



The Breeze



Monday, November 6, 2000

Vol. 80, No. 2

Somerset, Massachusetts

Joan Menard on Leadership

Clarion Mendes '01

Recently, State Senator Joan Menard visited Somerset High School to speak with the student council about leadership and hard work. After her speech, she spoke in an interview about her views on hard work and leadership. Senator Menard said that it is "hard to define a leader," because it is a multifaceted term. She believes some leaders are very passive, while others enjoy basking in the spotlight.

She responded to the question of what she felt the role of the student council is within a school, and also how students leader positions in school compare to her own job. She feels that the student representatives should serve as mediators among the faculty, administration and also the students.

She also sees the individuals in student council as role models for the student population. She compares her job with that of student council saying that both require good judgment, answering problems, and getting through bureaucracy. She does not remember much of what her student council was like in high school. Ms. Menard said that having such a small high school class allowed students to deal with their issues directly.

She admits that there are some flaws in the democratic system used both in state government and the school government. She says that sometimes, "people are people," and democracy works slowly, but, she adds, "it is the best system."

When asked about her first leadership role, she said it was head of special education in Somerset. She says that she was, "excited and grateful," because it was an appointed position. The election, however is her favorite. She says that winning an election gives her a sense of "personal validation".

Ms. Menard says that working hard is important. In her job, she sees hard work as accepting as many invitations as possible, answering calls from all whom she represents, and devoting her life to her job. She admits that hers is not a job "for someone who wants a traditional life."

Being a state senator requires being a leader for thousands of people. Senator Menard believes that the hardest part of being a leader in her field is having to work hard all the time, and satisfying everyone's expectations. Especially when they do not fit with someone's personality.



Senator Joan Menard speaks to Somerset students. (Photo by Greg Joynt)

Bush Versus Gore

Phil Sablo '01

By mid-summer, America had been introduced to its central candidates for the coming presidential election, Democratic Vice President Al Gore and Republican Governor of Texas George W. Bush. Polls showed Bush received increased public support after the Republican National Convention officially nominated him as their candidate; Gore saw resurgence in his popularity after he was nominated by the Democratic National Convention.

However, during the latter months of the summer and into the beginning of the fall, Gore and Bush seemed to have equal public support. The political world was focused on the upcoming debates between the two candidates. After each side agreed on the rules, locations, and formats, the debates began.

The first debate between Bush and Gore took place on October 3, at the University of Massachusetts campus in Boston, Massachusetts. Each candidate took position at his respective podium and was asked questions by an impartial moderator.

There was much speculation about how each man would handle himself and who would be victorious. Gore, having the reputation as one of the most capable debaters on the political scene, was suspected by many to be very successful, while Bush, who is less attuned to national politics, was not.

Each candidate professed his policies as well as attacked his opponent throughout the debate. However, the most memorable aspect of this meeting was Gore's performance.

(Turn to BUSH/GORE p. 11)

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Page of the Month

Provided that the participants are registered blood donors, dueling is legal in Paraguay



This issue of the Breeze has been written and produced by Somerset students, and printed by the Herald News. All opinions are those of the writers and not the Herald News.



Pennies with a Purpose

Eric Correira '02

The Penny Pounds is one of the several events that make up the Case Rally. During the last few weeks before the event, students from each grade try to collect as many pennies as possible. Then, at the rally, each class's pennies are weighed on a large scale. The more pennies collected, the more points added to the grade's total class score.

A large portion of the student body participates in the gathering of pennies, along with the Case Rally as a whole. The money collected is then used in various charitable ways



in the area.

The Penny Pounds idea was added to the Case Rally tradition about nine years ago by two of its coordinators, Mrs. Silvia and Mr. Sorem. Mrs. Silvia is a science teacher, who is still very much involved in both the rally and the prom. Mr. Sorem was an Industrial Technology teacher, who has since retired.

They wanted to add to the event something that would have the school, as a whole, contribute to the community.

(Turn to PENNIES p.10)

Breakthrough in Birth Control Technology

Connor Murray '02

The new French medication, RU-486, better known as the "abortion pill" is now being used in the United States.

The pill was first invented in 1980 by Dr. Etienne-Emile Baulieu for the French pharmaceutical company, Roussel-Uclaf, where the name RU comes from, and is considered to be a breakthrough in abortion technology. In order for the pill to work, it must be taken within the first nine weeks of pregnancy.

The treatment is a four-step process, which requires a visit to the clinic to determine whether the patient is able to use the pill. Assuming she is able, she can take the pill in tablet form in the presence of a nurse before leaving the clinic.

After 48 hours she must return to the clinic to receive Prostaglandin, a drug used to induce uterine contractions, which will complete the abortion. She must remain at the clinic for another four to six hours where she will then abort.

The woman must return several days later in order to make sure the abortion is complete and to determine if she has experienced any of the side effects such as bleeding, cramping and nausea. Some experience vomiting or diarrhea from the Prostaglandin. The process from the start to finish takes ten to twelve days, slightly more than the normal monthly men-

struation period. There are no long-term side effects.

RU-486 is effective in 96% of the times it is used. However, not all women can use it. Those with blood clotting disorders, chronic adrenal gland failure, or with contraindications to prostaglandins are unable to use the RU-486 method.

The new pill also has uses other than birth control. In the treatment of certain breast and ovarian cancers as well as brain tumors, adrenal cancer, endometriosis, glaucoma, and uterine fibroid tumors RU-486 has had some effectiveness. It has also been used to aid in contraception, cervical ripening prior to delivery and inducing labor.

Though the pill has been widely accepted by the international scientific community and by many pro-abortion women's groups, it has been looked down upon by others. Pro-life groups have reacted strongly against RU-486. In 1988 people in companies in France received death threats which caused Roussel to withdraw the drug from the shelves in France. The French government later forced Roussel to return the drug into production.

The Pro-Life lobby was effective in the United States for several years, where a Food

(Turn to ABORTION, p. 11)

Somerset Teen Eludes Police

Nate Sheenan '04

On Friday, September 29, 2000, Michael J. Habbib, a Somerset resident, broke into a Dighton home and stole 8 rifles and shotguns.

After Habbib stole the guns, he stole the resident's car and drove off. The stolen vehicle broke down and a passing motorist falsely reported the car on fire.

