

Physics all star adds to academic list

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Physics isn't the only thing that matters to Brendan Fay, but that's where he's making a name for himself lately.

His grasp of the science delving into physical properties is relative to his receiving several honors.

The Harrison High senior is one of 100 students nationally named as an All-American in Physics. The student pool is selected by the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Fay joins Harrison grads David King in 1988, Morris Slutsky in 1992 and Avi Drissman in 1994 as a physics all star.

"It's strange to hear my name mentioned in the context of Morris and Avi," said Fay, 17. "It's still me."

Fay is also a semifinalist in the search for five high school seniors to represent the United States in the Physics Olympiad in Oslo, Norway this summer.

For that, Fay had to take a two-part test March 27. The first part involved four questions, which have to be answered in 90 minutes. The second part consisted of two more detailed questions, which also have a 90-minute time

limit.

Physics is only part of the equation in Fay's academic life, though.

He found out March 25 he's been named a National Merit Scholar. He's already been awarded a Bentley Scholarship at the University of Michigan, which is a liberal arts scholarship given to two incoming freshmen. Fay eventually plans to major in architecture.

Fay's involved in painting, drawing and ceramics. His major artistic pursuit is the sound of guitar music through a heavy rock 'n' roll band called Abraxas.

The group includes three Harrison grads and is celebrating a record-release party May 4 at the Studio Lounge in Westland. He's also bassist in a yet-to-be-named experimental group.

At Harrison, Fay is president of the National Honor Society and co-captain of the boys' soccer team and a member of the Hawks boys' track team.

His academic plate is as varied. He's taking level four Calculus at Oakland Community College and scored in the top 100 in the Michigan Mathematics prize.

"He's one of those exceptional

students who has ability and uses it," Harrison physics teacher Dennis King said.

"Sometimes the smart ones are difficult. . . . They're hard to teach because they think they know everything. He's open to concepts. He picks up on things really easily. He's got a good mind."

Fay shares a class with other talented students.

Emily Ebenhoe finished in the top 170 students on the same physics test that led to Fay's all-star nomination. Jeff Marinucci had the school's highest score in the American Math Test.

There's a healthy rivalry between them on tests, King said. But they also study together and encourage one another.

"They kind of push each other," King said.

Fay credits King for his success in physics. His teacher's approach to problem solving — known as "the method" — has been the key.

Another method to study is how Fay fits it all in.

"Still, I do study," he said.

"When you learn to make a habit of homework and studying, an amazing amount of free time



Brendan Fay

opens up.

"Also, the better I become at working for learning's sake, as opposed to grades, the easier it becomes to manage my academics."

OBITUARIES

DONALD OLDROYD, 28

Mr. Oldroyd, 73, of Novi, formerly of Farmington Hills, died March 28.

Born in England, Mr. Oldroyd was an engineer for manufacturing tool and die. He was a member of the Mason's, Shriner's and the Scottish Rite.

Survivors include his son, Bruce; daughter, Mary Beth Salo; three grandchildren; friend, Olga Miller.

Services were at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, the Rev. Raymond M. Rohlf of St. Luke Lutheran Church officiating. Burial was in Imlay Township Cemetery, Imlay City.

Memorials may be made to Seedling's Braille Books.

ALPHONSE THOMAS LESPERANCE

Mr. Lesperance, 66, of Farmington, died March 29 in Botolph Hospital, Farmington Hills. Born in Detroit, Mr. Lesperance was the owner of a florist.

Survivors include his wife, Frances; daughters, Kathy Ames, Linda Batzloff, Jeannette Sorna; son, Al; father, Alphonse J.; sisters, Margaret Impellizzeri and Joan Fecteau; brothers, Leo and Gerald; eight grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated April 1 in St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church, the Rev. Fred Klottner officiating.

Arrangements were made by the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington.

ENIO E. RAISANEN

Mr. Raisanen, 78, of Northville, died March 30 in Tawas St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Tawas, Mich.

Born in Friesland, Mich., Mr. Raisanen was a machine repairman. He was a member of the American Legion (Redford Post) and a member of Disabled American Veterans.

Mr. Raisanen was a World War II Army veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Irene; daughter, Shirley Zeppa; brothers, Carl and Arnold; sisters, Ann Kaikkonen, Lillian and Jean; 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Services were April 2 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, the Rev. James Michelsen of Apostolic Lutheran Church officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

MARGUERITE M. VIELEHR

Miss Vielehr, 97, of Novi, formerly of Farmington Hills, died March 28 in Whitehall Nursing Home, Novi.

Born in Benton Harbor, Miss Vielehr was an accounting clerk for Grand Trunk Western Railroad. She retired in 1966 after 46 years of service.

Survivors include her nephew, Arthur Buck; niece, Virginia Buck; Dorothy Buck and Margaret Ann Flaherty.

Services were at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, the Rev. James Hoff of St. Paul Lutheran Church officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

Memorials may be made to Arbor Hospice, 3810 Packard Road, Ste. 200, Ann Arbor 48108.

LOTTERY

The Lotto jackpot was worth at least \$2 million. The Michigan Lottery numbers for Wednesday, April 3, 1996 are:

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DAILY 4:

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CASH 5:

3,15,22,32,37

LOTTO:

2,9,13,14,30,33

WINNIS MCGRAW

Mrs. McGraw, 81, of Novi, formerly of Farmington Hills, died April 1 in Huron Valley Hospital. Born in Detroit, Mrs. McGraw was a retired secretary.

Services were April 4 at Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Novi. Burial was in Greenhill Cemetery, Kingsville, Ontario, Canada. Arrangements were made by the O'Brien Chapel/Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

Chamber looking for award nominees

The Chamber of Commerce of Farmington and Farmington Hills is accepting nominations for the Athena Award given annually to an individual — man or woman — who has:

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said Marin Esposito of the Chamber of Commerce.

Deadline for nominations is May 3. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Chamber of Commerce office, 30000 Thomas St., Farmington, or by calling

474-3440. The award will be presented at a luncheon in May.

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