

# The Innocent Bystander

Fall Edition  
1999



Reggie

Hello ODCS!!  
It's time for another year of journalistic excellence! This first edition gives the stories of people through words and pictures. Have a great year!!!

- Mr. J Russ



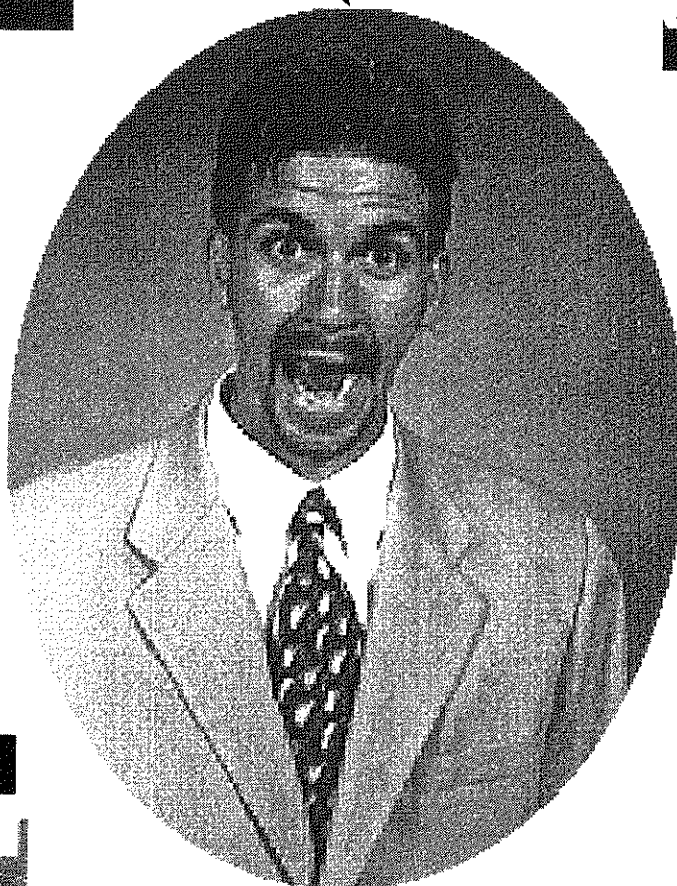
Kent

Volume 2  
Number 1

25¢



Andrea



Levan



Aaron



Dom



Mandy



Kristin



Lexi

# “ROCKIN RATCHET

by: Kent Walls

First steps. Randy Williams took these steps along with his infant son 5 months after a near fatal car accident on June 21, 1993.

At the age of 28, both Randy and his infant son learned to walk with no support on the same day, Williams said.

Randy lost all his ability to really even function when he was in a tragic car accident where Route 113 and Murray Ridge Road intersect (right over the bridge by Open Door), according to his wife, Wendy Williams.

Randy was told by witnesses that he ran a red light as he drove to work that day. Suddenly, he was blindsided by another car and thrown 15 feet from his car. When the paramedics arrived, they basically had lost all hope by saying he would die. At the hospital, he was given, at the most, 48 hours to live. Randy prevailed during those first crucial couple days.

Doctors told his wife if he survived, rehab alone would take 2 years. They also informed her that he would never do any of the things he had done before.

Randy was a full time BP mechanic, full time husband and father, and he also played drums for his church worship band. If he could not do these things he would be absolutely devastated.

Randy was in the accident June 21, 1993 and by a total miracle of God, Mrs. Williams said, he was released from rehab Sept. 11, 1993. One month later, he



was walking unassisted to the amazement of his wife.

Randy overcame all the odds with God's help and now can do everything he used to do, even play the drums. Randy has played drums since he was a kid, been in 2 bands that have recorded CD's, and also played drums for several contemporary Christian artists, such as Tammy Jones and the Glory Gospel Editors.



**Top:** Randy writing down information about the pop machines in one of the school refrigerators.

**Left:** Randy tearing it up on the drums in the youth room during a school day.

# RANDY WILLIAMS"

Randy ended up working at Open Door because of his wife Wendy Williams. Wendy is Randy's wife of 10 years and best friend. She was volunteering last year on Tuesdays.

Since Randy can no longer legally work as a mechanic his wife volunteered him to wash dishes. Randy loved it and eventually just started coming more and more until it was an every day job.

He now not only washes dishes but he stocks all the pop machines, he does many maintenance jobs, fixes cars and just has fun with the kids, Randy said.

