

Wednesday, June 5, 2002



Rappaport meeting with faculty at Somerset High School. (Photo taken by Jon Correira)

# Jim Rappaport visits Somerset High School

Eric Correira '02

On Thursday, April 25, one of the Republican candidates for Lieutenant Governor, Jim Rappaport, met with high school students, teachers and administrators. He was accompanied by School Committee member Jason Kenney. Superintendent Furtado also attended this informal meeting. Attorney Rappaport wanted to speak with various individuals on the high school level in Bristol County. He wanted to hear their opinions about Massachusetts education and to listen to any concerns that they might possess.

Rappaport presented his central ideas and beliefs specifically in regards to education, but also to overall state government. He believes that the government has three major responsibilities to its people. First, to keep them safe. Second, to ensure quality education to its young people. Finally, to assist the less fortunate, those

whom face economic, physical and mental hardships. In respect to education, Rappaport stated that money, though important, is not the only critical piece needed for success. He believes that MCAS should be a graduation requirement. He feels that there has to be a bar for students to try to reach, and that in the past there were no real motivations to excel.

The meeting was short and to the point. Jim Rappaport presented his philosophies and experience. The discussion flowed well, the candidate gained a little insight into the workings of Somerset High School and those present were able to have questions answered and opinions and concerns voiced.

Teachers and students at the meeting also seemed to be in favor of the MCAS as a requirement for graduation. They said that in the beginning MCAS was dis-

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## Self-expression or under-dressing? A new dress code for students at SHS

By Kevin Dowd '04  
Co-editor

A new dress code policy is in the works! The Somerset High School Advisory Council has been assigned the task of revamping the present guidelines in an effort to clearly define what acceptable school attire will be. By law, school systems are allowed and expected to require dress codes that ensure safety and health standards, as well as prevent disruptions and distractions to the educational process. Given these considerations, the law does not allow public schools to dictate what clothes are "appropriate" to wear to school.

The Somerset High School Student Handbook (2001-02) does address the health, safety, and disruption concerns, as well as the wearing of hats. The policy states: "Students are expected to be clean and decent in dress and appearance. They must not wear anything that interferes with the educational process or that which is a danger to their health and safety. Students are prohibited from wearing coats and other garments designed primarily for outdoor use in the school building during hours when school is in session. Also, the wearing of hats and other head attire, including scarves, bandannas, etc. is prohibited in the building during school hours, except at the discretion of the principal when an individual student's health and/or wellbeing may warrant an exception."

Issues surrounding this recent interest in redefining the policy seems to stem from fashion trends promoting less clothing or sporting offensive words or symbols. Many administrators, teachers and students agree that night club attire has no place in the classrooms. Others stress their First Amendment rights, which duly ensure one's constitutional liberties to the freedom of speech or expression. Certain-

ly, how one chooses to dress is a fundamental reflection of that individual's preferences and self-expression. One of the most notable U.S. Supreme Court cases on student rights, *Tinker vs. Des Moines School Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969) states: "It can hardly be argued that either teachers or students shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate." It goes on to state, "The Fourteenth Amendment, as now applied to the States, protects the citizen against the State itself and all of its creatures - Boards of Education not excepted. These have delicate, and highly discretionary functions, but none that they may not perform within the limits of the Bill of Rights."

That being said, while the constitution protects against vague limitations on personal expression, there must be reasonable thought applied to one's expression of their personal freedoms. Self-expression should not infringe on the rights of others. Transparent clothing, offensive lingo or any attire that could insight disruption in a school setting should be expressed in the appropriate venue. Let's not forget freedom does not exclude responsibility or common sense. Do you really want to subject yourself to the agony of "de-feet" when your six-inch, spiked heel shoe catches on the stairway propelling you down three flights of stairs?

The updated policy that is still being established would prohibit transparent clothing or revealing midriffs or chests. It also excludes clothing that depicts words or symbols that could be viewed as obscene. Clothing that could conceal a student's identity or impact safety would also be prohibited, such as hats, bandannas and scarves. Any clothing that promotes hatred toward another individual's race,

(Please continue on page 2)



Somerset High School students exercise their civic duties at "Candidate's Night." Pictured from left are Evan Minor, K.C. Dowd, John Riley, Eric Correira, Jon Correira, and Joseph Botelho. (Photo taken by the Breeze staff)

## Student serves on forum panel

SOMERSET - K.C. Dowd was selected as the student representative on the panel posing the tough questions for Candidates' Night. This was held on May 9 at Somerset High School, and was sponsored by the Democratic Committee and The Spectator. Along with Dowd, other panel members included George Austin, editor of The Spectator, Arthur Frank, Advisory and Finance Committee member and Ken Smith at WSAR radio.