Fire chief Robert Pray and 2 to 3 others who insisted on helping, arrived on the scene. Habbib then took out a deer rifle and ordered his rescuers to the ground. He stole the chief's Ford Expedition and drove to an area of high tension wires in Rehobeth.

Habbib's supposed accomplice, Michael O. Pimental was still at large as of Friday, October 13th.

Prosecutors reported that Habbib made incriminating statements while being videotaped over the weekend after his arrest. "A rule of court says we cannot comment on any-

thing a suspect says," said Chief Smith of the Somerset Police Department. "It goes back to the District Attorney that we are like agents and can't say if the tests were administered or the results of the tests."

Habbib was chased for most of the day, and not for hours as some papers reported.

At 10:30a.m., Habbib held the fire fighters at gunpoint, then he eluded police until 4:45 when they were notified he was on the street of his residence. It took another 45 minutes to apprehend him. Approximately 20 police officers from Somerset, Swansea, and Dighton were present in accordance with the mutual aide pact Somerset has with Dighton, Rehobeth, Swansea, and Seekonk.

The plan of action that determined how to bring Habbib into custody was made by officers in training and experience. The Somerset police department Court Liaison officer Lt.

James C. Duarte was on the phone with Habbib and his family for most of the 45 minutes.

Habbib is a teenager and a Somerset resident. 1 to 2 years ago, he attended Somerset High School. The police officers have not noticed a rise in suburban public school violence as much as they are aware of it. However, Chief Smith has noticed a rise in teen violence. "Where, in the past, things might have been settled in an argument or maybe a fistfight, now we're seeing a lean towards weapons," Smith stated.

After the Habbib incident, students at Somerset High ponder their safety. When questioned about feeling safe, one student said, "Not really, in the morning hours the doors at school are unlocked and anyone can walk in." But another said, "The doors are almost always locked and we have surveillance equipment."



Breeze



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Commentary



The Wonderful World of Apathy

Mark Souza '01

Presidential elections are coming up this Tuesday and a record may be set. Yes, the record for the election year with the smallest voter turnout. Because why would anyone want to vote for the man who will become the leader of his or her country? That does not matter, does it? Anyone with any understanding of the way this country is run knows that it does matter. So the question remains, why is it so many people seem not to care?

The answer, unfortunately, is that we are in a society where caring is looked down upon. With adages like "roll with the punches" and "whatever will be will be", people are taught not to care. For those who reject this philosophy and do care, many of them just end up disappointed. That is the problem with caring about an issue. Eventually the issue will be settled and those who are on the

losing end of the settlement will be disappointed. Apathy just seems to make good sense. It is safer not to care.

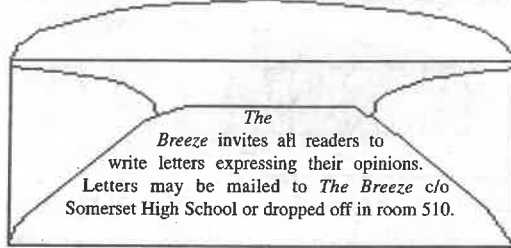
However, without people who really care about issues, who care enough to get involved, who care enough to spark change, this country would not be what it is today. From the Revolutionary War to the Civil War to the Civil Rights movement and everything in between, people who care have led the most important changes in America. That is why it is so troubling that more and more people are becoming apathetic to events surrounding them. Even more troubling is the fact that they are being rewarded for it.

Today people preach against emotional attachment. We've become so afraid that people will get worked up over an issue that we encourage people to keep their opinions to them-

selves, "if you do not have anything nice to say, do not say anything at all." Then we complain about the lack of voters, the apathy in the nation's teenagers, the fact that nothing ever seems to get done.

Well let's change that. Rather than bottling up, why don't we show some of our emotion? If you do not have anything nice to say, why not criticize in a constructive way? Getting worked up over an issue is not necessarily a bad thing. As long as there is certain moderation to emotion, it has the potential to be the most devastating tool a human has.

So let us try to hurt the apathetic attitude. Let us not roll with the punches. Let us make life go the way we want it to, rather than go the way life wants us to. Let us, those of us who can, start by going out and voting.



Won't You Just Go Away?

By Guest Writer Adam Lawrence

In response to the above question - no. Anyway, it is been a while since I have written any sort of commentary, so when I was asked to write a guest column, I was more than happy to come back on board, if just once more.

Anywho, I suppose I should briefly touch on the "College Experience." It is college. More freedom, more responsibility, I would elaborate on it, but I don't really feel like it.

Well, we have got an election coming up, maybe it will end up ok, or maybe we will end up with four years o'hell with good 'ol "Dubya." I tell ya, if Mr. "Subliminal" himself gets elected, Canada looks mighty inviting. If you remember nothing else from my articles, make it this- "Life is too short to be conservative."

Up next, some fun quotes from the intellectual giant (giggle, giggle) known as George W. Bush (drumroll, please)...

"Higher education is not my priority."

"We will promote individual choice. We will rely on private insurance." a.k.a. - You are on your own.

"America must be involved in the world."

Here's a gem - when he was asked about his position on the U.S. military in Kosovo, he replied, "Uh, I support winning."

Oooh, and my personal fave - "You don't need to be smart to be president."

Ah, a breath of fresh air

(cough wheeze hack). And, of course, it never fails to amaze me how our pals on the right can impart to us that every single life is sacred, and then go on to extol the virtues of the death penalty in the same breath. Political double-talk, dontcha love it?

Someone reading my work for the first time with this article might surmise I am an angry person, they would be very wrong. There is a huge chasm separating anger from passion about one's stances. I am actually semi-happy-go-lucky, well, maybe not.

Moving right along, I see the other Breeze staffers have been doing quite well without the likes of me. So, I will turn the (Turn to ADAM, p. 10)

Fashion Police

Lauren Farias '03

WARNING: The following rant is incredibly shallow sounding, but if you just try and stick with me for the next few paragraphs we might all learn something (or everyone who this applies to will get rather angry with me and revert to teasing techniques utilized in grade school).

