

recreation & entertainment

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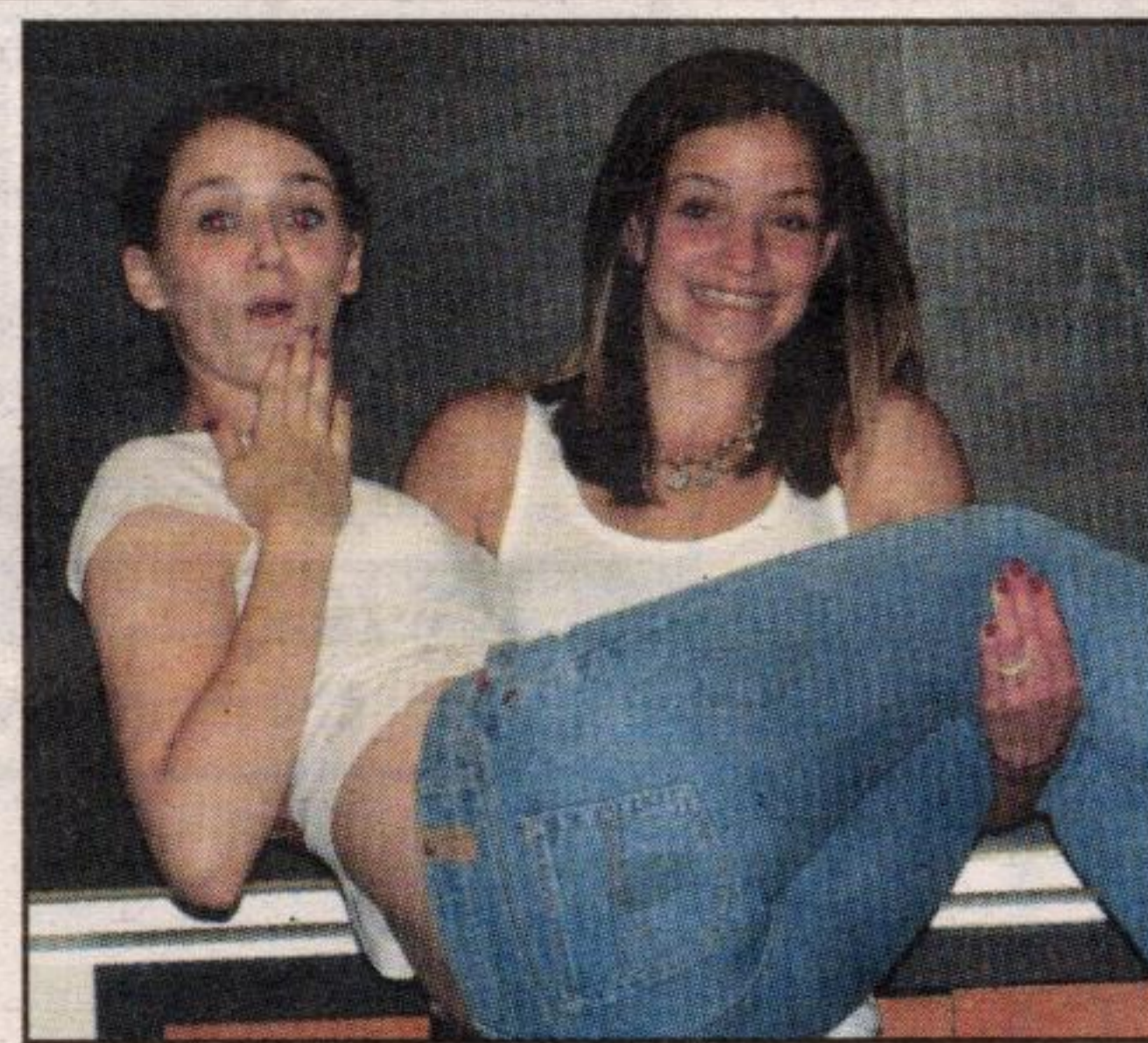
Lights, Camera, and Acton's Film Festival

