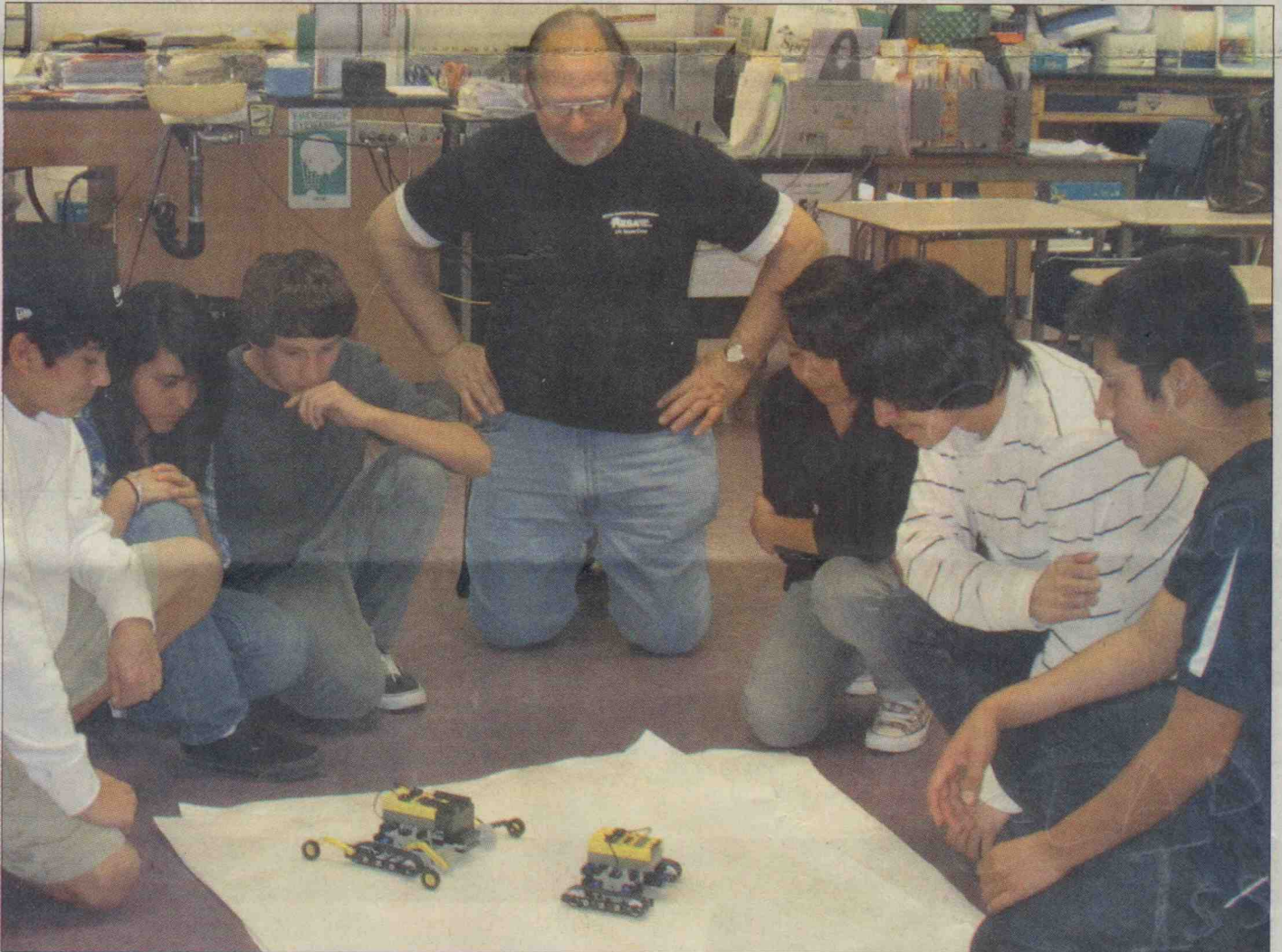


# Soledad robot scores second in Olympics



Laureen Diephof/South County Newspapers

Alex Villanueva (from left), Marisol Gomez, Daniel Aguaro, Soledad teacher and sponsor Joe Gribas, Andrea Aguilar, Mauricio Yescas and Roberto Torres watch the Robots they entered into the Hartnell Robotics Olympics program on Dec. 5 in a Soledad High School classroom. The three students on the left took second place in the competition. Here the students are demonstrating the use of robots in the up-coming MESA preliminary competition at University of California Santa Cruz.

## *Soledad students enter their robots in the Robotic Olympics*

**BY LAUREEN DIEPHOF**

Soledad High School students Andrea Aguilar, Mauricio Yescas and Roberto Torres used their ingenuity to build a robot that recently scored second place in the Hartnell sponsored Robotics Olympics program on Dec. 5 at Hartnell College in Salinas.

The maze, a set of walls the robots had to go through using their own sensors, with

minimal amount of assists from students, demonstrated that the maze didn't phase the team spirit of the three robot builders.

The students were challenged to make the robots speedy in their endeavor to circulate inside the maze.

The MESA March 6 competition at UCSC (University of California Santa Cruz) is the next step for the winning team and two more teams, according to SHS teacher and sponsor of the Soledad robot program Joe Gribas.

Those teams are composed of Alex Villanueva, Marisol Gomez, Daniel Aguaro, Cody Gracey, Ivan Perez and Brian Garcia, and the three second place winners previously mentioned.

At the Central Coast regional MESA competition at UCSC, students will build all new robots to compete in a tug-of-war and Sumo wrestling competition.

The MESA program was founded 40 years ago in Berkeley. Since that time it has received national recognition for the success it has achieved

throughout the years.

The program serves Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, San Diego State, CSU, Chico, San Jose State, CSU East Bay and others.

In 2001, MESA was named one of the top five most innovative public programs in the nation by Innovations in American Government.

The Bayer Corporation Named MESA one of the exemplary programs proven to help K-12 students, especially minorities and

(See ROBOT, page A8)

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## Gonzales beats Greenfield on court. Mustang wrestlers fourth in Classic.