Randy especially loves being with the high school students. He also loves the Christian environ-

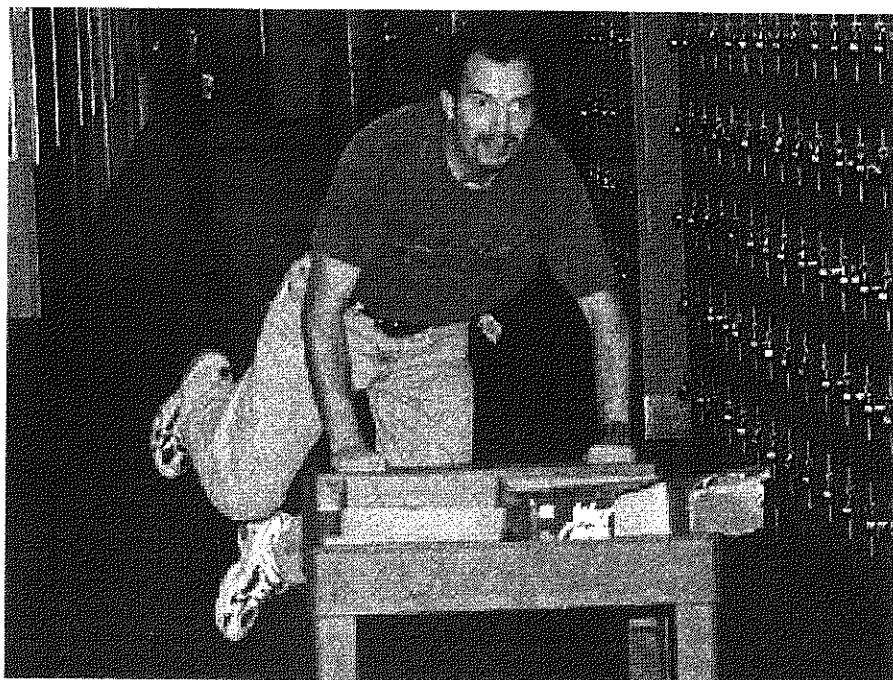
ment, "I want to be a better Christian, better husband, better dad and continue to work hard."

He loves the school, the work, and the people at Open Door. He likes just being himself and having fun as, "Rockin Ratchet Randy." So if you see Randy, ask him to do his dance for you. Its awesome.



**Top:** Randy and one of his good friends, Mr. Mulanax do the famous, "Dance" outside the lunchroom on one of Randy's breaks.

**Right:** Randy, just being his crazy self, as he flies down the hallway doing a "heel kick" on his way to the lunchroom to another job.





# Broadway at Open Door

by: Aaron Schollmeier

Imagine going to see a big production in New York City on Broadway such as "Phantom of the Opera." The entire atmosphere and experience would be spectacular.

The imagining is now over because Broadway has come to Open Door in the form of Mrs. Andreae, the new drama director.

Her experience includes acting, directing, and choreographing for three years on Broadway. She also worked as a consultant for an episode on NBC's "Law and Order." She brings a wealth of experience with her to Open Door's drama department.

This year Mrs. Andreae plans "to teach the students every aspect of drama." She also "wants the students to learn that art is an excellent way to communicate the Message [of Jesus Christ]."

Mrs. Andreae wants to show people through her life that "there is still hope in this world." She did not receive Christ until she was forty. Surprisingly, Mrs. Andreae accepted Christ in New York's Times Square.

Andreae

Mrs.

Andreae is now an accountant and lives in Amherst with her daughter who is now attending Monroe University, and her son who is a sophomore attending Community Christian School.

For this spring's musical, Mrs. Andreae is thinking about doing "Fiddler on the Roof," because "it's fun, and there is a lot of talent at Open Door that I can work with to make it happen."

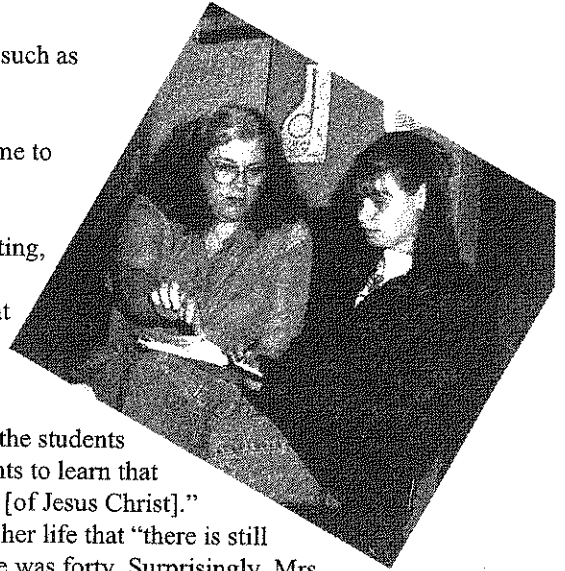
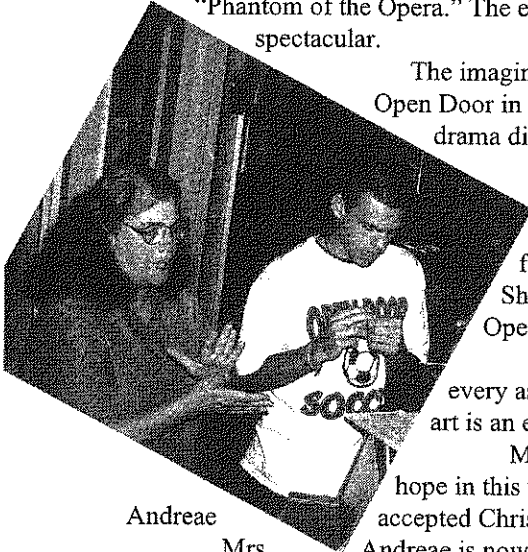
**Top Left:** Mrs. Andreae keeping time with Joe Faber (Snoopy).