Sometimes, I am not even sure why I bother going to the mall anymore. To begin with, I have very little time for anything but school related things like homework, cross-country, and my monthly rant in the paper. Sleeping only comes between that special time

between eleven at night and five-thirty in the morning, and eating comes when I stuff a nutrition bar in my mouth during that block of time when I am waiting for my ride home from practice to go home and do homework. So when I can shove a trip to the mall in between all of that, you have no idea how happy I get. Visions of shiny new track pants and CDs dance in my head on the ride up and as I enter the mall a sense of peace fills me like no other. Then, once again, reality smacks me upside my ditsy little head. The mall, once con-

sidered a safe haven for teenagers, has turned into a place that almost makes me feel dirty for going there.

Most clothing marketed towards us these days is either plastic trying to pass off as leather (although, you can tell the difference by the strange "squeak" noise the plastic pants makes when a person walks in them) or cheap tee-shirts made by slave laborers in third world countries with an ugly, fake sports team logo on (with the shirt's brand name tossed in somewhere for good measure).

(Turn to FASHION, p. 10)

The Breeze encourages letters from students, faculty, and community members. Letters must be signed in order to be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for length without changing their meaning or intent, and not all letters will be published.

The monthly editorial reflects the opinions of the Breeze staff. It does not reflect the opinion of the school administration or the Somerset School Department.

Other opinion pieces, such as letters to the editor, feature columns, cartoons, and reviews, reflect the opinions of their authors only.

The Breeze will not print any material that is libelous, obscene, or disruptive to school activities.

ENTERTAINMENT



Eminem: The Controversial King of Hip-Hop

A.J. Nunes '04

It seems that these days everyone has Eminem's new album the Marshall Mothers LP. The controversy surrounding the Detroit rapper grows every day. Eminem's lyrics are looked upon by most as inappropriate.

The first album Eminem released, The Slim Shady LP, had a major impact on the world of rap/hip-hop and gave him the respect of listeners nationwide. His second album however has put him, in the eyes of many, as THE KING OF HIP-HOP.

Marshall Bruce Mathers the third was born on October 17, 1972 in Kansas Missouri. Eminem's material is based upon events from his life. One of the most frequent themes in his songs proves to be Detroit

Michigan, where he and his mother moved when he was twelve years old. Rap became his solace in high school. Eminem found joy in battling schoolmates in the lunchroom.

Rap was an escape from an otherwise painful childhood. Switching schools every three months made it difficult to make friends. Working minimum-wage paying jobs after dropping out of high school, his dream of making it big in the music business was constant.

Like most rappers Eminem's rise to stardom was not easy. His first album, Infinite, was a disappointment. Eminem was hurt by the response the album received so he began working on a new album The Slim Shady EP (not to be confused with The Slim Shady LP which

he later released). "I made something I wanted to hear, The Slim Shady EP. I lashed out on everyone who talked about me," Eminem commented.

The Slim Shady EP quickly caught the attention of hip-hop's hard-to-please underground. After Rap Coalition's Wendy Day received a copy of Infinite, she helped the aspiring rapper secure a spot at the Coalition's 1997 Rap Olympics. At the Rap Olympics he captured second place in the freestyle competition.

Dr. Dre, Aftermath CEO, was so impressed with Eminem's performance in Los Angeles that he tracked him down and Eminem signed a deal with Aftermath. The two began working on Eminem's

new album The Slim Shady LP, which contained some songs from The Slim Shady EP, such as "My Name Is."

Many of you who have not heard Eminem's lyrics are probably wondering what the big deal is. His albums touch upon some pretty touchy subjects. Both of his released albums have songs that discuss the murder of his wife, Kim Mathers. Yet, one of the biggest arguments of parents nationwide remains the vulgar language.

The Marshall Mathers LP bashed some of pop's biggest names, such as Britney Spears, N*sync, and the Back-Street Boys. Christina Aguilera fortunately received the worst of the attack (if you are an Eminem

fan like me, you have probably developed just as much of a dislike for her as I have). Christopher Reeves and Gianni Versacci were also bashed in the array of lyrical chaos. Do not think you have seen the worst either. Dr. Dre promises Eminem's next album will be even rougher.

Eminem once said, "I go say things that I think will shock people, but I don't do things to shock people. I'm not trying to be the next Tupac, but I don't know how long I'm going to be on this planet, so while I am, I might as well make the most of it." Well I am sure we can all agree that, so far, this rap-sensation has made the most of his time.

Good Charlotte

Jenna Carrero '03

Good Charlotte is a Washington based band with two of the members, Joel (vocals) and Benji (vocals and bass) from the same egg. These twins had a childhood with a mother on welfare and a father who left on Christmas Eve one year. The other three members are Benji (drums, backup vocals), Billy (guitar, backup vocals), and Paul (guitar, backup vocals) all knew each other from past years.

I first saw Good Charlotte in concert with Eve 6 and Turning Blue at the Heartbreak Hotel in Providence, and I thought they

were excellent. Good Charlotte blends clever lyrics like, "spend you lazy, endless, crazy days inside my head." (from "Motivation Proclamation") with intense guitar parts like in "Screamer."

Good Charlotte released their first album in 2000 and have been touring with Eve 6 and Turning Blue. They are on their way to starting a tour with Phoenix TX on October 2 (check goodcharlotte.com for tour dates).

Good Charlotte's self-titled album, which was released on September 26, has fast become

one of my favorites.

If you enjoy bands like Jimmy's Chicken Shack, Eve 6, Save Ferris, and Wheatus, you will love Good Charlotte, since they are a mix of them all. This CD is great and the band is incredible onstage. Check them out sometime.

HOLIDAY MOVIES

Laurel Gauthier '03

If you are looking for something to do during the holiday break, or just on a weekend, there are lots of new movies coming out to the theaters.

Hitting the theaters at the beginning of November is the screen version of the popular 70's TV show Charlie's Angels. The angels are hired by mysterious Charlie to save a kidnapped billionaire. A simple assignment turns into a global misfortune as the ladies fresh from the police academy uncover the plot of a mastermind. This is a cute movie if you do not want to do too much thinking!

