

Never Stop Acting UP.” ..This slogan donned the front of the one-act play T-shirts and even inspired the actions in this group photo.

The Groom OAP members performed the Bridegroom of Blowing Rock on Tuesday April 7.

They made it to the bi-district, but didn't advance from there.

Cast and crew members from top to bottom and left to right are Mason Miller, Nate Roskens, Jacob Clifton, Nick Bohr, Trenton Fields, Jeff Marshall, Carson Ritter and Garet Rocha. The bottom people are Nathan Ruthardt, Cari Weinheimer, Charity Perry, Renee Payne, Chelsey Lamb and Bradie Dodson.



Dancing in the Dark... Freshman Chelsey Lamb and Junior Nate Roskens performed as the lovestruck Bridegroom and Laurel Farthing. This was Nate's third year and Chelsey's first year.



Lovin' the Language... Senior Cari Weinheimer earned All star Cast at bi-district and Honorable Mention at district. "I liked this play because I got to talk in a thick southern accent."



ATip to the Tomboy... Renee Payne performed as Betty Hopewell. She was an Indian tomboy who loves to play with snakes. This was her first year in OAP. "I liked being Betty cause I had to transform into a tomboy."



Keevin' the Lights on... Senior Jacob Clifton and Sophomore Mason Miller were the light crew. They won the best lights award at District. "I enjoyed doing lights because I got to learn more electronics," Miller said.



Amazing and Awkward... Nathan Ruthardt performed as the socially awkward Pastor Burns. He wants love and finds it in Betty Hopewell. "I liked being Pastor Burns cause he was so awkward," Ruthardt said.



Playin' for the Title... Junior Nate Roskens (left) took Best Actor at district and Honorable Mention Cast at bi-district. "I enjoyed being the bridegroom because I got to be the lead," Roskens said.



Lady-like... Charity Perry plays Maizey Hopewell. Perry earned All-Star Cast at district and Honorable Mention Cast at bi-district. "I liked being Maizey. I was girly."

Focused on the Finish... Director and sponsor Aimee Fields has been directing for five years. "I thought we would get further then we did," Fields said. "It all just depends on the judge."



Keevin' it Close... Carson Ritter performs as Jacob Farthing. He won All Star Cast at district. "I liked Jacob. We had things in common."

GOAP

One Proud Group, One Proud Title Groom OAP makes it to Bi-District

One performance. One judge. One opinion. And, it's over in one moment.

Even though the bi-district meet was the One-Act Play cast and crew's best performance of the year, Groom did not advance to area. "I was in shock," director Aimee Fields said. "Not only because we didn't advance, but

because a couple of other schools with great plays didn't advance either."

This year's newcomers had to overcome adversities they had never faced before.

"My greatest challenge was dealing with the judges opinions," sophomore actor Carson Ritter said.

The cast and crew had plenty

of entertaining moments, including inventive games.

"(My favorite memory was) probably when we were in Clarendon," freshman actress Charity Perry said. "Nick squirted water over the dividers onto the Lefors kids while they were eating."

