



# The Breeze



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Somerset, Massachusetts

## The Politics of Jane Swift

Clarion Mendes '01



With the ever-increasing possibility of Governor Paul Cellucci leaving his post to become ambassador to Canada, it is time to think about what the future holds for the Massachusetts Government. If Cellucci were to resign as governor, Lieutenant Governor Jane Swift would become Acting Governor. Who is Jane Swift? To those of us living outside of the Boston area, her character remains elusive. To the people of southeastern Massachusetts, Swift's political

career has been kept in the shadows.

Her career in politics first began in 1991, when at the age of 25, she became the youngest woman ever elected to the Massachusetts State Senate. On November 3, 1998, she was elected as the Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts. As the Lieutenant Governor, she has remained highly focused on the issue of education, including the ominous MCAS exam. Governor Cellucci has even (Turn to SWIFT p. 2)

## What's Happening in Washington

Phil Sablo '01

The slumping national economy has had profound effects on recent events in Washington, D.C. Attempting to curb the economy's downturn before it becomes a serious problem, policy makers are calling for various measures designed at helping the market recover.

President George Bush has remained a steady supporter of his proposed massive tax cut as a way of helping the economy. The logic behind this approach is that by returning tax dollars to consumers, there will be more money to be spent and a recession will be avoided.

To rally support for his tax cut, the President traveled across the nation, speaking of the benefits of his plan to local people.

There is now a second group

of people pushing for a new tax cut, albeit a much more mild cut than Bush's proposal. The supporters of this cut, many of whom are Democrats, point out that while the overall strategy behind their plan is the same as Bush's, the specifics are marketed different. Primarily, this proposed tax cut is much smaller than the President's.

Also, this cut will have a more immediate effect. Some have argued that tax payers will not see the results of Bush's plan until several years from now, doing nothing for the current situation. The smaller proposed cut will take effect much sooner.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, has also worked to help the economy. Most recently, Greenspan has

lowered interest rates.

Lowering interest rates makes it easier for people to pay back loans and makes borrowing money more attractive. The hope is that people will seize these lowered rates and get new loans, thus stimulating the economy.

Greenspan has attracted widespread criticism for letting the economy slump. Some say that he should have lowered interest rates in the fall, a move which may have allowed the nation to avoid its current situation altogether.

Analysts say that the present economic downturn was in the works long before President Bush took office and should have been dealt with long ago.

Obviously, Republicans are upset about this because of the

popular belief that the new President is responsible for the economic trouble. Some people are even calling for Greenspan to step aside and hand in his resignation.

Though it may take some time for any definite results to take effect, the federal government is now focusing on dealing with the falling national economy.

Arguments between Democrats and Republicans have lost their ferocity as members of both parties work toward a mutual goal, helping the country recover. While experts may disagree on the likely outcome of the economic situation, there is no doubt the current actions by those in the federal government will shape what happens in the future.

## What's Inside?

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## Fact of the Month

Over 5 billion cans of SPAM have been sold since its introduction



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*.

# News

# Commentary

## Swift

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labeled Swift as the "education czar."

At the young age of 36, Swift already has a black eye in her political career. She has been criticized for asking her aides to baby-sit—clearly not a task mentioned in their job descriptions.

Additionally, Swift used a State Police Helicopter, paid for by taxpayers' dollars, to fly to her North Adams home during Thanksgiving. This flight reportedly cost Massachusetts residents about one thousand dollars. This frivolous flight gave Swift plenty of negative media attention.

In fairness however, in comparison to the faux pas often seen in politics, infidelity, money laundering, etc., Swift's mistakes seem relatively harmless. Additionally, who cannot admit to stealing a few office supplies in one's lifetime? Swift may have justified her helicopter ride that way, just on a much grander scale.

Perhaps the biggest concern that will arise if Swift is to become governor is her pregnancy. Swift is expecting twins. Any new mother will argue that caring for a newborn takes a monstrous amount of work; it is a full time job within itself. Twins, perhaps, take twice the amount of work. Is anyone capable of juggling two newborn babies and the welfare of the State of Massachusetts?



## News Snippets

Maggie Borzym '03

### Should death row be a place for the mentally retarded?

In Livingston, Texas, a mentally retarded man, Johnny Penry is scheduled to be executed. Penry has an IQ between 51 and 63—mild to moderate retardation, like "a 7 year old trapped in a 44 year old's body" his lawyer stated.

In an interview, Penry stated, "I don't read or write...I hope they give me the life sentence and let me get on with my life. Killing me won't solve anything."

Penry has the death sentence because in 1979, he raped a 22 year old girl and stabbed her to death.

3 questions were brought to the jury to lessen the penalty.

- Was the murder committed deliberately?

- Was it an unreasonable response to provocation?

- Was Penry a continuing threat to society?

The jury was not specifically instructed to consider Penry's mental ability or his history of abuse from his mother, who would beat him, push him against a hot water heater, and try to drown him in the bathtub.

Thirteen states prohibit executions of the retarded. Penry's life or death is in now the Supreme Court's hands.

### Possible Providence Link to Body Parts.

A horrible crime that seems to be ripped straight from some movie has happened in our very own town of Somerset. After

Patrolman Todd Costa pulled over a vehicle and searched the car, he found a bag wrapped in clothing which he thought was a mask at the time. The bag was smeared with blood so. "I ripped open the bag and found a rock and the fingers of at least one human hand," Costa wrote in his report.

Four severed hands of two Providence men found dead in an apartment were inside the bag. One car was cut off and also found.

The four suspects pleaded innocent in District Court to accessory to murder charges. Prosecutor Bill Flynn argues that two of the suspects, Frank Sanchez-Collins, 19 and Steven Quinlan, 21, killed the men, and the other two, Osiris Parra, 18 and Marcos Quinones, 19, were helping them find a place to dispose of the bodies. Quinones' girlfriend, Francesca Kunhardt, 19, disagrees and believes that her boyfriend had no role in these murders. "He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time with his stupid friends. If he would have know that was in the car he wouldn't of gotten in," she claims.

