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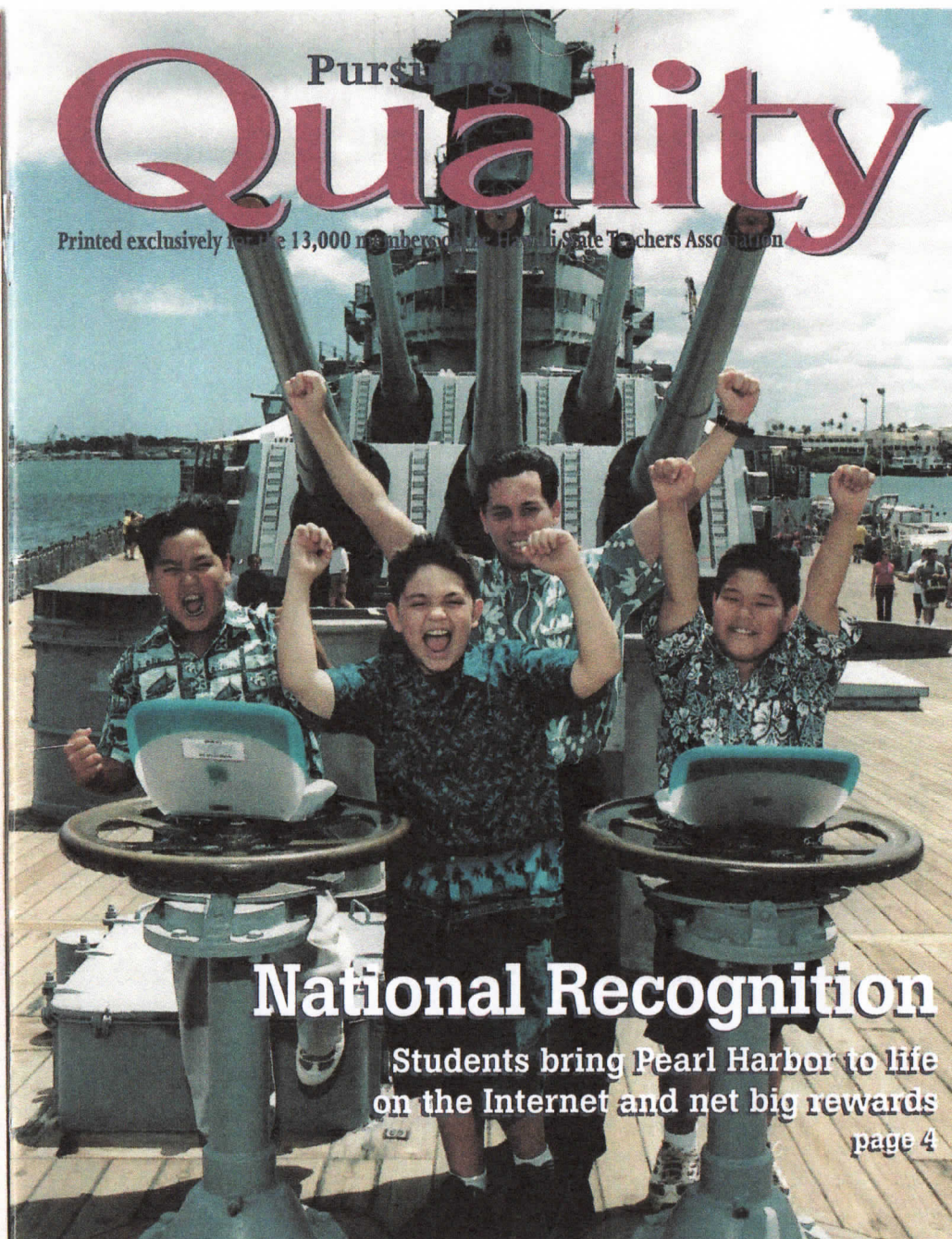
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National Recognition

Students bring Pearl Harbor to life
on the Internet and net big rewards
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Roxanne Kaino vividly remembers her 7th grade year in Petersburg, Alaska. That year, she had Mr. Wright for English and he loved Shakespeare.

So much, in fact, that her class performed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* before an audience. "It was a wonderful experience!" says Kaino.

Those good memories were the catalyst for developing a similar program for her students at Washington Middle School. The program is called *Shakespeare Alive* and it recently won a \$2500 "Nike/Jordan Fundamentals" grant.

Kaino's winning entry proposes a multi-faceted drama program that brings *Shakespeare Alive* for her students. The goal of the program, which she teams up with fellow teacher Bill Hardin to carry out each year, is to increase the self-esteem and confidence of the students and to develop their reading, writing, and oral

communication skills using the performing arts.

Kaino, a special education language arts teacher, firmly believes that her students learn best through active, hands-on approaches that incorporate all the modes of learning. During the *Shakespeare Alive* program, students will study the Shakespearean era across the curriculum. Reading classes will orally read and study one of his novels. Social Studies classes will explore the customs and culture of those times. Math classes will study the various units of measurement used during the time period. Finally, students will plan,



Shakespeare ALIVE!

prepare and cook Shakespearean food during Basic Community Instruction, a program that develops basic life-long skills.

After completing their coursework, students will give two performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to their peers at Washington Middle School. They will also perform at night for their parents and guests.

The *Shakespeare Alive* program itself is not a new concept. It's been in place for many years. Working with artists from the Alliance for Drama Education, Kaino's students have performed *As You Like It*, *The Tempest*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.

According to Kaino, "This grant allows us to expand our program. We can hire an artist to train us, purchase microphones and sound equipment, and finally take the show 'on the road' to other schools."

In January 2001, drama consultant Jack Boyle began coaching the teachers and students. He works closely with students on acting techniques and collaborates with the teachers through the various stages of the production so they can become more independent in the future. Boyle has worked with Kaino on past plays.

Evaluation of the program by students and teachers will be ongoing,



Bill Hardin and Roxanne Kaino do for the camera what they teach their students – act!

and students will keep daily logs of their participation and learning. Practices and performances will be videotaped for later critique.

"The best way to evaluate the success of the program is by seeing confidence and self-esteem develop in each student. This directly relates to their performance in the academic areas," says Kaino.

Students echo Kaino's thoughts, "It makes me feel like I can do anything because I have the confidence in myself," says one student.