Also coming out in November is the inevitable sequel to last year's big hit The Blair Witch. This one is called Blair Witch Two: Book of Shadows. It picks up where the first one left off, nine months after the disappearance of the three film students in the woods. Other youngsters venture out, oblivious to the terrors that await them. If you are like me, and watched the first one waiting for it to get good, and when it was over did not understand why it did so well, and had a major head-ache, then I

(Turn to MOVIES, p. 5)

The Virgin Suicides

Maggie Borzym '03

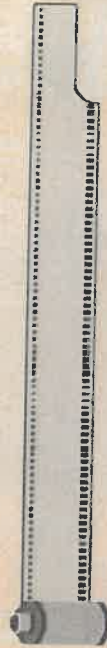
Suicide has always been a sensitive subject. Who is to blame? How could anyone feel such a loss of hope that they would put a razor to their wrists? In *The Virgin Suicides* by Jeffrey Eugenides these questions are attempted to be answered by a couple of curious teenagers.

A suburban town in the seventies has suddenly become haunted by what they call, "the year of the suicides." The Lisbon sisters, one by one, decide to take their lives. First, it is Cecilia, the youngest who succeeds after the second suicide attempt. Then almost a year passes and tragedy strikes again when her four older sisters commit suicide.

The deaths themselves do not make this book, instead, it is the quest of a couple of obsessed boys having to try to

understand what led these sisters to this terrible fate. Were the parents to blame, who kept their children practically prisoners in their own home? Maybe they were all just mentally not there? Or was it the death of Cecilia, their sister, which led the Lisbon girls to feel it was their only way out? But why would Cecilia kill herself in the first place? After all, she was only thirteen. This is the type of book that leads you to more questions than answers.

This would not be a true book review if I didn't tell you that there were times I found this book a little boring. Too many details that just could not keep my attention. Other than that, this book pulled me into the strange, confused minds of *The Virgin Suicides* and I think it's worth a read.



Gentle Asylum: Life at a Mental Hospital

Amanda Ancil '02

I recently read *Gentle Asylum: Life at a Mental Hospital*. This book by Isabelle Andersen, a social worker at a mental hospital named "Hunter's Landing," reveals how the patients come to be in the hospital and how their life is run in the facility. This story also shows the daily affairs and stresses of the workers who give everything to help the residents.

Throughout the book, Andersen portrays and explores the lives and minds of the staff workers, and the patients with the mental disabilities. Although the patients' names are fictional, the book covers one full year of the trials and tribulations of the people. During this time period, Andersen discusses the behavior patterns of the patients, the

illnesses that are unique to them, and the effects and changes of the coming and going of staff members. Also, within this year's time several types of methods were experimented with to smoothly and effectively run the hospital.

Anderson gets deeply involved emotionally with some of her patients; from those having more serious and severe illnesses, to those who are there for minor illnesses. Some of her patients are at the hospital for weeks and some are there permanently due to the seriousness of their illness. The social workers deal with all types of people, ranging from young schizophrenics, to an elderly man named Mr. Samuels who has extreme mental problems.

This story is interesting in

that the workers really get into the minds of their patients. Through the social worker's evaluation sessions with the patients it is evident that the people who have such illnesses like Schizophrenia and split-personalities, come across as being generally caring and considerate. They seem only to have odd (or should I say "abnormal") thinking patterns. Overall, reading this heart-warming story allows the reader to get into the mind of the patients, to see what a day in their life is like, and how they came to be the way they are, through traumatic experiences or other means. All of the stories are told with warmth and are in no way offensive to the patients. They are a thoughtful blend of human nature and professional concerns

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MOVIES

(Continued from p. 4)

suggest that you wait for this one to come out on video. Otherwise go check it out!

If you are up for a romance, then head to the theatre November seventeenth. *Braveheart*, starring Ben Affleck and Gwyneth Paltrow, is a romantic comedy about a guy named Buddy who gives up his seat on an airplane that eventually crashes. A year later he decides to check up on the widow of the man who took his seat on that plane. He finds himself starting to fall in love with her before he has a chance to tell her who he really is. This

seems like it is going to be a good, but predictable movie.

Well, there you have it, and if you are looking for other movies and do not feel like searching the papers, check out Moviephone.com.





A r o u n d



SHS Marching Band members perform in the annual Musictown Parade. (Photo by Greg Joynt)

Grand Day

Jessica DeSisto '02

This year's Grand Day, the last event of Music Town Festival XXVII, proved to be bigger and better than ever before. Grand Day is when different high school marching bands come together to show their skill. There were three judges to critique their performances, but there were no losers, everyone was a winner, and all the bands cheered for one another.

"It is a showcase for the community to see the hard work of thousands of students who have worked really hard on their performances, both on field and street," said Dr. Perry.

The marching bands performed on the Somerset High School football field, and each performance lasted about fifteen minutes. These bands were the Somerset Blue Raider Marching Band (of course), BMC Durfee "Hilltoppers" Marching Band, Tiverton "Tiger" Marching Band, Bishop Feehan High School Marching Band, Mount Hope High School Marching Band,

Bridgewater-Raynham High School Marching Band, Middletown Islander Marching Band, Case Cardinals Marching Band, Dighton-Rehobeth Marching Band, and Portsmouth High School Marching Band. The band played songs from "Sesame Street" to "West Side Story" to "Grease" to songs by Marc Anthony and Frank Sinatra.

At two o'clock the bands, joined by different churches, organizations, and various floats, marched from Buffington Street, down Rte. 138 to Rte. 6.

"It is a really neat parade to see because it is a community parade. It is great to see the community so involved with our music and the rest of the community," said Dr. Perry.

"It is one of the biggest parades since the Bicentennial Parade in the 1970's," said Ed Tavares, vice-chairman, and parade chairman of the Music Town Festival XXVII Committee.

The marching bands were

joined by floats including the Clifton Rehabilitive Nursing Center. The Somerset Storms, and Case High School Theater Group, who performed from their fall show, "Wind and the Willows." Also performing were the Hills Mills Comedy Clowns, Somerset Dance Studio, Smith Dance Studio of Westport, Shrines from Canton Rhode Island, Forever Paws Animal Shelter, and many more from small cultural groups to the Rhode Island Highlands, the Dixie Land Band, Rehobeth Minutemen, and Warren Rhode Island Federal Blues.

There were also floats for the Music Town King (Ryan Farias), Queen (Sarah Shaker), Princess (Stacy Worrell), Miss Congeniality (Lauren Borge), and Miss Senior Citizen.



Though this section of the school newspaper does not usually include opinion and commentary articles, we offer this commentary by senior Lindsey Henry as a special to the Around School section.

