

The High School View

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Graduate joins Wall Street occupation

By Caitlin Serpa and Anna Yukevich

Regional high school graduate Naomi Pallas, now a first-year student at New York University, participated recently in the Occupy Wall Street protests in New York City. Naomi was one of over 1,000 students who joined as part of the National Student Walkout—a movement mainly composed of students from New York University and The New School. The movement is primarily concerned with issues affecting college students.

"The interesting thing is that everyone seemed to be protesting for different reasons," said Naomi. "Maybe they can't support their family, or they need a job, or they can't afford school. This was actually the most important topic for NYU students."

Naomi knew, after hearing about the protests from the news and reading blogs and articles, that



PHOTO BY NAOMI PALLAS

Demonstrators rally in New York City during an Occupy Wall Street protest that has been going on for more than a month.

she and most people she knew would participate. Despite varied motivations for protesting, the protesters shared a connection because of their status as students.

"In general, Occupy Wall Street was more about being the 99 percent rather than reasons for being the 99 percent," said Naomi.

The march started in Washington Square and moved to Zuccotti Park where people, chanting and playing music, spilled out onto the streets surrounding the

park.

"The march itself was meant to be peaceful, and as far as I know, it stayed that way," said Naomi. "People in their cars and on sidewalks were so patient with the huge swarm of students."

Although the Student Walkout occurred on this day, college students were not the only ones protesting. Naomi's professor cancelled her class in order to participate.

"It was amazing to see how united everyone is during these protests," said Naomi. "I heard older people saying things like, 'It's just like '68 all over again.' I think they were among the most excited of us."

Although the atmosphere was hectic, Naomi considered it motivational. "Some of the chants were back and forth," she said. "Somebody would yell, 'Show me what democracy looks like!' and we would all scream back, 'This is what democracy looks like!'"

Naomi said, "During the protests there was a general feeling of excitement about making a change."

Bioneers return

By Lily Bick

Seniors Eva Faber, Cerina Gordon, and Andrew Randall attended the 7th annual Connecting for Change: A Bioneers by the Bay Conference in New Bedford recently. They went as part of the Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative (MVYLI). The students traveled to the conference with Marianne Larned, the execu-

tive director of the Stone Soup Leadership Initiative.

The Bioneers conference is a three-day program that aims to bring together a diverse group of people and promote positive changes in their communities. Innovators who specialize in the environment, industry, and social justice help to raise awareness of healthy food and activities, farming, youth empowerment, spiritu-

ality and sustainability through keynote presentations and workshops. Speakers such as Graham Hill, Carlos Moreno, and Jodie Evans talked about consumerism, crime, and overcoming powerlessness with members of the conference. Workshops included "Storytelling for Social Change," "Overcoming the Barriers to Improving School Food," and "Learning to Lead."

One workshop, "What is a Food Forest? The Human Habitat Paradigm," described the Food Forest

program at Hampshire College. Andrew Randall appreciated the workshop. He said, "The trip really opened my eyes to some of the problems our world is facing and inspired me to change some of my views and every day activities."

MVYLI is "A great way for young people to demonstrate what's important to them," said Ms. Larned. "They are so eager to learn."

To become a part of MVYLI, an applicant must answer the questions "What is your dream for your life, for the island, and for the

world?"

Anyone can be nominated by his or her friends or one of the 241 non-profit organizations on the Island, like the Farm Institute. The next Youth Summit is in June. Echoing the central mission of MVYLI, which is to train the next generation of Island leaders to build a more sustainable world, Ms. Larned said, "We always want to have young people who want to be leaders."

Ghouls haunt the halls

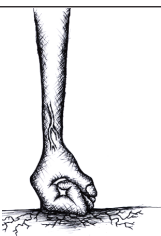


PHOTO BY DYLAN BROCKMEYER

Hundreds of students and staff screamed around the high school on Monday to have a little fun celebrating Halloween. Word on the street has it that the history teachers won the annual best costumed department award—though guidance may challenge that decision.

Leadership students turn trash into money

By Elias Wortmann

Class skippers, suck-ups, and tree-huggers alike have united against a common foe—improper trash disposal.

Under the guidance of high school history and leadership teacher Olsen Houghton, the B period leadership class uses some of their class time to give back to their school community and to the earth.

"What we do is we walk down the hallways and collect the blue recycling buckets, and then we begin sweeping the halls for any trash receptacles left full by their designated teachers," said Mr. Houghton. "I hope to inspire students, as well as teachers and staff, to take an active roll in the disposal of their own recyclables."

The efforts of the leadership class yield over a ton of disposed

recyclables every week. In addition to helping the environment, a substantial portion of the school budget is saved on what would otherwise be spent on garbage disposal.

"This leadership class is taking a chunk of garbage out of a landfill and putting a few dollars back into the high school budget. Maybe this isn't earth-shattering, or in mass quantity, but what these students are doing is consistent work, and that makes it worth recognizing."

About the future of the club, Mr. Houghton said, "I want these kids to take a role in the community. If everybody just did one thing, no matter how small, the world would be a better place. I want these kids to appreciate the fact that they can make a difference. I want to help them realize that they can initiate real change."

"I really enjoy doing what we do in the club," said junior Kevin Burchill. "It's cool to think that just our class can save the school all this money and prevent the buildup of trash in landfills. We are actually making an impact."

**MVRHS
Halloween Dance**

**Friday November 4
in the Gym**

7 - 10 PM

Free for students

**Costume contest,
games, prizes**