



# 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.

## Seniors look ahead

By Emily Lowe  
and Julia Sadowski

"There's going to be disappointment," said senior Rosie Bick about perusing a vocal performance career after high school. "It is a competitive field and it takes drive, effort, and failures before you can get anywhere."

At the regional high school, as the first semester comes to a close, some seniors already have an idea about what they would like to pursue after their high school and how they plan to go about achieving their dreams.

Many students, including senior Zach Rabin, plan on attending college. "I feel as though my four years at the high school have given me a lot of preparation for college," said Zach. "I won't really know how effective that preparation has been until I actually get to college."

Zach, who has been accepted at Colgate University, plans on studying computer science.

"I have always been a bit of a computer geek and when I started thinking about colleges and possible majors I could pursue, computer science basically jumped out at me," said Zach. "It was sort of an obvious decision."

Many student interests have been inspired by their school

classes and activities that they have participated in. "The arts department has been great," said senior Jerome Pikor. "I am interested in pursuing either theater or business. Things like the theater shows and competitions are a lot of fun and you understand what it is like to work as a team."

Senior Emily Mercier also agrees that the high school departments have been helpful. "The whole science department has been so great and everyone's willing to help."

Emily is interested in studying oncology and working with children after high school. "I feel like I would want to help kids who have been affected by things they have no control over," said Emily. "I really want to [study at] Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. It will be long but worth it. It's going to be something that I can carry with me for the rest of my life."

Although gaining a traditional post-high school education does require traveling off the Island, some students do plan to return to Martha's Vineyard. Senior Kat Montersosso said, "I'm not entirely sure where I'll end up, but the Island has always, and will always be my home."

Other students do not plan on returning. "This has been a nice place to grow up, but I'm going to go where my career takes me,"

said Rosie Bick. "I feel like I've had some opportunities here at the high school but not enough, especially with the budget cuts. Many of the music classes have been combined."

Kat, who wishes to double major in psychology and women's studies at Hollins University said, "I hope to be a psychologist for sexual abuse victims, ranging from childhood sexual abuse to assault and rape."

To help victims of sexual assault and rape, Kat plans to open a sort of safe haven or rehab center where victims can come to heal.

Some student goals are aimed towards nature rather than people. "I'm drawn to animals because there are so many cool animals, and unlike people, each one has a specific trait that just makes them unique," said senior Max Martin.

Max, who is interested in working with animals, plans to attend school across the country at Moorpark, California. Unfortunately, living on Martha's Vineyard makes it difficult to have experience in this field.

"Growing up on MV has, in a way, influenced me because the lack of exotic animals made me more curious," said Max.

At the high school, even if a class is not available, many students feel that if they want to learn about something, the opportunities are available.

"An established relationship with a teacher or member of the

community in the field which a student is interested in is the best real world experience that could

be asked for," said Kat. "The options are out there if you're willing to work and make it happen."

## Students build homes



PHOTO BY HALEY KOORSE

Paula Cortes volunteered her Saturday afternoon to help build a house with the organization Habitat for Humanity. This event for high school students to work with the community was a part of the National Honor Society of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School.

## SafeRides saves lives

By Tye Stien

SafeRides of Martha's Vineyard is a student run organization that provides confidential safe rides to high school students on Friday and Saturday nights. While not a school affiliated group, it has become an integral part of the schools philanthropic, and social worlds, running for 12 years.

SafeRides was modeled after a popular college organization of the same name that helped provide transport from parties to dorms or apartments on campus. "It's a pretty simple concept," said senior Zach Rabin. "We get a call and we send our driver to the location."

There is a dedicated group of students who both run and participate in the program. "We always have a great bunch of kids who enjoy hanging out with each other even if it means giving up a Friday or Saturday night and being tired in the morning," said Lori Stone, adult advisor to the program.

Financially, SafeRides is able to continue running with support from Saint Andrew's Church in Edgartown, Boy Scouts of America, and private donations. "It does not cost much to operate, so that's a plus, and for everything else we rely on donations," said Zach.

While SafeRides' stated goal is to provide safe rides for students regardless of the situation, it is often controversial because some believe that it can enable underage drinking. "Look, we just want to make sure no one gets hurt," said Zach. "We won't give you rides to other parties. You are going home or not going anywhere at all."

"Are we going to stop kids from promoting safe behavior with this program?" said health and physical education teacher Lisa Knight. "We all think twice for two weeks after something bad happens. Then we sweep it under the rug and go back to before. If we choose to ignore that there is a problem with drinking and drugs on the Is-

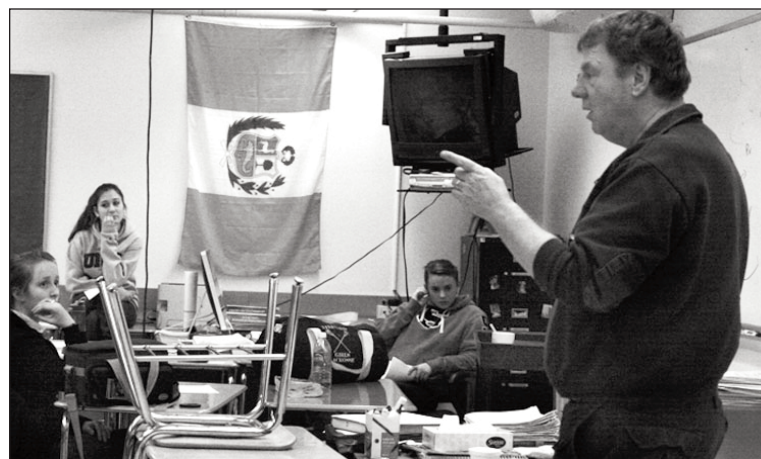


PHOTO BY HALEY KOORSE

Jeff Pratt, a Tisbury EMT, has volunteered for SafeRides for the past 12 years, teaching students different tactics and safety precautions for handling emergency situations when out in the field.

land, we are being ignorant."

Despite not being affiliated with the school in any way, SafeRides has a lot of faculty support. "I think it's a great thing because it provides an option for kids," said Lisa.

In the 12 years since the group started, it has become an integral part of the school community. Whether you are in a dangerous

situation or just need a ride home, SafeRides has become a contact on dozens of student cell phones. Aside from providing a safe environment, it has become a source of normalcy on the weekends. "Safe Rides is great, especially if you do not have a car," said senior Blair Rancich.

"It's been really busy lately," said senior Emmie Schrek. "We

used to only get two or three calls a night but now, there are some nights when the drivers never return to home base."

Any students at the high school are welcome to become a member of the program, and can participate not only through driving, but dispatching from the home base at the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center. Requirements are to attend a formal training session about dealing with emergency scenarios with Jeff Pratt of Tisbury Emergency Medical Services.

SafeRides is available from 10 pm to 2 am every Friday and Saturday and can be contacted by calling the home base at 508-939-9100.

The High School View will not be published again until January 29 due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

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