Finally Seniors

Lindsey Henry '01

Well it has finally come; the time that we can say we are the seniors. The fourth and final year of our high school experience is flying by. Many of us can say, "Thank God!" while others say, "Oh my god college." Many of us are undecided about our future, while others know exactly what is ahead of them for the future.

Throughout the four years, I have grown close to many people in the school, and the times I have shared with them will always be remembered.

Looking back on elementary school cracks me up, especially since I am still so close to those friends with whom I shared my first everything. We were tight back then at South School, as I am sure most of the seniors were in their elementary schools.

Then we moved up to junior high school and talking about the dances, who kissed whom, and who got the most detention. Then we moved on to the first day of freshman year, which was a big scary day, but look how we all made it through. That day we saw all new faces...all the Somerset girls wanted to meet Berkley guys because they were so cute and vice versa. Then after the Somerset and Berkley kids got

to know each other, everybody moved up to meeting upper classmen.

It was a great experience getting to meet new friends from somewhere else. Our parents look back and want to cry because their little baby boy or girl is growing up and entering the big world and starting a new period in their life.

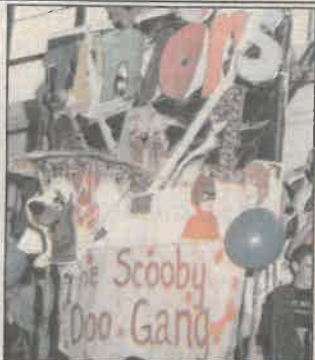
Now that I look back and I am a senior, I wonder why so many seniors talked to me as a freshman, and I laugh because I cannot believe I was just a 5 foot small little girl. It has all been worth it in the end and I am glad we all matured in front of each other's eyes as quickly as we did.

We have all had the opportunity to play sports together, hang out together, get in trouble together, party together, outsmart one another, and love and hate one another. At the end of that big graduation day, we all have to come together, look back, sigh and say, "we did it." REMEMBER: Do not hold any grudges, live life to its fullest, and never forget who your true friends are, and were.

So here we go yet again, as little freshmen stepping into the big future...but it is okay because we can make it through that big scary day again.



School



Scene from last year's Junior class rally. (Photo courtesy of 2000 yearbook)

It is Rally Time!

Kristen Kutz '01

Second to graduation day, the Case Rally ranks as the most anticipated event of the school year. Over the years, it has become one of the greatest traditions of the school. Students and class advisors dedicate the majority of their time during the fall to the preparation of the skits and decorations. In the late 1950's, when the rally was started, no one would have ever conceived the amount of hype which now surrounds this event.

The Case Rally has become, "part of the culture of the school," says Mr. Alves. It is one of those events that you think of as soon as the school's name is mentioned. The week before the rally the entire school is literally in a trance.

Pennies are also in great demand during this time. Penny pounds is another aspect of a class's score, and adds to the community involvement of the event. Each class tries to collect the most pennies. The class with the heaviest collection of pennies wins that part of

the scoring. Then there is the main event: the skits themselves. Mrs. Camara, the senior class advisor, feels the performances have become, "more entertaining and positive," since she attended Somerset High School. A current student at Somerset High School, Meaghan Driscoll, reiterates Mrs. Camara's thoughts saying the rally, "creates a good atmosphere. The classes work together and the skits are pretty funny." Along with the actual performances of the students, decorations and props also contribute to the class's total points. The only thing restricting the creativity of the skits is the seven minute time limit, which will be enforced this year. The rally is not just another excuse to be dismissed from classes, it has become a tradition of the school, which we will remember long after our high school years are over.

As a student who has been involved with the rally for four years, I urge all students to get

SPIRIT WEEK

Wednesday, November 18- **"Formal Day"**- Students will be asked to wear formal attire to school (i.e. shirts and ties, skirts and dresses, etc.)

Thursday, November 19- **"Mismatch Day"**- Students will be asked to wear clothing that "mismatches" throughout the course of the day

Friday, November 20- **"Throwback Day"**- Students will be asked to wear their favorite attire from the 1950's through the 1980's. There will also be music played over the intercom during passing time.

Monday, November 23- **"Twin Day"**- Students will be asked to dress up in similar clothing and attire to one other person. Everyone who participates on this day will be entered into a drawing. The winners of the drawing will receive \$25 gift certificates to the New Providence Place Mall.

Tuesday, November 24- **"Blue & White Day"**- Students will be encouraged to dress up in blue and white clothing or anything that promotes school spirit (i.e. raiders t-shirts, jerseys, etc.). The Student Council will be painting faces before school begins in the cafeteria and during all three lunches.

Canned goods will be collected throughout Spirit Week. The class bringing in the most cans and has the most participants on the theme days will receive the most points. The class with the most points at the end of Spirit Week will be the winner.

involved in some way with the rally. Even if you do not want to act in front of the whole school, your help can be utilized in the construction of props and decorations. These items make the atmosphere of the rally complete. The people who work in making the decorations are truly the unsung

heroes. If you are not into art either, then simply support your classmates, because this also contributes points towards the class's total score. Although, at first, meetings can be frustrating and disorganized, the chaos will soon give way to memories that will last a lifetime.

The Chess Club

Maggie Botzym '03

Many just stereotype the chess club as a brainy extra-curricular activity. Well good, cause it generally is. Sorry, but I just don't find anything wrong in that statement. This is an intellectual "sport" and for me there is so much fun in out-smarting your opponent (or least trying to), who though it might be your best friend, in this game, is your new enemy that you just love to hate.

"I think it is important for a teacher to have a ground presence beyond the classroom time. Something to show he or she is a real person, potentially even likeable and not just a fountain of sarcastic remarks and yellow detention slips. And I like chess, so that seemed a good choice" said Jacob Rabinowitz, explaining his reason for starting this club.

Mr. Rabinowitz came to Somerset this September as a new French and Latin teacher and shows his signs of sarcasm, intellect and humor. The future of the chess club? "I hope to build it into a club where we can have a team, play other schools, have corporate sponsors pay our plane fare and hotel bills, and even, dare I say it? Live to see the day when chess club gets its own pep rally." Of course, even this is too much to ask, but we can see our little chess club group growing until we really can compete and show how smart Somerset students really are.

