



The High School View

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Community holds events to raise money

By Liam McCarthy

The devastation experienced by the people of Haiti united hundreds of regional high school students last week in efforts to raise money to help Haiti and its citizens. Seniors Phoebe Kelleher and Patrick Hart organized a Haiti-relief benefit concert to raise donations for the victims of the magnitude 7.0 earthquake in southern Haiti. The benefit was held at the old Game Room in Oak Bluffs, and included door prizes, a raffle, a potluck dinner, and musical performances.

"It was easy to organize because the community was really open to helping," Phoebe said. "We also had a lot of performers and donations." All donations and entry fees went to the Red Cross World Division and the World Food Program.

The atmosphere was festive. Students expressed themselves by charging the dance floor during some songs or by simply admiring the performances from a seat in the audience. Nearly a quarter of the high school student body attended.

After the disaster, students at the high school donated money during lunch periods, raising about \$1,000 in one week. The effort was not about the amount donated, but rather the amount of people who donated. The money was split between two organizations, PeaceQuilts for



PHOTO BY TOVA KATZMAN

Senior Chelsea Counsell sings at the benefit on January 29.

Haiti and the Martha's Vineyard Fish Farm Project.

The Fish Farm for Haiti Project and Haiti PeaceQuilts have provided safe shelter, food, and potable water to residents of Haiti. Other donations by the organizations include a drilled well, two-story school, fresh fish, vegetable gardens, and chicken coops. Both are non-profit organizations that continue to work in conjunction with one another and the lives of those they support in Haiti.

On Wednesday January 27 a dinner was held in the Culinary Arts dining room, organized by high school Business Education teacher Leo Frame and the Young Brothers to Men group. Culinary students

and chef Jack O'Malley prepared spiced chicken. "We made about \$2,500, and we almost ran out of food," Mr. Frame said.

Students from high school art teachers Janice Frame and Scott Campbell's art classes also helped by donating their work to be put into a collection that went towards PeaceQuilts and the Fish Farm. Student handcrafted plates inscribed with "Hope for Haiti" were sold for \$2 at the event. PeaceQuilts and the Fish Farm Project had tables set up as well. A slideshow brought by PeaceQuilts ran pictures of smiling faces sewing quilts. Over 120 people attended for dinner.

A young firefighter comes of age

By Kevin O'Donnell

Regional high school senior Kevin O'Donnell serves the town of Oak Bluffs as a volunteer firefighter. Recently he shared this story, a first-hand account of a nightmare-ish and tragic evening he experienced.

truck and put on my turnout gear. My brother John came and told me not to get out because one girl was dead and it was not something I should see--being only 16 at the time.

But me being me, I got out and saw her getting pulled out of the car and onto the stretcher. From her eyebrows up was ripped back from when she hit the windshield.

Two years ago in my role as an Oak Bluffs firefighter, I went to my first car crash.

It was called in at about 10 p.m. My dad and I went in his pickup truck. They said over the pagers that it was a two-car motor vehicle accident with a priory one and two priory-two's. That means that one person is dead and two are in critical condition.

My dad went really fast with the lights flashing and the sirens wailing to get there. When we got on scene, I saw a lot of glass and two cars. One was rolled off into the woods and the other was still on the road. I ran as fast as I could to the back of the rescue

I looked at my dad and he told me to get the speedy dri to dry up all the oil and other fluids on the road. There were still two people screaming and yelling and covered in blood getting worked on by the EMTs.

After we picked up all the parts of the cars and all the bloody snow, all the trucks went back to the fire station and we all talked about what just happened.

On the way home with my dad, he asked if I wanted to quit. But there was no way I was going to. I grew up with that kind of stuff. It did tear me up inside. I didn't sleep for three days and didn't really eat. I will never forget what I saw and what I heard that night.

The traveling life suits students

By Carter D'Angelo

Two regional high school students are currently spending a year abroad with the American Field Service (AFS) program, while a third student is planning a similar trip through the Rotary International Club.

Regional high school junior, Sarah Johnson, decided to spend the year in India. "I chose India for two main reasons," said Sarah. "It has a huge population, with a diversity of cultures and languages. It is also starting to play a large part in world affairs. I think it is important for people in the US to have an understanding of India."

Junior Lauren Lucas has become attached to the French town she has lived in for the last six months, not to mention the people she has met there. "They think of others before themselves," she said about the people she has encountered so far.

She was born in Avallon, France, but moved to the Vineyard when she was younger and forgot



FACEBOOK PHOTO

Junior Sarah Johnson (second from left) stands surrounded by new friends from her year abroad in India.

the language. Said Lauren, "I lost it all." But she quickly picked up the language and the customs, her favorite of which is la Bise, the traditional French cheek-to-cheek kiss. Now when she goes to visit her grandparents and other relatives in Paris, she feels more connected than ever to her French roots.

Both students are living with host families, and are attending local schools. They have entered a new culture full of differences and

discoveries and face the challenge of communicating in an unfamiliar language.

Junior Vivian Ewing is currently a regional high school student, though she plans to spend her senior year in France through the Rotary International Club. "My decision was based on my desire to

travel," said Vivian. "Through this program, I will act as an ambassador representing the United States in another country." Vivian will begin her travels in August 2010. "What this process has shown me is how easy it is to follow through with what may at first seem like an impossible goal. The only thing you have to do is have a strong desire to learn about other cultures, do some research, apply, and the opportunities will come."

Seabreezes wins national award

by Kira Shipway

Seabreezes, the regional high school's annual anthology of student art, photography, and creative writing was awarded with the Superior Award by the National Council of Teachers of English this Tuesday for their 2009 issue. The magazine, edited by alumna Janelle Fortes and Marlan Sigelman, was honored with a Superior Award and a nomination for the Highest Award at the national level.

"Every year you get a different mix of art and writing, and last year was a really nice constellation

of contributions," said literary magazine adviser and English teacher William McCarthy. "We had a critical mass of great writers and outstanding pieces to put into the magazine."

Said art teacher and co-magazine adviser Janice Frame, "We tried to give kids who wouldn't ordinarily have a vehicle for a voice a place to have their voices heard."

βSaid Mrs. Frame, "It was an honor for me personally because the issue really shows the quality and high standards that the whole school sets for its students."



PHOTO BY JULIA SADOWSKI

This year's student editors (L-R Antoine Wafer, Leah Pachico, Naomi Scott, Janice Frame, Clarissa Murphy, William McCarthy, Ashley Drake, and Abigail Larsen) and teacher-advisers of the school's acclaimed literary magazine Seabreezes prepare to select the contents for the next issue scheduled to be published in May.

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