"We did it, we whacked them out," said the prosecutor repeating the suspect's boasts. He goes on into the gruesome act. "They said we stabbed one individual in the neck, jumped the other from behind. They used hammers and knives, it happened in Providence, they used knives to cut the hands off."

The men were driving on Interstate 195, wanting to throw the victims' hands over the

(Turn to NEWS p. 11)

## Spring Fashion

Meaghan Driscoll '02

Spring is in the air...and you know what that means...SPRING FASHION IS HERE! This year there are some old styles and some new trends. Before you go on your spring break, be sure to follow these Spring fashion tips.

Mini-skirts have come back for the Spring. This high leg exposing fashion will let you show off your perfectly tanned legs, and are a big fashion must.

Whether in skirts or dresses, silk is in for Spring. Besides being a comfortable fabric, silk gives you a crisp, lady-like style. Crochet is also very popular this season, from sweaters to swimwear to accessories: you cannot go wrong with crochet this season.

A big part of spring fashion is sexy shoes. This year's most

popular shoe styles are mules, checks, high-heeled sandals, "toe ring" sandals, beaded, mirrored, checked, and dotted footwear.

Other accessories that are popular this year are turquoise or crystal bracelets, and aviator or small wire sunglasses. Also, beaded, denim, and animal print handbags are hip.

Leave the solids behind this spring and go wild with color and prints. Check out fuchsia, coral, turquoise, white, and metallic, the hottest colors this year. Prints are a knockout this season, including snakeskin and tropical patterns.

Other than Spring flings, fashion is the hottest thing this spring. Whether silk shoes, or shades, you are guaranteed to be en vogue this Spring.



**Breeze**

Grandview Avenue Extension Somerset, Massachusetts 02726 (508)324-3115

News and Commentary (Co-editors in chief):  
Ed Swindelles and Mark Souza  
Around School: Niki DeCambrá  
Sports: Adam Levesque

Advisor: Sherri Muller

# Commentary



## Music, The Internet, and Other Nonsense

Mark Souza '01  
Editorial

Well, it looks like the dream has died. The dream many people had of getting their music for free through the Internet site Napster is now being severely crushed. Due to harsher restrictions it seems that Napster will be a much less effective means than it was, and it may shut down altogether.

There are strong opinions on both sides of this issue. Personally, as a consumer I support anything I can get for free, so I support Napster. My intent in this article is not to take sides though. My intent in this article is to ask, "why do we care?"

The reason I ask this question is simple. Napster is not the only site that provides free music. Sure, Napster is the most famous, it got out of the gates quickest, and has been getting the most recognition, but there are other sites just waiting for the chance to take Napster's place. WBCN.com, the web site of a popular Boston radio station, has a list of such Napster-esque sites.

So, breathe easy free music lovers, it will be a long time before all the free music will be stopped on the Internet, and by the time it happens, technology will be even further ahead and there will be even newer ways to get music.

The fact of the matter is law cannot keep up with technology. The world is technologically progressing at such an intense speed that there is no way legislation can keep up. Our system of government, for all its greatness, has one major flaw: it is slow. Technology, on the other hand, advances at breakneck speeds.

So maybe, rather than fighting and trying to hinder technology, what we should be doing is accepting it and trying to find ways to live in harmony with it. The Internet has been one of the greatest technological advancements in history; it has also been one of the hardest to live with. With people screaming lack of privacy and too much vulgarity, controversy

has existed about the Internet since people began surfing the "world wide web." Napster is just the latest controversy. It is not the first and it will certainly not be the last.

Technology is frightening, but there is no stopping it. Let us all take a lesson from Napster. Technology is here to stay and there is no effective way to legislate it. So we must come together and mold technology into what we want it to be: remember, technology would not exist without people.

Maybe this solution does not work for everyone. Maybe some people will prefer to live in their own form of Amish country. Well I guess there is no stopping that, but those people have to realize that the rest of the world will progress. But, to all those people who want to refuse technology and feel that the world is leaving them behind, look at the bright side, you can always just read the paper.

The  
Breeze invites all readers to  
write letters expressing their opinions.  
Letters may be mailed to *The Breeze* c/o  
Somerset High School or dropped off in room 510.

## Titles Aren't My Strong Point

Phil Sablo '01

For the February 2001 issue of Somerset High School's student newspaper, *The Breeze*, I was assigned an article to write. Normally, I am a news correspondent, having focused on national politics and MCAS testing during the past two years. For February, I once again found myself writing a news piece on national politics. The article, "Nation Screwed for Four Years," focused on George W. Bush's inauguration and first week in office.

There was nothing outstanding about this article, but it did attract the attention of one reader who was so appalled by the title that they contacted the school's principal. In a letter, it was argued that the inclusion of the word "screwed" in the piece's title was distasteful and unneeded. The letter said that having that word appear in *The Breeze* was disrespectful of the school and a sign that the paper was not receiving proper "adult advice and direction."

My main objection to the letter's author is not with the opinions expressed, but rather with the means of their expression. After the publishing of my letter I heard criticism from many people - friends, teachers, and parents. Like the letter's author, most of these people objected to the title of the piece. However, these people confronted me directly; the letter writer directly addressed the principal.

As stated, the letter writer's objections were based only upon the content of my article, material for which I alone am responsible. Yet, I, the person responsible for using the word "screwed," only became aware of the letter indirectly. I had no knowledge of the letter until after it had been forwarded to *The Breeze's* faculty advisor, the school official most directly related to the publication. Perhaps I should point out the fact that this advisor had openly and repeatedly expressed disagreement with my word choice. Why then, you ask, was the title not changed?