The cool thing about chess club is that it's nothing like a class. You show up in room 108 Tuesday after school when

(Turn to CHESS p. 11)



Cross Country Teams Face Tough Competition

Ryan Avery '03

The boy and girl cross country teams at Somerset have been facing the top teams in the EAC conference in the past couple weeks, but have shown much improvement since the beginning of the season. On September 20, both teams had a dual meet against Coyle at home. The boys were defeated 17-46, but the girls won a close one, 26-31. Running well for the boys were veterans John Riley, Charlie Tripp, Ryan Avery, and John Carreiro, who all finished in the top 10. For the girls, Susan Rotsky took first place in the race with a time of 17:11. Freshman Aisha Stewart also had a great race, finishing third. Jessica Roberts, Mariah Bliss, and Lauren Camara also finished in the top 10.

The Raiders' next meet was against Seekonk, one of the best teams in the state. The boys fell 18-41, as did the girls, 20-42. Running well for the

boys was John Riley, who took third place. Charlie Tripp, Mike Mendonca, and Ed Michno also had good races. For the girls, Sue Rotsky won her third straight race, with a time of 16:30.

Next, both teams faced Attleboro in an EAC home meet. The boys ran extremely well, but lost by a score of 23-34. John Riley took second place with a time of 14:35, and Joseph Botelho returned to the team to take third place in the race. In the girls' race, it was close, but Somerset pulled out a 26-30 victory. With the absence of Sue Rotsky, many girls stepped up, including Mariah Bliss, Jess Roberts, Aisha Stewart, Caitlin Perrin, and Amy Gallant, who all finished in the top 10. Between both the boys and girls 25 runners had their personal best times on the home course in this meet. A few days later, on a cold Saturday morning, both

teams traveled to Case. However, Case only had a girls team. The Somerset girls easily defeated this small squad, 15-48, with Mariah Bliss taking first place.

The Raiders' last meet was against Bishop Feehan; probably the largest and strongest team in the EAC. The boys lost, 17-46, and the girls were defeated 15-49. John Riley finished in fourth place, after an all-out sprint with the top 3 Feehan runners at the finish line. Joseph (Habib) Botelho was the only other Somerset runner in the top 10. Aisha Dtell was the first finisher for the Somerset girls, coming in 7th place, as they once again missed the presence of Rotsky, and also in this race, Bliss.

Overall, the boys team is 1-5, 1-3 in the conference. The girls are even at 3-3, 2-1 in the EAC. The EAC cross-country championship meet is set for Saturday, October 28.



NFL 2000 Update

Ryan McManus '04

The 2000 National Football League season is nearing the halfway mark. Many teams are having great seasons, while others are not living up to expectations. As expected, the Rams have creamed everybody and are cruising to a playoff birth. Rams quarterback Kurt Warner was on pace to shatter NFL passing records until he hurt his pinky finger at Kansas City. The Vikings have been a surprise with second year quarterback Daunte Culpepper at the helm of the offense.

Other teams with high expectations, such as the Redskins, Ravens, Raiders, Titans, and Broncos, have played well and look like certain playoff contenders. The Patriots, who have a terrible offensive line and

inconsistent offense and defense, started 2-6 and look like they will be going home in January. The Bears, who were expected to be a playoff team, are playing terrible and have started off 1-7. These and many other teams continue to be the disappointments of the NFL.

Many players have stepped up and are playing great near mid-season. The Saints' running back Ricky Williams is having a great year after a poor rookie season. The 49ers' quarterback Jeff Garcia is playing great in place of the retired Steve Young.

As the second half of the season nears, football fans will know who is a big time contender and who is a big time loser.

Knicks No Longer Atlantic Division Powerhouse With Ewing Gone

Adam Levesque '01

In the summer of 1985 the New York Knicks drafted center Patrick Ewing from Georgetown with the first pick in the draft. The fans and the team owner expected the seven-foot to bring many championships to New York. Without winning any championships for the Knicks, Ewing was traded last month after spending 15 seasons in New York.

Ewing was traded to the Seattle Supersonics in a four-

team swap involving the Sonics, Lakers, Knicks, and Suns. The Knicks received Glenn Rice, Travis Knight, Luc Longley, Vernon Maxwell, Vladimir Stepania, and two first and second round picks in exchange for Ewing and some cash.

Although Ewing is getting older, and his body is not as durable and athletic as it was before, he is still one of the better centers in the league.

The Knicks will not be able to



replace the leadership Ewing

brought to the team and his presence will be missed on the court. The Knicks do not have Ewing in the middle anymore to stop opposing players from driving to hoop and slamming it down. Luc Longley and Travis Knight will not be able to fill in for Ewing in the locker room or on the court. Glenn Rice is only going to cause problems with the Knicks' rotation and give them less than adequate defense.

Without Ewing the Knicks will no longer be able to stop Alonzo Mourning's Miami Heat, who will become the sole dominant force in the Atlantic Division. The Knicks not only lost a franchise player in Ewing but they also lost their foothold as an Eastern Conference power.

Penalty or Felony

KC Dowd '04

On October 6, Canadian Judge William Kitchen found former Boston Bruins' defenseman, Marty McSorley, guilty of assault with a weapon.

The incident occurred on February 21, 2000, in Vancouver, British Columbia. With just three seconds remaining in the game, McSorley blind sided Vancouver Canucks' forward, Donald Brashear, with a two-fisted stick attack, sending him crashing to the ice. Brashear's helmet dislodged and he was rendered temporarily unconscious. Still unable to recall the slam, Brashear sustained a concussion, and was sidelined for sev-

eral weeks.

Thirty-seven year old McSorley testified that he "tried to hit Brashear on the shoulder to provoke him into fighting." Judge Kitchen ruled, "Brashear was struck as intended." McSorley was sentenced to 18 months probation, instead of a potential 18 months in prison. This actually translates to a non-sentence. The videotape clearly depicted a blatant and premeditated on ice attack.

McSorley's excuse team, including Attorney Bill Smart, argued that NHL players give "explicit consent to the risk of on ice contact." This incidental, accidental theory is absurd,

given the admitted intention and severity of this potentially crippling cheap shot. According to this defense, an assault is not an assault if committed in a sporting event. McSorley was granted a conditional "slap on the hand" for whacking another player on the head. Judge Kitchen dropped the ball when he acknowledged McSorley's guilt, yet failed to impose a real consequence.

