

Features

After 30 years, Eppelsheimer still loves his job

LEXI WELP

"I know you guys have worked really hard these last five days so go ahead and take the next two off, my treat," Gary Eppelsheimer, film and photo teacher, said. As his last class of the day stares at him with blank faces, students start to laugh as they realize their teacher just told them they could take the weekend off.

Eppelsheimer was not always a photography and film studies teacher with the sweet jokes though; over the past three decades he has been an audio-visual technician, library media specialist and environmental science teacher, in addition to graduating from West Linn in 1972.

"It has been really interesting teaching in the same place I went to high school, watching the changes that have taken place along the way," Eppelsheimer said. "I believe that the only part of the original building that remains are three of the walls of the main gym, but the dedication of the teaching staff and students that are engaged in learning has remained a constant."

While in college, one

of his part time jobs was setting up public address systems for evening events and he subbed for the audio visual technician. After graduating from college the next year, he was hired in

students, I got the chance to feel what it was like teaching young adults," Eppelsheimer said. With this new interest in education Eppelsheimer went back to school while

"He loves to make a lot of photo jokes in class," Kinsey Campbell, senior said. Campbell took Photo I with Eppelsheimer as a freshman and she found the class very interesting. "He makes sure

and easy for everyone to understand. It is easy to see that he loves what he does and is very good at it," Ian Winslow, sophomore, said. "He is very tech-savvy. If there is ever a problem with a movie we are watching he has it fixed within a couple minutes.

When he is not at school he enjoys spending time with his family including his wife, Jan, a retired elementary school teacher, and their two sons, Matt, Class of 2001, and Dan, Class of 2004. He and his wife are very active within the community and especially loves outdoor activities and music. Eppelsheimer enjoys what he teaches at school so much he has made a hobby out of it.

"I am a photographer myself, so I love sharing photography with students," Eppelsheimer said. "I am also a student of film and the moving image."

Because Eppelsheimer completed his 30th year last year he also had the option to retire. According to Eppelsheimer, he has made no plans to retire at this point, but is glad that if he wanted to he could. "This is a great place to be for 30 years," he said. "I'm having a blast."

