



The High School View

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Community celebrates homecoming

BY RUSSELL SHAPIRO

The bleachers were packed with students, parents, alumni, and community members as the annual homecoming game kicked off last Friday at Dan McCarthy Field. While the Vineyard football team lost, 44-18, to Somerset Berkley, the homecoming night offered the community and school an opportunity to gather together in celebration of a single event.

High school senior Anne Ollen said, "It excites kids. It's not just about football, it's about coming out to show school spirit."

Senior Tim Roberts said, "It brings even non-football fans out to support not only the football team, but the high school itself."

At the high school, creating school spirit can sometimes be a challenge. History teacher Olsen Houghton said, "What we need is more spirit and camaraderie, and this is a way we can do it. The atmosphere at the moment

is prime for building greater school spirit."

Contributing to the cheerful atmosphere is new principal Gilbert Traverso, who said "The game is a way for the whole school to wrap together around one cause."

There is hope among some that homecoming can be even greater than it is today, as the football team's head coach and father of homecoming, Donald Herman, noted. He said, "The idea is to have a homecoming weekend, where every varsity team has a home game over the course of the weekend." Coach Herman hopes that the Island can rally around all of the teams even more than they already do. He said, "Anything to increase community support for the

athletic program overall is something we should do."

Many community members gather to support the football team each year, especially on homecoming

spot of the football and the first down. She agreed that the game has a special significance. Ms. Law said, "Everyone can remember their homecoming. It's Americana.

ber 18. Students enjoyed food and drink, danced to music played by DJ Sterling Bishop, and socialized with their friends and classmates.

The homecoming dance was also instituted by Don Herman, who said, "As far as dances go, there were none when I arrived on the

of the most important events of the year. Senior Charlotte Potter described the dance's importance for upperclassmen. "Especially as a senior, I think the dance is special because it gives you another chance to be around your friends and classmates who you probably won't see once



(Left) Senior Luke McCracken responds to fans at a critical moment in the Martha's Vineyard football game against Somerset Berkley Friday night at Dan McCarthy Field. (Right) Passionate fans encourage the home team with cheers.



PHOTOS BY MOLLY HOUGHTON

and for the Island Cup game against Nantucket. One such Islander, Pat Law, has been at every home game for the past 15 years running the chain gang with her husband Jack. Together, they mark the

The kids enjoy it, even if they don't know what it is." The weekend didn't end with the game, though. Hundreds of high school students gathered at Flatbread for the homecoming dance on Octo-

Vineyard. I felt it was a good way to improve the high school experience."

Since the creation of the dance, students have largely agreed with that sentiment, as the dance continues to be one

you graduate. It's worthwhile because it's a time where you can make a bunch of memories with your friends and your class. It brings together people who wouldn't normally be around each other." **HSV**

Several students are currently enrolled in the nursing program. They are interested in the medical field and pursuing nursing as a possible career in the future. The students have access to many new advanced nursing and medical aids which provide important training opportunities. These medical aids simulate a human pulse and other vital signs. Sophomore Jenna Santos said, "We learn a lot. By the second day, I could take a patient's blood pressure."

Many of the students see this program as a stepping stone into a medical career, and hope to begin an internship with the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Ms. McHugh has high aspirations for the new program. She said, "I hope to plant the seed for the future nurses on and off the Island." **HSV**

CROP Walk

BY MOLLY HOUGHTON

The 17 high school students who joined in the community CROP walk (Christian Rural Overseas Program) last Sunday helped to raise a record-setting donation of \$651. Although the walk raises money to support communities off-Island, 25 percent of the funds stay on Martha's Vineyard and help support the efforts of the Island Food Pantry. Throughout the year, the money will be used to supply meals to local families. These extra funds help to ensure that the food pantry runs all year round.

Senior Josie Iadicicco, who participated in the CROP Walk, said, "It was important for the kids themselves to be exposed to the issue of hunger." **HSV**

Studying in scrubs

BY ELIE JORDI

Regional high students will have the opportunity to study nursing in a new class introduced to the school's vocational program this fall. The program provides an educational experience that takes place in the classroom with a strong emphasis on transition from school to the world of employment. Nursing is one of the many vocational programs along with culinary arts, automotive technology, horticulture, and carpentry.

Vocational department chair Ty Hobbs said, "The program was started be-



PHOTO BY ELIE JORDI

Sophomores Jenna Santos and Elizabeth Dourian use a mannequin to practice taking the vital signs.

cause parents and community members recognized a need for a nursing program at the high school." Concerned for the future of nursing on the Vineyard, community members got

together and introduced a introductory nursing education program to the high school's curriculum. The course offers high school students the opportunity to explore and learn about all

aspects of the nursing field.

The program is taught by Susan McHugh, who has also taught health sciences at the college level. She said, "The program is a great privilege and opportunity for students to explore the field of nursing."

Students are learning subjects that are usually taught during their sophomore year in college. During the course, students become certified nurses aides (CNAs). The program provides a seamless transition into an internship with the hospital here on the Island. The program is offered to ninth and tenth graders as part of the vocational curriculum. Ms. McHugh said, "Learning basic nursing in high school gives students a huge advantage if they plan on pursuing nursing at the college level."

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