside and hold hands to connect with one another. The band will play the national anthem.

On Friday S.A.V.E. will be doing 'Flowers for Support Staff.' Members will be giving flowers to staff such as the janitors, guidance counselors, and cafeteria workers.

Maddie Kirlin, senior and president of S.A.V.E., has high hopes for the result of Unity Week.

"I'm hoping after Unity Week students will be more inspired to unite," said Kirlin. "I'm also hoping it will draw attention to the club and we will gain more members."

Also on Wednesday during lunch there will be a banner everyone can sign to support non-violence.

The Unity Circle will be held on Thursday. During third period instead of going straight to fourth everyone will go outside and hold hands to connect with one another. The band will play the national anthem.

On Friday S.A.V.E. will be doing 'Flowers for Support Staff.' Members will be giving flowers to staff such as the janitors, guidance counselors, and cafeteria workers.

Maddie Kirlin, senior and president of S.A.V.E., has high hopes for the result of Unity Week.

"I'm hoping after Unity Week students will be more inspired to unite," said Kirlin. "I'm also hoping it will draw attention to the club and we will gain more members."

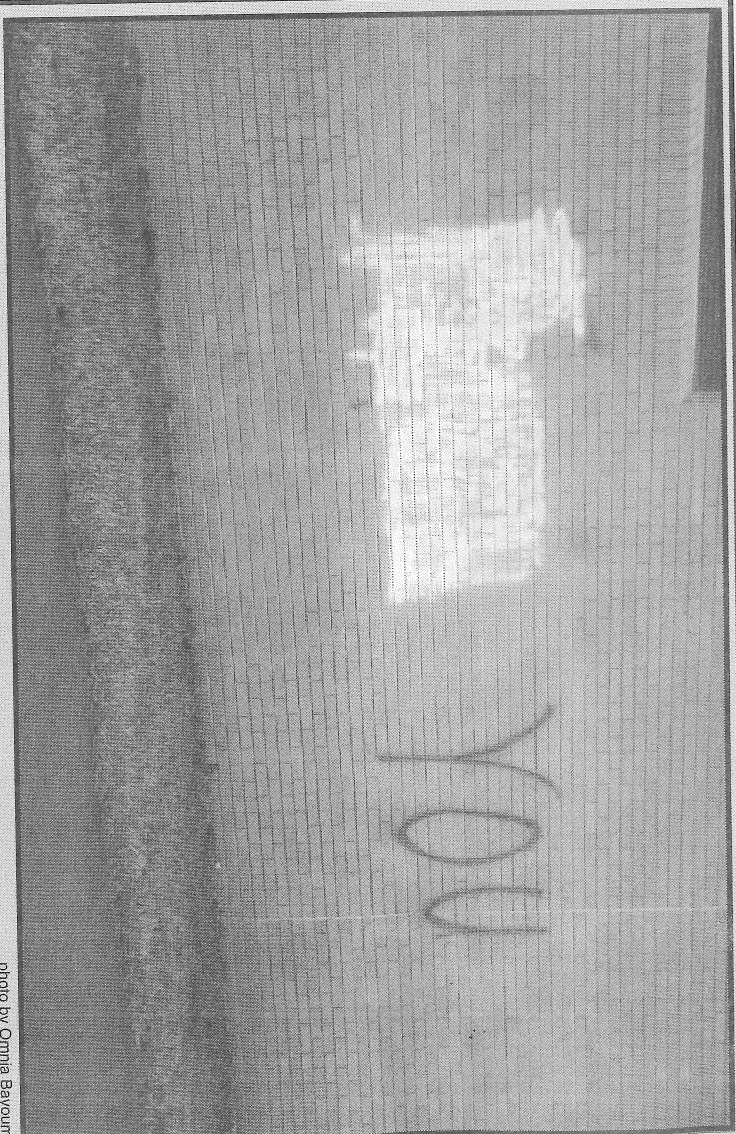


photo by Ormie Bayoumi  
Vandals struck Ashbrook early morning February 13<sup>th</sup>, as shown by the tasteless spray painting on the wall facing the student parking lot. There is security tape of the two sets of vandals, soon to be identified by authorities.



photo by Catherine Stuber

Sophomores work attentively in preparation for the writing test on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher Sharon Eccles, right, has been using past field tests to ready her students for the big day.