(Turn to TITLES, 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.

### Listen to This

"SoapBox" is a totally student radio show that talks about whatever you want

Listen every Wednesday from 9-11 pm on AM 1400

Call in. Get on the radio. Say what you want. (677-1400)

The panel features two SHS students...

but the school's not involved.

So...listen Wednesday 9-11 PM on AM 1400 WHITE

Support the only radio show that cares about you!

One more time...

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# ENTERTAINMENT



## Puffy Not Guilty

Lindsey Henry '01

Sean "Puffy" Combs is free and clear of jail time. It was declared on Friday, March 16, 2001 by a five women, seven man jury, that the rapper has been acquitted of all five counts against him, proving that he played no role in a 1999 shoot out in a Times Square hotspot. Puffy had continuously professed his innocence and had been charged with four counts of criminal possession and one count of bribing a witness. He had faced a total of 15 years in an upstate New York prison if convicted.

Cheers erupted in the courtroom filled with 733 people as the verdict was announced. Moments later, in a brief appearance outside the

Manhattan courthouse, Combs, 31, was overwhelmed. "I'm just so grateful today...I'm very emotional. I feel blessed. Right now I want to go and be with my kids," said Combs.

Although he got off on charges of criminal wrongdoing Combs is not out of trouble with law yet. He still faces \$1 billion in civil lawsuits stemming from the incident.

Midway through the trial, Combs announced he had broken up with longtime girlfriend Jennifer Lopez. To media it was not a big shocker of an announcement. It had been rumored for weeks and was played out in competing stories in the New York tabloids.

## Stan Kenton Comes to SHS

Jennifer Roberge '01

Most students at Somerset High School have probably never even heard of the Stan Kenton Band. On Wednesday, April 25, the Somerset High School Music Department will give everyone the chance to experience a great night of jazz.

The Stan Kenton Band tours the country every other year. This year, Somerset is lucky enough to have the band performing here as part of their East Coast Concert Tour. The musicians in the band are alumni from 1950-1978. Led by trumpeter Mike Vax, the band sets out on tour in hopes to educate and entertain audiences all over the country.

It has been a long time since

Somerset has heard the music of such a well known and talented big band. The band performs some of their older jazz tunes as well as some new. Also lined up are some original numbers written by members of the band.

The Stan Kenton Band has been given the reputation to please crowds of all types. The show will be opened by the Somerset High School Jazz Band at 7:00 PM, and Stan Kenton will go on at 8:00 PM. Tickets are available by calling the Somerset High School (324-3115) or the Symphony Music Shop (996-3301). The show is \$15.00 per person, and from what I have heard, the show will be well worth it.



## Clancys and Eddie Dillon Concert Review

Conor Murray '02

On March 16, I had the pleasure of attending an evening of Irish music. Being Irish myself, Irish music plays a big part in my family's life, especially around St. Paddy's Day.

The Clancys and Eddie Dillon are continuing the tradition of the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, a famous Irish folk group in the 1960's. In the 1950's the Clancy Brothers, Pat, Tom, and Liam Clancy, along with Tommy Makem, were four young Irishmen trying to make it big as actors in Greenwich Village, New York City. At nights, they would sing benefit concerts together as fund raisers for their various solo productions. As they became famous, not for acting but for singing songs, they decided to sing as a full time job, but planned to go back to acting later.

A spot on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1961 catapulted them to international stardom. A 10 year contract with Columbia Records was signed and for the next 40 years, they wowed audiences all over the world, from Carnegie Hall to the Ulster Hall in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

What made them so special, was they sang the songs that had almost been forgotten in Ireland. All the Rebel songs, drinking songs, and Gaelic songs of Ireland had at one time or another been looked down upon or forbidden by the British who ruled the Irish. The Clancy Brothers brought them back into the light with new modern arrangements to guitar, banjo, and other instruments.

Over the years, the group's lineup changed. In 1969, Tommy Makem left to pursue a solo career, which left a spot open for their other brother, Bobby Clancy. In 1973, brother Liam Clancy left and their nephew, Robbie O'Connell took his spot. Liam Clancy rejoined the group in 1990 after Tom Clancy died from stomach cancer. Pat Clancy died in 1998 also from cancer.

Currently, the group consists of Bobby Clancy, his son Finbarr, and Eddie Dillon, a local musician who lives in Fairhaven and a good friend of the Clancys. The group played all of the songs that made them famous. The concert opened with "Brennan on the Moor", a rebel song about a 19th century highwayman named Willie

Brennan who, "bold, brave, and undaunted," fought various rich Englishmen. "The Whistling Gypsy Rover," a love song, came next, followed by a sillier love song, "An Old Man Came Courting." Other songs included in the concert were "Lily Marlene," about a soldier during World War I writing to his wife whom he longs to see; "The 23rd of June," a great song about drinking; "The Irish Rover," about an enormous ship with the same name carrying supplies to build the City Hall in New York but it unfortunately ends up sinking; Eddie Dillon's self penned instrumental "Barber's Lament," followed by "Bold O'Donahue," and "Roddy McCorley," both Rebel songs, and finally their most famous song, "The Wild Rover," and ended with their traditional parting song, "The Parting Glass."

The concert was full of poetry, jokes, wit, and other great songs too numerous to mention. Much of their material came from their CD, "Clancy Sing Along Songs." For more information on The Clancys and Eddie Dillon you can go to their website, [www.arkabums.com](http://www.arkabums.com).

## WGA Strike Threatens Hollywood

Daniela Fairchild '02

The WGA, or Writers' Guild of America, has not gone on strike since 1988. However, that is what they are planning on doing now. Negotiation talks with Hollywood production companies have been attempted since early September of 2000, but with the contract of the Guild expiring on May 1, 2001 and no answer in sight, a strike is seemingly eminent. In preparation for this possibility, the producers have quickened production of films and television shows and have been saving these unseen shows for a "rainy day."

