

Five finalists

Look considers Molitor

By Walt Hard
Blueprint Staff Writer

Theodore E. Molitor, Ramsey chemistry teacher, has been selected as one of five finalists in the 1970 National Teacher of the Year Award Program.

This nineteen-year-old program gives an honor award to an American teacher each year. It is sponsored by Look Magazine and the Council of Chief State Officers in Washington, D.C.

Both Molitor and Jay Lawrence Taylor, who has been observing Molitor in action, stress that the program is not a contest, and the award should not be considered a prize.

Says Taylor, "All of the teachers chosen are exceptional. Each of the selections is symbolic. Words like best and competition really don't figure into the program. Its purpose is to focus public attention of teaching and also to interest young people in teaching careers. It honors the inspiration and achievement of teaching."

The most important quality taken into account in the program is, "the ability to inspire intellectual curiosity and love of learning in students, irrespective of their backgrounds or ability. Molitor feels that the two most important qualities in a good teacher are an interest in his students and a competency in his subject matter.

Any full-time career teacher in any primary or secondary school in America is eligible for the award. One of this year's nominees was from a parochial school, and teachers of the mentally retarded are also included.

To participate in the national program, each teacher must be selected on a local level and appointed teacher of the year in his state or territory. This year, fifty-three teachers were nominated for the national program.



Molitor

In Minnesota the teacher of the year nominations are sponsored by the Minnesota Education Association (MEA) and the State Fair. The state teacher of the year is nominated for national honors by the state commissioner of education. Molitor was nominated last year by former Commissioner Duane Mattheis.

The state candidates are screened by a 12-member committee in Washington made up of nationally-known educators.

On January 12, William Arthur of Look Magazine announced the five finalists, including Molitor.

Representatives, such as Taylor, are sent out to each finalist's school to observe and interview the teachers. They send in reports to the selection committee, and the National Teacher of the Year will be announced March 1.

Last year, Minnesota State Teacher of the Year Richard Hanson was also one of the five finalists. Each finalist receives

a framed scroll of honor, and the National Teacher of the Year will receive a gold tieclasp or brooch. In addition, all five finalists will be featured in a special article in Look early in March. Traditionally, the National Teacher of the Year is received at the White House along with his family.

Both Molitor and Taylor stress that there are really no losers, since every one of the teachers is equally fit to receive the national award. "The selection doesn't make you one of the five best teachers," explains Molitor.

How does Molitor feel about his selection?

"I guess I can't really get excited about it," he says. "All of the finalists are outstanding people. Of course, I feel that it's an honor. I think that the fact that I was chosen teacher of the year by the Roseville MEA was more significant than the external nominations.

"I'll know by the first of March. If I don't hear, I will feel fortunate. It's really a lot of work and the material rewards are nil."

Concerning the reaction of students and other faculty members to his nomination, Molitor comments, "Originally I didn't think there was any, but I've changed my mind. I feel that it's a positive reaction, and that's good. Also, I think the biggest value is in getting reactions and feedback from former students on the value of their education."

Soc. studies chairman resigns Becomes 'full time teacher'

By Sue Amos
Blueprint Staff Writer

Mrs. Arienne Bone, an American Studies teacher, recently resigned as district area chairman of secondary social studies and director of Minnesota Project Social Studies, in order to become a "fulltime teacher." Prior to her resignation, Mrs. Bone taught only two classes.

She had been offered the job of working fulltime on the two social studies co-ordinating jobs. When Mrs. Anita Madsen had to leave Ramsey for medical reasons, Mrs. Bone was offered the job of teaching Mrs. Madsen's American Studies classes.

She feels her most outstanding success is the Minnesota Project, which is the product of a federal grant for the development of social studies curriculum of the U of M. They developed a curriculum which includes the basic generalizations, skills, and attitudes that a student should know after taking a class.

"It's not a recipe, but something which the individual teachers use their ingenuity and creativity to improve by assimilation of new material."

Mrs. Bone believes that continuous curriculum revision and finding effective teaching methods should be the departments' goal. "There is so much new social studies material that teachers themselves don't have time to go through it all," commented Mrs. Bone.

As a teacher, Mrs. Bone felt she didn't have enough time. "I couldn't fulfill my own expectations of what the job required."

Mr. Orville Peterson, who teaches at Kellogg, is assuming Mrs. Bone's position.