It was the intention of this panel to elicit definitive responses from the potential electives, to aid in the voter's decision on Election Day. K.C. asked each candidate what their preference of action would be for building renovations, given the options put forth by the recently presented Capital

Plan, while considering the future needs of Somerset students. Several students also questioned the candidates regarding the dilapidated condition of the track, and their availability and responsiveness to students' inquiries and needs. Several parents posed questions regarding the administration's responsiveness to their concerns, particularly in regard to their children with special needs. Also, questions were presented about administrators' responsibilities regarding returning phone calls to the parents.

The evening appeared to be an informative session revealing the candidates' positions on many issues. It also alerted the future committee members of some of the concerns of the community.


## New dress code at high school...

gender, religion or orientation, as well as alludes to drugs or alcohol will also be barred. The final draft is yet to be inked, however, the advisory committee continues to discuss which clothing and accessories are acceptable.

It is critical that the committee realizes the importance of respecting everyone's constitutional rights and does not go overboard in banning all that defines individuality. It should be clearly obvious

that a clothing item is distracting, dangerous or indecent before anyone assumes to label it as such. Also, the penalties for such a violation need to be reasonable. Given all the rules and regulations that continue to dictate our daily routine, do we really want the fashion police roaming our hallways?

A rule of thumb, the school isn't the beach, be sensible, be yourself!

	
Grandview Avenue Extension Somerset, Massachusetts 02726 (508) 324-3115	
Co-editors:	Eric Correira and K.C. Dowd
Around School:	Lynn Creamer and Holly Chagnon
Sports:	Ryan Avery
Advisor:	George Austin

## Lieutenant governor's candidate visits Somerset High School...

couraging because of initial low scores. However, the past few years have seen an increase in scores here at the high school, and teachers are more readily accepting of the test. There have been changes in curriculum, tutoring programs and many other changes that have been implemented. Mr. Pineault pointed out that Somerset had been selected as a candidate to be a Compass School for the entire state. The students, mostly seniors, agreed that they were most worried about paying for their college education and see the ever-increasing costs of higher learning as their primary concern. Superintendent Purade

was worried about the possible ten percent cut in the state education budget. Rappaport acknowledged that a cut could place, but he assured those present that a cut would not be to the degree that politicians are threatening.

The meeting was short and to the point. Jim Rappaport presented his philosophy and experience. The discussion focused well, the candidate gained a little insight into the workings of Somerset High School and those present were able to ask questions and have their questions answered and opinions and concerns voiced.

**Want to join The Breeze staff for the next school year, contact student K.C. Dowd or George Austin at (508) 674-4656.**

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# The end is near, but the memories will last a lifetime

Amanda Anttil '02

For the class of 2002, the past four years of high school are finally coming to a close. I know that all of us seniors are saying "finally!" and have countdowns of how many days we have left, but I also know that as the number gets down to the teens we are all remembering the teachers, students, friends, and events from the last four years that we will never forget and will always miss.

For my final article in "The Breeze" I thought it would be nice to give the graduating class a voice about the good memories of their high school years. I asked them questions about their favorite memories, teachers, and classes. These are some of the responses from the seniors:

\* Kevin Florenca: "My favorite teachers - Mrs. Boiselle and Mrs. Costa. The school lunches are the best!! Most memorable event - bomb scare Freshman year when we all went home."

\* Meghan Ariagno: "I'll always remember SHS field hockey when we beat Walpole. Case Rally '02. Freshman girl's b-ball. Mildred and her great memory (haha!). Laura and I talking Bummy and Meg getting annoyed (sorry!). The frat party at Brown. Portsmouth Abby. Hanging out in the clubhouse in B's class."

\* Andrew Ballard: "I guess the most memorable moment, if one actually rates this sort of thing, is sitting in Mrs. Lawrie's class playing my guitar with John Burke. Sure, it wasn't very good (I'm much better, I assure you), but it's something I'll remember for a long time."