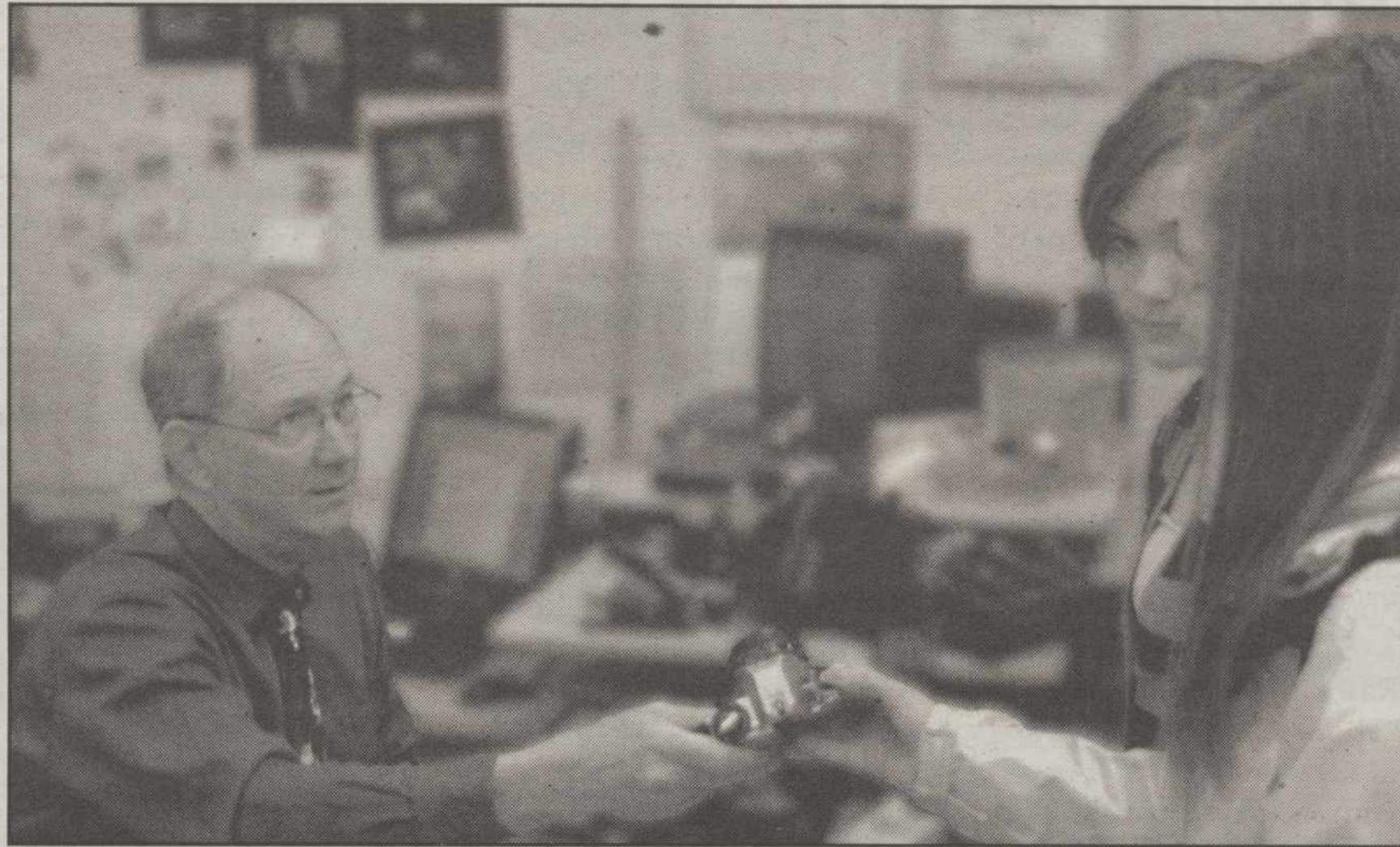


Photo by Ethan Brent

Gary Eppelsheimer talks to students, Alexandria Figone and Aileen Domann, freshmen. In his 31st year in education, Eppelsheimer still enjoys teaching.

the AV position. Although his original goal was to work at West Linn for two or three years and move on to a television studio, Eppelsheimer enjoyed his work with teenagers so much that he realized it was really where he wanted to be.

"When I worked with

still working full time and raising a family. He became a certified library media specialist and a science teacher.

Eppelsheimer worked in the library for seven years. When that position was cut, he easily transitioned into teaching Photo I and science the following year.

that you are doing well in his class, and really relates on a personal level with his students."

In addition to photo, Eppelsheimer has taught film, Environmental Science, Ecology Field Study and Biology.

"He is able to make the class very engaging

Behind the Beard: An inside look at No Shave November

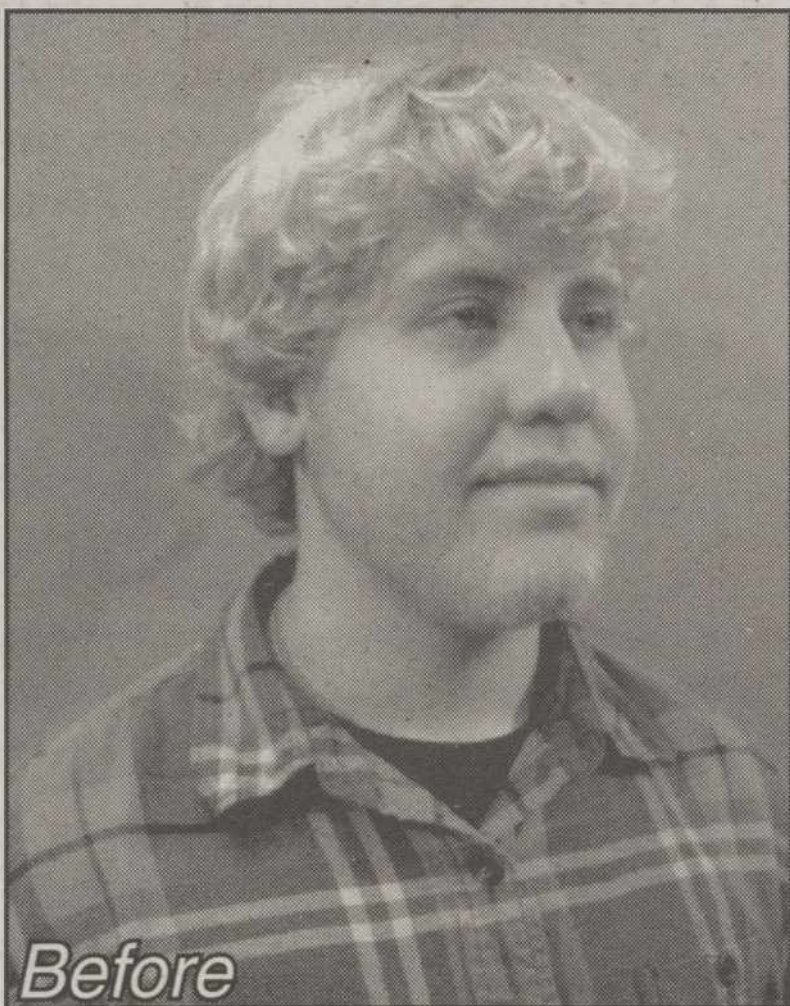
DRAKE EDWARDS

There are many great American men in history: Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain, Teddy Roosevelt, Robert E. Lee, Ward Lewis, Chuck Norris. The list goes on and on. But what makes them so great? It's one simple fact; they all have facial hair.

