Contestant: **M-3**

As the groups of journalism students divided off into rooms, hawaiin music slowly welcomed each new member. 30 minutes- Kevin Wanzer had 30 minutes to transport his listener’s into another world filled with one message that he has spent his life defining.

“When I was a sophomore in high school,” Wanzer said.

“ShowTime was looking for the funniest kid.”

Wanzer flipped through his slideshow to introduce a younger high school student dressed in an Annie wig that closely resembled the same man dressed in a hawaiin shirt in the front of the room.

“I decided I wanted to try out but didn’t want anyone to know,” Wanzer said. “I was out of my mind embarassing.”

Despite his early defeat, Wanzer had known since middle school that comedy was the career choice he wanted to persue. Wanzer out his loss and decided that year to begin his motivational speaking career.

“Mrs. Reagan, the first Lady, started a program called ‘Just Say No to Drugs’,” Wanzer said. “I went around to high schools and spoke about this.”

That same year, Wanzer was invited to a dinner with Mrs. Reagan, from passing the salt and pepper during dinner to Sharing table talk, Wanzer found a new way to be inspired to inspire other students his same age.

“So many times, people find themselves in a situation where they aren’t able to laugh at themselves,” Wanzer said. “I try to inspire people to find the joy in everyday life.”

After speaking at many high schools, Wanzer found himself working for the “David Letterman Show” as a researcher. He spent his time working for the show and speaking for high schools but had no idea what new life lesson about to spark something bigger than ever imagined.

“I adopted my son when he was five,” Wanzer said. “When he showed up I really wanted this to work and for him stick around forever.”

Life for Wanzer was everything he had dreamed of. It wasn’t until one simple question was asked that life as he knew it would be different.

“He (Christopher, his son) asked me if I knew if I was getting a boy or a girl,” Wanzer said. “Then when he was in Montessory school, he told me, I stand with the wizards but I am a witch in my head.”

Wanzer knew exactly what Christopher meant and from that day forward, Wanzer and Christopher only knew a life of love.

“Christopher told me, ‘Dad you don’t have understand what’s happening, you just have to love me’,” Wanzer said.

Wanzer used this message taught by his four-year old son throughout the transition from Christopher to a daughter named Scout and a world of hate to a world of love and acceptance.

After publishing his book, ‘Choose to Love’, Wanzer continues to travel from high school to high school, a dream he began when he was 16 to teach others the importance and acceptance of everyone no matter race, age, gender or difference.

The older, goofy guy in the front of the room had spent 30 minutes explaining such a simple concept that half the world can’t see past towards the importance that Wanzer preaches.

In Wanzer’s poem he wrote, “ Some things in life you can not change but your attitude can chance, it’s true,” Wanzer said. “By doing so, you can affect the people who look up to you.”