\* Kate Wolfrey: "Beating Walpole. 'Roll ball bumpy' drill, hanging out with my friends, chair dancing, senior Case Rally, trying on prom dresses at the Filene's in the Providence Place Mall, and scoping 'good water!'"

\* Daniela Fairchild: "Bailey's Euro 2000, bunnies, snowball fights, 'the boat' at Smuggler's Notch, sharing gun with LBD and Driscoll, 'something' child, 'states and Jose' with the soccer team, X-mas parties at Lynn C's, engrided!, and good ol' chips and soda, 'the swallow flies at midnight'."

\* Lauren Rapoza: "Freshman softball with Gary. Mrs. Wardwell's Britney Spears impression. WALPOLE!! Showing up at Mr. Smith's house. John sitting in back of me in at least one class."

\* Amanda Anttil: "Meeting my boyfriend of two-and-a-half years, Josh Brewer, in '99. Moving to my new house in '00. Mr. Magg's music classes with Dylan W. and Pat A. Going over Goose's house and going to karaoke 'till 1:00 a.m. Talking and hanging with Ryan G., Scott D., and Glen G. Glenn B. calling me 'Stumpy' since 7th grade. Mrs. P's class with my girls Nicki P. and Monica V., and my partner-in-crime 'The C.T.' Debates with Mr. Barrat in law. To 'The Polar' Mr. B and Mr. Rocha. You two are the best!! To my two best friends- Nicole P. and Laura S. - you two are like sisters to me. I'm always here for ya Chickies!"

\* Courtney Rapoza: "Field hockey game vs. Acton-Boxboro. Smitty's class. 'Is it illegal in Mass. to...?'"

\* Nicole Roussell: "The game of assassin and how I was attacked in the hallway. Hanging out with the girls A.C., A.L.C., H.C., L.C., B.S., and C.S.! I'll never forget the many love triangles! 'Missions accomplished!' Singing with everyone. 'Say your name...'"

\* Holly Chagnon: "Toga party in Boston freshman year. Snowboarding with A.L.C. Singing with the girls. Rooming with: A.C., A.L.C., and N.R. in Virginia Beach. Double dates with K.C. and S.A. Hiding presents in L.C.'s room. MASC with S.B. Prom night!"

\* Mike Costantino: "Oceanography in room 409. Substitute teacher Mrs. Ingles calling 'Mike Hunt' down to the office and asking Mrs. Shea if she knew where 'Mike Hunt' is."

\* Ryan Kelley (Weige): "Substitute teacher Mrs. Ingles calling 'Mike Hunt' down for skipping Oceanography. My beach birthday bash senior year- by far the best time in high school. Performing at the Case Rally."

\* Chris Bishop: "Hearing about 'Mike Hunt' in Oceanography. The many variations of my last name people can think of (Bish, bishmutz, Bishop O' Malley). The never ending antics of Christos abusing me throughout the year."

\* Alan Cabral: "Making fun of Glenn with Steve, Vanessa, Cory, and Derek during Chem. Seeing John Niewola in spandex. Winning our first Case Rally. THE ULTIMATE FOOD FIGHT."

\* Jeremy Provost: "John Niewola and Aian Cabral in the Case Rally. 'Holy frozen spandex Batman.' THE BIGGEST FOOD FIGHT EVER. Starting trouble with Annunes and Kornegay."

\* Steve Annunes: "The huge food fight and not being there. Mr. Croke coming up to me and Kornegay and asking us who squirted him with water!"

\* Cory Lopes: "Making it all the way to state finals in soccer. Setting a new scoring record of 36 goals. The crazy food fight. Making fun of Glenn in chem. class. Having good times with all my friends. Tossing raisins with Vanessa T. Having crazy conversations with Derek and Vanessa. Making Mrs. George go nuts for 2 years with Jeremy. Going to see Mrs. Cav. Hanging with Derek. Tripping at the fashion show."

\* Derek Pavao: "Coming to this school last year and making a bunch of new friends. Throwing raisins and making fun of Glenn in chem. class. Chilling with Cory all the time. Those crazy conversations with Cory Lopes and Vanessa Thomson. Oh, and the fashion show-that was fun."

