



The High School View

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Students witness history

By Naomi Pallas and Julia Sadowski

"No election has ever interested students like this has," said history department chair Elaine Weintraub. "Teenagers are worried about the future and the war and it seemed Obama spoke a language that they could relate to."

Tuesday, January 20, as the world watched the inauguration of the 44th and first African-American president, the regional high school students watched, too. "Every classroom I passed had the inauguration on," said junior Tessa Permar. "I think the majority of the school is pro-Obama, but they showed it in an unbiased way. No one put up any ostentatious signs or anything."

Sophomore Doug Fraser, a polit-

ical conservative, feels the same way. "I think that the high school's Obama atmosphere might have been a little strong, but it was a good thing. Not only was this inauguration a historic event, but a president of any race should be acknowledged and respected."

However, there are some students who feel that the school has come on too Obama-strong for a public school. "If McCain had won, I highly doubt our school would have turned our cafeteria into an inauguration view room, or would have set up a party in the library," said senior Kat Monterosso. "I understand that McCain lost, and people are supporting our new president, but while doing that I think lines were crossed. We attend a public school, meaning they should not

be taking a stand on either side."

With this election coming at a time when the nation is facing challenges that will affect the future of high school students, many were excited to watch the President and hear what he had to say. Sophomore Grant Meachum attended the inauguration in Washington, D.C. "It was amazing, but freezing. People were spending 12 hours in 13 degree weather. I was standing just past the Washington Monument, about a mile away from Obama," said Grant. "Anyone under 21 wasn't allowed into inaugural balls, so I couldn't go. But it didn't matter. The entire experience was incredible."

Throughout the school, there is a pervasive feeling of appreciation for the change. "Students should think this inauguration is impor-

tant because anytime a new president comes into office, it is important," said junior Antoine Wafer, who also attended the inauguration. "Most students have only had one or two other presidents in office in their lives other than Bush. Having a change in office while we're at an age that we can understand what it means has to be significant, especially if you are old enough to vote."

The inauguration tended to be a special moment to those who have been following President Obama since the beginning of his campaign. "I saw [President Obama] give his speech in 2004 at the Democratic National Convention," said Business Education teacher Leo Frame. Mr. Frame is also the principle advisor and founder of Young Brothers to Men, a mentorship program for young men on the Island. "At young Brothers to Men, we are going to recognize this accomplishment. If it's in the minds of the young people, the

message will be carried on."

Students as well as teachers had been closely following the election. "In my Government class, the election was all we studied for the first semester," said Global Studies and Government teacher Corinne Kurtz. "I took my Global Studies class to the library to watch the inauguration. Everyone was pretty into it. Even the kids who had not been following the election could sense the excitement in the air."

"This election is important to me because, first of all, it's a huge accomplishment," said Tessa Permar. "We've overcome racial barriers that were prevalent 30 years ago. It has really put everyone who's an American on the same level for what they can achieve. This thing called the American dream was, I feel, false in the past and only pertained to certain people. Now I feel much more confident in what we can all achieve."

Grad earns Rotary award

By Tova Katzman

With aspirations to travel the world, Nina Ferry will be making her mark in Fiji as an Ambassadorial Scholar for 2008-2009.

Having already been to New Zealand, Tonga, England, Wales, Canada and all around the United States, Ms. Ferry craves culture and learning.

Through the sponsorship of the local Rotary district 7950, Ms. Ferry will be able to live in Fiji and attend The University of the South Pacific, to pursue a graduate degree in Education.

The qualifications for the scholarship are studying abroad and working towards post graduate studies.

"The essence and legacy of Ro-



PHOTO BY RYAN MARINELLI

tary is the spread of humanitarian ideals through global understanding," said Nina.

Her competitors included other students from Cornell and Harvard, prompting Ms. Ferry to ask during an interview: "Why am I

here?"

Rotary's district president gave her the answer: "Because you have heart."

It was a mere two hours after her last interview when Nina received the call. She had been chosen for the scholarship. "The world really is at your finger tips. And people are there to help you," said Nina.

As a regional high school 2003 graduate, having heart was not the only reason Nina Ferry will soon be on her way to Fiji.

She excelled in school, receiving many local scholarships from the such foundations as Kelleher Possible Dreams, Jim Lambert, Betty Ann Lima Bryant, Aquinas, Elmer Hobson Deloura, and the Edgartown Woman's Club.

Martha's Vineyard has had a strong influence on her interest in traveling. "Growing up in this beautiful, yet isolated place has

inspired me to go out and see the world," said Ms. Ferry. "The culture on this Island is unique."

The Rotary scholarship is internationally based. Applicant select five countries they would like to be sent to if they are chosen.

"My primary role as an Ambassadorial Scholar is to promote goodwill and cultural understanding," said Ms. Ferry. "And, to form a bridge between two cultures."

Fiji is a country that could greatly benefit from this. "Rotary strives to not only educate its scholars academically, but also to make them global citizens rather than just citizens of their own country."

While in Fiji, Ms. Ferry will also be participating in a project titled "Islands Around the World."

She has collaborated with teachers from the West Tisbury School, participating as the Fiji liaison for a cultural internet e-mail

exchange between students ages six through eight.

As for the future, Ms. Ferry decided it is impossible to foresee where she will end up, but she does know where her postgraduate studies will take her.

She has hopes of becoming a high school English teacher one day. "I want to promote a love of learning," said Ms. Ferry. "I want to show people the freedom that intellect can provide."

With a worldly outlook on life, Ms. Ferry greatly encourages pushing your comfort zone.

Having put herself through school, she is excited for the challenge that awaits her in the South Pacific, where she will be moving on February 14.

For any stressed-out seniors, Ms. Ferry has words of advice: "Accept your fears, ask for help and conquer them."

Coffeehouse cranks



PHOTO BY HALEY KOORSE



PHOTO BY EMILY MERCIER

Left: Audience members consisting of students, parents, and community members watch as high school students share their poetry, stories, and plays during the annual creative writing class coffeehouse. The coffeehouse serves as an opportunity for students to showcase their work in the high school library. Students baked cookies, brownies, and other tasty treats for their audience of about 100 persons. Right: Dylan McCarthy gives a dramatic reading of a scene from his play. Librarian Sandy Mott helped organize the event.

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