

New teachers enjoy what West Linn has to offer

PATRICK D'ARCY

Staff Reporter

This first semester has been eventful. Eight new teachers have joined the staff this year. Each of them have had their own experiences in the first semester, but they have all made it through the first semester.

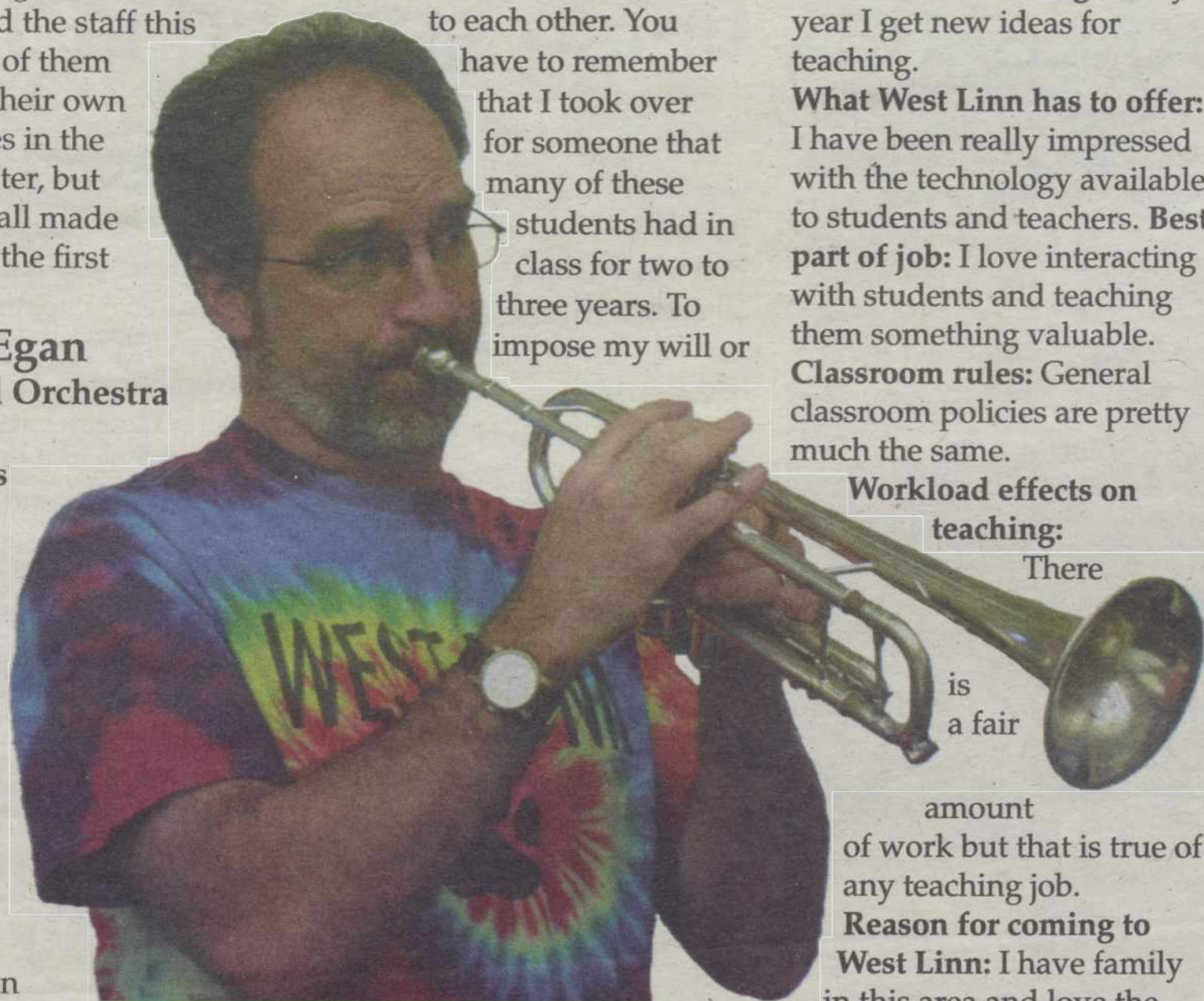
Kevin Egan Band and Orchestra teacher

Highlights of first semester:

All of the highlights have happened very spontaneously; hanging out at lunch or laughing on a bus to some event. The best part about this place is the people and how much fun they are to work with.