By DONNA DANIELLI

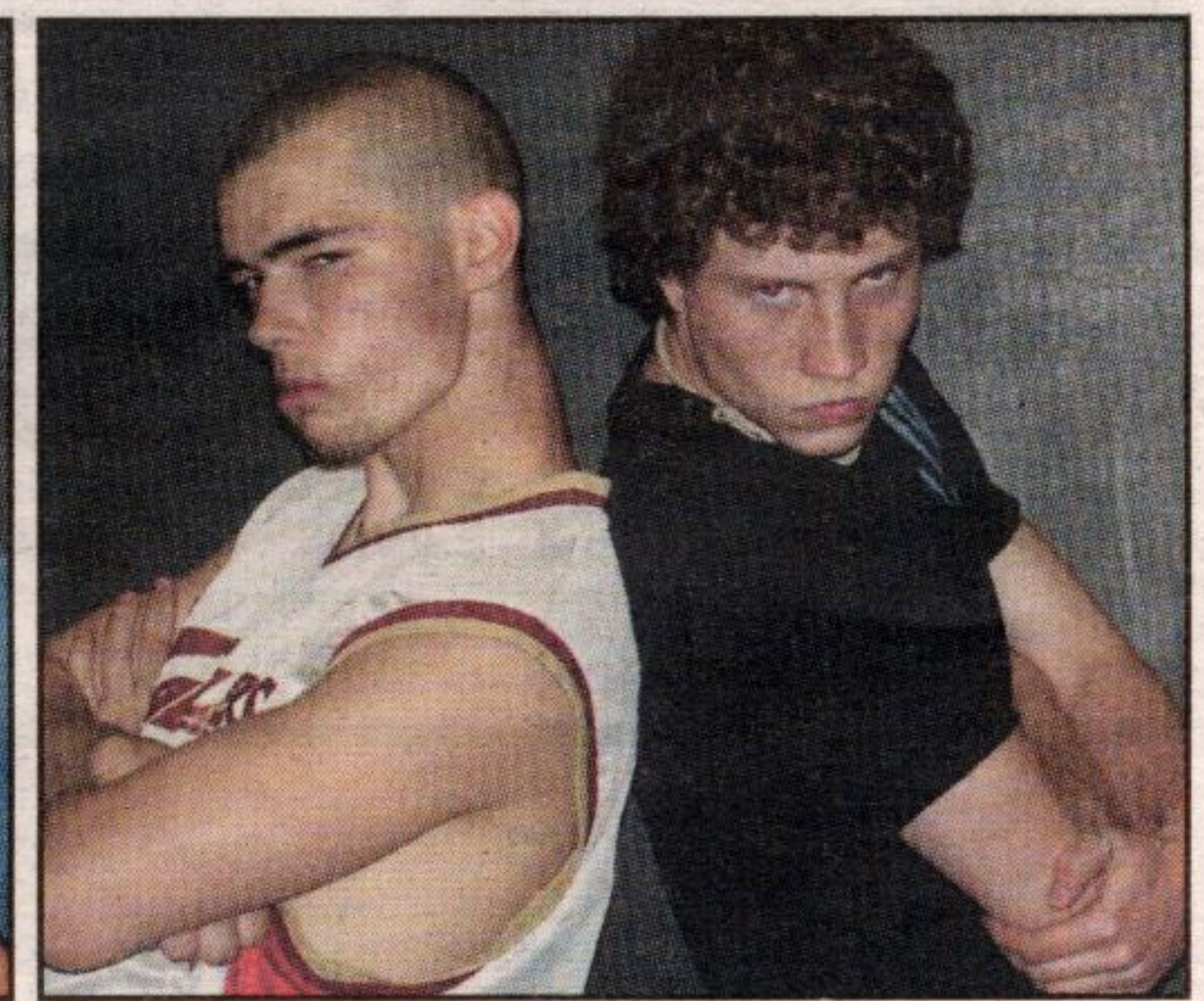
It was lights, camera and action as the Acton High School hosted its second annual Acton Film Festival. This year's festival featured 20 films created by Acton High students as well as four films created by recent graduates from the high school. "They were extremely varied this year," says Acton High's Jen Ross. "It was very diverse, we had everything from hand drawn animation to a film called "Slap Shot 3". The festival also included display from the high school's Visual Arts and Fashion

students. "It was sort of a 3 for 1 Arts Night," jokes Jen.

