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AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Friday, March 21, 2003

The need for speed

By Shena Bausch THE BATTALION

small screen Friday, Erica Enders is one step closer to topping 330 nph and fulfilling her dream of becoming a Top Fuel dragster.

marketing major at Texas A&M, began drag racing when she was 9 years old, winning 37 titles throughout her junior level career, including Driver of the Year in 1995. In 2000, Enders advanced to the Super Comp level when she was 16 to become the youngest national event finalist in National Hot Rod Association history, losng to world champion Jimmy

ornadoes ontinued from page

troyed in Worth Co npkins said damage wo he millions of dollars. In Mitchell County ster carved a quarter th of damage south nilla, knocking down destroying buildings. This was the same area ornado struck on Valer 2000, killing 11 peopl nilla. It was one of dly twisters that ugh the region befored ng 20 people in all. It's a mess, but not qu as last time," said Car er department emp ph Willingham, who ed that 25 homes were and five destroyed.

Dontressia Williams' built after the 2000 to and that had been for re then - was one of ar-old daughter survive ng refuge in an inte

I was scared," she said." as going into that re gs were falling in, glass king."

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know I can't run from

With a Disney flick hitting the

Enders, a freshman business and Lewis by only 0.003 of a second in

the final round. Enders went on to win five races that year and NHRA named her Rookie of the Year.

Tonight, The Disney Channel will air an original picture based on Enders' junior drag racing career up to her rookie season.

"Right on Track" will premiere at 7 p.m., followed by encore presentations of the two-hour movie during March and April.

Enders said a few things were added to make the movie more interesting for younger viewers, but Just Singer Entertainment, Salty Pictures and Disney did a good job.

Enders does the stunt work in the movie, and Beverly Mitchell of The WB's "7th Heaven" plays her character.

Enders met the actress last year while filming in Salt Lake City. "I got to hang out with her for

three weeks while we shot the racing scenes," Enders said. "She's awesome. She's not stuck on her-self like you would think most actresses would be.

Enders and Mitchell have become good friends since then. Enders and her boyfriend visited

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 7p.m. on the Disney Channel.

my dream," she said, "and it's Enders said her father has always supported her, but not all males Now 19, Enders can go from 0

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 maledominated 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 "acousticallydriven 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

See Jars on page 8

The place to be Aggie nig **Broke After**

Super Comp and Super Gas competitors typically exceed 185 Enders said she grew up around

good for the sport."

able to go faster.

faster.

mph.

to 100 mph in one second in her

Super Comp Dragster or Super Gas

Corvette. She said she wants to be

"It's kind of addicting," she

said. "I just want to go faster and

the racetrack and was inspired by

track with my dad when I was a

little girl," she said. "Racing is in

my blood; I wouldn't think about

"I remember going to the race-

her father's love of cars.

doing anything else.'

Verbatim.

if we get out of that moti ' Moore said. bout 50 people were tra Mitchell County Hos milla for serious heads injuries, broken bones said hospital spokes Ivey. Others were take tals in Albany asville. v. Sonny Perdue deck

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e Georgia Emerge gement Agency was con ng help efforts between the Red Cross, ion Army, police and w s, said GEMA spoke n Lisa Ray.

obably a disaster resol will be set up, so peop in and have a one-s to see where assistance ole," Ray said. "Then oly some injuries do ve don't know about y Decatur County, south orst damage, roads we d and power lines w

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