Besides hoarding finished programs, the production companies have been planning for a possible strike using other "reality" shows, and also more prime time air given to news

programs. These tactics not only assure that programs will be aired during a strike, but they also take away much of the negotiating leverage that the WGA had over the production companies.

Most writers see the strike as a last resort that will be used if, after negotiation, no compromise can be reached with the production companies. The rise in popularity of the "reality" shows now has many writers worried about whether or not their jobs will still be there when they return to work from a strike.

It might be that the new age of television is the unescorted show, and that writers are no longer necessary. With the economic downturn of the country now, the timing is far from ideal for a strike because of the diffi-

culty of finding another job during the strike. The production companies are also faced with another threat - the Screen Actors' Guild, whose contract expires two months after the WGA's.

Both guilds have the same money-related complaint about the system, because both feel that they are not receiving a fair share of the profits made from television and films, and would like to negotiate a higher residual for their members. Since the existing contracts of the two expire so close together, work stoppage is expected from both groups. Also, if the WGA decides that a strike is the best option, the Screen Actors' Guild has almost promised to support the WGA with a strike of their own.

## The Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Nate Sheehan '04

On Saint Patrick's day everyone is Irish, and the Newport Saint Patrick's Day parade was spectacular. The bagpipe corps sounded magnificent. The parade held many bands, fife and drum corps, bagpipe players, and many other things besides. There was a pretty large crowd, and everyone was wearing green. You could see people with just a green hat on and then you could see people dressed from head to toe in green. But everyone seemed to enjoy the parade where I was, and everyone was extremely friendly. They would walk by and say "Happy Saint Patrick's Day," even if they did not know you. If you asked my sister she would tell you her favorite part was the Irish step dancing, or the leprechaun that

shook everyone's hand. My dad would say the bagpipes playing "O Danny Boy." My soon-to-be step mom would agree with me that the whole parade was the best part. My entire family would agree that Saint Patrick's Day is one of the best holidays all year.

There was no part of the parade I did not enjoy. Although we did not have corned beef and cabbage, the traditional Irish food, we did have green water, and, as my dad says, "there are two kinds of people in this world...the Irish and those who wish they were Irish." I do not know if I agree with those words exactly but I do believe a lot of people wish they were Irish. I hope you had a happy Saint Patrick's Day.

## The Oscar List

The 73rd annual Oscars featured a host of stars walking down the red carpet in hopes of taking home the most prized possession in the history of movie-making: An Oscar.

This year's Oscar race was one of the most interesting because, for the first time in several years, it was an open race between the actors and the movies. Steve Martin, the host of this year's Oscars, did a wonderful job of making the audience laugh, even though the event lasted up to four hours, a situation that the Academy tried to avoid, unsuccessfully.

Here is a following list of the Oscars winners; some which came as no surprise to us all.

<p><b>Best Picture</b> Gladiator</p> <p><b>Best Director</b> Steven Soderbergh (Traffic)</p> <p><b>Best Actor in a Leading Role</b> Russell Crowe (Gladiator)</p> <p><b>Best Actor in a Supporting Role</b> Benicio Del Toro (Traffic)</p> <p><b>Best Actress in a Leading Role</b> Julia Roberts (Erin Brockovich)</p> <p><b>Best Actress in a Supporting Role</b> Marcia Gay Harden (Pollock)</p>		<p><b>Costume Design</b> Gladiator</p> <p><b>Best Foreign Language Film</b> Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon</p> <p><b>Makeup</b> Dr. Soess' How the Grinch Stole Christmas</p> <p><b>Original Score</b> Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon</p> <p><b>Music (song)</b> Bob Dylan "Things have Changed." (Wonder Boys)</p>
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# A r o u n d

## Mr. Drewniak Serves Up His Retirement

Kristen Kutz '01

Mr. Drewniak, a Phys/Chem and AP Chemistry teacher, will be retiring this year after thirty-five years of teaching. His love for chemistry and eagerness to pass on his knowledge to inquiring, young minds influenced him to become a teacher. Teaching Advanced Placement classes has been the most fulfilling experience for Mr. Drewniak as he states he will miss the "camaraderie between [himself] and interested students."

Mr. Drewniak has spent the majority of his career in Somerset as he has also taught at the junior high. He was also a teacher at Diman Regional

Vocational Technical High School. Next year, he will seek a teaching job out of Somerset. However, "if it were up to [him, he] would miss fellow teachers especially members of the sci-



ence department, with whom he has formed close relationships."

When he is outside the classroom one can find Mr. Drewniak coaching the suc-

cessful girls tennis team. Mr. Drewniak stated that coaching has enhanced his career. He believes that "classroom teaching and coaching go hand and hand." Coaching has become an important part of his teaching career and he hopes to continue coaching at Somerset in the years to come.

Over the years, Mr. Drewniak has seen education and students change as a whole. He has acquired a love for his role as an educator and coach, which he will enthusiastically continue elsewhere. On behalf of the student body and faculty of Somerset High School, I would like to wish Mr. Drewniak the best of luck in the future.



## Junior Semi-Formal a Great Success

Lynn Creamer '02  
Holly Chagnon '02

To all the members of the junior class who decided not to go to the Junior Class Semi-Formal, held on March 16, you missed out on a great time!

The evening began at 6:30PM at the Somerset Lodge. It was a surprisingly good turnout, many juniors from Somerset attended, and quite a few brought dates from outside the school.

The night was filled with socializing, dancing, and eating. The DJ was great, he possessed a real love for techno. We were provided with great appetizers and pastries from the Lodge all night long. All the girls that attended were dressed in gorgeous gowns and all of

the guys looked sharp in their shirts and ties. A representative from *The Spectator* arrived and snapped a few shots of us all having a good time. The night went off without a hitch, concluding at 10:30PM.