**Top Right:** Mrs. Andreae discussing scripts with Pam Fletcher, Assistant Director.

**Bottom Right:** Kent Walls (Schroeder) and Mrs. Andreae working on choreography.

**Bottom Left:** Kent Walls, Reggie Rice (Charlie Brown), Bryan Wall (Linus), Jenean Wall (Lucy), Mrs. Andreae practicing the song "Book Report."

**Right:** Mrs. Andreae getting ready for the next song with Ms. Leshan, the pianist.



# FIVE FANTASTIC FEMALES



by: Dominic DeMaria

Vidal Sasson and all stylists watch out. Emeril and fellow chefs beware. The senior class has imported five new students who are ready to take on the world of beauty, missions, culinary arts and much more.

Two of the students left Open Door and have returned. Bianca Cespedes, formally home schooled, and Stephanie Bilecki, former Huron Tiger, said that their friends here contributed to them coming back.

Stephanie also says, "I love having Bible as a class." Those classes will help her out because Stephanie is planning on going on a short term missions trip to Ecuador this summer. She plans on becoming a missionary full

time later in life.

One goal Bianca has set out for herself this year is to achieve the high honor roll. Besides school, Bianca loves shopping and going to the movies. Her favorite summer movie was "Outside Providence" with Alec Baldwin. After graduation, Bianca is going to culinary school in New York to pursue a career as a chef.

Lexi Stevens and Emily Snodgrass are both previously from Wellington High School.

Lex has enjoyed choir this year but has been challenged in her studies more than in years past.

Later in life, Lex plans on becoming involved in foster parenting which she learned from her parents own experience.

Emily Snodgrass says she came to Open Door because she needed change in her life. This year, Emily is involved in band and cross country, and next summer, she'll be touring with Phoenix, a christian ska band that has come up through the youth group of Open Door.

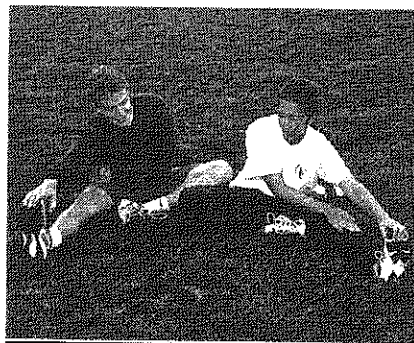
Former Elyria High student, Amanda Snyder, makes the new addi-

tion complete. One thing Amanda enjoys at Open Door is that she is able to see the floor. Because of overcrowding, the hallway floor is rarely seen between classes at Elyria High. After graduation Amanda plans on going to beauty school.

With what these females are doing now, and what they'll be doing in the future, there's only one word that it all comes down to: FANTASTIC!

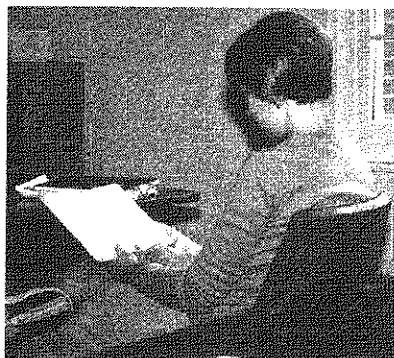
**Left:** The fantastic females circle around for a group photo.

**Bottom:** Emily chats with teammate and 8th grader Zac Greenwood before cross country practice.



**Bottom:** Stephanie catches a laugh at lunch with senior Reuben Nodal.

**Opposite Left:** Lex finds herself engrossed in her book.



# Artichokes and Fish Eggs

By: Amanda Snyder

Jesse David Pennington, a sophomore at ODCS, lived 3 1/2 years in Mexico City, Mexico due to his father's job transfer.

