

Spotlight shines bright

Rachel Schmid
Charger Staff

Name: Chloe Callis
Age: 18
Grade: 12



What is your favorite band?

Incubus

If you could eat one thing everyday for the rest of your life and not gain weight, what would it be? Strawberry ice cream

What is your favorite holiday? Christmas

If you could go anywhere for free, where would you go? Kyoto, Japan

Do you prefer paisley or plaid? Paisley

What is your favorite movie? *The Princess Bride* and *The Phantom of the Opera*

Do you like tetris or solitaire more? Tetris

Do you prefer the sunset or the sunrise? Sunset

Which celebrity would you want to father your child? Brandon Boyd or Gerard Butler

If you could choose to have a special talent, what would you choose? Singing



Name: Michael Anderson
Age: 17
Grade: 11

Who is your

favorite singer?

Bob Dylan

If you could eat one thing everyday for the rest of your life and not gain weight, what would it be? Gyros

What is your favorite holiday? St. Patrick's Day

If you could go anywhere for free, where would you go? Europe

Do you prefer paisley or plaid? Plaid

What is your favorite movie? *Rocky Horror Picture Show*

Do you like tetris or solitaire more? Tetris

Do you prefer the sunset or the sunrise? Sunrise

Which celebrity would you want to mother your child? Kathy Bates

If you could choose to have a special talent, what would you choose? To sculpt

Name: Sarah Bush
Age: 16
Grade: 10



If you could eat one thing

everyday for the rest of your life and not gain weight, what would it be? Chocolate

What is your favorite holiday? Christmas

If you could go anywhere for free, where would you go? Europe

Do you prefer paisley or plaid? Neither

What is your favorite movie? *Chicago*

Do you like tetris or solitaire

more?

Both

Do you prefer the sunset or the sunrise? Sunset

Sunset

If you could choose to have a special talent, what would you choose?

To be a great performer

What is your favorite color? Purple

Do you think tan or pale skin is more attractive?

In between



Name: Stuart Adams
Age: 15
Grade: 9

If you could eat one thing

everyday for the rest of your life and not gain weight, what would it be?

Gristle

What is your favorite holiday? St. Patrick's Day

If you could go anywhere for free, where would you go? Australia

Do you prefer paisley or plaid? Plaid

What is your favorite movie? *The Last Samurai*

Do you like tetris or solitaire more? Tetris

Do you prefer the sunset or the sunrise? Sunrise

Which celebrity would you want to mother your child? Paris Hilton

If you could choose to have a special talent, what would you choose? Skiing

What is your favorite color?

CHS alumni and South Africa's "street kids"

Whitney Johnson
Charger Staff

Former Cookeville High School student Ryan Dalton has been hitting the streets since his graduation-in Cape Town, South Africa, where he has been working for over five years with homeless "street children." He first worked under Beautiful Gate Ministries, but now he is working with his own team in Khayelitsha, Cape Town's largest township. He is studying Social Work at Cape Town University, and recently, he has written a book and recorded a hip-hop album, both intended to raise awareness of the conditions of South African street kids. *The Charger* interviewed Ryan via e-mail to bring his mission, in his own words, to the students of Cookeville High School.

To describe the work he does, Ryan says, "When I began I basically just went out and hung out on the streets with them... I saw the need to meet up with the kids on their own terms, on their own turf, to begin to build their trust. Though society has grouped them as 'street kids,' they are each individuals and have individual needs.

"I loved working on the streets, but I became frustrated with the lack of structures within the communities to support [the kids]... In 2004 I officially moved from the streets to the community. I linked up with a guy who was already coaching amateur boxing, and I saw how it was a great outlet for

youth at risk, because it gives them an outlet for anger but also teaches them discipline. We have also noticed that sports are not for everyone, so we're hoping to expand the program to include art, drama and music. We want to offer support for the youth... and be able to target those who are struggling. We also want to be able to offer daily homework help. Right now we do not have a permanent facility and

are trying to raise funding." Ryan says that while he attended high school he never expected to someday work in Africa. "Near the end of my senior year, I knew that did not want to go straight into a university, but I didn't want to sit around and do nothing. I decided to work with an organization called Youth With A Mission. During the school I was in Cape Town three months and in India for three. While I was in Cape Town I met the kids living downtown and decided to move back and work with them full-time."

What's his favorite part of his job? "The kids themselves! They are some of the most amazing people I have ever met and have so much to offer! I love them like family. Even though I am in a community project now and don't go downtown as much, I still have contact with the kids. I also love the kids in [Khayelitsha], and it is amazing to see how the community as a whole has accepted me and taken me in as one of its own."

Ryan thinks that his work has

been more effective than even he could have imagined. "It is amazing what can happen when you just accept someone for the way they are and build a relationship before you start trying to impose your beliefs on them. The opposite of that is what the kids have been used to, and so the spirit in which I have come to them has been very different. I haven't seen hundreds of kids come off the streets, but I have seen change happen in the lives of hundreds of kids, whether they are still on the streets or not.

"For years I had always worked on an individual basis and worked on the ground level with the kids themselves. Now that I am in university, I have decided to try and attack society as a whole. I have written a book and I have recently recorded a hip-hop album that raises issues of

what is going on in the streets. It is amazing because I am fighting this thing on a much larger level now. I mean, I performed in a concert that was in front of 10,000 screaming people and live on TV. So the message is getting out there."

Ryan's advice to current students is this: "Don't rush yourself! Take life as it comes and enjoy it along the way! Seniors, if you don't know what you want to do yet... don't worry about it! Take a year off, travel, see the world, find yourself and what you really want to do with the rest of your life. Don't rush into college just because it is the 'expected thing.' Where ever you are and whoever you are you can have an impact on your society, and you should actually want to, no matter how 'big' or 'small' your contribution may be."

HELPING HANDS
-- Ryan Dalton. Photo courtesy of beautifulgate.org.



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