

The High School View

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Chess club eyes final checkmate

BY MACKENZIE CONDON

The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) chess team will be playing for the South Coast Conference Chess Championship after amassing the most regular-season victories in the conference. The team will play Nauset, whom they tied once and beat once in regular-season play, at 12 pm this Saturday for the title. Coach Bill McCarthy has overseen the club for the past two years. He said, "We play five chess boards in each match, and the success really comes from the strong group of chess players we have filling those boards." Board positions are ranked, with the strongest member playing the first board. The level of success each player has in practice and matchplay determines who plays what board position.

As the season progresses, the players of each position become more consistent. "Fighting for board spots does create a competitive atmosphere in practice that we really look forward to," said junior Vito Aiello. Coach McCarthy listed juniors Jaiden Edelman and Daniel Bonneau and senior Aiden Nunes as the consistent top three for the team. Senior Owen Bresnick, junior Peter Burke, and sophomore Ava Maggi have also been important in securing wins from the fourth and fifth board positions. "Ava has been really successful for us lately in the fifth board, and to be able to depend on that has been crucial in the later part of our season," said Coach McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy described the team's competitive schedule as similar to a winter sport. This winter, they have

played alternating home and away matches every Wednesday against South Coast Conference teams. "If someone is a spring or fall athlete," he said, "they can be on the chess team in the winter, because while we practice all year long, the competition comes in the winter." Although he is a three-season athlete, Daniel has been one of a few consistent leaders for the team. "We really get better by just playing. What I think makes chess special is definitely the intellectual aspect," he said. "Chess offers a unique opportunity for students to engage in a sportlike atmosphere that is more dependent on having an intellectual edge," agreed junior Vito Aiello. "I'm no chess master," said Coach McCarthy, who believes his role in the team's success is mostly about spirit

and passion. "I'm more of an enthusiast, and there are some kids on the team who are better than me. I really think that the kids get better by playing, and my job

as a coach is more to bring excitement to their playing. I just love the game." Coach McCarthy also credits his friend and fellow Islander, Jim Trish, with being an important mentor for the team. "He is an enthusi-

a big role, and I know the team benefits." With one final postseason match to wrap up an already winning season for the team, Coach McCarthy said, "Practice during Friday flex blocks doesn't end after the competi-



Daniel Bonneau moves his queen during a Chess Club practice during flex block on Friday.

MACKENZIE CONDON

Debate preparation pays off for Model U.N. Club

BY EMMA SEARLE

Each year, the Model United Nations (Model U.N.) club at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) travels to New York City for the annual National High School Model United Nations Conference, where students from around the globe convene to debate and discuss topics such as terrorism, world health, banking, and national resources, simulating the processes of the actual United Nations. Students in Model U.N. meet every Monday beginning in October to prepare for the conference. After being assigned a country, students pick a partner, a committee, and topics to research and write about for their position papers. Topics

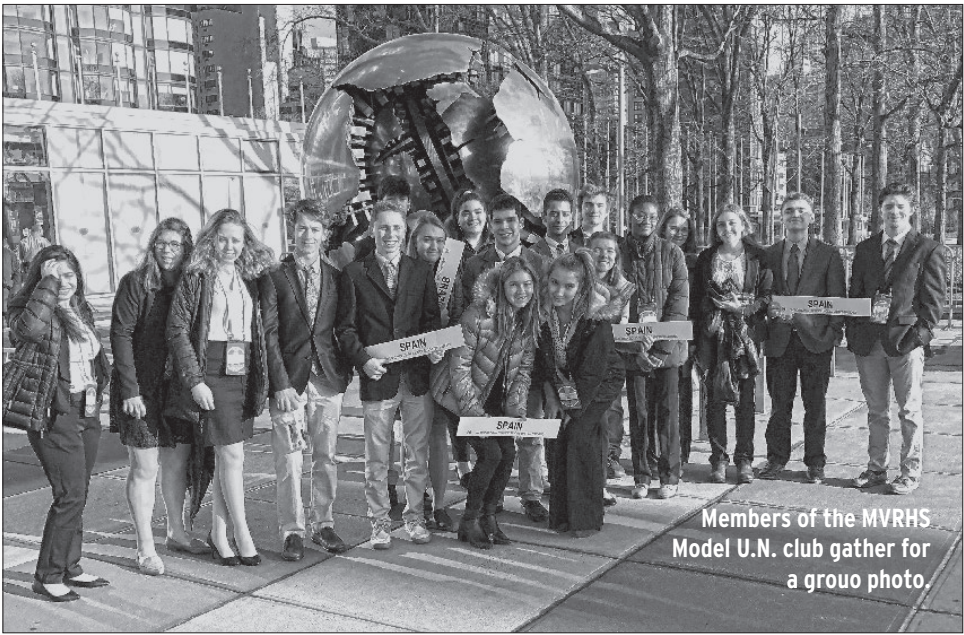
covered by MVRHS students in preparation for this year's conference included the Lebanese civil war, the exile

of the Rohingya people from Myanmar, and combating terrorism in Southeast Asia. Senior co-presidents Allyse

Guyther and Louise McDonauld have worked on making the club more interactive this year, emphasizing the impor-

tance of practicing debate in meetings. Allyse said, "Being confident in representing your voice and opinion is really important." Another important aspect of preparation is research. Allyse said, "Everyone [in New York] has researched everything to the fine-tuned detail." Because MVRHS does not have a Model U.N. course elective like some other schools that attend the conference, members are encouraged to work outside the weekly meetings in order to maximize preparation. Senior J.P. Alves is a two-year member of the Model U.N. club. He said, "I felt more prepared and motivated this year after having practiced debate more often throughout the year. I felt more comfortable bringing up my points and perspectives." This year, more than 5,000 students from over 75 countries attended the confer-

ence, and MVRHS students were quick to acknowledge the benefits of international perspective. "It was inspiring to see a bunch of students my age from around the globe debating and conversing," said J.P. "I met students from Chile, Mexico, and Venezuela this year," said junior Chloe Hoff. "You get to see an outside vision of how America is seen, which is interesting. Also, it was cool to see that [international students] speak English so fluently." While many members felt prepared to expand, share, and debate their perspectives at the conference, club leaders still have goals to improve their intellectual experience. "The club still has a lot of room to grow," said Allyse. "But the four days at Model U.N. were incredibly educational, and every year we make strides in the right direction." HSV



Members of the MVRHS Model U.N. club gather for a group photo.

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