**BB&T**

*You can tell we want your business.*

**12 Gaston County locations**

DAVID R. KIRLIN, DPM  
RYAN MEREDITH, DPM  
WAGNER G. SANTIAGO, DPM

251 Wilmot Drive  
Gastonia, NC 28054  
(704) 861-0425

**GASTON FOOT & ANKLE ASSOCIATES, P.A.**  
*Skilled. Experienced. Trusted.*

www.gastonfoot4udr.com

NAME BRAND FOOTWEAR

**WOLVERINE**  
**POWERSHOCKS**  
**PRIMA**

AUTHORIZED DEALER

**MORGAN'S SHOES & BOOTERY**

1816 SOUTH NEW HOPE ROAD  
GASTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28054  
(704) 864-8033  
FAX (704) 861-4544

DOUGLAS S. MORGAN

**Kaleidoscope**

Multi-Merchant Gift Shop

- \*Jewelry
- \*Bath and Body
- \*Candles
- \*Push Pets
- \*and More!

- \*Home Accessories
- \*Wine
- \*Marketing
- \*Baby & Children

Unique finds and Gifts  
320 W. Main St. Downtown Gastonia  
704-854-5399

**Check us out!!**  
Wait til you see what *Poffie Girls* has for **Prom 2005**. Styles like you won't believe! Be your own Oscar winner in the most innovative looks of the season.

*Poffie Girls* offers styles unlike any others. **Get Ready, Get Set, Go To...**

*Poffie Girls*

512 S. New Hope Rd., Gastonia, NC  
704-866-0198  
Web site: [poffiegirls.com](http://poffiegirls.com)  
(now open on Sunday's 1:00-5:00)

**R&B Service Center, Inc.**

923 N. Hanover Street  
Gastonia, North Carolina 28054  
(704) 865-4032

Alan Carter  
Butch Carter

1595 E. Garrison Blvd.  
Gastonia, NC 28054

**Akers Pharmacy**  
704-865-3411

Ronald L. Holland  
R. Truman Hudson

Glenda H. Kessell  
Lisa H. Green

Fax: 704-867-4262

Donald R. Thrower  
William N. Thrower

Pharmacists

Tricia T. Williamson  
Terry F. Price  
Stephanie Combs

Medical Center Pharmacy  
515 Cox Road  
Gastonia, NC 28054  
(704) 867-5343

College Park Pharmacy  
682 Park Street  
Belmont, NC 28012  
(704) 825-5179

# SPORTS

SPRING SPORTS  
PREVIEWS  
PRESEASON PREDICTIONS  
PUT ASHBROOK AHEAD OF  
THE CURVE

## A Few Good Words

Powell Latimer

Ashbrook's Bill Eccles Stadium *should* have a brand-new coat of paint. There *should* be a soccer stadium at Audrey Field. The track *should* be rubberized. Unfortunately, none of these things have happened, and there is nothing Ashbrook can do about it. All of the previously mentioned improvements were supposed to be taken care of by a Gaston County bond referendum five years ago.

According to this bond referendum, over \$87 million would be divided among all the schools in Gaston County, with \$100,000 to go to each school for athletics. Five years later, how much of this money has Ashbrook received? A big, fat, whopping zero. Not a penny has gone to Ashbrook, whether for athletics or otherwise. In fact, the only school to receive any of their allotted funds was Forestview, who received \$100,000 to put in bathrooms at their stadium. Why? Because the county froze the bonds very shortly after the referendum on the basis that the money was not there.

But one must ask, how could the county not have the money? Surely they proposed the bill granting the schools the funds with a clear knowledge of how to get those funds?

One possible way to raise the money would be to raise property taxes. Unfortunately, according to ashbrook athletic director Lloyd White, the county commissioners have been unwilling to raise property taxes. This argument seems completely reasonable, until one realizes that this bond referendum passed overwhelmingly at the polls. Surely the people would be willing to pay a little more money for the bill that they voted for? Obviously, the county commissioners feel differently. Despite repeated articles in the *Gaston Gazette*, no action has been taken.

While the county sits inactive, the schools feel the repercussions, and Ashbrook is no exception. The track should have been rubberized long before the tentative date of two years from now, and instead of a soccer stadium, we have an ineffective fundraising campaign.

Until the county can somehow come up with the funds that they promised, Ashbrook will be forced to cut corners and postpone improvements. Or the county *could* provide all of the money Ashbrook had anticipated and everything *would* be wonderful.  
Yeah, right.

## Edged Out Again

*Men's Basketball beats Forestview in overtime, playoffs end on close loss*

By POWELL LATIMER/Sports Editor

This season Ashbrook basketball has experienced a slew of close games. Against Forestview, Ashbrook finally experienced a close win.

