



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.

New club starts shooting

By Olivia Cameron



PHOTO BY TOVA KATZMAN

Junior and film club member Mike Patnaude videotapes a scene with fellow students on Monday, May 11.

Aspiring Oscar-winners congregate after school on Tuesdays to learn the art of capturing both fiction and real life through the lens of a film camera. The Film Club, run by regional high school photography teacher Paul Brissette and alumni Chuck Noonan, allows students interest-

ed in film-making, directing, writing, and acting to create their own films. Said Mr. Noonan, "Media is becoming a really big component in today's world and the arts program at the high school is trying to push it right now. These are important skills to learn."

Students learn the technical aspects of film-making, such as how to use the camera equipment and audio, as well as the basics of film-making, like setting up and directing scenes. The students decide what they want to learn, and the curriculum is adjusted accordingly. "Film Club is as serious or fun as you want it to be. Kids come who want to do a serious documentary, or a skateboarding movie, or goof off with friends. They all learn the same thing, and each of them can use those skills however they want," said Mr. Noonan.

"We're basically creating our own films. If anyone has a project idea, we do it, and the whole group helps to work on it," said junior and club member Mike Patnaude. At the moment, most members are working on one script at a time, taking turns filming and acting.

"I like how we learn how professional filmmakers actually operate, and the role that each person has in the film-making process," said sophomore Truda Silberstein.

Said junior Evan Eagan, "It's a really great way to learn about film-making, learn basic skills to help in the future, and have fun."

Phoebe returns from Africa

By Naomi Pallas

Phoebe Kelleher, who completed her graduation requirements early, just returned from a two months sojourn to Africa where she de-wormed goats and built kitchens, dining halls, and classrooms for orphaned children.

"I wanted to do something drastic with my semester off," said Phoebe, who traveled to Kenya and Tanzania with the Camps International volunteer organization. "I was with a lot of people from England who said that traveling to Africa was not unusual—but here, I'm a rarity."

Phoebe spent most of her trip teaching, cooking, and cleaning in orphanages. "I was surprised by how similar my idea of an orphanage is to reality. Everyone was so happy. That's what I didn't expect the most," said Phoebe.

Phoebe worked with Camps International to construct a dining hall in Tanzania for more than 700 children, as well as a kitchen for a school near Mt. Kilimanjaro that will prevent children from getting altitude sickness. Despite these accomplishments, Phoebe



FILE PHOTO

Phoebe works in an orphanage during her two-month stay in Africa.

also decided the career path that she will take when she enters Catholic University next fall. "Before I left the Vineyard, I was on the fence about pre-med. But I met some doctors who work with people in Africa, which helped me make my decision."

Phoebe hopes to return to Africa next year to do a week of volunteer work, and to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. Phoebe said, "The whole experience gave me a better sense of what is important in life beyond high school."

Margaret Stafursky to retire

By Caitlyn Clark

"In closing, I want to thank my students for just being themselves and coming to school with the hope of doing well each day. They have been the gifts to me each year and they have never failed to learn and grow and also to teach me," said regional high school special education teacher Margaret Stafursky, in a recent letter to the principal describing her plans to retire. "I have truly loved teaching and being in my classroom. I thank them and you for that privilege."

After 35 years of teaching, Mrs. Stafursky has decided to move on from her teaching life, to other adventures and experiences.

"She's a great friend on a student-teacher level," said senior Cody Pachico. "I'll miss her laugh and her stories, because no matter what kind of mood you're in, her stories cheer you up and put a smile on your face."

She earned her bachelors of science in education and history at Boston University, and then continued on later to Cambridge College to get her master's degree in education.

"I had always wanted to be a teacher. If you go to my mother's house, in the basement you can still find chalk marks from playing school," Mrs. Stafursky said. "And

strangely enough, I started teaching when I was a student in high school. I was teaching the students in my high school how to swim."

Mrs. Stafursky began teaching at Chamberlain Center, which was a residential center for adolescents with learning disabilities. She worked there for a few years before joining the staff of the regional high school in 1978. At the time, the special education department had only two teachers—herself and current teacher Arthur Cormier.

"For my whole adult life I've lived on Martha's Vineyard and have taught at the high school," Mrs. Stafursky said. "It's a bittersweet feeling because I love to teach. I absolutely love walking into my class and teaching a lesson. With that said, there are some parts of education that I don't agree with, but I absolutely love being in front of the kids. I'm also bittersweet because I will miss them and the fac-

ulty, and because we have good students who want to learn."

Her friend and colleague, special education teacher Arthur Cormier, said, "I have worked with Mrs. Stafursky since 1978." "She is a



PHOTO BY TAYLOR SMITH

Mrs. Stafursky helps a student with his math assignment in her classroom.

teacher, a wife, a mother, and a daughter. She is a professional, dedicated to the field of education. She knows her subjects. Most of all, she is

a sensitive and caring friend. Mrs. Stafursky has always understood that we bring more to the classroom each day besides a body. We bring our lives and personalities, our family and friends, and all the experiences we have ever had to the classroom each day—both good and bad. She will acknowledge you as a person, then a student, and continue her assigned task of teaching the skills to succeed in this world."

Currently, Mrs. Stafursky teaches United States History Skills 1 and 2, and U.S. Government. In the past she has taught Resource

Room, World History Skills, and World Geography Skills, and mainstream Algebra 1.

"Hopefully I'll be able to travel after I leave. I usually travel in the summer anyway with my best friend who is also a teacher," Mrs. Stafursky said. "I have to get out back west because I've traveled out there a lot before and I miss it. In my past I have traveled to England, Greece, Ireland, and my very first teaching job was up in a small fishing village in Canada."

"She's very understanding and easy to talk to. She's taught us to make our own decisions, to back up your opinion, and to fulfill your own dreams," said senior Anna Cass. "She also lets you express your opinion on what you're learning and how you feel about it."

"One summer 28 years ago, when I desperately needed a place to stay, Margaret and her husband Bill opened their home to me—and never asked for any money," said English teacher Dan Sharkovitz. "To me and for a lot of other people who know her, she possesses a huge amount of what can make the Vineyard special place. She was always willing to help others without being asked. And I believe this quality is what made her such a gifted teacher."

"The hardest thing for my friends off-Island to understand is that the high school and the community are intertwined, and it's hard to separate yourself from the

high school," Mrs. Stafursky said. "It's your life as a teacher and also as a community member. I view the high school as a family between the faculty and the students. I have taught on the faculty for so long and I've had my adult life here so I can't think of any moment in my adult life that doesn't involve the high school in some way."

As for what she will do career-wise with her future, Mrs. Stafursky said, "I want to retire because I'm at an age where I can do something else. I could easily see myself in a private sector, or organizing, being in an office, or consulting in some way. I haven't given it that much thought, but I know that it will all come together."

Thank You

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