"I couldn't do justice to both, so when it came to a choice teaching was what I really wanted to do," said Mrs. Bone. "I enjoyed the other job, but I like teaching more."

As curriculum co-ordinator for ten years, Mrs. Bone has been responsible for innovations, leadership in curriculum changes, and other things such as finances.

A LIGHT SUBJECT Science buff builds laser

By Roy Hallanger
Blueprint Staff Writer

Deep in the darkened bowels of Alexander Ramsey High lurks a fiendish sophomore named Bruce Holloway. He claims to be subsidized by the SDS, however, that could be disputed, since the SDS rarely sponsors fiendish sophomores.

Bruce works silently on his plot "to take over the world," he admits. The plot is based on a weird mechanism of Bruce's own design.

This outwardly innocent machine is called a laser. After plugging in the device and turning a few knobs and switches, a bluish ray is visible inside a section of glass tubing.

Bruce is building a laser for communications and other applications.

The laser can be used to send 6 pulses through the air similar to a radio wave. He wants to develop a method of using the laser beam to count microscopic populations like yeast cultures by measuring the changes in the laser beam after it passes through the medium.

Bruce's laser operates on a complex principle involving a process where Argon gas atoms are energized, and then assume their original energy level. While this occurs, the atoms emit light. The light is unique in that it is "monochromatic," or single-

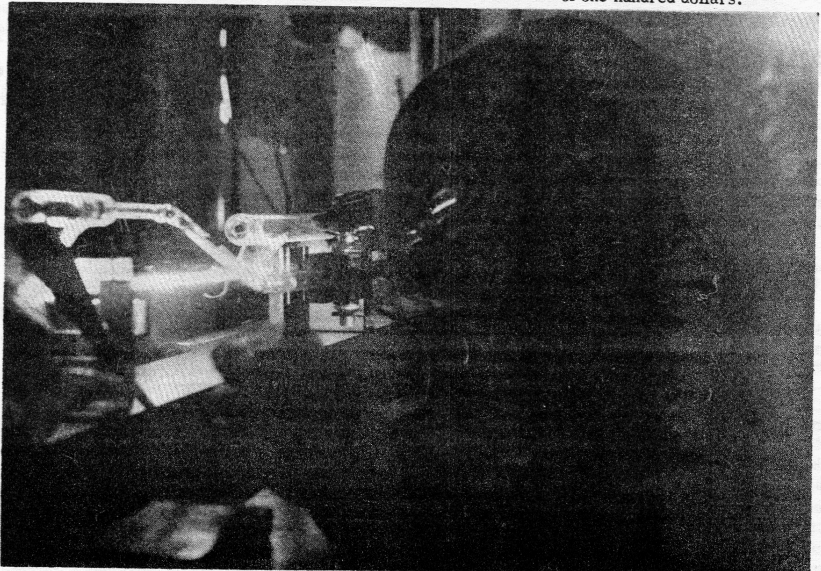
colored, and "coherent"—the light waves are in step with each other.

The light bounces between mirrors aligned with the tube containing the Argon gas. It escapes after being bounced off a special glass element placed between one of the mirrors and the end of

the tube. Not all of the light bounces off the glass, though. The remaining light continues to cycle through tube containing the Argon between the mirrors. The light bounced off the glass is aimed at the proposed "target"—be it a school building or a yeast culture.

Bruce said, "The hardest part in the actual construction of the laser was the glass blowing, and aligning the mirrors and the tube."

When asked how much the laser project cost, Bruce said, "I'm not telling." But a reliable source indicates the total cost in excess of one hundred dollars.



Zap!

Test program Aids juniors

Available now to help students make better vocational decisions is the Minnesota Statewide Vocational Testing Program. This test is being offered free of charge to all high school juniors.

Ramsey's Guidance Office has all necessary application forms and urges all juniors to take the Minnesota Vocational Test, whether you are planning on going directly to a job or are planning on attending a college or vocational school, after completion of high school.

Miss Claire Warweg, a counselor at Ramsey, believes that because the MSAT (Minnesota Scholastic Aptitude Test) is helpful mostly in determining verbal abilities, as needed for college, there was a real need for a more complete, inclusive, and helpful test was needed to help students in choosing occupations, and training.

The scores received on the Vocational Test are made available to the student and his advisor, and are sent to any vocational schools that are requested by the student.