If you did not attend the semi, be sure not to miss the prom, which will be held May 18, a n o t h e r opportunity to create lasting memories of the good times at SHS.



## "Ignite Your Passions...Stop, Drop, and Lead!"

Susan Berube '02

"Ignite your passions... Stop, Drop, and Lead!" was the theme of the 2001 MASC (in Layman's terms, the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils) 23rd annual state conference.

Held in Hyannis, schools from four districts: Northern, Southeastern, Central, and Western Massachusetts attend-

council representatives. Four, eight, or sixteen delegates are chosen from each school to represent their student council. This year, Somerset nominated Dave Vital, Chris McBo, Holly Chagnon, Sheena Melanson, Jen Langlois, Sue Berube, Jonathan Driscoll and Tess Sullivan to attend to conference.

Because our council has

attended all of the previous workshops throughout the year, we were awarded the privilege of being a MASC Five-Star council. Over the three-day period, each delegate attends four motivational and learning seminars where councils exchange ideas, problems, and solutions.

Between seminars, all 1,000+ teens gathered in the

enormous conference hall to listen to keynote speakers who motivate the students to "say I love you" and do things you would never imagine yourself doing. The speakers brought up very important issues, such as gun violence, teen suicide, and other emotional events in a young person's life, and encouraged us as leaders to reach out to our fellow stu-

dents. On a lighter note, there was even a lip-sync contest during the conference, where student councils were able to compete with each other.

The most exciting event of MASC is the election. Candidates from various schools run for the positions of (Turn to MASC p.11)



# School



## Azorean Reflections

Eric Correia '02

The Friday before February vacation, eight students and two teachers from Ponta Delgada, a city located on the Azorean island of San Miguel, arrived in Somerset. They were taking part in an exchange program, staying with members of the junior class and families in the community.

During their stay they went to school and experienced the daily lives of average Americans. This April, eight Somerset students and two teachers, Mr. Santos and Mr. Taylor, will be visiting San Miguel.

Also, the Portuguese students and teachers visited many different places in our area of the country. They went to New York City, Boston, and Providence. Furthermore, they took part, along with their Somerset hosts, in various

social gatherings.

Looking back on their visit to America, four of the students reflect on what they saw and did. Their outlooks and opinions about America have many similarities, and also unique differences.

**The Breeze: What was the best thing you saw or did during your stay?**

Andreia Medeiros: The best things that I saw were St. Patrick's Church in New York City, Times Square, snow, and dolphins at the Mystic Aquarium.

Sara Coutinho: I enjoyed this trip very much for the trip itself, for the people who welcomed us so warmly, the fact that we got in touch with a whole different culture and routine, which allowed us to change our points of view concerning certain matters. I believe that was

very important to all of us. It gave us a whole new perspective of things and it opened up our horizons.

Catarina Ferreira: Everything. I loved every bit of the trip.

**The Breeze: What appeared new or strange to you?**

Christina Teixeira: Sincerely, your school, it is so confusing. Our methods are very different. Catarina Ferreira: The educational system is very different than ours, and the culture.

Andreia Medeiros: My first day in school was very strange. The homeroom was very strange. I thought that I was in paradise, a class with only 5 minutes, crazy isn't it? I also thought it was strange that you didn't know the two kisses thing (when greeting someone), you only shake hands. It is very ugly!

**The Breeze: What reminded you the most of home?**

Sara Coutinho: What reminded me most of my home was the family environment I lived in during those three weeks and the way people welcomed me, so warm and so nice. That actually made me see my host family as a second family and a second home.

Christina Teixeira: The green. My land isn't as developed as yours (of course) but it has the most beautiful landscapes in the world!

Andreia Medeiros: My host family. I really loved the time I spent with them, and it was kind of like being at home. Another thing was making new friends, just like in my country. Catarina Ferreira: Nothing! You can't compare San Miguel with America, everything is different!

**The Breeze: What was the most worthwhile part of the**

trip?

Christina Teixeira: Everything was great, but especially the United Nations. I loved it! I can only say that I loved being there and I'm sure that it was an experience that I will never forget.

Catarina Ferreira: The experience, meeting new friends, this is the most important, to see the difference between Europe and the United States, how the habits, culture and educational system works.

Sara Coutinho: Well, the most worthwhile part of this trip was definitely the friendly and, hopefully, long lasting relationships we established and developed with all of our hosts in school, with the families and everybody who welcomed us throughout the whole trip.

## Prom Information

The Prom Committee has voted on colors for this year's Junior-Senior Prom. They will be navy blue, white, and silver.

Senior students were given three choices for a prom song, and voted during homerooms. The song chosen was "(I've Had) The Time of My Life," which is known mostly as the theme from the movie, Dirty Dancing.

There will be no After Prom Party held afterwards due to poor attendance at past functions.



## Freshmen-Sophomore Semi-Formal Was a Big Hit

Katia Hagermann '03

The Freshmen-Sophomore Semi-Formal was a big hit among all! The fun started at 6:00 PM at White's Restaurant of Westport, which is where the Junior-Senior Prom will be held on May 18th. Most everyone had dates, and for those who did not, they still had a great time. Everyone's outfits were spectacular. Most girls wore formal gowns but the guys still

wore semi-formal attire, and were lookin' good! A representative from *The Spectator* also showed up and took some great pictures. The DJ was really good with great music. Between the music, dancing, and food, the freshmen and sophomore classes were able to be together for a night that they will surely never forget.

Tickets are on sale until tomorrow for the Send Off Dance, which will be held this Thursday, April 5th, at the Venus De Milo Restaurant in Swansea. While this is a Marching Band function, all are welcome. Tickets are \$13 a person.



