



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.

Teens distribute hope

By Kira Shipway

Although the MCAS does not test it, two high school students have nonetheless taken a serious and studied interest in selflessness.

Regional high school junior Madeleine Penicaud and senior Patrick Hart traveled to Haiti two weeks ago to help bring donations of toys, clothes, and food to orphaned children living there.

Before leaving, Patrick's parents made him read the United States summary of Haiti to make sure he knew what he was getting himself into.

Patrick said, "The orphanages we visited had so many little babies, sometimes two to a crib. When you walked into the room, all their arms shot up for you to pick them up."

Through the Fish Farm for Haiti Project that Madeleine's mother started in 1998, Madeleine and

Patrick aided in improving the lives of the children and people living in Haiti. Madeleine wanted to go to see firsthand the work her mother does, and find out what she could do to help out. "While we were there we gave out shoes to a lot of the children in the areas we stayed at because most of them



Haitian children surround Madeleine Penicaud as she plays with them during her volunteer mission.

either didn't have any or they were in really bad condition," Madeleine said.

Located in Lilavois, an impoverished rural area outside of Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince, the fish farm project utilizes two and a half acres of previously undeveloped land owned by a Haitian order of nuns called the Daughters of Mary Queen Immaculate. Of the Haitian people, Patrick said, "The people we met have a lot of pride. Even though they have so little in terms of material goods, they take so much pride in what they do own. It's unbelievable."

"We visited two orphanages where we gave out clothes and toys," said Madeleine. "We held and played with the little kids and fed them."

Both students plan to return to Haiti some day. "I would definitely go back," Patrick said. "Because I've seen how much they need and specifically what they need, my second trip back would be more useful."

For more information about how to help, go to www.fishfarmhaiti.org.

Rapper glues life to lyrics

By Mary-Louise Howell and Tova Katzman

"I see myself as the underdog and I try to relate my rhymes to anyone who is going through a struggle—which nine out of ten times is everyone," said junior and rapper Luke Dunlap.

He was tired of listening to mediocre lyrics on the radio, one of the many reasons he began writing. "I also have always liked poetry and creative writing. I grew up with two sisters who listened to hip-hop and rap, so I thought, if I can write poetry, why not try rap?"

Not only does rapping require a skill with words, it also takes a philosophy behind the lyrics. "To me, all it takes is one song to change your mind about something," said Luke. "I get inspiration from living and experiencing everything in life because I believe that it all happens for a reason." He is also influenced by the music of artists such as Lil' Wayne, Tupac Shakur, Eminem, and Notorious B.I.G.

Luke usually jots down his thoughts and ideas on paper. "Once in a blue moon, if I'm chilling with all my friends I'll freestyle," he said. As well as making his own original beats, Luke's friends help him by creating beats with applications

such as Garageband and Pro Tools.

"I can't help but put my personal feelings into my work," said Luke. "It just depends on what I'm thinking about. If I'm thinking about a breakup, I'll write about all the things I think about when someone is breaking up. If I'm thinking about a good time, I'll write about all the things that revolve around having a good time."

So far, Luke has had four shows. One was at the high school when Danceworks performed hip-hop, one freestyling at the Teen Center in Oak Bluffs, and two with the high school rock band Pierre at the Teen Center.

Luke's philosophy of life is embedded in many of his lyrics:

Quick with no hesitation I'm retracin' the scene,

Provocatively paintin' a perfect picture from a dream.

And it gleams, too bad that life is never what it seems.

I believe, the things that you try hardest to achieve,

Continue to slip away until they're reached eventually,

But only determined people live to say what they gon' be.

The pressure is unlimited to live my life successfully.

Luke hopes to plan other shows and explore colleges to continue studying music and art.

High school celebrates 50 years of love

By Kristen Parece

While teens still fall in and out of love, the regional high school dating scene has changed dramatically since the first class to graduate left the building about 50 years ago.

The rituals of "going steady," including the exchange of school rings and wearing a guy's varsity jacket have morphed into more high-tech activities.

New electronics and fancy social networking websites like Facebook and Myspace have added a whole other facet to dating. "Today, couples communicate a lot on the phone and on the computer," said junior Ashley Gwynn.

When the high school first opened, two popular hangouts for students were the soda foundains in Edgartown, near today's Paper Store and Vineyard Haven at Leslie's Drug Store. A date was a structured event, like seeing a movie or attending a school dance.

Today's popular spots include

hanging out in town, often at Mocha Mott's, Che's Lounge, or Owen Park. Dates are no longer as formal and do not necessarily entail a certain destination or activity.

In the 50s and 60s, first dates often included the boy meeting the girl's parents, hoping for approval. "Boys always had to meet the girl's parents before a date. Then after a few dates the girl would meet the boy's parents," said Joan Jenkinson, a 1963 regional high school graduate.

Often, if a person's parents did not approve, the student was not allowed to go on the date. In recent years a parent's approval has become less imperative. "Once the couple went on several dates they were considered to be going steady," said Lena Araujo, who also graduated in 1963.

Other noticeable differences in modern courtship include the differences of age between the two genders. Today at the high school it is common for ninth and tenth



LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN AND VIRGINIA CARBON; PHOTO ON RIGHT BY JOSH CROWTHER

John and Virginia Carbon (left) posed for their high school prom in 1966. Katie Mayhew and Sal McNamara pose for the same event 43 years later.

graders to be dating juniors and seniors. In the past, a senior asking out a ninth grader was considered socially unacceptable. Since then, the age of young people beginning to date has decreased. It is common now for dating to start as early as middle school. "In the late 1950s and early 1960s, a lot of parents didn't let their children date until the age of 16," said Virginia Carbon, who attended the high school in the 1960s.

Early students of the high school had assigned seats according to gender. Today, boys and girls, re-



gardless of whether they are in a relationship or not, are around each other all the time. "My boyfriend and I talk every day, usually from before school and later until we go to sleep," said sophomore Eva Balboni.

While public displays of affection were rare and considered disrespectful, in the halls of the regional high school today it is not unusual to see couples walking hand in hand.

In the 1960s they often spent Tuesday and Saturday nights dancing at the Edgartown Boys and Girls Club, which is now the Martha's

Vineyard Boys and Girls Club. Girls were allowed to go as well, either with a date or with a group of friends. During the dances, "Girls and boys were not allowed to be on the same side of the dance floor unless they were dancing," said Dorothy Grant, who graduated the high school in the 1960s.

Today, the word date has a renewed meaning. It is now common for couples to hang out in groups. Said 1962 graduate Kathryn Bettencourt, "Fifty years ago dates involved almost always just the couple."

How students dress has also changed. "Girls would dress up in skirts, with polished sneakers, and would always curl their hair, putting their hair in curlers the night before a date," said Ms. Grant. Today, the style, regardless if on a date, is much less conservative. The majority of the modern student body wears jeans and t-shirts.

And the concept of chaperoning teens during dates has disappeared. Even when a date ends officially and teens head off to their separate homes, they can be together in a new world called cyberspace, texting I <3 U.

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