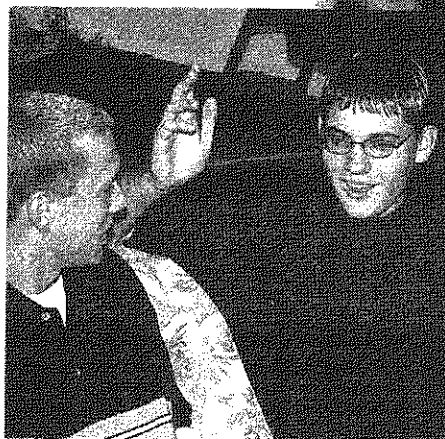
Jesse describes his father's executive job in Mexico with Rubbermaid landed the Pennington family a million dollar home, complete with a maid, called Amparo.



waffles, a little bit more common to the average American.

Her hobbies include ice-skating and rollerblading. Also, history is her favorite subject in school.

Jesse and Tatyana are students who experienced a different type of lifestyle for 3 1/2 years. Their experiences in Mexico and Russia have made them the students they are today.



to the United States from Ukraine, Russia when she was 3 1/2 years old.

Her multicultural lifestyle includes a fluency in Russian and English languages. They celebrate Easter with haystick, bread, and a candle in a basket. At Christmas, Santa Claus wears a long robe.

Mr. and Mrs. Densivuk do not speak fluent English, therefore, Tatyana has been their personal translator, upon learning the language herself.

Tatyana has been raised differently than most students at ODCS. Her favorite food is fish eggs on crackers, "When you bite into them, they are all orange and gooey in your teeth." She also likes

**Above:** Jesse Pennington, sophomore, playing his guitar in church youth room.

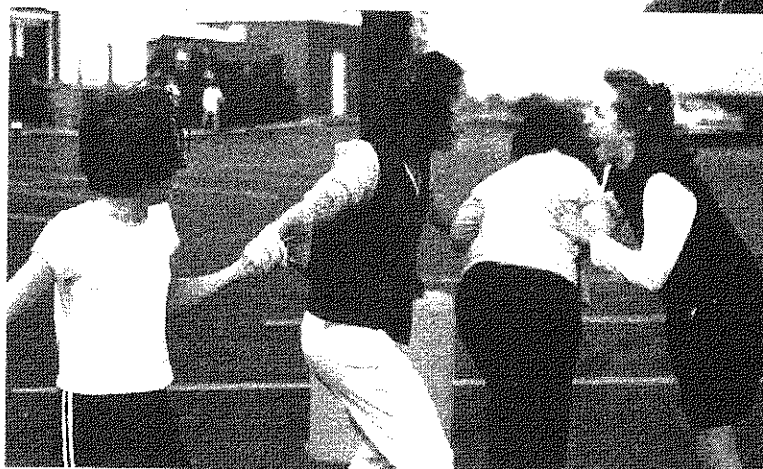
**Left:** Jesse talks to Matt Green, sophomore, after youth group.

Amparo made Jesse's favorite Spanish food, artichokes with cheese and covered in bread.

Jesse attended an international school, where he said that if it was an American holiday, he was allowed to take the day off. So, naturally Christmas and Easter were celebrated.

However, Day of the Dead, a Spanish holiday, is celebrated by almost everyone, Spanish or not. One year, Jesse and his family made skulls of pure sugar as a part of this holiday.

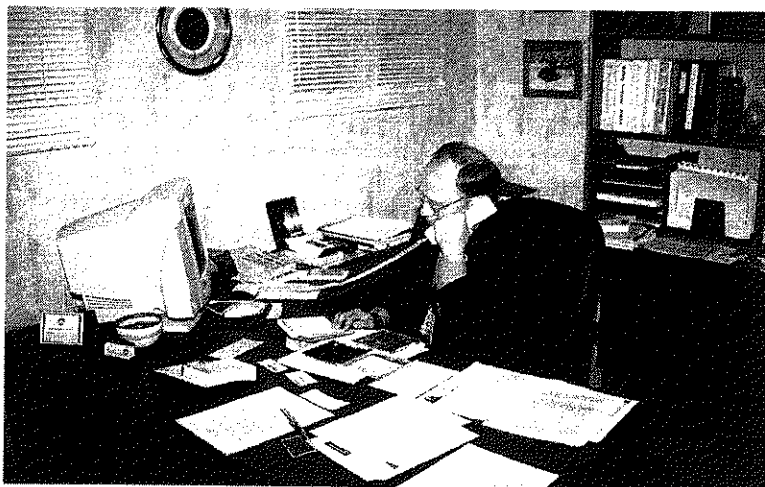
Tatyana Densivuk, 6th grader in Mr. Russ's class, has a different story. She moved



**Above:** Tatyana, left, sixth-grader, with friend Rachel Yanikov, enjoys time away from books and teachers (no offense Mr. Russ) during recess.

**Left:** Tatyana remains strong during a game of red rover with other sixth-graders.

# All-Star Administrator



by: Kristin Levanduski

The Vietnam War. At 23 years of age, in the fall of 1977, Mr. Robert Byrd found himself drafted into the war to do drug testing on soldiers. "After being drafted to Vietnam, it causes you to think deeply of where you are going, and it makes you look at what you've been taught spiritually," Mr. Byrd said.

