

New lunch system, Meal Time, gives back to students, school

■ MAX HAYS

Staff Reporter

No more digging in pockets for cash to pay for lunch. Now there is another, more efficient way to pay for your lunch called Meal Time. All it takes is a six digit number that can be obtained by making a deposit to a personal account and asking a food services worker.

Another plus is that it speeds up the process of buying lunch, therefore reducing the size of the lines. In fact, this system will take away a total of roughly two seconds per student to buy lunch, according to Barbara Youngren, food services; this is because there is no change and cash to deal with.

Andre Armattoo, freshman, is very positive about the new system, "The new system makes buying lunch a lot easier. Instead of looking for cash and change in your pocket or backpack, you just have to punch in your number," Armattoo said.

Students aren't the only people who benefit from Meal Time; the school also benefits from this new system. The main purpose of Meal Time is to track how many combos



Andre Armattoo, freshman, types in his six-digit ID number to buy his food during lunch. Meal Time makes purchasing quick and convenient while at the same time it gives back money to the school. Photo by Cole Fiala

are sold. A combo is basically a balanced meal composing of one entree, one fruit, and one or two milks. The reason the school wants to keep track of how many combos they sell is because for every combo the school sells, it gets a 23

cent reimbursement from the government. This helps the school afford better healthier food, keep food prices low, and helps the school with food inventory.

"Meal Time empowers students to have control over their own accounts, and gets them ready for later in life when they have to manage a credit card account," Youngren said.

But Meal Time isn't all about efficiency and costs, the switch to the new system

is also changing how healthy the food is. With more money, food services can buy healthier more nutritious food such as milk, fruit, vegetables and baked goods instead of fried food. As part of a federally-mandated wellness program, the federal government is supportive toward this new system to address concerns of childhood obesity, eliminating soda offerings and introducing new food.

So with all these great

reasons to use Meal Time, how come a lot of students still don't use the new system? According to Youngren it's because they aren't aware of all of the advantages to using the new system over cash, Youngren is optimistic.

"A lot of students still aren't aware of the advantages to using Meal Time, but as students become more aware, more and more students will start using it and it will pay off in the long run," Youngren said.

Program to honor HIV/AIDS researcher

■ MARY WOOD

Page Editor

In a random act of violence which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, HIV/AIDS researcher Dr. Job Bwayo was shot and killed while driving on Feb. 4. The professor was the brother-in-law of Grace Kuto, the co-founder of the Harambee Center which connects West Linn to its sister school in Chwele.

Bwayo's wife, Elizabeth, and their friend, Carol Briggs, were also shot and are recovering.

To celebrate Bwayo's life and work, a performance will occur in May which will be co-sponsored by the Drama Department and GATA. Proceeds from the event will help the sister school program by bringing Kenyan students to West Linn.



Well known HIV/AIDS researcher Dr. Job Bwayo was shot and killed while driving on Feb. 4. Bwayo spent much of his career developing an HIV vaccine and campaigning for an AIDS research lab in Kenya. A tribute in May will celebrate his life and work.

Photo courtesy of David Frick

Bwayo spent most of his career developing a vaccine for HIV and conducting numerous studies on the

prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases in African populations. He often lectured at the University of Nairobi, and he was the chairman of their Department of Medical Microbiology. Many HIV/AIDS publications were created by Bwayo. He was a contributor to the first five Kenyan AIDS vaccine trials and led the campaign to build an AIDS research lab and treatment facility in Kenya.

According to David Frick, GATA advisor, no decisions have been made on the fate of the trip to Africa this summer. There has been some talk of cancellation, but no definite plan has been formed yet.

"Right now, GATA's focus is on the incredible life and work of Dr. Bwayo," Frick said.

Talent show benefits Grad Night

■ DANIELLE LEVINE & ALI PETERSON

Staff Reporter

The Lucky Lions Star March, held tonight at 7 p.m. in the auditorium will benefit the 2007 Senior Grad Night, a substance-free party to celebrate commencement. The program will feature Chinese yo-yo, tap and jazz dance, Native American Shawl Dance, bands, drums, piano and vocals. Admission is \$5 at the door.

"The talent show will be a great way to raise money for our Grad Night. Now the committee can make the night really special," Elise

Hughes, senior, said.

