



# The High School View

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## Writers inspire schoolmates

By Eric Fletcher

Nathaniel Hawthorne once described words as "so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in a dictionary, how potent for good and evil they become in the hands of one who knows how to combine them."

Surely, the same can be said for those who participated in the regional high school's annual student coffeehouse in the high school library last Friday. The event, co-sponsored by librarian Sandy Mott and the English department, serves as a portion of the final exam for the first semester Creative Writing class.

Following a true coffeehouse theme, invited guests were treated to homemade delicacies such as hummingbird cake, brownies, ginger bread, and, fittingly, coffee. "It was different from other assemblies. During it you could get up and get food," said Nick Capobianco.

The coffeehouse included student readers from grades 9 through 12. Students read and performed various pieces of writing ranging from poetry, to short stories, to plays. Linda Black, Island performance poet, also attended and read, Frank I'm a Freshwater Fish, Spices From the Tao, and part of her poem Stone Angels.

Many of the students who performed enjoyed the experience. "I was really nervous," said sophomore Noelle Nelson, who per-

formed her poem, Programming. She also transformed herself into a character in sophomore Elizabeth Kelleher's play, Eve. "I liked the acting part of it. Not only did we read it, but also we acted it out."

Members of the audience also enjoyed the student performances. "I liked how everyone had the guts to write what they did," said senior Dylan McCarthy. "More classes should have creative projects and portfolios as part of the exam if applicable."

Attendees of the coffeehouse were generally moved by the student work. "It shouldn't have surprised me really, but I was impressed with how wonderful all of the performances were," said Ms. Black. "I also noticed and enjoyed how everyone seemed to work together and were really supportive of each other. It's what you hope to find in a real coffeehouse—that safety net when you perform."



PHOTO BY TOVA KATZMAN

At the coffeehouse last Friday, sophomores (left to right) Elizabeth Kelleher, Noelle Nelson, and senior Lauren Grey applauded their fellow students as they read their work.

## Snowboarder gets some air



PHOTO BY TAYLOR SMITH

Senior Forrest Harcourt takes advantage of the weather as he snowboards in Vineyard Haven after a winter storm.

## Anne Lemenager ponders life after high school

By Kristen Parece

*In my beginning is my end. Now the light falls/Across the open field, leaving the deep lane/Shuttered with branches, dark in the afternoon*

—T. S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*

Last week Anne Lemenager sat alone at her desk in a small office in the girls' locker room surrounded by thousands of students.

While these students exist now only in her memory, she can recall them fondly.

After teaching students at the high school about life for 33 years, health and physical education teacher Anne Lemenager is looking forward to life outside of school. She will be retiring in June at the end of this school year.

"Since I was in 4th grade I knew exactly what I was going to do, and I never changed my mind," Ms. Lemenager said. She always loved the activity and movement involved with sports such as tennis, lacrosse, and especially field hockey, which she continued to play from 8th grade to her senior year in college.

She grew up in Milton, Mass., but came to visit the Vineyard dur-

ing the summers.

Ms. Lemenager has coached varsity field hockey, varsity softball, and junior varsity basketball. In addition to her coaching and teaching position at the high school, she served as athletic director from 1987 to 1988, assistant principal from 2004-2007, and as a class adviser for 20 years.

"She is great to work with because of her experiences, her organization, the connections she has made over the years with people on the Island, and her ability to get the job done," said Shauna Nute, guidance counselor at the high school who has also worked with Ms. Lemenager as a class adviser.

"Ms. Lemenager is a person who will do anything for anyone in need," said Jay Schofield, who worked alongside her as a physical



PHOTO BY TAYLOR SMITH

Anne Lemenager in her classroom.

education teacher until 2001, when he retired. "It is comforting to see someone in today's world be unselfish and help others, whether or not recognition is being passed out."

Students, too, have been deeply appreciative of Ms. Lemenager's enthusiasm and compassion.

She is one of the many adults at the high school who is considered a role model for the students. "Ms. Lemenager always brings enthusiasm and energy into the classroom," said junior Ashley Gwynn.

"She has never missed a field hockey game as far as I can remember," said senior Taylor Per-

rotta. "She is our biggest fan."

"Ms. Lemenager has always been honest and giving," said football coach Donald Herman. "She is very supportive of students and will often work behind the scenes to assist them."

Ms. Lemenager has also been involved in other organizations outside the school. In the 1970s, she was a columnist for the Vineyard Gazette in the Sports and Birds sections, she directed the Oak Bluffs waterfront for nine years, and for the past three years she has produced sports on local television for her video business, AF Productions. She works with MVTV to broadcast the high school varsity basketball games live. She also led independent study courses in filming and broadcasting for students.

"She is a woman who could reinvent herself from being an expert on birds to learning how to make excellent videos of our school's athletes in action," said Mr. Schofield. "When she decides to learn how to do something, she goes after it — big time."

Over the years Ms. Lemenager has seen the school and Vineyard community expand and change. "My favorite part of being a teacher is watching my students mature and grow," she said.

She has also watched her students grow up and sometimes has had their children in her classes as students. "I remember having her as a PE teacher when I was a student at MVRHS, and her enthusiasm hasn't changed a bit," said Gary Simmons, a physical education teacher at the high school. "I will always be grateful to her for giving me my start at MVRHS as a teacher."

After she retires, Ms. Lemenager will continue to enjoy her love of nature and activity. Due to her long association with Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, she is looking forward to working with Gus Ben David at the World of Reptiles and Birds. She also hopes to travel, lower her golf handicap, hang out with her two golden retrievers, Fenway and Wrigley, reacquire herself with her garden, continue producing videos, supporting the high school sports teams, and spending time with her 85-year-old mom Emma Carmichael. "I am a life-long learner. I love to learn," she said. "I'm brave about diving in myself and figuring out how to do things."

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