# Sports



## About the Coach

### An Interview with Coach Chris Mendes

KC Dowd '04

Chris Mendes, a 1984 Somerset High School graduate, returned to his Alma Mater in 1998 to coach the Varsity basketball team. Prior to that, he was the Junior Varsity coach at New Bedford High School.

Coach Mendes walked onto a familiar Raider court when he came here to coach. He was a standout four-year basketball player for Somerset High School. Coach Mendes also played three years of baseball and one year of football at Somerset High School. Following graduation from Bridgewater State College, his impressive athletic background, and interest in conditioning, led to his present career at New Bedford High School as a physical education instructor.

Coach Mendes came to Somerset with solid expectations. He has assembled a coaching staff with experience and youth, with complementary philosophies and goals. His staff includes: Junior Varsity Coach Kevin Dowd, Freshman Coach David Lanczyski, and volunteer coaches Corey Phillips and Tony Gaffney.

Coach Mendes spoke candidly about this season's record, (7-13), "I thought our win/loss record was slightly below what we had hoped for. We had some great wins, great comebacks against Durfee. We made history over there, (twice)."

Certainly a highlight of the season, and a testament to an outstanding team effort, is when Somerset executed two

upsets in their victories over the Hilltopper powerhouse.

Coach Mendes has clear expectations of the type of athlete that plays for him. He stresses, "A good attitude, on and off the court. This means a 'class act,' at all times." Once the season ends, Coach Mendes feels a team member is still representative of Somerset basketball. He further states, "When season play and practice are finished, you continue to behave as you are, a Division one athlete."

Coach Mendes is pleased with the direction in which the program is progressing. "Every year we seem to be doing things that haven't been accomplished in a long time. (ex. strong comebacks). Short milestones, but we are conquering small battles, improving where we need to. We have good, skillful people in the right places. I think it (coaches and program) has been a positive influence in the community."

During the off-season, Coach Mendes stresses continued attention to academics. "Hitting the books, keeping in good standing all school year, is most important." As for conditioning, Coach suggests, "Players should continue weight and agility training. Eating and sleeping right also fuels growth and energy."

As for next season's expectations, Coach Mendes feels positive. "Every year we go in hoping to make the tournament, and enjoy the season. I expect the athletes to be out playing

hard. Hopefully, they conditioned in the off-season, so we can begin strong and achieve our goals. I expect good kids to play hard, play together, adhere to the program, and respect their coaches."

#### The Players' Perspective

Several varsity players offered their perspective on the 2000-2001 season. Senior Ryan Murphy felt the season

ran smoothly. "I had fun during practice. We were very competitive. Out of the three years that I played (varsity), this one was the best." Junior Mike Fisher found the practices intense and beneficial. "Coach Mendes worked us hard to prepare us for the games. We had an ambitious schedule and a positive attitude. I look forward to the challenges of next season." Aaron Hussey was to

the point. "It was fantastic!"



## You've Asked the Questions, He's the Answer

Andrew Martin '04

for his content in the album.

Now, most people have looked past that and paid close attention on how well Iverson leads his team. Over this past year, Iverson has learned to play with his team rather than having his teammates just follow what he does and watch in awe. With the new acquisition of All-Star center Dikembe Mutombo, the Sixers are probably the favorite to win the title.

This past February at the annual All-Star game, Allen Iverson led the Eastern Conference All-Star team to overcome a 21-point deficit and beat the Western Conference All-Star team, which had a clear advantage in size and power. Iverson led the way with 25 points, 15 of which came in the last 9 minutes of the fourth quarter. Do not give all the credit to Iverson though because Stephon Marbury hit two crucial threes, which pro-

pelled the East to win the game. In the end, Iverson took home the game's MVP, which could inform us of what to expect with the league's MVP title.

As of right now, Iverson is the league leader in scoring with 31.1 points per game and steals with 2.47 steals per game. The former Georgetown Hoya is wearing a soft cast on his elbow to protect a bruise that has been bothering him for a while. Most thought Iverson's injury would sideline him or if he did return his game would be significantly affected. They were wrong.

So with Iverson's constant feuds with coach Larry Brown (which have been under control as of late), people wonder what will happen to the Sixers and Iverson. No matter how people try to bring him down, Iverson will always know that he is (just as his tattoo says) "Misunderstood".



## MLB Preview

Adam Levesque '01

Over 1 billion dollars was spent in the free agent market, in the resigning of players, and in the restructuring of contracts this off-season by major league baseball teams. This was led by Alex Rodriguez's signing with the Texas Rangers for \$250 million over ten years. Even though teams in the off-season spent all this money, the playoff picture at this point looks almost the same as it did at the end of last year. Here is a preview of what teams to expect to be in the playoffs come this October.

### AL

East- The New York Yankees will win the division again and have an excellent chance of winning their fourth straight World Series. The addition of Mike Mussina gives the Yankees the best pitching staff in all of major league baseball. The pitching staff's only weakness is their middle relief that lost its setup man Jeff Nelson. The Yankees' defense looks flawless with the move of Chuck Knoblauch to left field because of throwing problems he had at second. The offense looks the same as it has in past years, which is not good news for anyone else in the league. The Yankees' chemistry and their knack to come up with the big play at the right time will lead them to the World Series again.

Central- The Chicago White Sox will win their second straight division title with addition of ace pitcher David Wells. The White Sox offense is a run-manufacturing machine and is led by first baseman Frank Thomas and right fielder Magglio Ordonez. The pitching staff has decent starters that will get innings and then hand the game over to a strong bullpen. The White Sox have a

glaring weakness on defense and although the move of Jose Valentine to center from short will help, it is still a great soft spot. The White Sox will get knocked off in the first round of the playoffs.

