



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.

Charlie Brown Opens!

By Emily Mercier

Dozens of high school students will magically transform themselves into kindergartners tonight when Charlie Brown opens at the high school.

This weekend spectators are able to see two different interpretations of the same play depending on which day people attend. Director Kate Murray and assistant director, senior Ashley A. Willoughby, decided to double cast each role, which means two actors portray the same character on different nights.

"This year I decided to double cast because it gives more students the opportunity to portray a leading role," said Kate. "It also shows the actors how important each part is to the play. The people playing leads are in the chorus during plays where they aren't the leads."

The play this year is *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, based on Charles M. Schultz's comic strip *Peanuts*. Thirty-one students are involved in the production.

"I picked *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, because it's a family show and we like to alternate the style of the shows we put on," said Kate. "It is also one of my fa-

vorite musicals, and it was my mother's favorite musical so I'm doing it in memory of her. She actually worked on the 1972 production at the Vineyard Playhouse."

"I love getting to see the different ways an actor can portray the same character. I also love getting to know my double, who is Amalie Tinus. We have created a bond over this production called the 'Linus bond,'" said junior Alex Roan, who plays Linus.

"I really like having a variety of character choices that you can

time," said sophomore Mariah MacKenzie, assistant stage manager. "When you block a scene with both actors as one character it's hard to see how the scene will turn out."

The show is about the *Peanuts* protagonist, five-year-old Charlie Brown, and his relationships with other characters. Senior Jerome Pikor and junior Austin Gampfer play Charlie Brown, or as Snoopy calls him "that round headed kid."

Playing little kids has brought the cast back to their childhood roots while developing their characters.

"When I was young I had a blanket just like Linus', and I have become nostalgic towards the character because he reminds me a lot of when I was that age with a blanket for a best friend. I have tried to put as much of my memory into my love with the blanket," said Alex.

But playing little kids also brings a challenge to the actors. "It's hard tapping into my inner child and not letting my usual teen angst interfere with the character," said senior Rosie Bick, who plays Sally.

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown will be showing in the high school's Performing Arts Center. Show times are February 12 and 13 at 7 pm, and February 14 at 2 pm and 7 pm. Tickets will be \$7 for students and \$10 for adults.

Other categories included biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental

Science, Team Projects, and Special Topic Awards were given as well.

Due to the February vacation, the High School View will not be published again 'until March 5



PHOTO BY TAYLOR SMITH

Left Amalie Tinus as Linus soothes Emily Mercier, Lucy, during rehearsal.

bounce off the other person. Sometimes you get inspired to try things a different way," said senior Whitney O'Brien, who plays Peppermint Patty.

However, double casting has its difficulties. "It's hard getting everything done with both casts. One rehearsal you do something with one cast and not do it with the other because you run out of

Young scientists experiment

By Julia Sadowski

Students brought homemade blades to school last Saturday to compete in the regional high school's windmill competition during the annual science fair.

The fair, coordinated by Science Department chair Natalie Munn, featured projects created by high school students.

"We had a good number of students participate," said Dr. Munn, who has been coordinating the science fair for the past 10 years. "Some of the top projects will get

promoted to the regional fair."

First place went to junior Taylor Chisholm for her project called, "Determining Levels of Lead Concentration in Tea from Different Countries."

Second place went to junior Benny Syslo for his project called, "Lead Exposure to Hands."

Third went to junior Tessa Permar for her project, "Coffee, Curry, and Cranberry, Colors."

The first prizewinner of the Wind Turbine Engineering Competition was junior Kirsten Nelson.

Section of arts center closed



PHOTO BY WARREN GOWELL

Caution tape wraps around a section of the Performing Arts Center that failed to pass a recent building inspection. This year's performance of *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* will open with 300 fewer seats due to the failed inspection of the upper, back portion of the Performing Arts Center by Oak Bluffs building inspector Jerry Weiner. "We failed because of lighting that was not up to code and a lack of rails on the stadium seating," said Kate Murray, drama department director. Only the upper, stadium seating section, will be closed for this performance and for further assemblies in the school. "We are not quite sure when the PAC will be fully re-open," said Mrs. Murray. "We are consulting engineers to determine what needs to be done." It surprised many when the top part was closed down because it had passed 13 years of consecutive inspections. It appears that in the past the regulations weren't followed. Said the current Building Inspector Jerry Weiner, "No one ever enforced it and now it's time to make it right."

Letter to the editor

OVERSEAS TRIPS

One of my most memorable experiences as a chaperone for our MVRHS students, was my first trip to London. This was a school trip with Dan Sharkovitz and Keith Dodge along with 15 or so really great students. We took in many Shakespearean plays at the Barbican theatre, danced in the aisles of "The Buddy Holly Story" at the theatre, visited Stonehenge, saw the graves of King Arthur and his Queen at Glastonbury, toured Stratford-upon-Avon, climbed the Tor, toured museums, explored cathedrals and castles, and even ushered in the New Year dancing at the Hard Rock Café. Our students had the experience of a lifetime and so did I.

Sadly, all this is in jeopardy. And, probably the clearest, well-written explanation of the reasons why these overseas trips and oth-

er educational experiences involving school trips are just not happening anymore has been explained to us by Sophie Lew and Eliza Gowell in the "High School View." It is a heart-felt inquiry by our students questioning the reasoning of shifting the liability from the school's insurance to a teacher's insurance. Clearly, teachers cannot shoulder this responsibility and the results may be the possibility of never having trips like the one I so joyously experienced in London, and the many other school sponsored trips to Ireland, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Canada, Costa Rica, Slovakia, Mexico, and France.

Surely, there must be a better way.

Sandra McDonald Mott
MVRHS head librarian