Another life shaping experience for Mr. Byrd, now superintendent of ODCS, was being a missionary in Kenya, in East Africa. He said, "As you grow spiritually and help people, it makes you who you are."

Another thing that influenced Mr. Byrd is sports. "I wouldn't be who I am today without athletics," he said.

He spends a lot of his free time being active. He enjoys playing tennis, racquetball, softball, and golf. He likes to be outdoors and active. Sometimes he works around the house, or on cars. He recently restored a 1956 pickup truck with his son. I saw what the truck looked like when they first got it, and they made that thing look brand new.

He knew in his junior year in college that he was going to go

into the field of education. Although he had wanted to be outdoors, and he didn't really want to be stuck behind a desk.

"One thing led to another, and while seeking God's will, I was led to education," Byrd said. He has a degree in biology and chemistry and is certified to teach junior high and high school.

Mr. Byrd has many responsibilities. He has to carry out the policies of the board. He is basically in charge of the overall operation of ODCS.

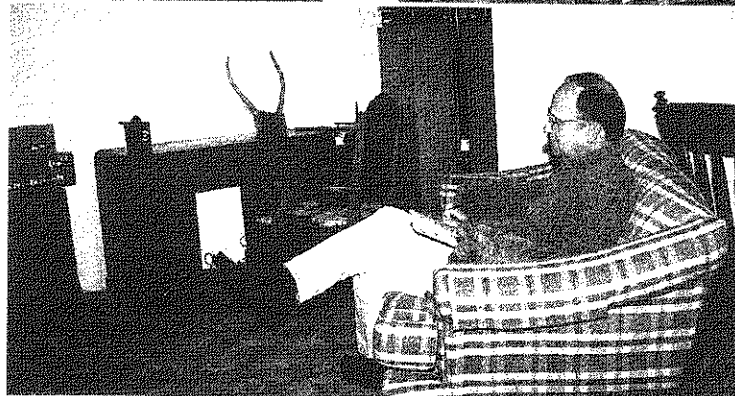
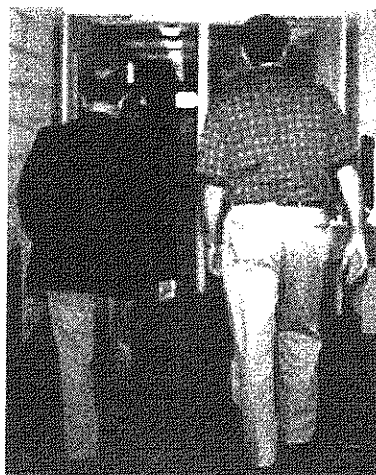
Mr. Byrd has been through some life shaping experiences that have all contributed to making him the administrator, leader, father, and husband he is today.

**Above:** Mr. Byrd hard at work at his desk.

**Below left:** Mr. Byrd heads down the hall with Development Director John Rodgers

**Below right:** Father & son share a moment.

**Bottom:** Mr. Byrd kicks back.

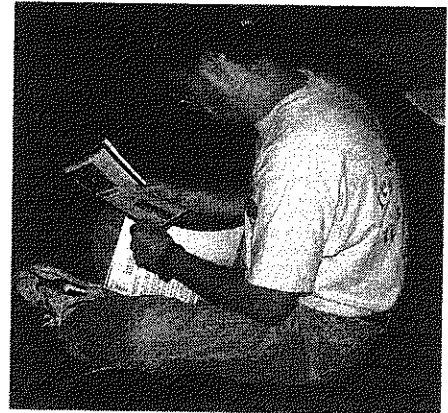




# Recaptured by God



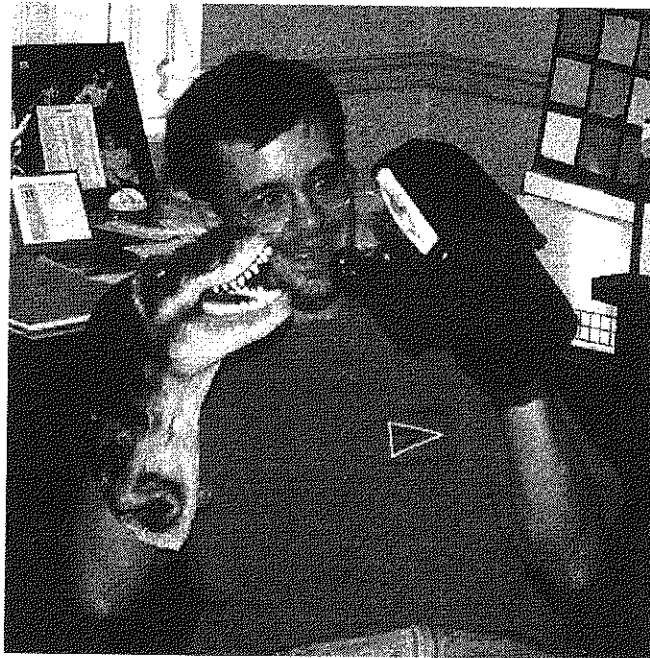
After deciding to be on his own, Russ found himself drifting away from God. He got involved with some friends who introduced him to alcohol along with other things. In doing so, he lost his testimony. "Even when we were sitting around drinking, my friends would talk and ask questions about the meaning of life. If only I would have spoken up and told them about Jesus," recalls Russ.