At 235 lbs., 6'2", McSorley has incurred 3,381 penalty minutes in his 17 NHL seasons. He has also earned the reputation as one of the leagues infamous enforcers. This hired gun may have become a loose cannon. Previously known as Wayne Gretzky's bodyguard, McSorley knew what he was doing, and it had nothing to do with playing hockey.

Intensity and aggression are great attributes for any athlete, and certainly there are many incidental contacts in all contact sports. Spectators enjoy a hard check against the glass, and even an occasional brawl. McSorley crossed the line when he used his stick on an unsuspecting opponent to voice his frustration. He caused intentional injury to another player, and there is no glory in that.

Now McSorley is whining about the fact that he was tried at all. He has implied that he is the NHL's scapegoat. "I could have shown hours of videos, which would have shown ugly incidents of what really happens in the NHL," said McSorley in an interview with the Eagle-Tribune of Lawrence, MA. Marty still does not get it.

According to his statement, McSorley plans to meet with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman about his chances for reinstatement. Hopefully, Bettman can enlighten Marty about when a hit is more than a hit, and when it is an aggravated assault.

Girls' Soccer: Bigger and Better!

Jessica DeSisto

"The highlight of my season, this is my third season coaching, started when I found out that we had sixteen new freshmen in the program and a total of forty-one young ladies," said varsity coach Joe Borges as he watched his varsity team perform various drills. "It's excellent that we have four starting freshmen on varsity," said Borges.

"The highlight of the season had to be against Bishop Feehan. It was our first win in the two years I've been coaching junior varsity and Feehan is a very competitive school. It encouraged us to work harder, and win and tie more games against very competitive schools," said junior varsity coach Sue Mello, our school nurse.

This year proves to be the best year for girls soccer. Both teams have been winning more games than before, and everyone seemed to be really enjoying themselves when I watched them practice. "They are hav-

ing fun doing it," said Mello.

"I foresee a great future for this program, and we are one step away from winning five games and making it to the tournament. I'm content with the ladies' attitudes. Lots of talent, skill, and patience. I'm very happy with the whole program and being part of it," said Borges.

A junior varsity team was started last year, and this is the second season that it has been going on. "It's to get many kids involved and perfect skills by playing on the field and not bench warming. It's a feeder to the varsity team. I see their skills improve with every game; their competitiveness, aggressiveness, and mental toughness on the field. It's not as intense as varsity and they are working hard," said Mello, who has been the junior varsity coach (not assistant varsity coach) for these two years.

Hopefully, next year the team will surpass this year's record and continue to improve in the future.

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Red Sox For Sale

Andrew Martin '04

On Friday afternoon October 6, 2000, Red Sox CEO John Harrington announced that he was putting the majority of the team's ownership for sale. Mr. Harrington inherited the team's ownership when Mrs. Jean Yawkey died in 1992. He feels that it was the right time for the Trust Fund and himself to sell the team. However, Harrington will continue to be CEO and general partner for the Red Sox while the team is undergoing the sale's process, which is expected to be 6-12 months.

Thomas A. Yawkey pur-

chased the team in 1936 and the team became his wife's in 1976 when he died. Having no surviving family, Mrs. Yawkey transferred her ownership interest to the Jean R. Yawkey Trust. John Harrington had sole authority over Red Sox matters until he decided to sell. When the sale is complete, he will remain the Executive Director and Trustee of the Yawkey Foundation.

There is speculation, however, about why the team is being sold. People think that the sale is caused because of problems

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JESSE & ELYSE / by Jesse Barboza



Pennies

(Continued from p. 2.)

The Penny Pounds was born. Working on the competitiveness between grades, a great deal of money is accumulated. Also, though the classes compete against one another, the total sum of money is put into one account representing all of Somerset High School.

Every roll of pennies, made up of fifty pennies, weighs 0.8 pounds. Last year roughly 2600 dollars was collected, and in 1998 about 2300 dollars was brought together. That is a great deal of money which every year is used to provide charitable work in the name of our school, as a whole. There is an account set up, into which all of the money is placed. Money is drawn from the account at various times of the year, and is used to help those less fortunate.

Not all of the money is necessarily used in a given year, but simply remains in the account until an important use is found. In the past, the money has been used for a number of different things. For instance, clothes and toys have been bought for needy families in our area around the holidays. When Mr. Carl's, the hair salon on County Street burnt down a few years ago, money was taken out of the account to help the family who had lived in the apartment above replace lost

items, including a refrigerator.

Last year, a portion of the account was used to give the nuns at Rose Hawthorne Cancer Home a pizza party as a small thanks for the devotion they give to comforting the terminally ill. Other projects, such as these, have also been funded with the great deal of money collected through Penny Pounds. All the money is put into a special account, where it is used for charitable works and is on hand for anyone in the community who is suddenly in need of assistance.

The Penny Pounds has worked out well since it was created by Mrs. Silvia and Mr. Sorem nine years ago. Being a part of the Case Rally competition, the collection of pennies takes on a double meaning. In collecting pennies, students not only add to their class' chance of doing well, but also contribute to a fund which does good in the name of Somerset High School. In the past, and in the future, charitable works will be done in our school's name, representing all who attend and work here, thanks to the pennies that are collected for the Case Rally.

FASHION

(Continued from p. 3)

Prices are also insane. A girl I vaguely know from California (a rather rich area in California, I might add) was recounting to me how she got a pair of genuine leather pants and a cable knit sweater for "only" eight hundred dollars. For some reason, I had the urge to burst into tears at the statement. Not only because I could not afford it, but because of the fact that she DID have that much money and spent it on ONE OUTFIT. There are some people in this country, in this town for that matter, who do not have enough money to eat, and she spends enough money to buy a computer on a pair of pants and a sweater!

Next time you go to the mall, just do me a favor and look; I mean REALLY look, at what you are buying. Then decide if spending a month's savings on a fake ostrich feather boa is really worth it.

ADAM

(Continued from p. 3)

reins back over to them, and bid you all a fond adieu 'till next time (there is a next time?)... but first, I would like to leave you with a quote by Auguste Rodin - "Nothing is a waste of time if you use the experience wisely."

Attention All Senior Parents!

Information on placing a family ad in the 2001 Yearbook has been sent home to all parents of senior class students. If you would like to buy one of these ads, to send a special congratulations to your student, you must send in the information to Mr. LaMothe no later than December 15.