\* Vanessa Barreira: "Skipping school with Jess T., Ashley S., Vicki M., and Ashley B. to go prom dress shopping or do nothing at all. How about the big girl at Kyle's party (how big was she?). Getting the prom moved to the Westin! Using plywood as a bed, right Ash and Vicki?"

\* Jessica Tavares: "I'm never gonna forget my volleyball season this year. I'm gonna miss you girls! We made it in the finals, and that was such an accomplishment. Also, getting the 'Outstanding Sportsmanship Award.' Thanks

everyone! Becoming part of the clan- Vanessa B., Vicki M., Ashley S., Ashley B., Jess S., and Hannah. Can't forget clubbing together!"

\* Brendon Kornegay: "Mr. Croke all year long making Tunes and I laugh. The funniest moment with Mr. Croke was when he went up to me and Tunes asking us who squirted him with water dripping from his face. 'The food fight'- need I say more! Me, Jeremy, and Adam."

\* Ashley Soares: "Getting dismissed with all the girls. The fabulous 5: girls just want to have fun. Causing trouble at T.G.I. Friday's. The hundreds of prom dress shopping trips. Rallying to move the prom. Hearing Vanessa say 'You nasty!! You nasty!!' Baffo's blonde moments. Waiting for Vicki's car to start. Cruisin' in the Durango. Ash singing U-G-L-Y! Football games and the 'excitement' at T.K. O'Shea's."

\* Glenn Barboza: "Coming to this school and making new friends. Playing baseball last year and this year. Beating on Alan Cabral when he ticks me off. Joking around in Mrs. George's class. Definitely lunch this year- way to go with the food fight!"

\* Vanessa Thomson: "The best moment was when I beat Sue Rotsky's best time in cross country. She made me work so hard for that. I'll never forget all the raisins getting thrown in chemistry. The best thing is when all of us beat on Glenn a.k.a. 'spermy'. I'll miss Mrs. George's class with the ant and cock-a-too! I'll never forget the crazy conversations with Cory and Derek."

\* Heidi Sterne: "Leaving school with Simard- good times! Shannon 'Eye' Browe-you are my hero! Wrentham, Providence, Friendly's, you name it! We cause so much trouble! Jen throwing her gum at that guy at breakfast. Roadside cafe. Getting my keys stuck in my car door for 2 hours. Riding with Zac to the beach in the beamer and getting soaked. I love ya girls! Mr. Santos, I'm gonna miss ya! Special what's up to Hard Core!"

\* Shannon Browe: "Heidi, you are my hero forever! 'I LOVE ROCK 'N' ROLL!!' H-Bombs and Hunter Green, we had a blast at the roadside cafe. Steph, I can't wait to see what you write when you finally graduate! Crystallo, you are the 'world's greatest.' I'm sure going to miss my second mom, Mrs. Cavallaro, and the awesome 'Sexy Texie.' It's been a great four years. I love you guys! I'll see you in Hawaii, Heidi! I'll see the rest of you at Johnson and Wales!"

# Around School



## Azores exchange program the experience of another culture

Students spent time in each other's countries and schools this year



The Azorean students who visited the United States through the exchange program. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Santos)

Shannon Dubois '03  
and Kathleen Golden '03

On Friday, February 8th, eight students and two teachers from Lagoa, Sao Miguel Island in the Azores, arrived to spend three weeks in America with Somerset students and teachers. This student exchange project is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. The first year of the project involved only Rhode Island, but by the second year, Massachusetts began its participation as well. This is the program's third year, but only Somerset's second. The program is coordinated by Roger Williams' University, who contacts schools in the area. The Cape Verde Republic, off the west coast of Africa, is another country involved. "It's possible that one of these years Somerset students might be going to Cape Verde," says Dr. Charles Santos.

During their stay, the exchange students and teachers participated in many enjoyable activities with the Somerset students and teachers. They visited many malls and quickly learned the phrase "shop 'til you drop." They went ice-skating and saw the Boston Science Museum, Dighton Rock, the Whaling Museum, the Kennedy Library in Boston, and the State House in Providence. They also spent a day in New York and visited Ground Zero.