One of the highlights for the student participants is the ability to have their film judged by a panel of media industry giants. This year's panel included: Andrew Grant, who has worked for George Lucas' Industrial Light and Magic and is now one of the lead animators for the upcoming Disney film, "The Wild", Ken Walker, a senior technologist for the Computer Animation Department of Sheridan College who has also worked such feature films as "Against the Ropes" and "Blade Trinity", James Motluck, who has released three theatrical movies and produced several acclaimed documentaries for CBC Radio, and Stephen Barnes, an animator whose credentials include



Alice Mick and Lexie Metelk



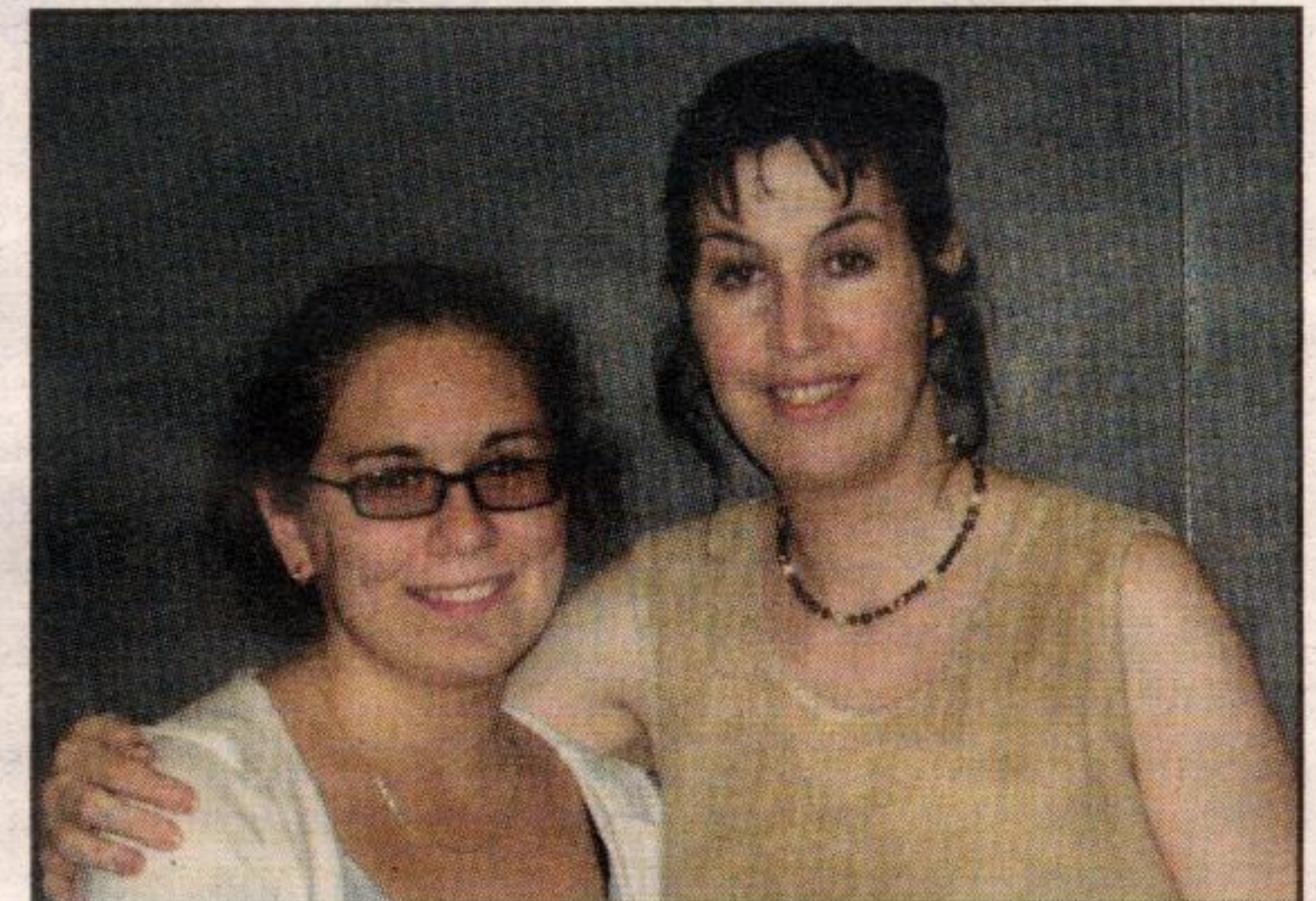
Chris Teggart and Ben Ingle

"Toy Story 2" and "A Bug's Life" and who is now the animation director for Disney's "The Wild", due out next Spring.

The interaction between the students and the celebrity judges was one of the most important elements of the festival for Jen Ross, who noted that the panel had a judging sheet for each and every film. The notes from those judging sheets will be collated and given to the student filmmakers, providing valuable feedback on their particular film. As well, Jen organized a pizza party for the judges and participants, prior to the festival. "It gave them an opportunity to meet the judges and ask them questions about the industry," she explains. "That was really kind of a magical time."

This is Jen's second year involved in the festival and she will take a step back next year, turning the reins over to Communications Technology teacher Wade Stark. She is justifiably proud of her involvement in the creation of the festival and the impact it

has had on her students. "I think that making your living in the Arts is a really viable path now. Society is full of media and they need people to fill those jobs," she explains. "Anytime that you have a forum for people to express their thoughts, and for others to see it, it's a great thing."



Student organizer of the Festival, Diana Drechsel and Mrs. Ross

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Chris Payne

Top 10 Rentals

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|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Hitch | 6. National Treasure |
| 2. Be Cool | 7. Beyond the Sea |
| 3. The Aviator | 8. Meet the Fockers |