For any questions, please contact Mr. LaMothe.



Thanksgiving

Holly Chagnon and Lynn Creamer

After a winter of great starvation and privation in 1621, Governor of the Plymouth Colony, William Bradford, proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving. A great feast was shared by all the colonists and Native Americans. In 1941, Congress declared the holiday should be celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. Traditionally, the day is observed by church services and family reunions. It is customary to share a turkey dinner with your fam-

ily as a reminder of the four wild turkeys served at the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving feast. The pumpkin was among the fruits of the first Thanksgiving celebration, and it is used today as a type of pie filling. The turkey and the pilgrim have become symbols throughout the U.S. for this holiday. We celebrate Thanksgiving here at SHS by attending the annual Somerset-Case football game. Hope to see you all there!

ABORTION

(Continued from p. 2)

and Drug Administration order banned its import into the United States from 1989 to 1993. Boycotts have been planned in the past against any pharmacy that supplies the drug. However, feminist groups have strongly supported the drug, seeing it a development in the area of a woman's choice.

CHESS

(Continued from p. 7)

you have time and feel like playing. There is nothing tense about it and everyone just does their own thing. Even if you do not know how to play, we can teach you, and then you can look, or even possibly become, smarter. Take Mr. Rabinowitz's advice, "You can never tell who is going to be great at it. It's worth a try, and it always looks good on your college application."

RED SOX

(Continued from p. 9)

with funding for the new ballpark. Also, there is reason to believe that the Red Sox do not have enough money to pay the salaries of the players for the 2001 season. So, selling the Red Sox now might have been a wise decision. Since losing good players would be unfavorable to the fans, and costly to the community, Harrington might have made a wise decision.

As for people who might decide to buy the Sox, Harrington has emphasized that he would like the new owner to be a New Englander and a die-hard Red Sox fan. He would also like the new owner to be in place for next season. Some of you may know that billionaire Vince McMahon's name was mentioned. However, that rumor is totally false and McMahon said he had no interest. The son of Hall of Famer

and former Red Sox great Ted Williams is speculated to also have interest in purchasing the team.

So far, nothing has been said as to who the manager is and what will happen for the team. Hopefully, for all the Red Sox fans, the new owner will have a lot of money like Yankees 'owner George Steinbrenner. We might get more big time players with a new owner but we might also lose some talent in return.



Welcome Mrs. Clement

Holly Chagnon and Lynn Creamer '02

In case you haven't heard, Somerset High has a new Science Curriculum Specialist, Mrs. Clement. A graduate from Bridgewater State, she obtained a degree in Elementary Education, because she loved being around kids.

During the 1970's, there was a need for science teachers, so she went back to school and became certified for it.

Mrs. Clement taught in the Fall River school system for 25 years, 20 of those years being at Durfee High School. The last three years there she was the Head of the Science Department.

When we asked her what changes she has planned, she told us that she was looking to alter the science curriculum. Mrs. Clement told us that the major difference between being a teacher and the Curriculum Specialist is that she has a lot more paperwork, meetings, and

that she is responsible for lots of people.

Mrs. Clement has many new responsibilities now. She still teaches one class. She is also in charge of all the science supplies for Somerset Junior High as well as the High School. She has to evaluate teachers and go to many meetings.

Overall, she says that she loves the students here at Somerset High, but she does miss the modern labs at Durfee. However, even though a new staff member, she is no stranger to SHS. Her son David graduated in 1999, and her daughter Katherine is a senior here now.

Mrs. Clement says that it is always a pleasure running into her in the halls.

Mrs. Clement, we are happy to have you, and we hope you enjoy it here at SHS.

Bush/Gore

(Continued from p. 1)

Many were angry with the Vice President's behavior, displaying visible signs of annoyance and disrespect toward Bush. Gore was also accused of fabricating information and twisting the facts in order to serve his own purpose. When it had concluded, Bush was complimented for his display, while Gore was criticized.

Debate number two was held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. There was a similar format to the first debate for this engagement, Gore and Bush found themselves seated together at a table and given questions by the moderator. It was widely believed that Gore's behavior during the first debate was unprofessional and harmful to him in the polls; there was

much concern of how he would conduct himself this time. The Vice President conducted himself much differently than he had before, showing almost no signs of disrespect. However, many said his good behavior seemed artificial and forced, comparing Gore to a muzzled dog. In truth, Gore still managed to convey his views to the audience but lacked the charisma and influence that one might expect from a future President. Bush, on the other hand, was able to once again impress the voters by using the same formula he had used in the first debate. He avoided making any major mistakes and continued to attack the Clinton-Gore era and the bureaucracy in Washington, D.C. Gore escaped the criticism he received after the first debate,

but failed to impress many voters, while Bush maintained his composure from the first meeting.

The final debate was held on October 17 in St. Louis, Missouri. Once again, this round used a different format than the previous meeting. A group of local residents, who were all identified as neither Republicans nor Democrats, were the authors of the questions presented to Bush and Gore. Each person wrote down a question, all of which were later reviewed by the moderator, and presented it in a predetermined order. Democrats were very happy with Gore's performance during this final debate. He was considered to be neither too aggressive nor too passive in his demeanor. Once again, Gore promoted the

success of the last eight years under Clinton, and promised to build on that foundation. He was less critical of the conditions in Texas, focusing instead on Bush's failure to state his policy on some national issues. Bush appeared much the same as he did in the two previous encounters. Bush accused Gore of supporting "big government" while saying he himself would give the average American more power. Bush continued to affirm the viewers that he would make use of his time in office to serve the nation and referred to his accomplishments in Texas as proof. Overall, this debate saw another admired performance by Bush and a considerably better showing by Gore.

When all three debates between Gore and Bush were

finished, a perhaps surprising outcome was seen. George W. Bush had seen an overall increase in his popularity. Few would contend that Bush's arguments were more influential than Gore's, but Bush made a better impression on the people. He maintained a steady character, while Gore seemed to change between each encounter.

Furthermore, Bush was able to convince many that he would promote the average citizen. Gore allowed himself to be portrayed as part of some monstrous, all-powerful government.

Still, the debates have not produced enough evidence to show which man will be elected as the next President of the United States.



Somerset High School students enjoying their past month of student activities, including Musictown Festival, Varsity Boys Soccer, and Volleyball.



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