

# Young American

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## Winners go to Washington, D.C.

SALEM, OR — Three Oregon students recently received word that they are winners of a national essay contest.

Notified by the U.S. Department of Education that their essays on the Constitution came up winners were Cam Tharp, a first-grader from Ontario; Eric Quanbeck, a third-grader from Blachly; and Jennifer Cox, a sixth-grader from Langlois.

For their prize, these students are invited to tour Washington, D.C., to have lunch at the Dept. of Education and to visit President Reagan at the White House. Only one problem — the U.S. Dept. of Education can't pay their air fare or lodging costs.

When businessman Bruce Engel, president of WTD Industries, Inc., heard of the students' problem, he offered each one \$1,000 for expenses. "Having grown up in a small town," said Engel, "I appreciate what it means for a small-town youngster to go to Washington, D.C., to meet the president."

Then Horizon Air and Jet America pitched in with free round-trip tickets to D.C. for the students and their families.

"This is the latest example of how Oregon businesses are quick to respond to the needs of their students and schools," said Verne Duncan, state superintendent of public instruction.

The talented winners leave for D.C. on May 31, thanks to a businessman who still remembers what it's like to be a kid.



Astronaut Jelani Greenidge, 12, is suited up for his simulated flight in the Mercury.

## Space camp blasts off

PORTLAND, OR — Have you ever wanted to go ballistic outside the envelope? Spaceflight Academy, the first one-week space camp of its kind on the West Coast, may get you started.

Each day of camp is spent preparing for mission day when the kids blast off on a simulated space mission. Spaceflight Academy is sponsored by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI).

Pilots of the 142nd Fighter Interceptor Group will explain flying "outside of the envelope." Space campers will learn what it means to "go ballistic" by studying supersonic flight equipment. After launching mini-rockets, flying in the airborne

classroom of a Cessna airplane, experiencing zero-gravity and the force of three Gs, it's time to suit up for space.

Astronaut campers fill the positions of astronaut, Cap Comm, flight director, life support technician, experiments officer, guidance and control officer and spacecraft technician. The trainees will use Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and Space Shuttle systems and simulators.

Even though these rockets aren't really blasted into space, the space crew's goal is a successful launch, orbit and safe return to Earth. Unexpected problems happen in each mission. But with teamwork and fast thinking, the crew can use their space knowledge for a successful mission.

## Thrashin' with safety

PORTLAND, OR — *Young American*, America's Newspaper for Kids, is wheelin' champion freestyle thrasher Bob Schmelzer into Portland where he'll amaze fellow skateboarders with his tricks.

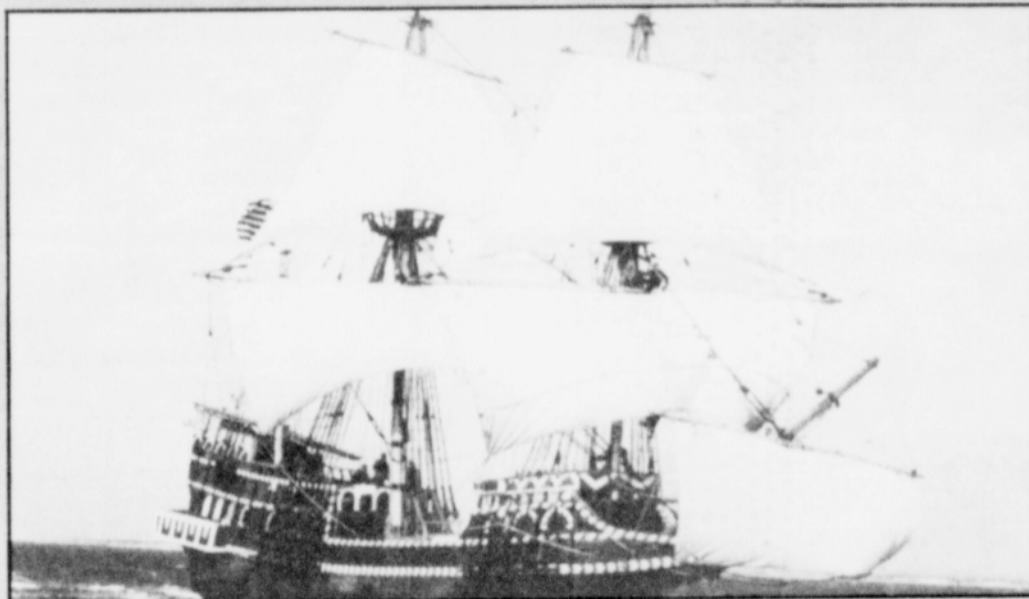
Schmelzer, from Laguna, California, is the guy who performed skateboard stunts for Michael J. Fox in *Back to the Future*.

From May 26-31, Schmelzer will be skating into Portland-area schools showing off his freestyle fashion. Emanuel Hospital's Trauma Team will accompany him. They don't plan on Schmelzer hurting himself, but they want to talk about skateboard safety. Emanuel Hospital knows safety topics don't always rate #1, but teamed up with Schmelzer, this is a "totally rad" visit.



Most skate parks require the use of pads, gloves and helmets.

## Sailing the seas with Sir Francis



The Golden Hinde was originally called the Pelican. It may have been a French ship captured by Drake.

PACIFIC OCEAN — Sailing on the horizon is a ship, but it's not a freighter or luxury ship. It's a replica of the Golden Hinde, the warship sailed by Sir Francis Drake when he cruised the Indian and Pacific Oceans during the 1500s.

Drake sailed for England, and his around-the-world sailing ventures helped improve his country's navy. To honor Drake a replica of the Golden Hinde, which means golden female deer, was built. In 1973 the new Golden Hinde set sail.

A 40-member crew now sails the ship following Drake's around-the-world course. It is also a museum at sea for people to visit. Since the first of this year, Golden Hinde has been slowly moving south down the West Coast for people to tour the famous vessel.

Drake commanded a crew of 100 men, including several nine-year-old cabin boys. A large crew was needed because many sailors did not survive the trip. Sometimes the ship returned home with just 30 men.

The Golden Hinde has five levels of decks. The top deck is called the poop deck because when large waves crashed onto the deck, sailors said they had been pooped by a wave.

Life at sea was tough. Drake's men attacked ships for their loot of gold and silver. Operating one of the ship's 18 iron cannons was a dangerous job. Each weighed 1,400 pounds and the cannon kicked back when fired. Someone standing behind it could be seriously hurt, and there were no doctors or medicine on board.

The sailors lucky enough to return home to England with Drake brought back tons of gold and silver. They were well-paid, up to \$2 million each. Not bad for three years' of sailing the high seas.