Talking to a few Somerset students who hosted the exchange students gave an idea of some of the Azorean reactions to American life and culture. A few minor problems involved opening a milk carton

and a Happy Meal, turning on a shower, and using a laundry chute. The exchange students also enjoyed being introduced to new foods such as Chinese and pizza, but they were not used to eating three full meals a day. One girl did not know what a bagel or a Poptart was, but spent nearly seventy dollars on candy to bring home. At first speaking and understanding the languages between the exchange students and their hosts was difficult. However, as the exchange students spent more and more time with people who spoke the English language, it became easier for them to do so. "It was like being another American, which was what [the exchange student] wanted," explained Stephanie Proulx, who hosted an exchange student. Reflecting upon the experience, the hosts had positive things to say. Lindsay Dopart stated, "[the exchange student] taught me a little Portuguese and fit in well with my family." Stephanie Proulx remarked, "I kind of look at people more differently. Now I know that there is more out there than just Somerset."

From April 12th to May 3rd, Stacey Arrude, Matt Brown, Lindsay Dopart, Ryan Figuerado, Molly Lawrence, Rebecca Lawrence, Sandy Pacheco, and Cathy Souse visited Lagoa, Sao Miguel Island, for the second part of the program. So far

the project has been an enjoyable and educational experience.

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# Mrs. Troutman shares her experiences in Japan with students

Kevin Silvestre '05  
Nathan Fleuterio '05

This past November, Mrs. Troutman from the art department here at Somerset High School had the opportunity to travel to Japan. She found an ad in a teachers' newsletter for people who would like to go to Japan on a three-week trip. She stayed both at a hotel while in Japan and she was also able to stay with a Japanese family.

Some of the customs of the family that Mrs. Troutman stayed with, she found unique. When entering the home, shoes were taken off and socks or slippers, which had to be worn at all times in the house, were put on. When entering the bathroom, regular slippers were taken off and a special pair specifically used just for the bathroom was put on. The family also had a shrine in the house, a Butsudan, in the Tatami Room, where a member of the family can light a candle and pray for loved ones.

Food is also unique in Japan. There are restaurants which serve conveyor sushi, which is sushi that goes around a counter on a conveyor belt and people select whatever pleases their appetite. Mrs. Troutman felt that it was definitely an interesting part of her trip to see such a restaurant. Along the streets of Japan there are vending machines which serve hot food. There are also vending machines on the streets in which people can buy beer. Despite the differences in food, there are still some McDonald's and Starbucks.

Schools in Japan had a few similar qualities in comparison to the U.S. but were also quite different. Mrs. Troutman noticed that respect plays one of the most important roles in and out of school. Before class begins the students must say "please" to their teachers, asking the teachers to please teach them. When a class ends all of the students must say

"thank you," which thanks the teacher for taking their time to teach the students their knowledge of different subjects. Students in all grades are also responsible for making their own meals and helping to serve them. Cleaning the school is another important responsibility of the students. They must clean the entire school building on a daily basis. Times are allotted to students in order to allow them to be able to fit it into their class schedules. To help keep the school clean, special shoe-slippers are worn during the day and put back in their original spots at the end of the day.

Buddhism has a great influence on Japan as well. Throughout all of Tokyo there are shrines. Mrs. Troutman had the opportunity to visit a shrine with the family that she stayed with. They dressed her in the proper attire and showed Mrs. Troutman the correct manner to approach a shrine and pray. This was a great experience Mrs. Troutman had while she was in Japan. There are also places where a person can go and receive their fortunes. At other shrines, people can place written wishes that they may have in designated locations in hopes that they will be answered.

Mrs. Troutman had a wonderful experience in Japan. She was able to take part in different parts of the culture such as religion, food, technology, school, and family. Along with experience of the culture came a great deal of knowledge. She considers herself lucky to have been able to learn first-hand about Japan and the Japanese way of life.

We would like to thank Mrs. Troutman for giving us her time and information. We also hope that she will share many of her future experiences with the students and faculty here at Somerset High School.



Senior Mike Perry leads the track team in stretching as well as a .500 season. (Photo by Jon Correia)

# Teachers who are retiring will be missed by students

Lynn Creamer '02  
Holly Chagnon '02

This June nine of Somerset High's teachers will walk through the doors for the last time. Although these teachers are retiring from Somerset, the memories of them and the lessons they taught will never be forgotten.