by: Reggie Rice

Does growing up at Open Door make you a strong Christian? If you were to ask youth pastor Scott Russ he would give you a definite no. He grew up as a student at O.D.C.S. and he called himself a Christian. It wasn't until he hit rock bottom that he realized just how much God loved him and wanted to use him.

After graduating from O.D.C.S., Pastor Russ had to make his own decisions. He felt God to be a God of all rules. Once he was no longer under the structure of Bible classes, chapels, and church, he had to make his own convictions.

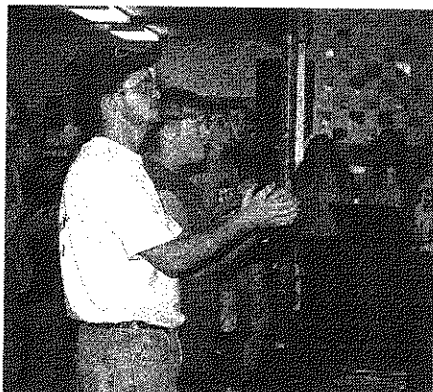


The Lord recaptured his heart while he was in college. While working at a jr. high retreat he gave his life over to Christ and decided to dedicate his life to full

time Christian service.

Desiring to help teenagers not make the same mistakes he did, Russ decided to become a youth pastor. He remembers a friend from LCCC coming up to him and saying, "Scott, when you first came to LCCC there was something different about you, but you were so insecure you became like us."

As a youth pastor Russ wants to give teenagers a confidence in Christ and share with them the difference Jesus can make in their lives. He also wants to help his youth group find their spiritual gifts and encourage them to get involved in their church.

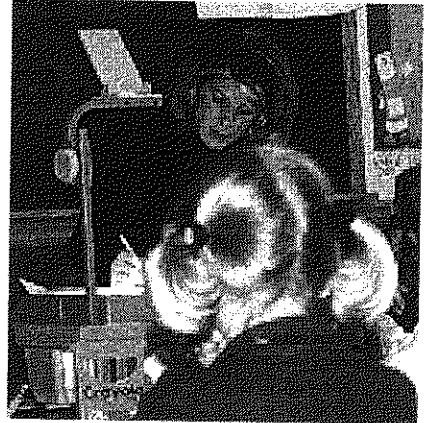


**Top Left:** Pastor Russ leads the group in prayer.  
**Top Right:** Last minute prep for his message  
**Center:** Working hard in his office  
**Bottom Left:** Russ singing praises to the Lord  
**Bottom Right:** Russ the preacher. "Would you die for your faith?"





# Westside McAulay



**Top Left:** Mrs. McAulay sits in her "office" and makes important phone calls.

**Top Right:** 1992 graduate of Open Door, Keri Jacobs, teaches her first grade class Spalding Reading.

**Bottom Left:** Daniel Johnson spends his recess time playing on the big blue slide.

**Bottom Right:** Anna Ryerson enjoys her playtime on the swing set.

by: Kristin Shimko

"If this is what you want from me God, show me and I'll do it. I'll go left, or right, or stay, or go. If you want me to go you need to show me with concrete signs. I'm not smart enough by myself."

This cry for help came from an uncertain Julie McAulay back in the spring of 1999. When a job offer was made to be the first principal of a small independent school, Westside Christian Academy (WCA), Mrs. McAulay said that she wouldn't even consider leaving Open Door.

God had other plans in mind. Eventually, it became clear to Mrs. McAulay that the school needed a qualified person in the field of education with a vast knowledge of books, curriculum, and leadership.

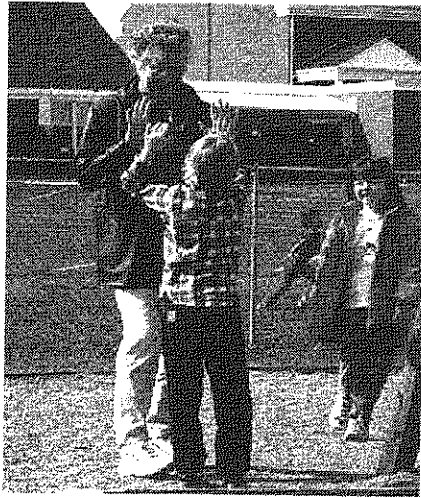
By July 1999 Mrs. McAulay assumed the role of principal at Westside Christian with an enrollment of 46 students that range from kindergarten to fifth grade. She also teaches English, Latin, history, and math to the fifth grade.

