

WOKSAPE

Science Olympiad Showcases Students’ Creativity

BY
TOM KELLEN

Science Olympiad is possibly the most interesting extracurricular activity out there with this year’s categories ranging from “Rocks & Minerals,” where the participants show their knowledge of rocks and minerals, to “Helicopters,” where students build a rubber-powered free-flight helicopter and try for the greatest flight time.

Like other school activities, Science Olympiad is not for everyone. It requires many attributes, such as a very creative personality, an amazing amount of free time, along with the ability and the willingness to work with science and engineering.

With this challenge to students’ creativity in science and engineering could come a great deal of inspiration upon the students to help the world later in life. Coach Bob Medeck said that from the experience he has had, he noticed that some of his students had pursued careers in the science field such as becoming: pharmacists, doctors, engineers and teachers.

One category that I could really see inspiring someone would be “Disease Detectives,” where students write a report on how to control a real life health issue, could one day lead students to take what they learned to find a cure for diseases we have trouble with now.

Another category that could lead to producing incredible results in one’s career could be “Towers,” where students build a tower that is efficient when comparing its own weight to how much weight it can hold before breaking. This could turn in to someone engineering a bridge that breaks barriers never even dreamt before.

Twenty-five. Did you know that is the number of times out of a possible twenty-seven that your Yankton High School has taken home the State Science-Olympiad trophy in the Class C division (grades 9-12)?

One 2012 freshman, David Barnes, hopes his contribution will help to bump that number to twenty-six. David has participated in Science Olympiad since he was in the sixth grade and a former student of Sacred Heart Middle School. So far, he has never won at state.

Sacred Heart has finished second in the class B division (grades 6-9) for the last decade with Yankton Public Middle School taking first all twenty-four years possible in the division. Overall, is incredible how Yankton teams dominate the top placements at the state level!

David plans to make his contribution to the state title this year is in the category, “Sounds of Music.” David and his sister Theresa (YHS sophomore) are both participating in the category where participants will have to build two instruments based on a twelve tone tempered scale.

After construction, they have to be able to describe how they built the instruments, and then be able to perform two melodies with each instrument: one required melody and a melody of choice. The brother-sister team plan on making a guitar, which David is in charge of, and a violin, of which Theresa is in charge.

When building something where precision is a virtue, a considerable amount of research has to be done.

David told me that the book, Classical Guitar Making, turned out to be a life saver when it came to that research. Not only do the Barnes siblings have to

do a lot of research and make their instruments precisely, but they have a very limited amount of time in which to complete the projects. They hope to have their instruments done in three to four weeks; when it typically takes two or three months to build a guitar or violin.

Although limited by time, I have a feeling that those three to four weeks will be plenty of time for David and his sister Theresa, because they are both well educated for their category and committed to the program.

I wish the Barnes siblings good luck at the state and hopefully the national competitions, even though they probably don’t need it!]

Despite the favorable chance David Barnes has to get to nationals in Orlando, Florida in the “Sounds of Music” division, his favorite part of Science Olympiad is “how it covers many different sides of science.”

After the state competition, if Yankton takes home first place, they will be headed back home to sell as many of “The World’s Finest” chocolate bars as they can in efforts to raise money to pay their way to The University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida, where the national competition is to be held for the 2011-2012 season.

Looking at the numbers above, I have drawn the conclusion that Yankton has a great chance at getting to Orlando, and one of the best Science Olympiad programs in the state of South Dakota.

To me, to have a Science Olympiad team of this caliber means the program has to include extraordinarily dedicated students and coaches who easily bond with the team and are adept at getting the job done.

Editor’s Note

Hours before the Grammys, many of us heard about singer Whitney Houston’s death. She has been greatly missed and is still being remembered by many. I have heard many stories on how she died, but no one knows the real answer. I have heard that she drowned, and they she has over dosed on her medication. Why would someone so famous want to go down this terrible path of destruction? She is not the first celebrity to die and definitely won’t be the last to travel the unfaithful path. In the past couple years we have lost many celebrities such as the King of Pop (Michael Jackson), Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, and Amy Winehouse.