The English department is saddened to see Mr. Thibodeau leave. We were able to ask him what he would miss most about Somerset High. He responded, "I will miss my colleagues, and that special look on the face of the student who becomes interested in what you're discussing in class."

The science department is losing Mr. Jordan. A student of his, Katelyn Camara, told us that "he is an excellent teacher with a wealth of knowledge and he will be greatly missed."

Mrs. Goulart, from the art department, is also teaching her final term at Somerset. A former student of hers, choosing to remain anonymous, stated that "Mrs. Goulart loves to improve not only her

students' physical ability to create art, but their mental appreciation for it as well."

Not only one, but four teachers are retiring from the History Department- Mr. Brezinski, Mr. Crouch, Mr. McManus, and Mr. Gaudreau. Mr. McManus told us that he will miss "first and foremost, my students and colleagues. I will also miss seeing success within the classroom." He also told us that he wanted to be an effective teacher, and his students that we were able to talk to agree that he has been.

Last, but not least, Mr. Aguir and Mr. Malloy from the guidance department will also be leaving SHS. Mr. Aguir said that he will miss "interacting with the students on a day-to-day basis." Mr. Malloy told us that not only will he miss the students, but also coming to Somerset High each day.

Although students will no longer be able to have them for teachers, their lessons that they taught will be around for a lifetime. We wish all the retiring teachers much happiness and relaxation for their upcoming years!

# Entertainment



Junior Matt Brown performs at Somerset's "Pops Night" as a member of the jazz band. (Photo by Van Riley)

## Pops Night

Sarah Sevigny '03

As the school year comes to a close, the music groups have been preparing for their last performances. Pops Night, held on May 9th at 7:00 P.M., was a great evening of music and memories. The Symphonic and Concert Bands played an upbeat march entitled 'Barnum and Bailey's' Favorite, followed by 'John Williams: Four Symphonic Themes.' The last selection included soundtrack music from 'Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace' and 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom'. The SHS Select String ensemble played two selections, the first being 'Lullaby' and the second being 'Take Five'. The Select Strings presented 'Palladio,' the song from the diamond commercial. The SHS Orchestra then performed 'Rites of Tamburo,' quite a lively tune that began with a solo by Lauren Rapoza. Next, the Concert Choir performed 'When You Believe' from

'Prince of Egypt' and some selections from the play 'Rent.' The SHS concluded the concert with a must-see performance with a variety of selections. The emotional peak of the night came with the senior slide show, displaying senior, baby and candid photos compiled by Jenn DeCambra, Jess DeSisto, Bethany Gendreau, Jay Read, Sarah Shaker and Stacy Worrell.

The Saturday after this exciting night, all the groups mentioned above traveled to Six Flags New England in Agawam, MA, to perform for judges. This Memorial Day the SHS Marching Band will be marching, as usual, in the parade down County Street. Support our veterans and the Blue Raiders by coming to the parade. The final performance for the Symphonic Band will be the graduation ceremony on June 2nd. Let's hope for good weather!!! Congratulations in advance to all the seniors and best of luck in the future.

## Top ten songs of the month

Sean Kingsbury '04, Jonathan Correia '04, Alex Monte '02 & Eric Correia '02

10.) I Need A Girl (Part One)-P. Diddy feat. Usher and Loon: If you really "need a girl" P. Diddy you won't make a part two.

9.) Don't Let Me Get Me-Pink: "Don't let me" get this miserable album.

8.) A New Day Has Come-Celine Dion: Two words...CELINE DION.

7.) Party Hard-Andrew W. K.: You can't "party hard" with this song.

6.) A Thousand Miles-Vanessa Carlton: We wish that we were "a thousand miles" away from this song.

5.) I Love You-Faith Evans: I Hate You Faith Evans.

4.) Underneath Your Clothes-Shakin' Myself: We wish that we could see "underneath your clothes" Shakin'.

3.) U Don't Have To Call-Usher: "U don't have to call" to book Usher, trust us, after this song his schedule should be wide open.

2.) Ain't It Funny-Jennifer Lopez feat. Ja Rule: "Ain't it funny?"

1.) Oops (Oh My)-Tina Turner: "Oops" there goes that record, out of my car window, "Oh My, Oh My".

