

Amplifier

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National Merit Semifinalists enjoy fine arts

LAUREN LEVINE

co-Editor-in-Chief

Every year, more than one million high school juniors across the country enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT. Of these students, the highest scoring entrants in each state are chosen as semifinalists to compete for some of 8,200 scholarships worth 33 million dollars in scholarship money.

In order to become a National Merit finalist, students must submit an application which includes an essay, tell about participation in community or leadership activities, earn similar scores on the SAT to their qualifying score on the PSAT as well as having a recommendation by the school principal and an outstanding high school record.

This year, nine seniors from WLHS have been named semifinalists, allowing them the chance to apply



National Merit semifinalists Marta Hanson, Heather Wallace, Isaac Cohen, Eric Nesbit, Alix Gerber, Christiana Cha, Audrey Riesen and Jenni Denekas compete for scholarships. The eight seniors were among the highest scoring entrants in Oregon.

Photo by Cole Fiala

for finalist status and the chance to win scholarship money. With the pool of semifinalists representing less than one percent of high school students in the U.S., many would say that being a semifinalist would be an honor. "I feel so honored," Marta Hanson, senior, said. But most of the semifinalists at WLHS agree that "it's just

a standardized test," Audrey Riesen, senior, said.

"Achieving the finalist level would be more meaningful because it's more than just a (test) score," Eric Nesbit, senior, said.

Christiana Cha

Future plans: Hopes to attend Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif.

Extracurricular activities: Varsity Tennis, Winter Track, Students of Support, International Club, Ecology Club, Amnesty International and Symphonic Choir. Advanced classes: Physics, Pre-calculus, French IV, AP Psychology, AP Chemistry, AP European History, Honors English 11, AP English 12, AP Biology and AP Calculus.

Isaac Cohen

Future plans: Sailing away into the sunrise.

Extracurricular activities: Fine Arts, Young Socialist Club. Advanced classes: "That's not important."

Jenni Denekas

Future plans: College; schools of interest include Whitman College, University of Puget Sound, Santa Clara University and Stanford University.

Extracurricular activities: Cross Country, Track, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, International Club and Ecology Club. Advanced classes: AP U.S. History, Pre Calculus, AP Calculus AB, Honors Physics, Honors English, AP European History, AP Studio Art, AP English, Honors Humanities, AP Environmental Science.

National Merit Scholars

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YourSpace gives students opportunity to personalize 2007 yearbook

SYDNEY MACNAUGHTON

Staff Reporter

All students will have the opportunity to include their personal artwork, quotes or photos in the yearbook. This area is YourSpace, a space where each student can submit something personal that is important to them.

YourSpace is an area that will be featured throughout the yearbook at the bottom of each page. There will be seven spaces to each double page spread and original submissions will be proportionally reduced to fit the space.

"It is always a challenge to get everyone in the yearbook somewhere besides their school photo," Ann Breynne, Green and Gold Yearbook Adviser, said. "Our goal is to give them more ways to be in the yearbook."

In this part of the

all color yearbook, students can express themselves by submitting quotes, memories, artwork, photos, or anything else that is meaningful to them.

Students must submit their entry by Nov. 18. They can find the submission

information by going to the yearbook website.

The idea came as a joint effort from the yearbook staff during yearbook camp when they brainstormed ideas to personalize the yearbook. They were doing this to include more coverage that matters to more people. The theme this year is "Best Year Ever."

Students and their parents are also invited to submit candid photos by e-mail to wlhs-yearbook@wlhs.wlww.k12.or.us or by putting them in Breynne's mailbox in the office.

Students can also add their name, hobbies, and activities on the cover of their yearbook for an additional cost. They can do this by visiting www.jostens.com/yearbook/SP_personalize.asp.

The deadlines for senior photos, senior ads, and senior quotes is also Nov. 18.

YEARBOOK: Your Space

Name (please print) Eric Horn
Grade 10 10/18/06

This is your opportunity to submit a photo, artwork, quote or personal memory for the yearbook. Each student will have a space in the yearbook to contribute appropriate material that is uniquely yours!
The space below is yours. Submit by 11/18/06 to Room D102, or you may submit it electronically to WLHS-yearbook@wlhs.wlww.k12.or.us



Who: I'm a student at West Linn High School, and I'm really fun!
What: My sketch of my friends
When: Really on the 10th grade
Where: From School & the bus
Why: They're my friends, & they are a part of what makes school worthwhile. Also, their English & History classes are fun & interesting.
How: (Use the back if needed. Please submit on-line or return to Room D102.)

YourSpace submissions are due Nov. 18. Information is also available on the website, which can be accessed by clicking Activities/Clubs, and then Yearbook on the school website.

GATA: young club looks to make big difference

HILLI CIAVARELLO

Staff Reporter

GATA (Global Awareness Take Action) was started by 20 students after listening to Bono, lead singer of rock band U2, give a speech at the Oregon World Affairs Council International Speaker Series in 2004. Since then, they have been bringing awareness to students and trying to create positive changes through several different projects.

Their goals are to raise awareness about changeable conditions in Africa, raise money for a service project to Africa next summer, traveling with both students and staff, and to keep energy high. To raise awareness, the students have had booths at the Club Fair, made educational videos and took part in the 2004 World Affairs Council's Global Skills Competition, where they had the opportunity to reach more than 200 Oregon

high school students.

They plan to keep student interest high by having GATA members come up with issues they find most urgent.

"The students have been incredible; Maddie Kiely, Michael Bernert, Kelsey Figone, just to name a few. They are completely inspirational to me and make my job easier," David Frick, adviser and history teacher, said.

Last year they created Global Awareness Day, with speakers from Kenya, Tanzania and Nicaragua, to help students and the community learn more about global issues.

In the future, GATA members hope to expand their vision to other students and communities that wish to help. Frick has been approached by other schools and organizations hoping to set up their own GATA club. He even jokes, "Franchise, baby!"