



The High School View

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History moving to parking lot



PHOTO BY HALEY KOORSE

High school students, teachers, and various Island artists have been painting a mural of the history of Martha's Vineyard for the past four months in the Performing Arts Center. The painting job was completed on Friday, March 13. The mural will be installed at the Vineyard Haven Stop & Shop at the end of April.

Recession complicates college plans

By Julia Sadowski and Tye Stien

"It happens quite a bit that students aren't able to afford the school of their choice," said Director of Guidance, Michael McCarthy.

As high school seniors prepare their post-secondary education plans, the nation's economic recession is hurting students who are struggling to find ways to pay for college.

"Ideally after high school I want to go to Northeastern University," said senior Kayla Montambault. "I like that it's big and in the city and it has a co op program that requires students to work which gives them experience so that they'll have an easier time finding a job."

Despite Kayla being accepted to her dream school, Northeastern University, she is faced with the possibility of not being able to attend next year because of her financial situation.

"Right now where I go depends on the financial aspect of it all," said Kayla. "Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) will give me a free education. It's difficult to tell what will happen with Northeastern right now because I don't exactly have \$51,000 lying around."

As the spring nears, many high school students are deciding where they either are or would like

to attend college, or whether to take time off after high school.

Those who are planning on going to college next year but cannot afford to pay for their school expenses, have a few options. Students can apply for financial aid, scholarships, or for student loans.

Some students may receive merit scholarships for their academic achievements or need-based aid from their college.

"It's great to see that there are so many different options here," said senior Max Nunes. "It is a very complicated system we have, but I think in terms of if you write an essay and get a thousand dollars, it is pretty good. When was the last time you made a thousand dollars by just writing a couple of essays?"

For some students finding funding for college is not quite as simple.

"It was good that I got the merit scholarship," said Kayla. "But Northeastern took that money out of my financial aid package. The school controls how much money you get. I have thought about applying for a student loan, but I don't know if it's worth being hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt by my mid-twenties."

Although there are many scholarship opportunities available for students, the depressed economy has had an effect on their availability.

"The economy has had an im-

pact on the scholarships because some of the money is tied into the stock market," said Mr. McCarthy. "Because the stock market has taken such a hit and our principle money invested isn't getting the return that it was getting in the past."

The Federal Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, which is the governmental regulator on student loans, dictates how much money the family should be able to contribute. Yet the governmental finance system for schools angers some students

"FAFSA doesn't take proper account of real world assets," said senior Conor Boland. "They expect me to pay \$42,000 for college. My family can't meet that."

Despite the acceptances that seniors are beginning to receive regarding their college applications, many still feel unsure about how they plan to deal with the financial challenges that they will inevitably have to face.

"I am not sure how I am going to pay for college," said senior Ben Hopkins. "I think I am just going to have to wait and see what the schools say before I make any decisions."

Whatever challenges high school seniors face as they prepare their education plans, most are anxious about financing. Said Kayla, "Everyone's worried about the financial aspect of college. It is a lot of money... that we don't have."

Writers earn recognition for poetry

By Ashley Gwynn and Naomi Pallas

Two regional high school students recently earned recognition for their poetry writing acumen.

"I didn't set out to win an award," said high school senior Katherine Monterosso, who received a \$40,000 Creative Talent Award scholarship from Hollins University, for her chapbook of poems called, *Meditations of an Ex-Boyfriend*, which she wrote first semester during an independent study course in the English Department. "I started writing mostly for myself as a way of expression, and to relieve all of the emotions that I felt from certain experiences."

Sarah Felder earned a regional Gold Key from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2009, presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. According to the Alliance, more than 140,000 works were submitted, and only 1,300 manuscripts won from the Region-at-Large.

Sarah was supported in her portfolio submission process by art and photography teacher Chris Baer. "It was totally on her initiative that she did this," said Mr. Baer. "All I did was point her in the right direction. It is the most important contest that our students enter every year. It puts them on the radar of big universities."

"Just being nominated is a big deal," said Paul Brissette, Art Department chair. "I am really proud of the students."

"A writer is definitely something that I would aspire to be," said Sarah Felder. "But only a select group of people are recognized as poets. The Internet has detracted so much from what poetry originally was."

Said Sarah, "Some of my poems were inspired by lessons we did and things we read in Mr. McCarthy's philosophy class."

Pickleballin'

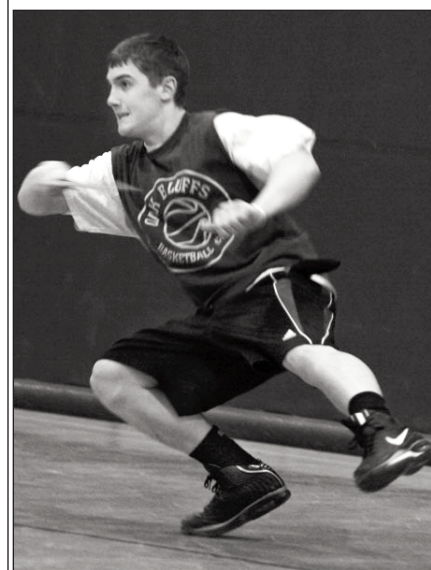


PHOTO BY HALEY KOORSE

Senior Matt Costello lunges for a return ball during the annual Pickleball Tournament held in the gym. Jess Swaringen and William Reagan won.

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