West- The Oakland A's are now officially the Yankees' worst nightmare. With the addition of Johnny Damon, the top of the A's line-up is one of the deadliest in all of baseball. Jason Giambi is an RBI machine that now has a great leadoff hitter to compliment his power. Their defense is solid and will not lose too many games for them. The A's starting pitching is strong with Tim Hudson as their number one starter, but the bullpen needs some work and could cost them close games and an outside shot at the World Series. The A's are the only team capable of stopping the Yankees from making it to the World Series.

Wild Card- The Boston Red Sox, Toronto Blue Jays, and Seattle Mariners will battle for this spot.

### NL


East- The Atlanta Braves will win yet another division title. The pitching staff is aging but still is one of the best in the majors from top to bottom. The Braves have a strong defense that will greatly compliment the pitching staff like it has in the past. The emergence of superstar center fielder Andruw Jones and superstar third baseman Chipper Jones will make the Braves offense unstoppable, as long as the guys at the top of the order stay healthy. If the Braves stay healthy and avoid major injuries they will get another chance at the World Series title.

Central- The St. Louis

Cardinals stand alone in this division, which could be the weakest in the majors. The Cardinals are strong but not superb in the three major areas of pitching, offense, and defense. Their line-up is filled with talented veterans who know how to win. The pitching staff is solid and could be helped with a successful comeback from Matt Morris. The Cardinals' defense is led by center fielder Jim Edmonds who always seems to make a big play. The Cardinals are a strong team and if Mark McGwire stays healthy they could do some damage come playoff time.

West- The San Francisco Giants will have to put up a good fight to repeat as division champs. The Giants are not a dominant team on paper but they definitely are one on the field. Left fielder Barry Bonds and second baseman Jeff Kent lead the Giants' offense, which could be potent if Bonds and Kent stay healthy. Their starting pitching is weak and lacks a number one pitcher, but their strong bullpen more than makes up for it. If the Giants play with the same chemistry they did last year they will repeat as division champs.

Wild Card- The New York Mets will run away with the wild card and are probably the second best team in the NL behind the Braves. If they put it together and can find someone to step it up in Mike Hampton's absence, there could be another Subway Series.



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## Cowboys Cut Aikman

The Dallas Cowboys waived future Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman on March 7, 2001. The Cowboys cut Aikman because they no longer thought he could lead the team successfully with his injury prone body.

Aikman led the Cowboys to three Super Bowl victories and holds almost every passing record in Cowboys' history. He had no problems with the Cowboys' decision and thought it was in the best interest of the

organization to let him go.

The Cowboys not only cut Aikman because of his aging body, but also because they would have had to pay him a \$7 million bonus and extend his contract through 2007 if they did not move him by March 9.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said that the decision was based on what would be in the best interest of Aikman and the organization. Jones also said

(Turn to AIKMAN p. 10)



### TITLES

Continued from p. 3)

The reason, to be precise, is Massachusetts General Law, Title XII, Chapter 71: Section 2, "Public secondary schools; right of students to freedom of expression; limitations; definitions." This law defines the rights and responsibilities of a high school newspaper, a category to which *The Breeze* belongs. I will not bore you with its details, but the law does solidify two important ideas.

First, what I wrote was completely lawful. Hell, I could have added a stream of obscenities and I still would have been within my rights. Second, it would have been unlawful for any "school official," a category to which faculty advisors belong, to interfere with a student's expression of freedom (provided it meets certain criteria), a category to which my article belongs.

My faculty advisor did not have the power to alter my work. Furthermore, it is unlawful to hold school officials responsible for the work of a student. In other words, addressing the high school administration is the not the best manner through which to

criticize a student's writing.

My assumption is that the letter writer either A) was completely ignorant about the Massachusetts law regarding high school newspapers or B) staunchly disagrees with the law. Should the former be true, I hope I have enlightened the author. Should the latter be true, I feel there are better avenues through which to voice

objections with legislation, such as through the court system.

A second issue that stood out in my mind was the perplexing nature of the author's intent. While the letter said verbatim that its purpose was not to encourage censorship, its central theme hinges on that very

concept. The author opposed my use of the word "screwed," as was said, for it being obscene, stating that there are other words that could have easily been substituted in its place.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary says that to censor is "to examine in order to suppress or delete anything considered objectionable." I may be grossly misunderstanding this definition, but it appears to me that the author's intent was to ensure that future editions of *The Breeze* be censored to prevent other "gutterally obscene" material from being published. If this were true, I believe it would mean the letter is blatantly hypocritical. Then again, I may have misinterpreted the entire meaning of the letter.

*The Breeze* welcomes letters and opinions from the community, a policy clearly printed for all to see. If the author wanted to express opinions openly and productively, the letter should have been sent to the paper's staff and been published for all to see. But that is just my opinion.

### Aikman

(Continued from p. 9)

that the salary cap was a factor in cutting Aikman, even though Aikman will still take up \$10 million of Dallas' \$67.4 million salary cap number this season.

By cutting Aikman, the Cowboys freed up enough money to sign linebacker Dexter Coakley to a five year deal worth \$25 million with a \$5.5 million signing bonus.

Troy Aikman played eleven seasons for the Dallas Cowboys and led them to three Super Bowl titles. He was also a six time pro bowler and will live on in the memories of Cowboys' fans forever.

Good luck  
to all  
Spring  
sports  
teams from  
the staff of  
*The  
Breeze!*



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## Easter

Holly Creamer and Lynn Chagnon '02

Most of us already know that Easter is associated with the religious event of the rising of Christ, but we are not going to discuss this. Instead, we will observe it from a totally different perspective.

Easter, originally a Pagan festival, was recognized as a celebration of the goddess of offspring and springtime, Eastre. This spring festival was originally celebrated on any day of the week, but in 325 AD, Emperor Constantine summoned the Council of Nicaea and officially declared that Easter would be held on the first Sunday that occurred after the first full moon, or after the vernal equinox (the first day of

Spring). This means that Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. The specific date depends on the lunar cycle.

