

Thespians, musicians, scientists win honors

MARY WOOD

Staff Reporter

Students brought home numerous honors this past month at the Regional Acting Competition, Three Rivers League Solo Contest and Science Bowl. Actors placed high in categories including solo acting, duo acting, pantomime and musical theatre, and musicians rocked wind instruments and the violin. Science Bowl competitors placed in the top six of 64 teams.

One victory from the Regional Acting Competition was the first place Solo Novice win of Ailish Duff, freshman. In most categories, being in the top 10 percent qualifies the actors to progress to State, but only the first place winner in Solo Novice receives that honor.

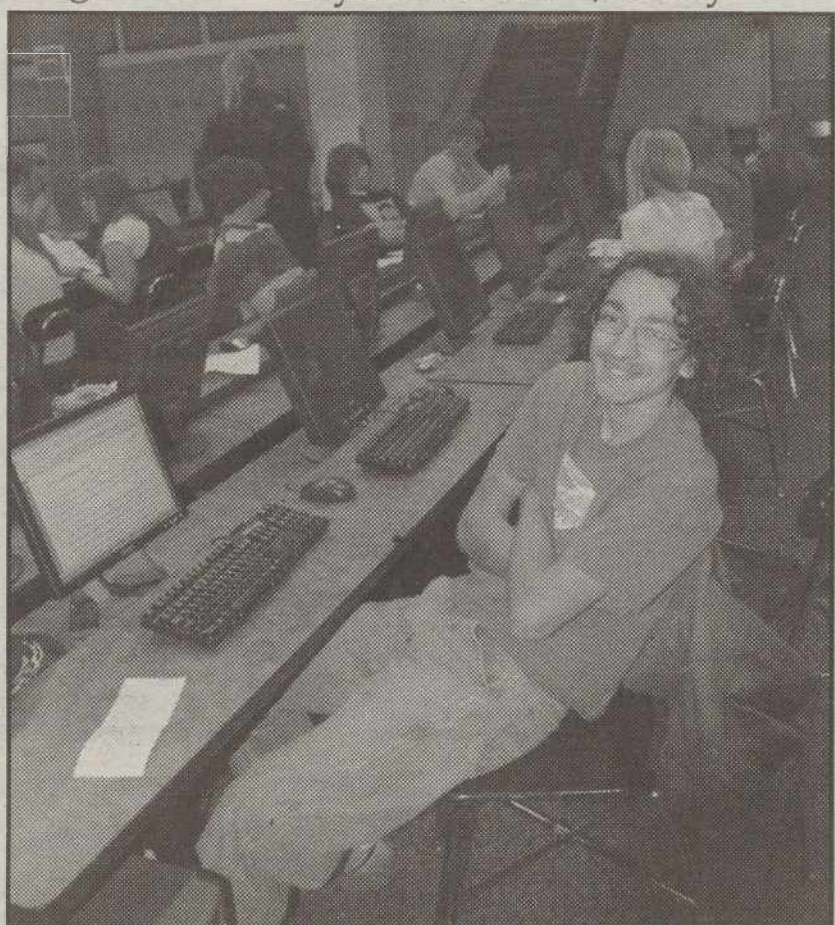
"It was really surprising. I didn't expect [to win] but I'm honored to have been chosen and I'm very excited about going to State," Duff said.

Other solo acting winners include Melissa Andre' and Caitlyn Olson, seniors, who were State qualifiers, and Christopher Daniels, senior, and Avery Breyne-Cartwright, junior, who were regional finalists.

Teamwork in acting also proved successful at the competition. Two dramatic duos of Olson and Johanna Hanson, senior, and Nick Altishin, senior, and Breyne-Cartwright were State qualifiers. Catherine d'Autremont and

Katherine Millage, seniors, were regional finalists as a comedic duo.

Other regional finalist were Pantomime competitors Alexandra Mink, junior, Reis Mahnic and Jenelle Barzola, seniors, and Group Musical Theatre finalists Altishin, Olson, Alyssa Aramaki, Casey



Avilash Cramer, junior, works on homework for his Independent Study AP U.S. History Class. Cramer was a part of the five-person team which won sixth place at the Science Bowl.

Photo by Sean Pebler

Crawford, Andra Sturtevant and Corbin Wescott, seniors, Hannah Bradford, Hannah Stout and Lucy Walker, juniors, Samantha Forsey, Michael Johnson and Anna Stapleton, sophomores, and Emily Axelrod, Thomas Olson and William Sturtevant, freshmen.

The cast of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* will perform at the Oregon State Thespian Conference as one of only three plays that were chosen. Videos of plays were submitted from high schools all over the state in hopes of being chosen for the April conference at the Hult Center in Eugene.

