



The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

Former Valedictorian Joins Peace Corps

By Chelsea Counsell

“After I graduated from college, I was unsure of what I wanted to do and how I could ever find a job that would fulfill all of my interests and put all of my skills to use,” said Eric Herman, a 2005 graduate of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. “I have found that Peace Corps is my answer.”

Since July, Eric Herman has been involved with the Peace Corps—an agency devoted to serving the less fortunate in developing countries. Founded by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, the Peace Corps' goal is sustainability in developing countries. “Peace Corps does not provide monetary resources, but human resources,” said Eric. “Peace Corps volunteers help others help themselves.”

The Peace Corps is a 27-month commitment—three months of training and twenty-four months of in-site work. “The first three weeks of training were spent in

the Dominican Republic while we waited for the political situation in Honduras to pan out,” Eric said. “The rest of the three training months were spent in Zarabanda, Honduras learning Spanish and in Talanga, Honduras where we did our field-based training, learning and practicing youth development projects.”

Currently, Eric Herman is in Morazán, Yoro (Honduras). Eric said, “I have only been in site for



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC HERMAN

Eric Herman (back, second from the left) stands with the family that he lives with in Talanga, Honduras.

about a month, so I'm still getting projects off the ground, but already I have given Prevention of Drugs and Alcohol talks in a high school, collaborated with CENADEC to give a 3-day workshop on leadership, and started coaching girls and boys basketball teams.

“It is part of my job to make myself as useful to my communi-

ty as possible,” Eric said. “This, of course, means finding ways to employ all of my skills. I will have opportunities to utilize my knowledge in psychology, because my work involves talks in schools and to parents about self-esteem, values, stereotypes, motivation, and decision-making. I am utilizing my experiences in team sports and as a coach of 5th and 6th grade youth basketball when I was a junior and senior at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School to coach a boys' basketball team and a girls' team. I am especially lucky to have a gym in my town and I'm trying to start gym

groups during the students' school vacation in order to make use of my personal training certification and degree in exercise and sport science.”

“As a Peace Corps volunteer, I feel like I am taking advantage of all of my potential,” said Eric. “What better way to employ talents and passions than to do it by helping others? I feel like I have a real purpose and that I am doing something that is helping others live happier, healthier lives. I love development work, and there is a strong likelihood that I go on to study international development. I have learned a lot about myself, my personal skills, and my ability to help others.”

As Eric strives to create peace he still has friends and family who miss him back on the Island. “everyone misses him especially around the holiday seasons coming up because it will be the first christmas without everyone here,” said Eric's younger sister and high school senior Gail Herman “We're all really proud of what he's doing and support it 100 percent.”

In Print: Nylons with pages

By Naomi Pallas

This past decade has been a rough one for the youth celebrity world, whose glamour and respect has been lost to the scandals and gossip that lie beneath almost every neon-bright, photo-plastered cover of teen magazines. But there is a magazine out there whose pages hold a refreshing take on not only the real lives of celebrities but the real world, and it goes by the name of NYLON.

This 200-page magazine can easily be deemed the teenage girl's most reliable guide to today's fashion, music, art, and pop-culture. Its cover has remained a classic, clean-looking white with splashes of color on the simple font surrounding the monthly cover girl's face. This is an uplifting sight when juxtaposed with the dizzying jumble of colors and pictures and words on most other covers.

Not only is NYLON triple the size of a normal teen monthly such as Seventeen or CosmoGirl, it pro-

vides at least five times the amount of information. The magazine forgoes useless horoscopes and corny blurbs about a paparazzi photo. Instead, the magazine uses the space to bring underground music to the surface, introduce indie films that are often overlooked, share fashion and culture from not only vintage and high-fashion areas in New York and California, but from around the world, and to better educate its audience about modern young icons.

Like most magazines, there is always a familiar face on the front. And, like most magazines, Lindsay Lohan has been in NYLON's spotlight at least once. Although her scandalous history was mentioned, the article was not about how long it will be before she ruins her life all over again. It was about her growing maturity and the comeback that fans should all look out for. NYLON's publisher,

Marvin Scott Jarrett, has his eyes open for celebrity stories that will inspire his faithful readers.

NYLON ponders the topic of “it” girls. What is an it girl anyway? Most people would reply, “Well, you know, she would have a lot of money and, oh, who knows, she's just—it.” Well, not according to this magazine. NYLON chooses aspiring young adults with strong ambitions that readers can relate to. Among many are 20-year-old Peaches Geldof, a budding journalist who lives in New York City, and Cody Kennedy, who is directing and acting in her own film at age 16. Does it really need to be said that these “it” girls are much better examples than the girls who laze around and are just “it”?

NYLON celebrated its 10th birthday in January, and it has certainly come a long way since 1999. With its rising popularity came the NYLON Guys magazine, NYLON Mexico, NYLON Korea, NYLON Tokyo, and NYLON London. This chic magazine suggests that young celebrities have the ability to be intelligent and successful rather than just wild, as they are often described in any other teen magazines. If teens are going to model themselves after young celebrities, then reading NYLON is like breaking through the surface after being stuck under some really polluted water.



Boarders face off

By Eric Fletcher

While most of the island was enjoying the homecoming football game, a different crowd was gathering across the street from the high school. For the sixth year in a row, the local skate park hosted its annual competition with skateboarders drowning out the screams from the football game as their urethane wheels rolled across concrete.

With the addition of two new ramps and a soon-to-be finished mini ramp, it wasn't hard for the skaters to slaughter the course. In the 11 and under division, Gabriel Nelson took first place. Kiric Hallahan and Miles Jordi tied for second place.

In the 11-14 division, Felix Reagan pulled through for the first place title, with nine-year-old Noah Hoyt coming in second. Noah was late and missed the eleven and under division. Alistar Morgan, Bo Hurwitz, and Evan Hall all tied for third place.

In the 15 and up division, Erik McElhinney finished first. He played a game of S-K-A-T-E, which is like H-O-R-S-E in basketball but with skateboard tricks, for a pair of Emerica shoes. Richard Medeiros and Steve Cor-

rell finished second, while Vaughn Russillo and Ben Luckey tied for third.

Along with the normal competition heats, there was also a race for the skaters 11 and under. Kids raced around the park while pushing mongo--pushing the board with the front foot as opposed to the back foot. Before they were allowed to start pushing, contestants held their boards in a “mall grab,” a process in which a skater holds her or his board by the truck, or axle. Mall grabbing has recently surfaced as an inside joke among skateboarders because the only people who seem to mall grab are those who hang out at a mall all day and pretend to know how to skate.

Organizers Nick Briggs, Richard Medeiros, and Lance Fullin were able to get products donated to the competition from companies such as Vans, éS, Etnies, and Emerica, as well as some clothing and hard goods from The Green Room and The Boneyard. Island resident Nick Briggs, an inveterate skateboarder, said he organized the event because, “It helps the kids. It also helps raise money for the park, money that can be used to build new ramps.”

EDITORS IN CHIEF: Naomi Pallas, Julia Sadowski ASSISTANT EDITORS IN CHIEF: Chelsea Counsell, Caitlyn Clark, ASSISTANT EDITORS: Kristen Parece, Emily Goldthwait, Kira Shipway

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITORS: Taylor Smith, Tova Katzman ART EDITORS: Naomi Scott, Ashley Drake INTERNET CONSULTANT: Austin Gampfer MASTHEAD ART: Naomi Scott FACULTY ADVISER: Dan Sharkovitz