

The need for speed

By Shena Bausch
THE BATTALION

Mitchell during spring break, and Mitchell visited Enders' hometown of Houston twice.

Annette Mumolo, a media relations spokeswoman for ABC Cable Networks Group, said Disney did the movie because Enders is an ordinary teenager doing an extraordinary thing.

"She's an inspiration for young women," she said. "And young men, too."

Mumolo said Mitchell's recognition by young teen audiences and her personality is what landed her the role of Enders.

"Mitchell has a certain innocence, but exuberance that we thought would creatively portray Enders in an accurate and compelling way," Mumolo said.

Other actors include Brie Larson ("Raising Dad") as Courtney Enders, Erica's younger sister and fellow drag racer. Jon Robert Lindstrom ("Port Charles") plays their father Gregg Enders, and Jodi Russell ("Twice Today") plays their mother Janet Enders. Marcos Toji (Disney Channel's "Movie Surfers") stars as Randy Jones, the Enders' crew chief.

Enders said seeing her life portrayed on screen was hard to adjust to.

"It's kind of surreal," she said. "I see Disney's advertisements for the movie and I hear my name, but I don't know if it's really hit me yet."

Enders said she hopes publicity from the movie will get her the \$4 million sponsorship she needs to fulfill her dream of competing at the highest professional level.

"I can't wait to see what rolls after the movie," she said.

The Tonight Show with Jay Leno and Live with Regis & Kelly have already contacted Enders to appear on their shows.

"I think the publicity is good for

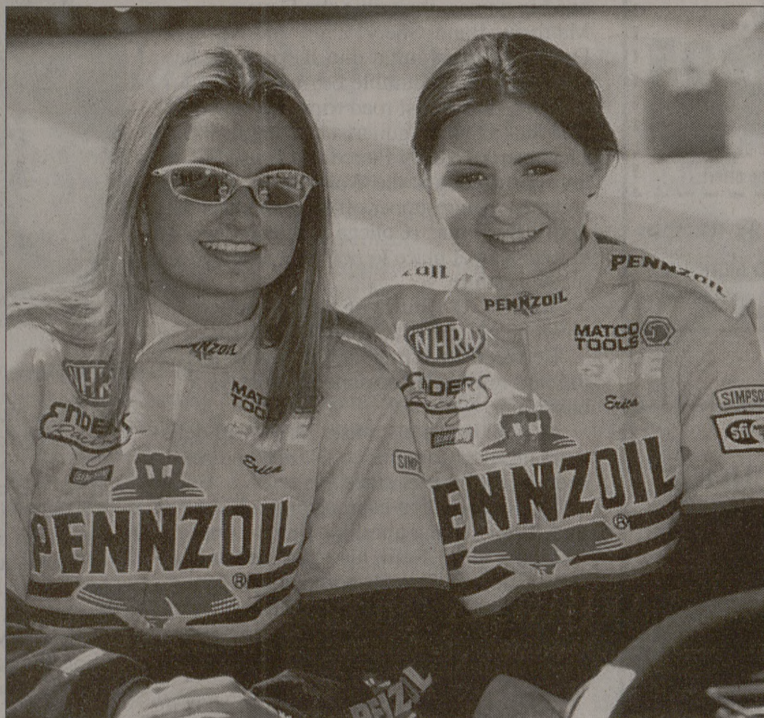


PHOTO COURTESY OF GREGG ENDERS

Beverly Mitchell (right) will play Erika Enders in the Disney movie "Right on Track" tonight at 7 p.m. on the Disney Channel.

my dream," she said, "and it's good for the sport."

Now 19, Enders can go from 0 to 100 mph in one second in her Super Comp Dragster or Super Gas Corvette. She said she wants to be able to go faster.

"It's kind of addicting," she said. "I just want to go faster and faster."

Super Comp and Super Gas competitors typically exceed 185 mph.

Enders said she grew up around the racetrack and was inspired by her father's love of cars.

"I remember going to the racetrack with my dad when I was a little girl," she said. "Racing is in my blood; I wouldn't think about doing anything else."

Enders said her father has always supported her, but not all males have been supportive.

"A lot of criticism comes from racers who are older," she said. "Some competitors get mad that I'm a young girl in the sport who is halfway decent."

Enders said she's heard comments like, "You're a girl, you don't need to be racing," or "Why don't you do the sport a favor and quit?"

The best advice Enders said she can give to other women and girls who want to pursue a male-dominated sport is: girls can do anything guys can do.

"If it's a dream of yours, gender

See **Enders** on page 10

Jars of Clay to perform Sunday

By Lyndsey Sage
THE BATTALION

Ten years ago, four boys who lived in the same dorm at Greenville College came together to share their appreciation for music by writing songs "for the fun of it." Within the span of these 10 years, they have moved from their dorm rooms at the Illinois college to the center stage as the multi-platinum, three-time Grammy Award winners Jars of Clay.

"Literally, a lot of our friendship was born out of our appreciation for the same kind of music," said Steve Mason, guitarist for the band.

The band is also composed of Dan Haseltine, singing vocals, Matt Odmark on guitar and Charlie Lowell on the keyboard. Not only do they share similar musical inspirations, they are also united by the faith in which their music is based.

"We see our faith as an integral part of what we do, being followers of Christ and songwriters," Mason said. "First, it shows the gospel has application and relevance to everything in life. Second, it shows that anything is within the realm of writing."

Mason said Jars of Clay writes its own songs, which are usually developed from lyrical ideas or a musical phrase.

Describing the band's style as "acoustically-driven alternative pop," Mason said the music takes a different angle through the way they try to make it appear.

"This show is a reflection from our most recent release, furthermore, in that it is intimate," he said. "It draws on the acoustic sound and relies heavily on the audience to accept the invitation to join in."

For the band, music is a means of expression, and even though they did not envision reaching the degree of success it has accomplished, music is something each of the members planned to continue on some level had they not pursued it as a career.

Recording its first song, "Fade to Gray," for credit in a recording class, the band performed

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