The students at WCA wear uniforms, and discipline and respect are required of everyone. As a result of the instruction and the small class size the students tend to excel above their grade level. The school offers Spalding reading, Shurley grammar, and Saxson math. This curriculum provides the students with a top notch education, McAulay said.

Mrs. McAulay accomplished a difficult task by following God's will for her life. "I couldn't say no to the God who redeemed me and let my youngest graduate before asking me to switch jobs." Mrs. McAulay realized that God had prepared her at Open Door for something bigger in His plan.



# Lessons in Willingness

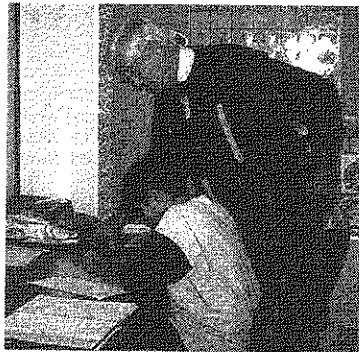


by: Alexi Stevens

"Kids today need to make themselves available to the Lord, he's not interested in talent, ability, or money, only in willingness."  
- Mr. John Hazlett.

The new faculty members at Open Door, Mr. John Hazlett, the unit math teacher, and Mrs. Mary Hazlett, first grade teacher, have a message to send to ODCS youth: follow God with a willing heart.

As high school sweet-hearts, ex-missionary teachers who taught in boarding schools in different countries for over 30 years, and parents to a second generation of missionaries, the Hazlett's know a lot about surrendering to God's will and sacrificing the comforts of American life.



As teenagers they met in youth group at the church Mr. Hazlett's father pastored. "I just thought she was the neatest in the bunch," he said with a smile, "I never had to date anyone else." They were married three years later.

Feeling God calling them to missions through the missionaries that visited their church, they decided to become missionary teachers in Irian Jaya. They packed up everything they would need for the next four years in 53 large metal drums and set out to do God's work. They weren't even sure of what they would be doing, "But the Lord took care of the unknowns," said Mr. Hazlett.

"Irian Jaya (an island north of Australia) is lower than third world [countries], they have nothing but what they find in nature: wood, grass, bones, etc....," said Mrs. Hazlett commenting on a set of bookends made by natives there, "they don't have any of the things we take for granted in the United States."

In fact everything the Hazletts wanted had to be shipped. There was no mail, no junk food, and...NO TV?!?! "We learned to improvise, playing games and read," explained Mr. Hazlett.

Twenty some years later the Hazlett's children have moved on to take up their parents profession. Their daughter, who is a missions nurse, and

one son, who is a missions pilot, have made them proud. "We like to think that God did a better job of raising our kids than we did," said Mr. Hazlett.

Looking back, Mr. and Mrs. Hazlett say that missions work is the most rewarding and fulfilling experience of their lives, and they have no regrets.

"In every area the Lord proved himself, God used missionaries to impress upon us what he wanted us to do, and 32 years later there's not a doubt in our minds we did the right thing."



**Top Left:** Mrs. Hazlett playing a rousing game of handclaps with first grader Brianna Otto.

**Top Center:** Mr. Hazlett looking over Keith Migra's Math in the Unit.



**Middle Right:** Mr. Hazlett checking over Lindsey Cake's work.

**Bottom Left:** Mrs. Hazlett kickin' it on the playground with her 1st grade class  
**Above:** Mrs. Hazlett and 1st grade student Erick Tomlinson digging deep for lost scissors.

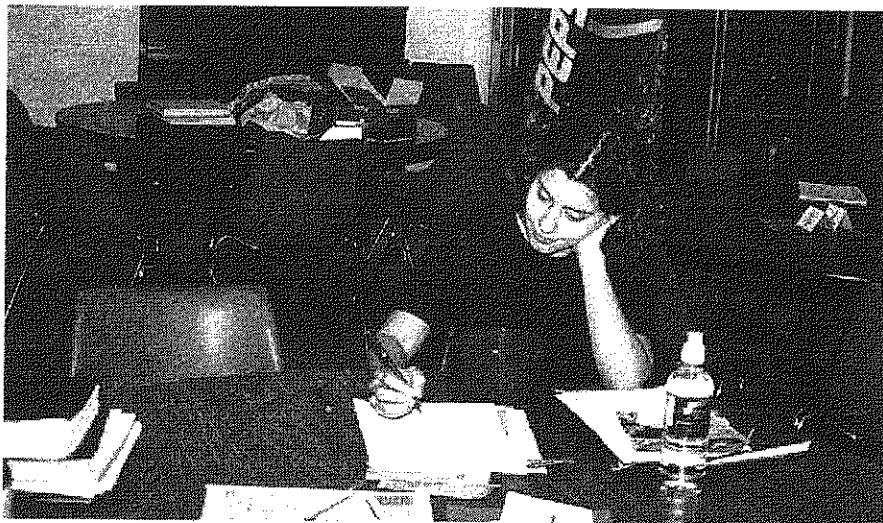
# Flint Rocks Language Dept.