Junior Division is for grades five through eight and the Senior Divisions is for grades nine through 12. The top five winning acts in each division will receive cash prizes. Auditions were held Feb. 12 and Feb. 16 and dress rehearsals were March 12 for Jr. Division and March 15 for Sr. Division.

"So far we have every school represented in the show and there are 24 awesome acts!" Mary Lou Lewis, volunteer coordinator, said. She was in charge of putting together the event.

Thespians advance five acts to State competition

Thespians compete at State

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"I just went in thinking that the odds were against me. I tried my best and the hard work paid off," Olson said. It was also a very successful day for the junior actors. Bandyopadhyay impressed judges with his solo monologue from

the plays "Prisoner of 2nd Avenue" and "When it Rains Gasoline." Probably the most significant part of all these solo acts is the fact that they beat out roughly 100 other competitors. Biancardi advanced for her solo music act "Astonishing" from Little Women.

Possibly one of the most

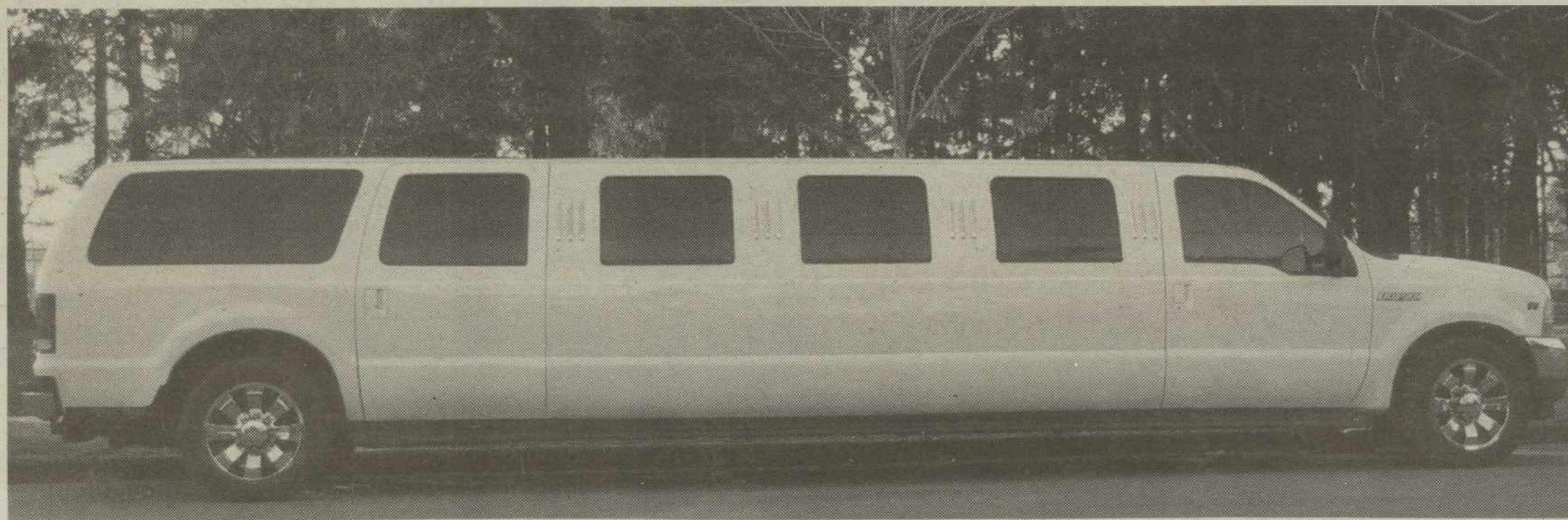
creative state finalist acts was Mahnic and Barzola, sophomores, who advanced in the Original Pantomime category. In a category of original acts focusing on creativity, student actors were given the task of creating their own short skit, composed of drama, comedy, romance or whatever they may like. Mahnic and Barzola beat out over 50 original acts, and received top honors for their own pantomime, "Sweet and Sour Revenges."

"The Original Pantomime category really is a unique competition, and it was cool to see them (Mahnic and Barzola) do so well," Murray said.

After a weekend of critical judging and critiquing, West Linn advanced a total of six student-actors in five different categories to the state level. The state competition will be held at the Historic Elsinore Theatre, a convention center that brings a sense of both honor and accomplishment to the actors who perform in it according to Murray.

"State's going to be one of the best moments of my life," Olson said. "Performing there (Eksinore Theatre) is a dream come true for any actor."

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