



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.

Windsurfer hopes to make olympic team



PHOTO COURTESY OF WALTER COOPER/US SAILING

Solvig Sayre, who became a part of the U.S. National Windsurfing team this January, windsurfs.

By Tova Katzman

Senior Solvig Sayre made the U.S. women's national windsurfing team—and now has an opportunity to compete for a place on the next U.S. Olympic windsurfing team.

Growing up in an avid windsurfing family, Solvig and her family have been competing all of her life. Solvig's father was on the Olympic team, her mom was a Swedish world champion, and her younger brother just won the U12 boys North American windsurfing com-

petition.

Said Solvig, "I was three and a half years old when my dad said let's go windsurfing, and I did." Both professionals in the sport, her parents were a major influence in Solvig's love of windsurfing. Living on Martha's Vineyard also has had an effect on Solvig, who moved here six years ago. Said Solvig, "I have more contact with the water on a daily basis."

Solvig believes that the Vineyard has been an important support system for her. Specific sources include Sail MV, the Vineyard Haven Yacht Club, her parents, the U.S. sailing team, Alpha Graphics, their sponsors, and Northface.

Training for the Olympics, like all things worth working for, comes at a cost. Solvig has had to miss many important events throughout her schooling career and plans on missing her own graduation ceremony this June. "I'm missing graduation to go to Germany for two weeks where I will be training with the U.S. sailing team," said Solvig.

Despite missing her own graduation, school is important to Solvig, who said she would have dropped out to travel and compete in windsurfing all the time if she

did not value school so much. "I'm

missing school on a regular basis," said Solvig. "But I am trying to juggle academics with training as an Olympic athlete as best that I can."

Solvig's travels have taken her all around the world. "I love traveling for competitions and meeting people," she said. She has been to the United Kingdom, Brazil, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bonaire for windsurfing related events. Half Swedish, Solvig has also traveled to Sweden, speaks the language fluently, and has dual citizenship there. Next year, Solvig will be attending Eckard College in Florida. "I'm studying international relations and windsurfing." As far as her future goes, Solvig sees herself being a part of the Olympics.

Besides windsurfing, she would like to get involved with the Palestinian Israeli conflict. She said, "I would like to be a diplomat insuring the UN borders are reinstated and obeyed." This summer Solvig will be attending Kiel Woche in Germany, a huge sailing event, and working at the Vineyard Haven Yacht Club when she returns.

No matter what happens with the Olympics, it is obvious Solvig will be windsurfing for many years to come. "I just like having the power of the wind in my hands," she said. Solvig possesses a serious passion for what she is trying to pursue. To support Solvig and her windsurfing campaign you can visit her blog at www.cleverpig.org/solvigS.

The world of language celebrated

Olivia Cameron and Mary-Louise Howell

French, German, and Spanish scholars at the regional high school welcomed the world to Language Night in the Performing Arts Center last Thursday. Language students contributed either homemade ethnic food or a project that was presented in the Performing Arts Center. "I think we had a great turnout. I was excited to see all of the student work," said international language department chair Justine DeOliviera, one of several language teachers who helped to coordinate the event.

Everyone in the community was invited to watch a number of original student works including digital comic strips created by the Advanced Placement Spanish Class, a German fairy tale set in Oak Bluffs, and a PowerPoint made by the French III class describing various types of French cuisine. The

honors French III class sang the French National Anthem.

"I had so much fun during World Language Night," said sophomore Truda Silberstein. "The French language is so beautiful and it was a lot of fun to show how much I have learned."

After the performances, everyone was invited to eat the food students had prepared in the culinary arts dining room. "The food was delicious and it was interesting to sample food from other cultures," said junior Mike Patnaude.

Much of the money raised during the event will go towards the Nancy Orazem Scholarship Fund, awarded annually to a graduating senior in memory of Nancy Orazem, a former language teacher at the high school.

Ms. DeOliviera is already planning next year's festive language night. She said, "We want to have subtitles in English so it is more audience friendly."



PHOTO BY TOVA KATZMAN

Pierre Bonneau introduces the French national Anthem La Marseillaise to the audience at World Language Night last Thursday.

Administration locks down on safety

By Emily Goldthwait

While regional high school administrators are constantly developing new procedures to help keep students safe, as the eleventh anniversary of the Columbine tragedy draws nearer, many wonder how safe any school really can be.

Some feel the close-knit Vineyard community is itself something that contributes to safety in a positive way. "I really think that the community helps us prevent [events such as Columbine] from happening because of the closeness and history that everyone has with each other," said senior, Taylor Perrotta.

According to principal Stephen Nixon, the high school must follow regulations to ensure the school is a safe place. He said, "We are mandated by law to have

certain regulations. We comply with those laws, and work very closely with the fire departments and police departments to achieve a balance between a secure building and a welcoming place."

In a tumultuous world, the Island offers a sense of safety to students, but can sometimes create a false sense of security in students when it comes to school safety. "I don't really think lockdown drills help or are needed. People just look at it as a way to get out of class for 15 minutes," said junior Mike Patnaude.

Senior Catherine Spain said, "We've never had to worry about anything happening. We do lockdown drills, but I don't think anyone would ever be prepared for anything. They're just an excuse for students to goof off."

School administrators, however, see the drills with more seriousness. "We don't create the lockdown drills ourselves but we follow state and national standards and the police regulate the drills," said assistant principal Neal Weaver. "We are constantly adjusting and getting new technology to make the drills safer and more effective. Even though we do have a close-knit community and are different than other places, we can't make the mistake that we don't have to do anything to prevent school related attacks from happening. All communities are in danger of something happening. We practice lockdown drills and it's great that we're planning to prevent things. There's no single solution for a 100 percent safe environment. We communicate a lot with the police department, and

they participate in our drills."

There are many schools off-Island that have implemented electronic screening measures and backpack checks to prevent students from bringing weapons to school—though those measures are not part of the Vineyard high school's policies at this time. "I don't think this school will ever get to the point where measures such as metal detectors need to be taken. However, I am working on a system for the front door that will allow them to be locked during school hours," said Mr. Weaver. Under the plan, a visitor will have to be buzzed in through the doors from someone in the front office.

Though these new technological advances will help to maintain school safety, they still may not be enough to stop all possible attacks. "If students know doors will be locked, they won't waste their time on it, but will find other ways to get inside

classrooms. If someone wanted to do it, they'd do it," said Mike Patnaude.

The administration however stays current on ways to improve the system. "There are many changes that could be made to the system. We're currently starting to move forward on working out a drill that would occur when students are in the hallway. We have yet to make a drill or regulation for what to do in a situation where all of the students are milling about in the hallways between classes," said Mr. Weaver.

"I believe that we have achieved a balance between a secure building and a welcoming place. There are so many community members that are in and out of here so often that we don't want it to be a fortress, but a welcoming place," said Dr. Nixon. "However, you can't make assumptions when it involves someone's safety."

EDITORS IN CHIEF: Naomi Pallas, Julia Sadowski ASSISTANT EDITORS IN CHIEF: Chelsea Counsell, Caitlyn Clark, ASSISTANT EDITORS: Kristen Parece, Emily Goldthwait, Kira Shipway

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITORS: Taylor Smith, Tova Katzman ART EDITORS: Naomi Scott, Ashley Drake INTERNET CONSULTANT: Austin Gampfer MASTHEAD ART: Ashley Drake FACULTY ADVISER: Dan Sharkovitz