Have you ever wondered who thought of the silly idea of an Easter Bunny? Well, there is actual historic reasoning for it. The hare and the rabbit were the most fertile animals known, and served as symbols of new life during the spring.

The Bunny, as an Easter symbol, actually originated in Germany. Germany was also responsible for the edible Easter bunny that we all enjoy so much today.

The Easter bunny was introduced to America by German

settlers who arrived in Pennsylvania Dutch Country. The Easter Bunny has become as much of a symbol for Easter as Santa Claus is for Christmas.

When this custom reached America, children believed that if they were good, the Easter Bunny would lay a nest of colored eggs for them. Children would use caps or bonnets to build nests, hence the Easter baskets that we have today. Even if you do not believe in the religious aspect of Easter, you can still appreciate and enjoy it for its historical background. Happy Easter!!

### MASC

(Continued from p. 6)

President, Vice President, and Secretary on the MASC Executive Board (which coordinates events such as the Officers' Workshop and MASC itself). Kids everywhere chant silly slogans like "It's Time to be FRANK!" and "SHAN Can!" promoting their candidate in the most catchy way possible. Each party passes out candy and tiny trinkets in order to persuade each student council to cast votes in their favor.

After their speeches are made, each student council votes, and the selections are made. It is a very long and thought out process to run for a position on the E-Board, requesting grants, making posters, writing speeches, and in my mind, because of the effort displayed, everyone comes out a winner.

MASC truly inspires one to think about their contributions to their school, their community, and their own personal achievements, and it "ignites the passion" within to be a true leader.

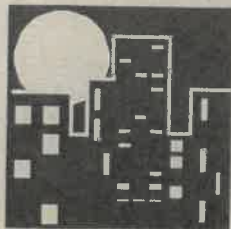
### News

(Continued from p. 2)

Braga Bridge, when they changed their minds after seeing there was too much traffic, and headed toward Somerset.

Defense lawyers argue that the traffic stop was illegal and they planned to ask a judge to throw out the evidence seized from the car. The defense argues that racism was involved and that police stopped the car because the drivers were black. The policeman who stopped the car says that it was a perfectly legal stop, saying the traffic violation was that he was dangling beads and air fresheners blocking the driver's view.

The suspects are currently being held without bail.



## "Swinging into Spring"

### Concert Guide

Date	Artist	Age/Amount	Place
4/7	Nelly Furtado	18+ / \$ 40.25	Avalon
4/13	Popo Roach & Alien Ant Farm	All ages/\$21.00	Sanders Theater
5/26	WBCN River Rave 2001 w/The Black Crows, Marilyn Manson, Everlast, Disturbed, Sevendust, Coldplay, American Hi-Fi, New Found Glory, Siereophonics...and many more to be announced!!!	\$45.00/Ticketmaster	Foxboro Stadium
6/11	The Black Crows & Oasis	All ages	Tweeter Center
7/25	Bon Jovi	All ages	Tweeter Center



Chris Roberge entertains the students with a cultural dance during a presentation for multi-cultural week at SHS.

(Photo by Greg Joynr)

## Prom: The Dress Hunt

Sue Berube '02

I do not know about you, but in every one of my classes there are girls chatting anxiously about this year's prom. "Have you bought a dress yet? How are you doing your hair? When should I start tanning?" are just a few questions I know I have heard and have asked myself.

With less than two months to go until the prom, people are scrambling for that perfect dress to make them feel like Cinderella, and what a difficult task it can be. From local bridal shops to Party Dress Xpress to prom magazines, there are hundreds of styles of dresses floating around.

But if you have hit all these places and still are not satisfied, get with the times and shop online. There are hundreds of websites with great dresses at reasonable prices. At AOL Keyword: Prom, they are offering a program where you can

download a picture of yourself and virtually try on dresses of your choice. Just be careful if you are ordering a dress online or from a catalog, because you never know if the company will have one in your size or how long it will take to ship.

Judging from the Senior and Junior Semi-Formals, the "in" dresses seem to be wild and glittery with sparkles and jewels galore. The popular color this year, white. Another trend I have noticed is that girls are easing out of the up-do fad and "letting their hair down." Soft curls, classic twisties, and hair accessories add pizzazz to any "do."

There is not much time left so get out that checklist: shoes, shawl, hair, nails, tan, and jewelry. Get going so you can have the time of your life at this year's prom.

## Prince Henry Society presents Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra Concert to benefit Scholarship program

The Fall River Chapter of the Prince Henry Society announces its annual scholarship benefit concert will be held Saturday, May 19, 2001 at 7:30PM in the Margaret L. Jackson Arts Center Theater at Bristol Community College. The concert will feature the famous Greater Boston Youth Symphony Repertory Orchestra conducted by Joel Bard. The orchestra is comprised of Middle and High School students throughout New England.

The Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1958 by Boston

University to provide talented young musicians with a greater understanding of and participation in music. The Orchestra and its various divisions have performed at Carnegie Hall, the White House, and in tours through Europe, South America, and Japan.

The Prince Henry Society is a non-profit organization formed to promote the cultural and educational betterment of persons of Portuguese descent. Associate chapters exist in Taunton and New Bedford as well as Fall River.

Tickets are \$25.00 and include champagne and Hors d'oeuvres following the concert. Tickets are available in Fall River at the Quequechan Club, 306 South Main St.; Yonessa Corp., 638 Quequechan St.; SER-Jobs For Progress, 164 Bedford St.; Apex Shade Co., 21 Lindsey St.; Silva's Funeral Home, 730 Bedford St.; J. Marshall & Associates, 1777 Pleasant St.; and the Portuguese Cultural Center, 205 South Main St. In Somerset, tickets may also be obtained from Anclair's Market, 145 County St.



Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra plays while being conducted by Joel Bard.