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JESSE by Jesse Barboza



## The trial of the century - Was it really Lizzie?

Amanda Antcil '02

It's 90 Second Street in Fall River, Massachusetts on the humid morning of August 4, 1892. Bridget, the maid, was outside washing windows. Lizzie, a devoted Sunday school teacher and church worker, was in the barn looking for sinkers to go fishing. Emma, Lizzie's sister, was in Fairhaven visiting friends. This is the story that was presented in the murder trial of Abby and Andrew Borden, but was this really what happened?

Lizzie's stepmother, Abby, was upstairs in the guest room tidying up when she was brutally murdered by repeated blows to the head, which was severed off, from an axe. An hour and a half later, Andrew Borden, Lizzie's father, returned home to rest on the couch after checking on some business. He, too, was fatally mutilated with the same sharp axe that had not long ago murdered his second wife.

This case had been one of the strangest and most pondered cases in all of history. Who would have wanted to kill Andrew

Borden? Was the murderer pursuing Andrew's fortune, which is today equivalent to twelve million dollars? Who would commit such a brutal crime in broad daylight? Where was the axe which was still, to this day, not been found?

Frank Spiering's novel "Lizzie" is by far the most fascinating book I have ever read. It is chock full of minute details about the Borden life and is written so that all of the scenes, from their family life to the trial to the sisters' deaths, are as vivid and realistic as if the reader had actually been one of the townspeople in the crowd that followed Lizzie and the horrific story everywhere.

This timeless and emotional story of a disturbingly unforgettable crime also introduces different views of what really happened on that sweltering summer morning. Spiering reveals his belief as to who the real murderer had been: Lizzie's sister Emma Borden, who had a disagreement with her father over property and who also had overwhelmingly great contempt and resentment for her stepmother.

Spiering masterfully introduces interesting little tidbits about Lizzie's more personal life, such as her overwhelming kindness, her obsessive love of animals, and her fierce, almost overpowering attraction to the young female actress, Nance O'Neill.

With Spiering's extensive research which includes trial testimony, interviews, newspaper reports, and court records, he is able to recreate the murders, trial, and the powerful sisterly bond that the Borden sisters held up until their almost simultaneous deaths.

## Book banning across America

Ashley Amaral '04

More and more books are being subjected to censorship in schools and libraries across the country. Why are these books being banned? According to the Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom of March 1996 through March 1997, books such as *Catcher in the Rye* and *Of Mice and Men* have been subjected to censorship for using profanity. The *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Little House in the Big Woods* have been subjected to censorship for being racially offensive. Books such as *The Scarlet Letter*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Moby Dick*, and *The Joy Luck Club* have been subjected to censorship simply because they conflicted with the "values of the community."

According to an associated press article of August 2001, *To Kill A Mockingbird*

was pulled from the required reading list for freshmen at Muskogee High School in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Principal Terry Hall said the book contains racially charged language and innuendoes. "We didn't want to put any kids in an uncomfortable situation." However, Joan Bell, state director for the American Civil Liberties Union, called the ban "indicrous". "It's a wonderful piece of literature." "If you want to look for racism, you can find it anywhere, including the Bible." Judith Krug, director of the office for intellectual freedom of the American Library Association added, "It is material that I believe can well be read in high school and what better place to talk about these kinds of issues." Any student who still wants to read the book for individual reports or for other reasons is free to do so.

### THE SPECTATOR

780 County Street  
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(508) 674-4656 • Fax (508) 677-1210

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# Sports



## Boys and Girls End Successful Track Seasons

By Ryan Avery '02  
Sports Editor

The EAC championship track meet, scheduled for Saturday May 18th, was rained out and instead run on Monday the 21st. The girls' team finished 3rd and the boys 6th, although both had better league records. The girls team, coached by Richard Bernardo, finished 6-1 overall (5-1 in the EAC) with their only loss coming to league champion Bishop Feehan, 70-66. The boys team, coached by John Azevedo, finished 3-4 overall and 5-3 in the EAC.

Although the Somerset teams did not place as high as expected, there was plenty of individual performances to be proud of. For the girls, junior Casey Mulligan became the conference shot-put champion, while fellow junior Rebecca Smith won the 800 meter race. Also, senior Daniela Fairchild won the 300 meter hurdles in a great race, then came back as part of the girls 4X400 meter relay team which also was tops in the conference. The other members of this winning team were Rachel Smith, Pamela Tavares and Brittany Pierce.