Against Forestview Ashbrook avenged a one-point loss in the last contest. Ashbrook relied on threes from Reggie Hopkins and Darius Floyd to stay close to the Jaguars, and took the lead heading into the final seconds of regulation.

Unfortunately, Forestview star Bingo Floyd sent the game into overtime with a three-point shot at the end of regulation.

"That shot was a gift from god," said Hopkins. "It was so lucky." Ashbrook overcame Floyd's last-second heroics and proved the victor in overtime, going inside to Eric Bryce for the go-ahead basket.

The win against Forestview was a much-needed victory towards Ashbrook's playoff hopes. With

5 conference losses the Greenwave would have serious problems getting into the playoffs.

"That game (against Forestview) really saved our season," said assistant coach Richard Carsner. "If we hadn't won that game then it makes it much more difficult to get into the playoffs, simply because then it's harder to win those next games."

The Greenwave went down early in the season to both Forestview and East Gaston, where both games decided by less than five points. Breakdowns on both ends of the floor late in the game have been a recurring problem for the team thus far, as well as their struggles against full-court pressure.

Ashbrook's early struggles were largely due to the absence of center Devin Harris, injured and

out for the season. Without Harris, Junior Eric Bryce has assumed a larger role in the post. When Bryce and fellow low-post player Jamion Hopkins, and Darius Floyd to carry

Pierce was more of a behind-the-scenes player. As Ashbrook's point guard, Pierce runs the complicated offense of coach Marty Hatchell. When he has the ball, Pierce finds the open man. Off the ball, he is constantly calling out the play and ordering his teammates into various cuts and screens.

While the guards have been the backbone of the offense, big man Eric Bryce scored Ashbrook's go-ahead basket against Forestview. Driving home the point that Ashbrook needs its post players to perform in order to be successful. "Our big men are good at different things," said Hopkins. "So we have to rotate them around." Bryce, Jamion Holland, and Sophomore Adam Caldwell each have had big games. However, consistency has proved elusive.

Another positive from the Forestview game was how Ashbrook dealt with Forestview's full-court pressure. Early in the season, Ashbrook struggled against the press. Against East Gaston, Ashbrook looked lost, turning the ball over several times against full-court pressure. Against Forestview, Ashbrook looked more effective, limiting turnovers and moving the ball up the court effectively.

Unfortunately, the win against Forestview is the highlight of this season as the team lost to Crest in the playoffs. After falling behind 27-12 in the first quarter, Ashbrook rallied and brought Crest's lead to two points on several occasions. Once again, however, the Greenwave squandered an opportunity to win in the closing seconds. Down by two in the closing seconds, Ashbrook failed to capitalize, ending their season unable to win close games.



Photo By Leah Hollier  
Junior Darius Floyd shoots over an East Gaston player. Floyd has been ashbrook's leading scorer thus far in the season, registering 34 points in one recent game.

Holland are involved in the offense, the Greenwave gains a balanced offensive attack.

tournament had an even larger turnout.

An average of ten teams, each with five people, have participated in the tournaments. Most of the teams are from Forestview, but two teams are from Ashbrook, one is from Highland, and one is from Hunter Huss.

The game is played with four balls of varying sizes. If a ball hits a player, then the player is out unless the ball is caught. If the ball is caught then the player who threw the ball is out and a player from the other team gets to come back into play.

The team I played for, the Meat Packers Association, combined the arm of senior

baseball player Michael Maples, the agility of senior swimmer Alex Lytton and junior swimmer Josh Rutherford, and the incomparable Spencer Boyd.

Needless to say, our team finished very high in the tournament. After all, we were playing against mostly Forestview teams.

But the tournament was not for serious interscholastic competition. Mostly, it was just there for people to go out and have fun. There were even a few Ashbrook-Forestview hybrid teams in the tournament. The point was to have fun.

Even the names of the teams hinted at the atmosphere of the tournament. The Penetrators,

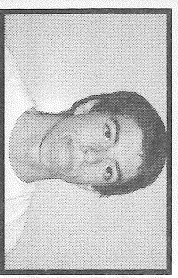
Unicorns (an all female team) and the Meat Packers Association were just a few of them.

This atmosphere of fun and good times gives anyone who wants to simply play some kind of sport with their friends an opportunity to, without the level of commitment that interscholastic athletics require.