**By:** Andrea Matetic

Many people view young teachers as being inexperienced. However, past experience has made Ms. Flint, Open Door's new Spanish teacher, what she is today.

It was senior prom 1996. Driving to prom, Ms. Flint stopped at a red light. The delivery truck in front of her went too far into the intersection and backed up into Ms. Flint's car. The hood was smashed, she was late to senior prom and worst of all, her hair got messed up.

A few years before this tragedy, Ms. Flint moved to Solon and attended the high school. She was involved in Spanish club and a professional dance company. One of her



man at all."

Her free time is spent at coffee shops, reading poetry, volunteering at shelters, and helping in the Open Door drama program. Ms. Flint plays with her cats Ramses and Nur Misur (Arabic for "Light of Egypt"), and she likes to go with friends to art museums.

Ms. Flint graduated from Grove City College with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and English.

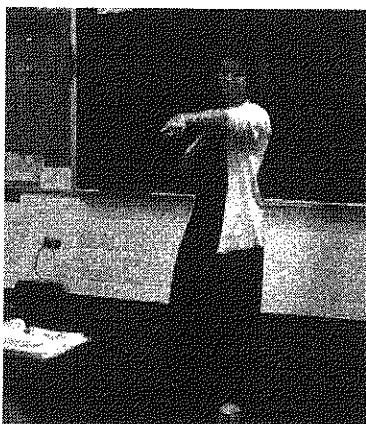
She was born on November 11 in Plymouth, Indiana. She has a brother who is an electrical engineer, her mom is a secretary for the Salvation Army, and her stepfather (a Swedish immigrant) owns a piano repair and tuning business.



favorite high school memories is when her biology class went on strike because they did not want to do any work.

During her third year of Spanish in high school, she went to Panama. Ms. Flint stayed with some missionaries for a month to learn the language. She said "si" (yes) a lot, which did not make sense in many conversations.

Currently Ms. Flint says dating is not her priority, "It takes a mighty good man to be better than no



**Top:** Ms. Flint grading papers.

**Middle Right:** Ms. Flint with her little red Neon.

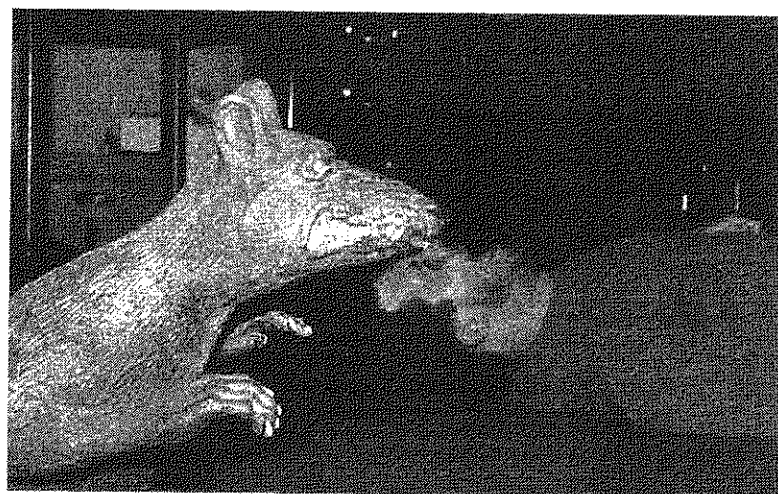
**Middle Left:** Ms. Flint talking to Spanish Club president, Diana Buchanan.

**Bottom:** Teaching her sixth period Spanish class, Ms. Flint asks a student to answer a question.

Ms. Flint became a Christian at four years of age and grew up in the churches her father pastored.

Ms. Flint says she decided to come to Open Door because she loves teaching Spanish and loves helping teens.





**Above:** the 1999-2000 Journalism staff includes (front row from left) Reggie Rice, Dominic Demaria, Aaron Schollmeier, Andrea Matetic, Kent Walls, (back row from left) Alexi Stevens, Amanda Snyder, Kristin Levanduski, and Kristin Shimko.

**Enjoy the rest of our reject pictures and be looking forward to December's holiday edition due to hit the shelves during the last full week of school for this century!**