This past month, I partook in an event referred to as "No Shave November." The rules are simple, you don't shave for the entire month.

At first this whole idea just really didn't seem that appealing to me; all I thought of was my potential scruffiness and the itching that would most likely come with it. On top of that, no one would be able to really see my facial

hair because it's blonde. But all of these worries were thrown aside on one fateful night.



Before

Photo by Mark Poppert

BEFORE: My attempt at a beard. I swear it looks better with the right lighting and if you squint just a little bit.

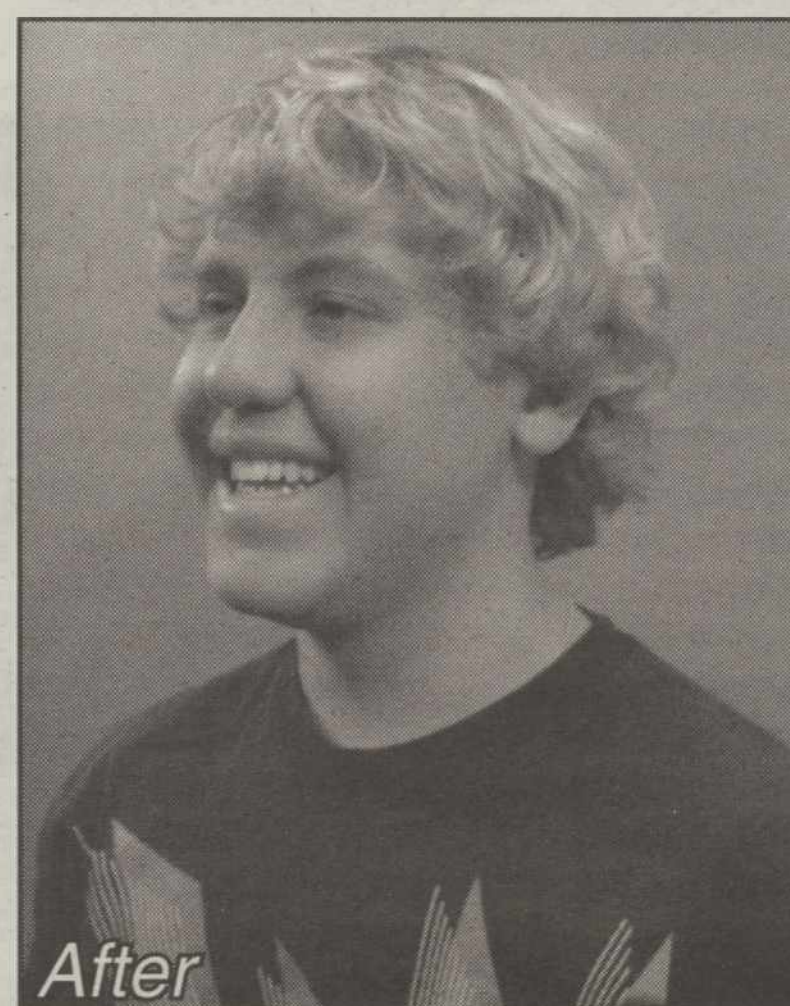
I was sitting at Round Table, eating my regular Hawaiian pizza after a Younglife event, when my buddy Trevor Stone noticed my stubble after not shaving for a few days.

"Drake!" He said, "If you tried, I bet you would have the best looking beard ever!" I just told him that he really wouldn't want to see me grow a beard, or even try. But he was persistent enough for me to strike a deal with him. We agreed that I would only do No Shave November if he could persuade 300 people to join a group on Facebook for the cause by the end of October. I thought I was going to get away scot-free with that number of people, but unfortunately Trevor convinced 300 people to join in just two days.

So it was finished, I couldn't shave for an entire month. My razor and I embraced for one last time, and I put it into the far reaches of my bathroom cupboard. For the first few days I actually had to slap myself to not dig around for it, but eventually I learned not to. The early stages of not shaving were actually working well; it helped me get ready for school faster, and I can't lie, it felt pretty good to rub the

stubble on my chin.

But after about a week, I definitely started to notice the negative effects



After

Photo by Mark Poppert

AFTER: While I had hair on my face, I liked twisting it, but now that I've shaved I can't stop rubbing my stubble.

of my new facial friend. The first, and probably the worst was when the hair on my chin got caught in my necklace. Every time I moved my head, I would pull hairs right out

of my face. Ouch! The second problem was my uncontrollable stroking of my hair. I probably look like such a weirdo when I'm in class staring off, and twisting my beard like a total creep. To those of you who have seen me do it, I apologize. The final problem was food sticking in my hair. It hasn't happened to me too often, but when it does I just want to go take a shower. I feel so dirty.

Even with the cons, it's been pretty fun having some fuzz. It was a good test run for a legitimate full face of hair. I think if I set my beard to it, I could join the ranks of some of the greatest men in American history.