For the Somerset boys, senior captain

Mike Perry was third in the EAC at the 100 meter race, while fellow captain John Riley finished fourth in the 800. Matt Kelly and Kyle Greene also placed in the triple jump and two-mile, respectively.

However, for some, the EAC championships did not mark the end of the season. The top performers on both teams qualified for the Class C state meet held on May 25th. Qualifying for states on the girls' team were Casey Mulligan, Rebecca Smith, Brittany Pierce, Nadia Norman, Daniela Fairchild, Rachel Smith, Pamela Tavares, Kirby Sabra, Riley Barrar and

Amanda Gaffney. Qualifying for the boys team were John Riley, Mike Perry and Jay Mello. All of these athletes had amazing performances over the course of the season. Finally, at the Class C meet, both Smith twins and Fairchild ran well enough to be recognized as some of the best performers in Massachusetts, qualifying for the All-State meet.

Both track teams have a young core coming back for next year, and further improvement should be made by both. Congratulations to all of this year's Somerset track athletes on a successful season!

Finally, on behalf of Somerset High School and the rest of the community, the Breeze staff would like to wish a healthy recovery to the boys track coach (and Somerset High teacher) Mr. John Azevedo, from the accident he was involved in last month.

## SHS Baseball Team Qualifies for State Tournament

By Ryan Avery '02

With 10 wins and a 6-6 record in the EAC at the end of May, the Somerset High school baseball team qualified to play in the post-season tournament once again this year. This year's team has been led once again by the outstanding play of senior Mike Constantino, once again one of the league's top performers. The team has also benefited from the solid pitching of junior Jared Durfee and sophomore Eric Thibault. Durfee especially has had to pitch a number of important games against difficult teams, dropping many contests in which he pitched extremely well. Along with Constantino, Somerset has a strong group of young hitters to complement the pitching of Durfee and Thibault. They include sophomores Pat Lee, Mike Jouklar, and Dylan Dunne, and juniors Andre Faria and Kyle Sherman. Senior Brandon Levesque has also improved this year to become an important part of the lineup. Somerset has proven capable of beating any team at any given time, including an 8-4 decision over Attleboro and another 8-4

win over Tiverton. The Raiders also had a 6-0 lead over league powerhouse Bishop Feehan in an EAC contest late in May before dropping the contest 8-6 in the final couple innings. It looks as if this young team is playing its best baseball towards the end of the season, in preparation for a run in the state tournament. Good luck Raiders!



Valerie Martins '05  
Shirley McCrohan '05  
Jessica Silva '05

It seems that every newspaper always has something to say about varsity sports at Somerset High. Then again, they never mention freshman sports. We, as freshmen, believe that we should no longer be ignored. To give us the recognition we deserve, here is a recap of the freshmen teams this year.

The freshmen football team began the year with an outstanding performance by all. The hard work and determination of the team allowed for captains Jason Greene, Andrew St. Amour, and Ryan Coutte to lead the team to a 6-2 season.

Although there is only one independent freshmen team in the fall, the winter sports season sported both a boys and girls freshmen basketball team. Nick Toulan, Ryan Coume, and Rob Aronofsky led the boys' team seven wins in twenty games. Toulan commented that although they didn't receive much credit or recognition, they had an enjoyable season.

The girls' freshmen basketball team had

## Freshman Sports: No Longer Ignored

a record of eight wins and twelve losses under captains Jen Caddorette, Val Martins, and Kristen Romero. Romero felt that as the season progressed, the girls grew together to form a competitive team.

Representing freshmen athletics in the spring are the boys' baseball and the girls' softball teams. So far, the boys have attained a record of four wins, five losses, with nine games left in the season. Coach Lancyaki feels that the outlook for the remainder of the season looks promising.

The girls' softball team has so far started the season with a more than respectable record of 5-2. As Coach Sally Gamache prepares the athletes for the next level of play, the girls are having lots of fun in the mean time. With seven games left, they are hoping to finish the season without another loss.

We would also like to congratulate these freshmen who participated at either the junior varsity or varsity level this year. That is a reputable achievement. Also, we would like to send our regards to all freshmen athletes, as they are the future of Somerset High School.