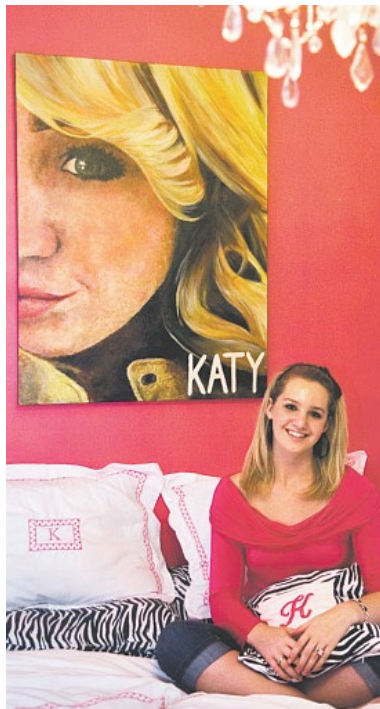


Chillicothe Gazette

athlete | basket case | brain | criminal | princess

chillicothe's own

BREAKFAST CLUB



Lindsay Niegelberg/Gazette

Teen says there's more than one side to her

People limit first impressions of the 'Breakfast Club' princess

By Jona Ison

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Katy Andersen might be a freshman and fairly new to Chillicothe High School, but most students seem to know the tall blonde's name.

Of course, she does a number of activities that put her in the spotlight, such as cheerleading, school plays and anchoring for the Cavs News. Her recent visit to the “Dr. Phil” show also put her and her family in the spotlight because her parents tend to buy her — and replace — high-cost items. “I honestly don’t know how other people see me,” she said. “I think people just kind of see me how they want to see me. I’ve heard some people thought I was a big snob when they first met me, and I think I prove them wrong once they really get to know me because I’m not really like that. “I’m a good friend, and I’m not stuck up or two-faced like people assume that I am when they first meet me.”

Andersen, whose family moved here about two years ago from Oak Ridge, Tenn., views herself as a caring person who enjoys keeping busy, which is why she takes part in a variety of activities and likes to prepare for her future. She takes college preparatory and advanced placement courses and consistently makes the honor roll. “I think most people would be surprised to know how I really am. Most people at my school, especially because they saw the ‘Dr. Phil’ show, they’ve just seen one side of me, the side of shopping and having the nice things.

But really I’m not like that ... I’m very known as the ditzy blonde. Yeah, I am ditzy. I don’t try to be, it’s just how I am,” Andersen said. “But when it comes to being book smart, I think grades are very important, and if there’s an honors class for something, I want to take it. I have a very high academic goal.”

Sometimes, Andersen finds herself the target of bullies, and doesn’t understand why someone might call her “Shrek” or “Big Bird,” two names she’s been called.

“I don’t think I’m the prettiest girl and I don’t think I have the best body or anything, but I don’t think I’m that bad. It really hurts my feelings because people at school will call me horrible names ... At school, I don’t show it hurts, but really it does,” she said, fighting back tears. “I just don’t know why ... I think people just know I have the confidence, or actually I look like I have the confidence, and I act like I have the confidence, but I have the lowest self-esteem.

“When people call me those hurtful names, they act like I don’t have feelings, but I do. Really, the only people that see that side of me are my close friends or my boyfriend because they have to hear me complaining about it.” The comments are frustrating to the teen, who says she puts her friends before herself and would take her shirt off her back for any of her friends if they truly needed it.

At 10 years old, Andersen’s mother, Lora, recalled her daughter giving the \$5 she earned helping move bricks to someone collecting for the “hungry” outside a Shania Twain concert. As a surprise to concertgoers, a number was called during the concert for anyone who gave money. Andersen’s ticket was the winner, and she got a chance to go on stage. “She’s always been supportive, caring,” Lora said. “People misjudge her confidence as being stuck up or something, or as judgmental. The only time she’s judgmental is when someone is really mean to her ... It’s been really hard for her to make close friends here.”

However, Andersen continues keeping busy, getting involved and meeting new people while looking forward to graduating in a few years. After high school, Andersen’s big dream is to get a gig on Broadway someday, but her more realistic plan probably will be a career in broadcasting. More immediately, she plans to add more activities to her schedule, get back into ballet and get a job.