"The cast will perform in front of almost 1,000 Thespians and the crew will have the opportunity to work in a union house. Although we love our West Linn audience, there is no

more appreciative, excited audience than a bunch of theatre kids," Jessica Murray, director, said. "Our Tech Director, Jon Ares, has toured professionally so he'll be a great guide in this process."

Musicians also found success in their TRL competition. Flute winners included Jenny Cooper, junior, who came in second place and Rachel Metzler and Sarah Lord, sophomores, who came in third and fourth place,

respectively. Troy Cornelius, sophomore, Sarah Melancon, freshman, and Helen Farrell, junior, came in second, third and fifth places for the bassoon.

Other TRL winners were Kendra Heath, senior, who came in third place for clarinet; Nathan Aden, junior, who came in fourth place for alto saxophone; Alyssa Walhord, sophomore, who came in second place for French horn and Samantha Ing, sophomore, who came in

third place for violin.

The sixth place win at the Science Bowl came from the five-person team of Alissa Greenberg, Zachary Hansen, Matthew Kirsch and Avi Levy, seniors, and Avilash Cramer, junior. Levy was also awarded an All-Star award for being one of the top competitors.

"I was happy that our team had a really broad knowledge base so we could answer various questions, but we didn't have depth this year," Levy said.

Bailey settles into school, community; enjoys spending time meeting students

MARK POPPERT

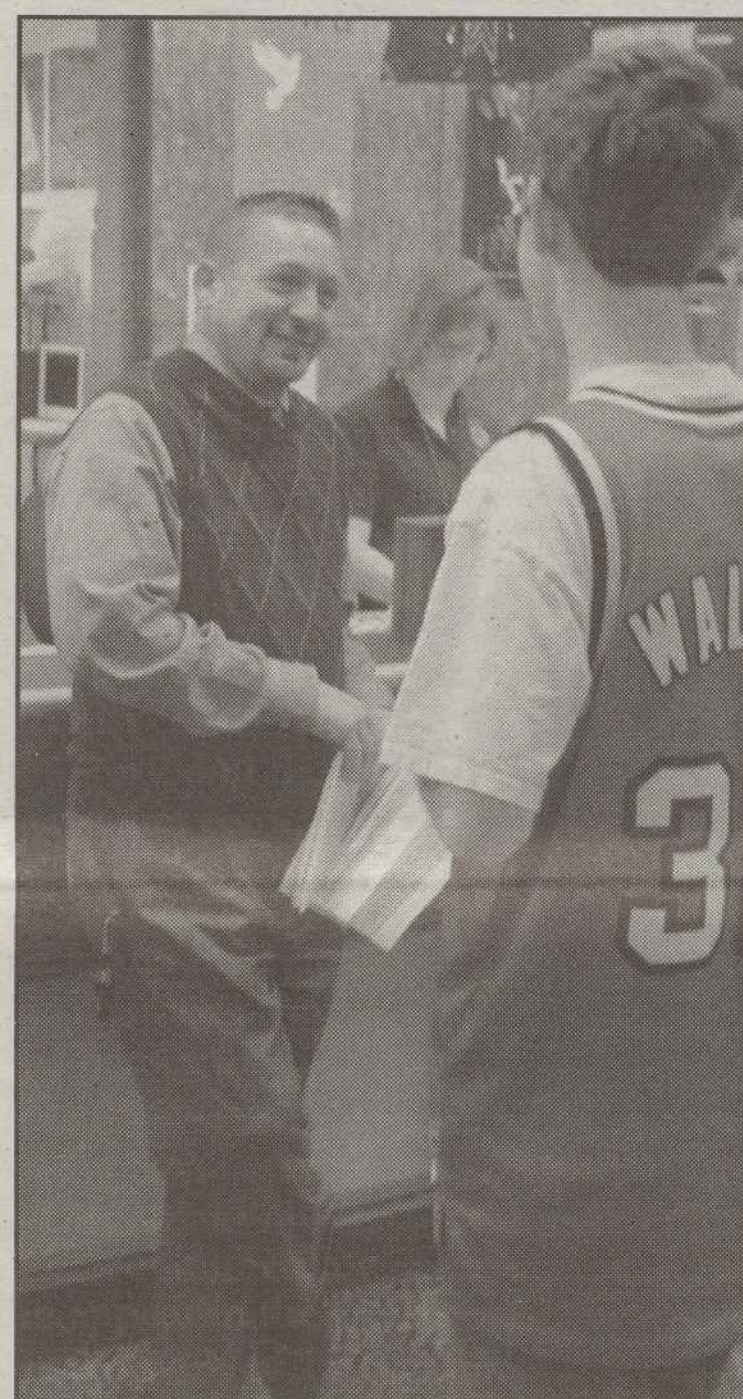
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With the first semester coming to a close, Lou Bailey, Principal, has now had time to settle comfortably. "The first semester was my learning curve. It was getting to know the nuances of this place," Bailey said. "The best part of my day is when I'm out of this office or out of a meeting and I'm out wherever, where what I call my real clients [students] are."