I believe that some celebrities get up the fame ladder so quickly that they don’t know what to do when handling stress and other problems that come along with being famous, so they turn to drugs and alcohol. We hear of many celebrities each year dying by the overuse of drugs. Since Houston’s passing, I have heard that they have to keep a close eye on her daughter as she, at the age of 18, may already be struggling with the use of drugs. Her daughter also has a great singing voice just like her mom and will hopefully become famous someday just like her mom.

Nowadays, it is not uncommon to see celebrities as young as 13 and 14. This flags a huge question in my mind: do those celebrities in their early teens use drugs and alcohol to cope with their stress? If they are using drugs, this will have a huge impact on students across the nation, because young celebrities are idols to many of them.

Another thing I often consider when I hear that a celebrity, such as Whitney Houston, has passed away is did they ever get help and if they did not, why didn’t they? Shouldn’t their family members be concerned and help them with their addictions? I hope that if one day I become famous that I will have family support, and they help me when things get tough. I hope I never will turn to drugs.

Many young kids and adults admire these famous people, and then they hear that that their favorite celebrity has died to something as stupid as drugs and alcohol. I think that young kids in high school think that it’s okay to use drugs after seeing celebrities use them and that just because their favorite celebrity did not die because of his or her addiction, its okay to continue to use them.

It is sad to see people die like this, and it is hard for family members and supporters to see Whitney Houston (or other celebrities) pass away because of a blatant refusal to respect and cautiously use prescription drugs that they take.

Nathan Rausch

Dingus



BY
TOM KELLEN



Even Without Sound, *The Artist* is an Engaging Film

BY
HUNTER KOCH

The Artist takes place between 1927 and 1932 in Hollywood, California, at the dawn of the sound film era.

At that time, George Valentin (Jean Dujardin) is the most famous actor in Hollywood. George, at the premiere of his newest movie, meets Peppy Miller (B  r  nice Bejo), a big fan of George, who eventually tries out as a dancer and earns a spot in George’s new film, *A German Affair*. Peppy slowly becomes a bigger actress, eventually earning starring roles in films.

Two years later, in 1929, the studio where George and Peppy work, Kinograph Studios, announces that it will cease production of silent films, and only release movies with sound. George scoffs at this, exclaiming that sound is a fad and silent films are superior. George storms off, and soon after begins production on his own film. Peppy, however, stays at Kinograph, and stars in a new sound film, which opens on the same day as George’s film. Peppy’s film is a huge success, while George’s fails to draw an audience.

George loses most of his money, and then spends his time drinking. Peppy soon becomes a huge star because of her sound films.

George, during this time, drinks more and more, eventually burning the copies of the movies he made.

After almost dying in the fire, Peppy brings him to her house to recover. George discovers that Peppy had been helping him, and George races back to his house to commit suicide, because he was proud.

Peppy gets there in time, and stops the suicide attempt. The two make amends, and they convince the head of the Kinograph



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to produce a musical, with Peppy and George as the stars. The studio head agrees, and George is a star once again.

A notable feature of this film is not only that color is absent, but also that it is silent.

Besides the music and a few lines of dialogue, no sound is present. Despite this, I enjoyed this movie.

It was humorous and lively, and the story was an eclectic mix of many different genres,

including romance, comedy, and tragedy.

The acting was also superb. The over-exaggerated acting made the story easy to follow, and provided humor which made the film fun to watch.

Jean Dujardin and B  r  nice Bejo certainly deserved their Oscar nominations.

I could watch this film multiple times and recommend it to anyone who simply likes movies. I give it an A+.

The Artist did phenomenally well at the 84th Academy Awards on February 27th.

The film won awards for Best Picture, Best Director (Michel Hazanavicius), Best Actor (Jean Dujardin), Best Costume Design (Mark Bridges), and Best Original Score (Ludovic Bource).

The Artist was worthy of these accolades, and it is another reason to either see this film in a theater, or rent it on DVD.

How To: Find a Four Leaf Clover



BY
MOLLY

* Find the perfect spot! You’ll want to look in a big patch of grass ‘ with a bed of clovers.

* Be patient. You’ll find many three leafed clovers first!

* Be observant. Don’t let your eyes play tricks on you!

* Save the clover that you find! Take two strips of tape and press your four leafed clover between the two pieces for safe keeping.

Good luck and Happy Saint Patrick’s Day!

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Published by the students of Yankton High School, 1801 Summit, Yankton, SD 57078.

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