

***An alternate form of power...***

**ACHS junior makes plan to save money and the environment**

**By Ciarra Kent**

On top of honors classes, National Honor Society, Student Council, Environmental club, a job and just being a teenager, Gretchen Johnson, junior at Antioch Community High School, is using the energy she has left to propose the use of alternative energy at the new district 117 high school.

Johnson, president of the Environmental Club, has a special interest in the environment and believes that district 117 should use wind energy and or solar power to run their new high school building.

"I am proposing solar and or wind power because I think that it would be beneficial to the environment, it would be economical and also a good learning experience," said Johnson.

Johnson has already met with Dr. James Love, Principal of ACHS, and also the Business Manager, William Ahlers.

"Mr. Ahlers said that the use of alternative energy had been discussed, but the cost analysis didn't pan out. However, mine did and he seemed interested in that," said Johnson.

Johnson contacted Spirit Lake Elementary School in Spirit Lake, Iowa to find out how much money it cost the school to run and maintain the alternative source of energy.

She asked how much the windmill cost, how much money it gave them and how

much wind they receive each year. Johnson then compared the amount of wind in the lake county area to the area of Spirit Lake.

She found the wind received in the Lake County area to be slightly lower than received in the Spirit Lake area.

After receiving all the necessary information, Johnson came up with a cost analysis that turned out to be lower than the analysis produced by Ahlers.

In the next couple of months Johnson hopes to be able to produce a way to make solar power and or wind energy possible at the new district 117 high school. Johnson

has researched schools that use wind energy and or solar power to run their schools and found that there are many factors that benefit the school.

Along with the fact that schools that use alternative energy, depend solely on themselves for energy, in some cases schools are also able to sell the energy they don't use to power companies or other sources.

"Schools also are able to use the forms of alternative energy as a learning tool," said Johnson. The biggest pay off for Johnson is the fact that she believes that wind energy and or solar power is the best power source for the environment.

For Johnson, helping the environment is motivation enough to put in the time.

For now, Johnson is working on a proposal, but she hopes in the near future her proposal will become reality.

**“Mr. Ahlers said that the use of alternative energy had been discussed, but the cost analysis didn't pan out. However, mine did and he seemed interested in that.”**

**-Gretchen Johnson  
President, Environmental Club**

***The Heist* steals the stage with its student's led performance**

**By Jessica Halston**

The winter season brought warm laughs as Antioch Community High School senior Tom Kenney lit up the auditorium with his original script 'The Heist,' an enchanting comedy about the trials and tribulations of a pair of high school friends.

Doomed to starvation and eviction from their apartment, friends Simon and Mickey, played by ACHS students Aaron Sexton and Andrew Newton, embark on a quest to steal a jewel from a local museum. Little do they know that crime boss Big Mac, played by ACHS sophomore Nick Ardagna, and his eccentric henchmen

are also after the gem. The intricate story, which was written out of chronological order, also involves a trio of female thieves-a send-off on Charlie's Angels- played by ACHS seniors Megan Lorang, Jordan Houtz, and Jen Richardson.

"I went to the audition not knowing what to expect," said ACHS junior Aaron Sexton, who took the lead role as audacious and exuberant Simon.

Sexton, whose leading role was

his first at the high school, felt a kinship to Simon upon first reading the character's lines.

"Simon's basically me in a more amplified version," said Sexton, who praised the script for its humor. "It was really a great script. There were a lot of editing errors. It became a joke with [the cast], and we'd read the incorrect lines."

The awesome quality of the production was increased by the fact that it was entirely student-run.

Writer and director Kenney held complete control.

"I had a lot more leniency," said Sexton, who plans to attempt the process himself. After three years in the drama program,

Audience members seemed to agree that the student influence was obvious in the story, and it provides a much more enjoyable performance.

"They're directed more toward the student body," said ACHS

junior Ashley Myers of student-run productions.

Stagehand and ACHS junior Karly Guldan offered a different perspective from behind the scenes.

"We worked well together when it was one of our peers leading us," said Guldan. She continued on to say that the best part was "watching [the actors] progress."

Overall, the production was a success.



Photos by Rick Mengyan

**HOLD UP:** Actors in the play, *The Heist*, rob a local diner [right.] This student led production has a surprise ending, with tied up security guards and lost thieves this production proved to be a true success for the director Tom Kenny, and an excellent final product of everyone involved.

**Staeafa Control System**

**IAQ SOLUTION REDUCES ENERGY COSTS AND IMPROVES PRODUCTIVITY**

Discover how our automated IAQ (indoor air quality) system will improve the energy efficiency of your facility. The integrated system by Staeafa Control System provides adequate indoor air ventilation, minimizes the frequency of adjustments to stabilize the air quality, and reduces energy waste.

Contact your local authorized Staeafa dealer and discover how the IAQ sensor system automatically adjusts and maintains a constant flow of healthy indoor air, and updates your HVAC system accordingly.

Call or write for our free Capabilities brochure and quarterly newsletter, *Staeafa Partnership Report*.

**Staeafa Control System**  
An offering of Siemens Building Technologies  
1000 Deerfield Parkway  
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089  
(800) 735-4822

**True Value**

Anything to help.

**Just Ask**  
RENTAL

**ANTIOCH TRUE VALUE**  
488 ORCHARD ANTIOCH, IL 60002 (847) 395-4200

**Best Western**

**Regency Inn**

350 Highway 173  
Antioch, Illinois 60002  
(847) 395-3606 Fax: (847) 395-3606 Ext. 459