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Mock Trial wins bid to compete in Nationals

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co-Editor-in-Chief

For the first time in West Linn's history, the Mock Trial team, composed of 11 students, will be competing in Nationals against 50 teams from all 50 states. Led by Matt Kellogg, social studies teacher, the team will compete May 10-12.

Composed of eight mock attorneys and three mock witnesses, the team includes seniors Eric Nesbit, Lauren Currey, Hannah Cochran, Natalie Douglas, Nina Dalgaard, William Farnbach, Amy Brumbagh, Marta Hanson, Karen Vance and Maggie Goldstein. Senior Seth Wheeler acted as the bailiff clerk. The lone junior on the team is Charlie Steele.

Hand-picked by Kellogg, the Mock Trial team has been practicing since October for the case Martha Johnson v T. Brewster, Michael Miller, WASP. The case for the State competition this year was about Brewster, a racist who



The State champion Mock Trial Team attends one of many practices held at the high school. Members include Matt Kellogg, adviser, Charlie Steele, junior, seniors Maggie Goldstein, Marta Hanson, Hannah Cochran, Karen Vance, William Farnbach, Lauren Currey, Eric Nesbit and Nina Dalgaard. Not pictured are seniors Seth Wheeler, Amy Brumbagh and Natalie Douglas. Photo by Nathan Fisher

kills a black man and is now being sued by the victim's mother Martha Johnson. According to the rules of Mock Trial, each team should have an argument for the plaintiff and the defense.

"This team this year has had a good work ethic and has a good team chemistry,"

Kellogg said. "This group has come together from the start." Kellogg has advised Mock Trial for nine years.

The team won each of its four rounds in the State competition to go onto Nationals. They competed against teams from St. Mary's, Summit, West Salem and Wilson.

For the National competition, the team will be traveling to Dallas, Texas

to compete. The best a team from Oregon has done in the National Mock Trial competition was a ninth place by Lake Oswego in 1997.

This year's team is expecting to do well next month in Texas. "Our Mock Trial team doesn't have any weak links in the chain," Nesbit said.

Vance, Douglas, and Steele will not be participating in the National competition due

to the amount of participants allowed to compete on the team.

To prepare for the Mock Trial Team, a student is encouraged to take Honors Law A and must be willing to commit significant amount of time to the team.

"This has been a huge commitment. At the beginning, we had practice two nights a week, but as we got closer to a competition, it would turn into four nights of practice," Vance said. "At the beach retreat we took, we practiced every day, sometimes past midnight."

As they prepare for the national competition, the team must learn a new case for the three rounds over which they will preside. The new case is Estrella Shipping Lines v Ewing Shipping Lines which is about two boats that crash into each other. The Ewing boat was on fire before the crash and exploded during the collision killing everyone on board. The Estrella boat sunk and both companies are suing one another.

All 50 mock trial teams received this case for Nationals.

"Bang, Bang" recounts school shootings

HILLI CIAVARELLO

Page Editor

With the recent school shootings in Gresham at Springwater Trail High School and the horrific carnage at Virginia Tech, the recent play "Bang, Bang You're Dead" held in the auditorium April 7 and 8, with a special school performance on April 11 during fourth period, is especially relevant.

This year's Acting/Directing Seminar, taught by Jessica Murray, performed their class project with a little over four weeks of rehearsal time, including Spring Break.

"We were able to personalize it, and be very abstract and multi-dimensional with both our acting and our directing, while at the same time, perform a piece that was appropriate for all audience members, and could speak to everyone in our school, and our community as a whole," Ali McDonald, junior, said.

The play, written by William Mastrosimone, is about the horror of school shootings from the perspective of the killer's mind which is haunted by five dead classmates. The students of the Acting/Directing Seminar researched, directed, and acted in the play.

"We wanted our show to open the eyes of our community members to a very real and surprisingly common occurrence. We wanted to spark discussion, and allow people a chance to share their feelings and their thoughts about what we had presented," McDonald said.

The idea of "Theatre for Change" was also a big influence in the making of the play. All students understood that they could use the arts to portray important information.

"It felt good using our love of acting for something more than just applause," William Farnbach, senior, said.

Bang Bang You're Dead

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Students score big at ISEF competitions

SACHIE HOPKINS

Staff Reporter

WLHS students have a strong history competing in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair competitions and its affiliates, and once again this year, they didn't disappoint.

They took home a total of five prizes, including a first place, second place and three honorable mentions at the Northwest Science Expo at Portland State University on March 16.

Avi Levy, sophomore, and Michael Bernert, junior, moved onto the International Fair, which will be held in Albuquerque, N.M. in May.

Levy took home multiple prizes including first place in mathematics, with his project on Results in Geometric Inequalities.

"I'm very excited and pleased that Avi's work has been recognized at this level. His project was very interesting and in depth, and it'll be great to see him

present it at the international event," Amy Schauer, ISEF Program Coordinator, said.

Levy also earned a scholarship for up to \$20,000 each year to the University of Oregon, if he chooses to attend. He also took home the Mu Alpha Theta Award for Excellence in Mathematics.

Bernert continued a project he has been working on for several years involving plant sciences on In-vitro Cultivation of Japanese Maples. His dedication paid off, with a second place finish in Plant Sciences and the U.S. Army Exceptional Project Award.

Both students will receive \$7,000-\$12,000 from Willamette University or \$4,000-\$10,000 from Lewis & Clark College if they choose to attend those schools.

At the International Fair, Bernert and Levy will compete against students from 31 countries for three million dollars in cash and scholarships.

"We did amazing; the best we have ever done. We destroyed the powerhouses, Jesuit and Catlin Gabel, and we had the best showing of public high schools in the state," Bernert said.

Kelsey Guerins and Nicole Panichello, freshmen, received an honorable mention for their project in the Biochemistry category with their project on protein levels in wild salmon versus farm-raised salmon. They will be going to the International Fair as observers.

Others honored at the affiliated competitions were Laura Huck, junior, who received an honorable mention in Earth Science; Lisa Kirkemo and Katie Carnahan, freshmen, who received an honorable mention in Medicine and Health Sciences.

"I think ISEF was a really good experience. I met a lot of interesting people, and I am definitely going to do it again next year," Kirkemo said.