This year, the OAP cast had only two veteran actors. It was

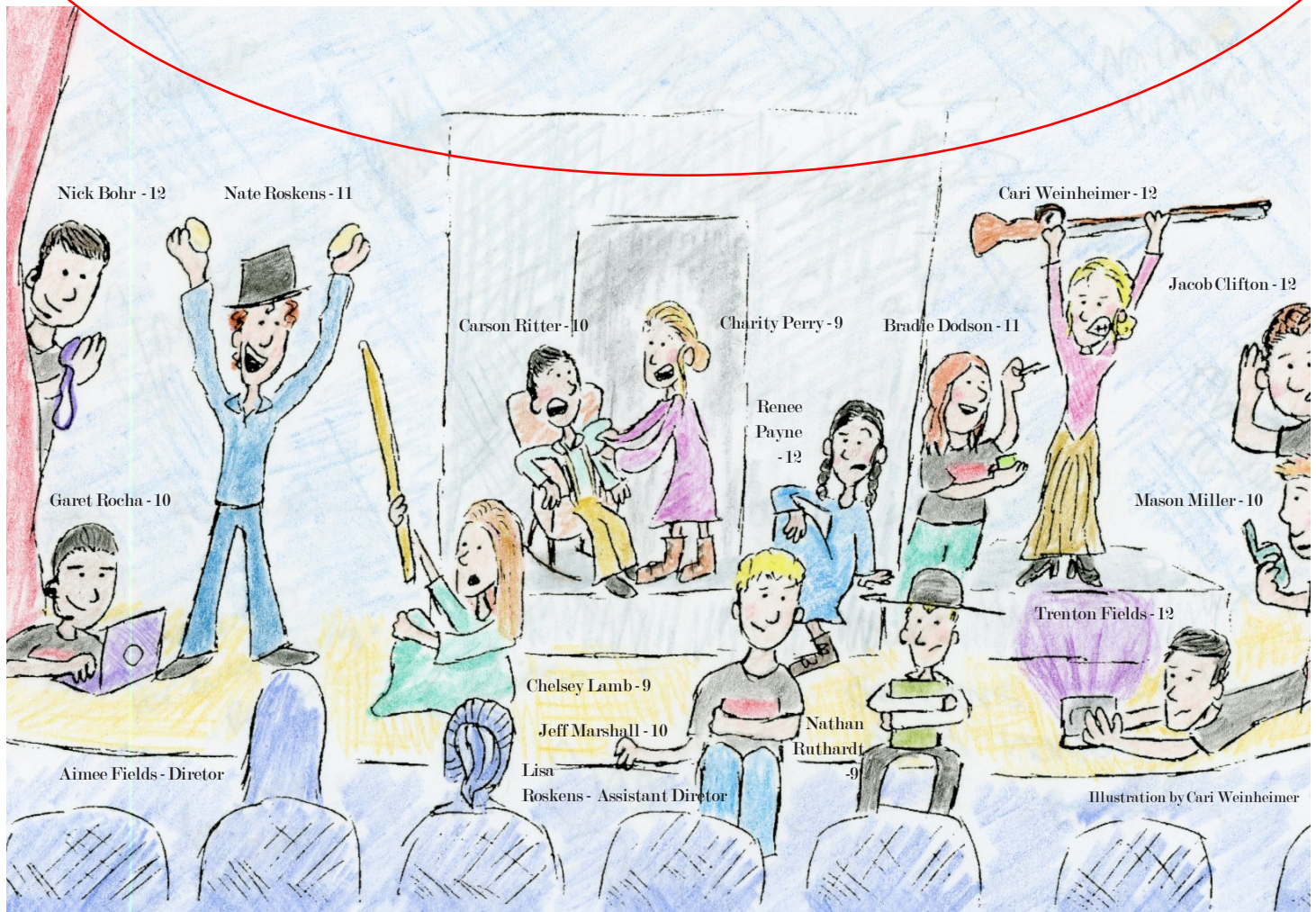
a season full of learning and new experiences.

"Although I wasn't happy about the results of our last competition," senior actress Cari Weinheimer said. "I was impressed how much we improved since the beginning of the season."

The crew, however, was

full of experience, returning four of the five members from last year. "It was a great year," senior light manager Jacob Clifton said. "We had plenty of learning experiences, which we all needed. I'm sad that it ended so soon."

-Caroline Britten



Bringing Characters to Life...

Illustrator Cari Weinheimer, known as the characterization expert among many other expert titles, penned this drawing of the one-act play cast and crew. The illustration was given to director Aimee Fields along with a goodie basket at the end of the season. OAP members practiced together often the *Bridegroom of Blowing Rock*. Items pictured, including the hats and the eggs depicted with Nate Roskens, symbolized real ways the cast would make practice just a little, unique with each rehearsal. Several articles ran in *The Times of The Tiger* online student newspaper on OAP. One of the articles became especially popular and can be read in the next column as it was originally printed at GroomTigerTimes.com:

"Carson's 5 Keys To Surviving One-Act Season" - Carson Ritter plays OAP's Jacob Farthing. He compiled the following list for those who may be interested: **1.** Don't take anything seriously, except when director Aimee Fields starts using her teacher voice. If that happens, keep your head down and your mouth shut. **2.** Make sure Nate Roskens does not wear the same hat into every scene. **3.** Always yell at the light guys when they mess up. Then, they will yell back it's "the actor's fault," which may or may not be true. **4.** As an actor, never look at the side-stage curtain; other off-stage actors will try to mess you up during rehearsals. **5.** If you know your lines, focus and do your best, practice will end at 8 p.m. ... not last until the unknown time of "question mark," Nate Roskens says. Otherwise, be prepared to spend hours on stage.