



Miramonte Speakers Compete in Rotary 4-Way Speech Contest

Andrea A. Firth



Orinda Rotary 4-Way Speech contestants from Miramonte High School (from left) Christina Pabst, Alina Hasanain, Tony Wang, and Elise Washburn

Photo Andrea A. Firth

Tackling heady topics such as the plight of today's veterans, illegal immigration, electronic waste, and the uncertain future of Pakistan, four Miramonte students delivered compelling speeches as they competed in the Orinda Rotary 4-Way Speech Contest last week. Poised at the podium, each competitor's presentation answered the four questions that comprise the Rotary paradigm: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? Four times over, these articulate speakers looked each audience member straight in the eye and responded with a resounding no. However,

the listeners were not left feeling dejected and hopeless as these resourceful young people presented plausible solutions to complex problems.

This year's winner was Elise Washburn a junior who has previously competed in speech contests at the State and National level. The runner-up was Tony Wang followed by Christina Pabst and Alina Hasanain. "They have a valuable skill, and that is my greatest prize," commented Miramonte speech instructor Sandra Maguire proudly. Ms. Maguire will be retiring after this school year when the program will be turned over to former Miramonte student turned teacher Kristen Plant.