By spending time in the hallways during break and lunch, as well as attending many sports and fine arts events, Bailey has done just that, earning a positive reputation with students, staff and community members in the process.

When he moved into the position at the beginning of the school year, many people wondered what he would do as the school's new leader. With 15 Advanced Placement courses, test scores exceeding the state average by as much as 32% and high marks from the leading school rating web sites such as city-data.com and greatschools.net, expectations were high.

"I think he has done



Lou Bailey, principal, converses with Patrick D'Arcy, senior, about college basketball. Bailey often spends break and lunch in the hallways talking to students about their interests, building bonds with the student body.

Photo by Mark Poppert

a good job keeping up with school spirit; going to sporting events and activities," Stephanie Kruger,

junior, said. His efforts to connect with students have bridged gaps in student-administration relations.

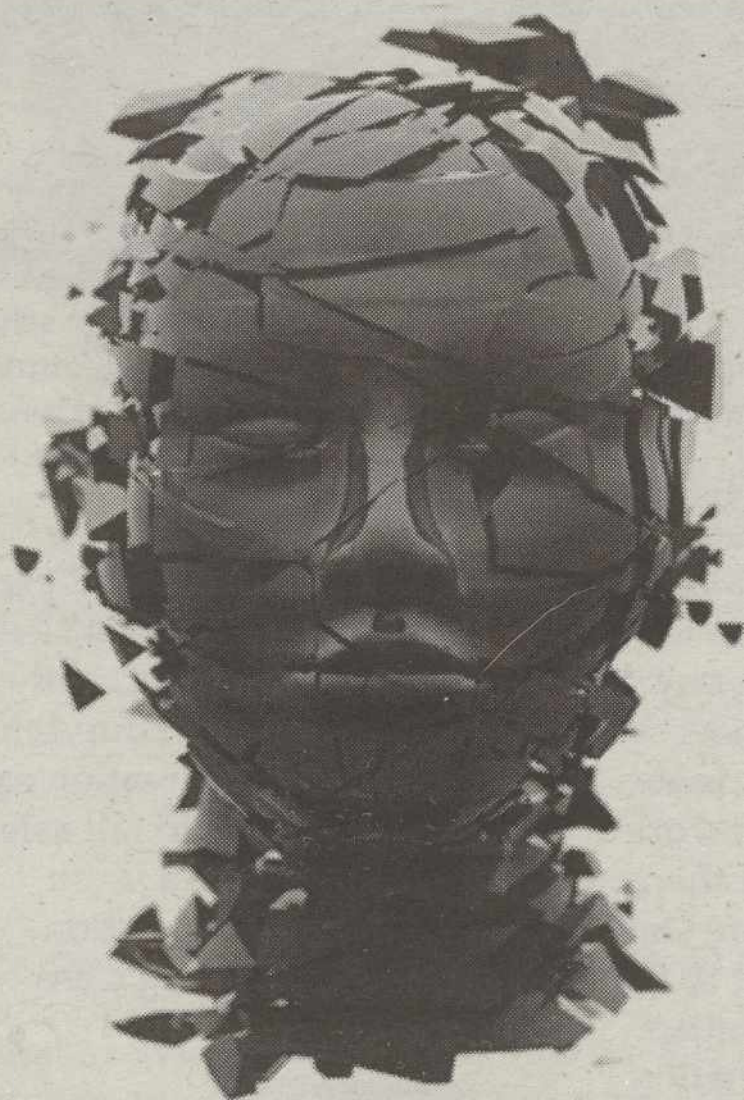
"My impression is that kids feel really comfortable talking with him. Which I think is a good thing," Barb Murray, English teacher, said.

Not only has he brought a new attitude to being principal, he is looking to create more opportunities for students. He backs the idea of zero periods, which would allow students more choice in both the classes they could take as well as when they would take them. Bailey also hopes to introduce a student senate which would

involve both staff and students. Spirit is also big on Bailey's list of to-do's. He believes that it is an important component to the school and needs to be developed further.

"I would like to see a little more school spirit. I think that between visual and performing arts programs and athletic programs I would like to see more student involvement in terms of an audience," Bailey said. "It's on us to advertise and for the students its to attend."

With the goals of communication and student involvement Bailey seeks to improve the school as a whole. With several more months until the year is over, and more years to come, Bailey hopes to realize his dreams with the help of the WLHS community.



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