| 4. Boogeyman | 9. Team America: World Police |
| 5. Are We There Yet? | 10. In Good Company |

New Releases

Hitch
Will Smith, Eva Mendes, Kevin James, Amber Valletta

A reporter poses as a student to get the real story behind the success of a professional matchmaker.

Tarzan 2
Glen Close, George Carlin, Brad Garrett

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Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants

Based on Ann Brashares' best-selling novel, *The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants* film tells the story of four girlfriends who are forced to spend the summer separated from one another for the first time. On a shopping trip before their division, the girls find a pair of thrift shop jeans that fit all of them perfectly; quite the feat for any sixteen-year-old girl, never mind four of them! Deciding to use these pants as a way of keeping in touch over the summer, each of the girls wear the jeans for a week at a time to see what luck they will bring before sending them on to the next girl.

This film stars Amber Tamblyn as the free spirited Tibby who is a budding filmmaker, despondent over being left at her monotonous summer job by her three friends. The shy and beautiful Lina is played as Alexis Bledel who travels to Greece to visit her grandparents. The two other main characters, Bridget and Carmen are played by less well-known actresses Blake Lively and America Ferrera respectively.

film review

By LAURA COOK

Although each of the girls has to spend their summer apart from one another, they each experience love and other adolescent issues that run throughout the film. The pants are sent from one girl to another and eventually become a metaphor for learning to stand independently while still keeping old friendships alive. While each of the girls has a different storyline through the film, the transitions are never jarring, but instead smooth and easily understood.

Rated PG for some thematic elements, sensuality and language, this film is a great film for teens and anyone else who enjoys breathtaking scenery from the various locations of the film such as Baja, Mexico and the Greek island of Santorini. Running one hundred and ten minutes, *The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants* released by Warner Bros is a wonderful example of a modern day film about love, friendship and adolescence.