Outlook on teaching: This is my 24th year teaching so being here one semester hasn't altered too much of what I'm about. West Linn has its own unique feel. I'm still trying to take it all in. Ask me what I think of this high school in three years. I figure that's how long it will take to figure out a few things. At this point, I'm just glad that I know where the A, B, C Porches are located.

Best part of job: It sounds trite, but the students are what make teaching so much fun. I dig seeing young musicians grow and develop and work through challenges. That's always been the defining part of my job. I'm not



Kevin Egan

a new job always involves a period of adjustment for both the students and myself. I think we're still getting used to each other. You have to remember that I took over for someone that many of these students had in class for two to three years. To impose my will or

students here are awesome! I look forward to coming to work every day.

Outlook on teaching: Every year I get new ideas for teaching.

What West Linn has to offer: I have been really impressed with the technology available to students and teachers. **Best part of job:** I love interacting with students and teaching them something valuable. **Classroom rules:** General classroom policies are pretty much the same.

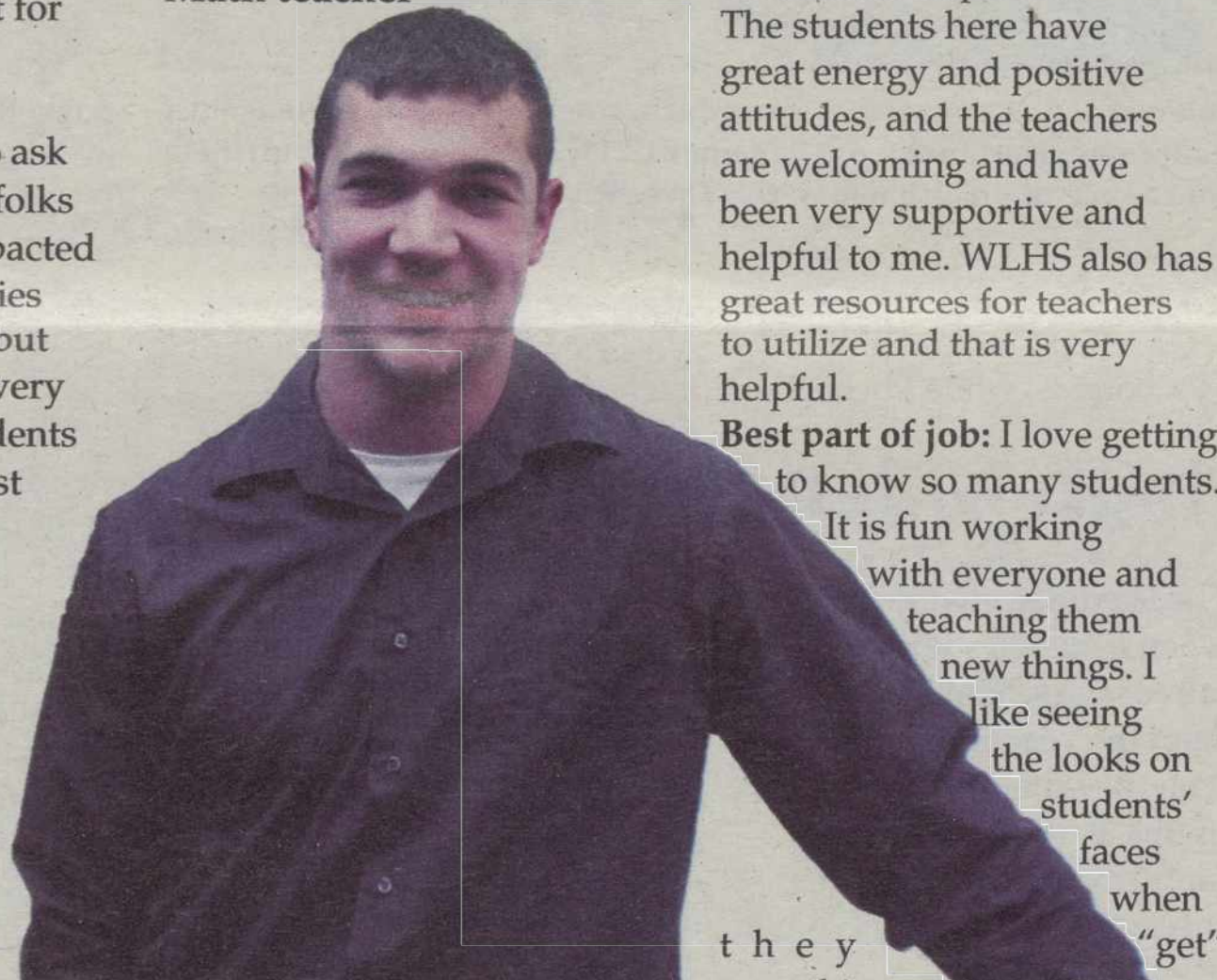
Workload effects on teaching:

There is a fair amount

of work but that is true of any teaching job.

Reason for coming to West Linn: I have family in this area and love the city of West Linn.

Kevin Mills Math teacher



Kevin Mills

of doing things in a unilateral fashion isn't what's best for everyone involved.

Workload effects on teaching: You'd have to ask the students and other folks if the workload has impacted my job. A new gig implies a steep learning curve, but the community here is very supportive and the students are very capable. I'm just trying to facilitate the continued quality of an excellent instrumental program. WLHS has had a solid reputation for its music programs for over two decades. I figure it's my job to be the steward of this program.

Reason for coming to West Linn: I applied for the job because I live in West Linn and one day my own children will be in my class. After talking with friends and colleagues that have experienced and enjoyed this dynamic, I felt I had to at least apply for the gig. Also, Mr. Cumpston and I have been good friends for a very long time. He and I had a lot of discussions about the possibilities and opportunities

that are a part of this particular program. It seemed like a good time to jump in the water.

Kathleen Turner Math teacher

Highlights of first semester: I have really enjoyed getting to know so many students. The



Kathleen Turner

very good at sitting through meetings and in services, but I could rehearse and teach and work with students all day. I still think (almost every day) when I'm walking to work, "I get to do this."

Classroom rules: My policies haven't changed from the start of the year, but taking on

planning I do not feel as if it has affected my performance.

Reason for coming to West Linn: I choose to come to West Linn because of the community and great reputation of the school.

Heidi Johnson English teacher and Leadership

Highlights of first semester:

I have had too many memorable moments to acknowledge! One of them was going on a field trip to the Nike campus with my Leadership class; it was a lot of fun.

Outlook on teaching: Being here has reinforced my positive outlook on teaching. I am excited to be a part of this school and part of a community that takes pride in what they do.

What West Linn has to offer: It was definitely more than I expected. The students here have great energy and positive attitudes, and the teachers are welcoming and have been very supportive and helpful to me. WLHS also has great resources for teachers to utilize and that is very helpful.

Best part of job: I love getting to know so many students.

It is fun working with everyone and teaching them new things. I like seeing the looks on students' faces when they

something new. I also like that there is something new every day; it is always entertaining.

Teaching what I love is great, too.

Classroom rules: Nothing has really changed.

Workload effects on teaching: Since I am a part-time teacher, I actually have a lot of time to get things done, which is nice. I am very obsessive when it comes to planning; I always have to be prepared, so either way (part-time or full-time) I



Heidi Johnson

would be prepared and ready. I guess I would just be getting less sleep.

Reason for coming to West Linn: It is a great community and a great school. I would love to stick around this area for awhile. Who wouldn't want to teach here?!

Adam Betzelberger History teacher

Highlights of first semester:

My U.S. history students worked very hard on a newspaper project on industrialization. As a teacher, I greatly appreciate when students take a challenging goal, work hard to achieve that goal, and in many cases exceed my expectations.

Outlook on teaching: Students and staff have excellent working conditions. After coming from a less economically advantaged school, one needs to

remember the conveniences that make learning and teaching easier.

What West Linn has to offer: WLHS has hundreds of computers and a

projector in every classroom. Last year I taught at Forest Grove High School. The school had one computer lab with 20 functional computers and four projectors for the entire school.



Adam Betzelberger

Photos by Patrick D'Arcy

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