However, the recent dodgeball fad is not ashbrook's first foray into the world of unconventional sports. Ashbrook was struck last year by a zoneball craze, a sport invented by senior Doug Branson. While zoneball never reached truly popular status and died out shortly after it's invention, Dodgeball faithful hope that their sport will be more enduring.

### COMMENTARY

BRYAN COCKFIELD/Editor



After having tennis balls launched at me by star tennis player Nina Burgoon, I decided that my experience must have been practice for the local dodge ball tournament at the YMCA.

Dodge ball has been growing in popularity since the release of the movie "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story". The YMCA had such a large showing at its first tournament that it decided to host a second tournament, and that

## Ashbrook Takes Part in Dodgeball Craze

*Ashbrook students come out to try and make a true underdog story*

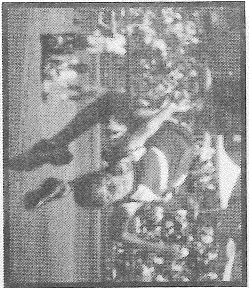
# Springs Sports Preview

## Track Teams Out to Avenge 2004's Disappointment

For the 2005 track season, Ashbrook hopes to redeem itself from a disappointing and controversial second-place finish in last year's conference meet.

At the 2004 conference meet, the Ashbrook men came in second place to East Lincoln by two points in a meet filled with controversy, while the women placed third overall.

This year, the memory of that last loss still stings in the minds of the returning runners, most notably distance runners. Last year, the distance runners were the weak point of the men's team. This year, with a core of three returning seniors, the distance events hope to become a strong point of the team.



Conner

The men's team lost two all-state caliber runners in Antwan Pagan and Josh McCoy. Last year's number one hurdler, Ty McDowell, also graduated. Junior Clay Patton senior Justin Griffith are the only returning varsity sprinters. Patton, who played an integral role backing up Pagan and McCoy last year, will step into the forefront. With multiple holes to fill behind Patton, Head coach Chad McAlister looks to an infusion of youth to keep the team among the elite in the conference. Sophomores Jeshawn and Leshawn Spencer, look to contribute along with fellow sophomore Steven Clay.

With a young and largely untested sprint section, Ashbrook will look to its stable of returning distance runners. While last year they failed to equal the success of the sprint section, all of the distance runners ran strong towards the end of the season. Austin Munnell, Max Morris and Craig Rawe hope to carry that late-season success into the 2005 season. While none of last year's distance runners were seniors, this year's team boasts four seniors and two experienced juniors. Hopefully these runners will be able to carry the load while the younger sprinters find their way early in the season.

The women's team hopes to gain some quality depth behind their returning core of five all-conference runners. Seniors Maggie Azar and Shalesha Smith also placed second and third, respectively in the region in the 400 meter race. Senior Jessica Allen is favored to win the 800 meter race after placing third in conference in 2004.

"Five out of the top six at conference are gone this year," said Coach Chad McAlister. "And Jessica's the one who's back."

Another star of the women's team is high jumper Taylor Conner, who has her sights set on a state championship in the high jump. With the women's team loaded with talent, the only thing that is needed for a conference championship is depth. The team hopes that new additions will provide the quality backups that Ashbrook needs.

### Predicted conference finish:

Men's: 1st  
Women's: 2nd  
Powell Latimer

## Women's Soccer Makes Plans for Defense Key losses should not put the soccer team behind

One year after winning the conference championship, Ashbrook women's soccer has high hopes of repeating.

Fresh off of a conference championship coaching the men's team, Jamie Beltran takes over the women's team following the departure of the beloved coach Andrew Collins.

Despite having a new coach, the Greenwave returns ten out of 16 players from last year's lineup, including several mainstays. Prominent among the returning starters are juniors Diana Amaya and Katie Grey Nelli and sophomore tandem Jackie and Dena Peindl.

However, two slots left open by graduation leave substantial question marks. Coach Jamie Beltran has repeatedly

emphasized his commitment to defense, and defense starts with the goalkeeper. The team hopes that junior Keisey Lindsay, who played junior varsity last year, can fill the shoes of departed goalie Ashley Pate. Lindsay's transition should be eased by the skill of her surrounding defense. Nelli and the Peindls head up a defense that is in the upper echelon of the conference.

While the defense looks to be in good condition, Hannah Kirhn's graduation also puts the Greenwave in need of instant offense. Amaya and freshman standout Sarah Geyer hope to provide the majority of the Ashbrook offense.

