



The High School View

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Good times in the classroom

By Tye Stien

In the movies, substitute teachers are often portrayed as the bumbling recipients of spitballs and seat tacks. But Meverell (Mev) Good, regional high school long-term substitute teacher, receives only the deepest respect both from the teachers he replaces and the students he serves.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Mr. Good joined the army early. "I enlisted in 1942, but I didn't know how to mountain climb, or ski or do any of that," said Mr. Good. He kept at the training and soon he was an enlisted member of the prestigious tenth Mountain Division. "The division fought in Italy, I never shot anyone, though I was in constant danger," said Mr. Good.

Mr. Good recounted a particularly harrowing experience during his time in Italy. "I was playing right field in a baseball game. The next day the engineers came by and removed mines from the very field we were just playing on," he said.

After the war ended in Italy, Mr. Good's division was scheduled to invade mainland Japan. "With the dropping of the atom bomb, that became unnecessary, thankfully

because casualties were expected to exceed 100,000," said Mr. Good.

After serving his three years in the army, Mr. Good took advantage of the new GI bill and enrolled in Princeton University in New Jersey. "I majored in history, writing my senior thesis on Ulster's fight against Home Rule in Ireland," said Mr. Good.

Fresh out of college, Mr. Good got a job at the Equitable Life Assurance Society. "I spent many years in the life insurance business," said Mr. Good. "I eventually moved to Hartford, Connecticut in 1959 and retired from Aetna Life as a senior administrator of training."

Like for many people who live on Martha's Vineyard, the move to the Island was gradual. "I first came to the Island during my honeymoon in 1961," said Mr. Good. "And we kept coming back every summer."

After spending many summers on Martha's Vineyard, Mr. Good fi-

nally bought land of his own. "We bought our property in 1981, and I retired in 1989 to the Vineyard," said Mev Good.

Mr. Good was elected to Tisbury's Finance and Advisory Committee. He said, "I became very active in local politics once I came here."

Mr. Good's first interaction with

the high school came with a conversation with former principal Peg Regan. "Peg called me up and asked me to teach a small class on business until Josh Bourgoyne arrived," said Mr. Good. "I taught that for several months and pretty soon I was substituting here at the high school."

Mr. Good has become more involved in the day-to-day life of the school than the average substitute. "I've taught about life during World War II, a couple classes on the roaring twenties, and the civil war," said Mr. Good. His presence in the high school has been embraced by students. He is typically greeted with cheers and high-fives when he enters the classes he substitutes for.

"Kids definitely love Mr. Good," said senior Nick Henderson. "He's just such a great guy."

It is clear to students in the school that Mr. Good has achieved a coveted status in this school. "For a substitute, it's amazing that he can motivate students like he does,"

said senior Conor Boland.

"When Mev speaks, you can take the rowdiest class of freshman and ten seconds later you can hear a pin drop in the back of the room," said history teacher Olsen Houghton. "The kids love it when Mr. Good comes in to talk about anything."

"This will be the fourth year that we've invited Mr. Good to talk to history classes about World War II," said Mr. Houghton. "I think it's really useful to have someone with the kind of experience that Mr. Good has come and talk to a class." Mr. Good's talks about World War II have become famous school-wide.

Throughout the years Mr. Good has had many opportunities, including the chance to attend various commencement speeches where he has gathered several key values that he tries to live by, including, "your word is your bond," "judge others on their merits or demerits, not on anything else," and "exercise caution in your business affairs for the world is full of trickery."

"It's really important to talk to people like Mr. Good," said Mr. Houghton. "World War II veterans won't be around forever and people like Mr. Good are a vital link to our past."



PHOTO BY SOPHIE LEW

Substitute teacher Mev Good captivates students with his war stories.

Violence prevention group starts

By Julia Sadowski

Students who find themselves in unhealthy relationships may find helpful information in a new leadership group at the high school.

Connect to End Violence, formerly Women's Support Services, helped start the group.

Since changing its name, the program's goals have become more prevention oriented. "Connect is a domestic and sexual violence prevention center," said Meaghan Hughes, who facilitates the program with Chelsey Perham. "Among other things, we provide supportive education to help someone get through a situation, a 24-hour hotline, a court advocacy program, group workshops, a referral service, and a Child Witness to Violence program." Connect also provides services for men.

Although many do not feel comfortable discussing domestic and sexual violence, Connect's new presence in the high school will help students realize that it is an issue that demands attention. "It is an important program to have at the high school because it deals with a subject that people don't

feel comfortable talking about," said senior and Connect member Marlan Sigelman. "I was not aware of how big an issue domestic and sexual violence is, but when I joined they told us some of the statistics. It is shocking how prevalent it is."

Connect would also like to help high school students recognize unhealthy relationships and teach them how to deal with it. "A lot of people don't want to think about [domestic and sexual abuse]," said Ms. Hughes. "It's a small Island and a small community. Sometimes people are afraid to come forward."

The program now hopes to have a larger impact on the high school. "We didn't have a huge presence in the high school before," said Ms. Hughes. "We want kids to know that there are services out there for them."

Of the students that joined Connect, some have personal reasons as to why they became a part of the new program. "I've never made the initiative to help end sexual and domestic violence before but I got involved with Connect because I'm a victim of domestic and sexual violence, and I want to help oth-

er girls steer clear of the kinds of situations I've been in," said one anonymous junior. "It's so important to let people know that it's okay to speak up if they're in a relationship where something doesn't feel right, because most of the time, when your gut tells you something, you're right about it."

Although Connect provides services to both women and men, currently the program consists of all female students. "It's so important for boys to get involved with Connect," said junior and Connect member Maggie Howard. "So any boys who are interested in contributing their thoughts or even just listening should show up. We've been talking about how we need boys at the meetings."

When Connect first came to the high school they held an online needs assessment survey. Said Ms. Hughes, "We rewarded students with candy."

Another one of Connect's main events was the distribution of fortune cookies with domestic and sexual abuse facts inside of them. "Fortunes were informative," said Maggie. As for the future, Connect is planning to have another fortune cookie event in the community and possibly a car wash.

Even though the Connect lead-

ership program has already begun to have an impact on students, they still have work to do. "Teenagers don't realize that do-

mestic and sexual abuse is such a problem," said Marlan. "They would like to pretend it's not happening."

Student takes national photo prize

By Kayla Montambault

Sophomore Tova Katzman is the first regional high school student ever to have won the American Voices & Visions Award.

Chris Baer, high school photography teacher, said, "This is the first time in probably 20 years that a student's work has won an award at the national level. This is amazing for Tova and for the school."

Tova's photograph was first submitted to the Boston Globe sponsored Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, a regional competition to which over 140,000 visual and literary works are submitted. The Scholastic Art & Writing Award is the largest, longest-running, and most prestigious program that recognizes student accomplishments in grades 7-12 in visual and literary arts.

The highest recognition at the regional level is the Gold Key. Tova was one of five students from Massachusetts to win the award this year. Winning the Gold

Key qualifies recipients for the national competition in New York, where Tova won "Best in Region."

Students from the high school have won many prestigious awards on the regional level in the last 20 years, although none have been recognized at the national level. This changed when Tova won the American Vision Award. "I was really shocked and excited to win something at all," said Tova. "And now that it's on a national level it all feels kind of crazy because I'm not at all used to this type of thing."

Tova will travel with her family to New York on June 4 for the National Awards Ceremony at Carnegie Hall. The awards ceremony recognizes students and their teachers in front of family and friends. The ceremony will also include The National Art Exhibition, an art show that exhibits all the winning work. "I'm really excited to go to New York and see the exhibit," said Mr. Baer. "It should be amazing."

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