Where the team has some question marks heading into this season, the junior varsity program helps provide depth at every position, and several players promoted off of junior

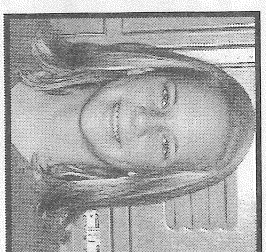
## 'Good' not enough for loaded softball team

Ashbrook softball enters the 2005 season with a potent combination of youth and experience as they try to repeat as conference champions.

Led by senior pitcher Kayla Short, the Greenwave boasts a complement of three seniors with four years of experience. Those seniors combine with four sophomores that either started or played heavily last year, not to mention a solid class of juniors. These three classes give Ashbrook a very deep, balanced team. All of the returning players are possible candidates for the all-conference team, with Short key among them. Sophomores Brittany Walker and Jordan Bolick both proved themselves as freshmen last year, and will continue to perform in the upper echelon of the conference.

With so many returning players, very few question marks remain for this team. The only possible problem is replacing departed seniors Jessica Carnes and Kandice Shedd. Both were big hitters that helped fuel a potent offensive attack. Stepping into their offensive roles are a variety of players, most notably junior Haley Brooks and senior Samantha Garrett. If the Greenwave needs extra help, they can turn to their stable of four talented freshman players, including Carnes' younger sister Heather Carnes. If one of those players can't do it, then Ashbrook has the depth to fill the position by committee.

The bottom line for this team is that there are no true weaknesses. They have experience, young talent, and depth at every position. This team is hungry and they are already looking beyond the regular season. If they play the way they can and did last year, then the conference championship will be only a footnote on the road to a state championship.

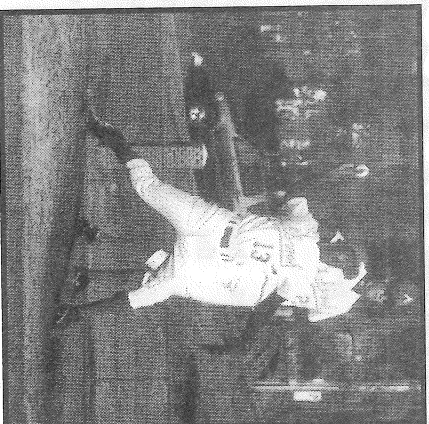


Walker

### Predicted conference finish: 1st

Powell Latimer

## Baseball team fills holes, looks for consecutive state championship



Lockard

After falling disappointingly short in last year's state playoffs, Ashbrook Baseball hopes to rebuild for another title run.

Behind the arms of seniors Michael Maples, Michael Bogaert, and sophomore T.J. Lockard, the Greenwave hopes to replace departed pitcher Wes McCall. Maples and Bogaert, both four-year varsity players, finally step out of the shadow of McCall this year.

varsity figure to make key contributions. Catherine Stover heads up a group of players who experienced extensive playing time on the JV team.

With depth, defense and a new coach, Ashbrook looks to vie yet again for the top spot in the conference. However, the team does have holes that it needs to fill, and untested players will be thrown headlong into the mix. Until those players prove themselves, South Point is still the team to beat in the conference.

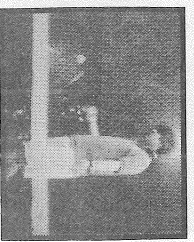
### Predicted conference finish:

2nd  
Powell Latimer

## Mens' Tennis Uses Balanced Attack

### Depth of team is greatest strength

The men's tennis team has only technically lost one player from last year's team. Stefan Kulberg, who played in the number one spot on the team last year, was only an afterthought to senior Patrick Nelli. Nelli was all-conference last year following an undefeated season in the second seed and will probably still be playing in the same position this year.



Nelli

There is no clear order as to which players will play where, because the players are nearly evenly matched. Nelli will be playing alongside seniors Patrick McCarter, Felipe Fidalgo, junior Patrick McConnell, sophomore Michael Hancock, and freshmen Wes Golding and Matthew Hancock. This early in the season, however, it is impossible to tell which players will be playing in which positions.

The advantage to having so many players at about the same ability level is clear: depth. Whoever is playing in the first spot will probably not win their match against teams like Crest, but the second through sixth players all have very good chances of winning their matches against any team.

In doubles, the only definite team will be the freshman pair of Golding and Hancock. The other two teams are up for grabs and depend on the strategy against the opponents.

With all of the options open to the men's tennis team, they hope to win a conference championship over rival Forestview and also advance deep into the state playoffs.

### Predicted conference finish: 2nd

Bryan Cockfield

### Predicted conference finish: 1st

Powell Latimer