



The Breeze



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Somerset, Massachusetts



SOMERSET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS recently took a trip to San Miguel as part of an exchange program. In the back row, from left to right, San Miguel students Cristina Canha and Sofia Jorge and American students Allysse Baptista, Jessica Caron, Allyssa Abdallah and Cindy Belcholi. In the front is San Miguel student Marta Batista.

Misguided protest: Wrong place and wrong time

KC Dowd 04
Editor

Division III college basketball usually doesn't draw large crowds or media interest. This however is not the case at Manhattanville College, a private liberal arts school situated 30 miles from New York City in Purchase, N.Y. Senior forward basketball player Toni Smith has earned her fifteen minutes of fame for reasons unrelated to her actual talents on the court. Unusually large crowds have filled the bleachers to cheer or jeer Smith's expression of discontent for the United States government's policies by turning away from the American flag and looking down, when the team lines up for the playing of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Taken from a 250-word statement, Toni Smith rationalizes, "For some time now, the inequalities that are embedded into the American system have bothered me. As they are becoming progressively worse and it is clear that the government's priorities are not on bettering the quality of life for all of its people, but rather on expanding its own power, I cannot, in good conscience, salute the flag." Her silent protest is now causing an uproar, which has impacted veterans of past wars, those presently being shipped out, their families and the chemistry of her basketball team (which, by the way, does not support her views).

Some individuals view this as a valiant act of patriotism, an expression of exercising one's first amendment rights. Many

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Somerset students travel to the Azores on the trip of a lifetime

Allysse Baptista and
Jessica Caron

On February 14, 2003, a group of eight American students from Somerset High School embarked on a foreign exchange program to St. Michael, Azores. When we arrived there it was quite a culture shock, from the food to the scenery to the culture, it all enveloped us into a new world.

The first week was the adjustment week, probably the most difficult for all of us. When we arrived at the airport in Ponta Delgada, our host families drove us to our new homes. Spending time with our families was a great experience, it showed us how they lived their lives and they introduced us into that life style.

On the first Monday, the group experienced our first day of school. It was

different, needless to say. The classes are quiet and are clear and basically empty. The students are very respectful and responsible. They are very focused on their academics. Between classes the students have a break and can leave the school grounds or go outside. The school day can differ for each student, starting at 8:30 usually and ending anywhere from 2:30 until 6. The school was language and science centered.

The group did many activities that opened us up to the rest of the island for us to see. We learned quite a lot about the history of St. Michael. We went to plenty of museums and different specialty sites. St. Michael is known for dotting the small is-

land. The island is very beautiful. The water is crystal clear, and there is no litter to be seen anywhere.

At night, we would go see a movie, or hang out at a local cafe. The people on the island are very nice and welcoming. They would always make sure we had everything we needed and were comfortable in our environment. It takes a while to adjust to the differences, but at the end we didn't want to leave.

This trip was a great experience for all of us. We were able to learn about a culture that was completely different than ours. We had to adjust to things such as the food, houses, people, and schedules. Great friendships were developed, and memories that will last forever.

Fashion show raises money for the prom



Provider poses for some shots after their gig during intermission of the Prom Fashion Show.

Garalyn Gray 04
Riley Barrar 04

The prom-fashion show that took place at Somerset High School on March 21st was no less than a super success. This annual fundraiser was headed by Mrs. Jill Laurence and hosted by Mr. Robert 'Big Guy' Taylor. Not only was it a great night to see fine dresses and tuxes modeled, it also helped to raise a considerable amount of money for this year's Junior/Senior Prom.

Fielding a larger student audience than last year, including members of the faculty, the event was able to raise more money for the big dance. Last year, the funds were divided to support both the Prom and the Sean Pierce Scholarship Fund. This year, the money will be used to lower the costs of the Prom tickets.

Mrs. Laurence was very happy about the turnout. It's a great fundraiser.

I feel it's important because it pulls students together from all parts of the school,

not just certain activities, giving everyone an opportunity and resulting in a variety of students. The show included 18 males and 24 females who volunteered from grades 9-12. The theme of the night was Heaven, although a banner excellently displayed the motif of this year's Prom on the stage with the theme Could Not Ask for More, 05. Also, the stage decorations included a large blue, silver and white balloon arch, stars and pillars.

An added attraction to this year's fundraiser was the appearance of the band Provider. Band members include Jason Mello on bass, Eric Tiobridge and Brian Leary on guitar, and Andy Nunes on drums. Providers crew includes Tom Bigelow and Matt Barbosa. Their rendition of Neil Young's Keep on Rockin' in the Free World showed all present that they are worth another look or listen.

A special thanks to Dress Express, Slade Tux and B & W Limousine. See you at the Prom!

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Breeze



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Around School



Amnesty's posters stir controversy

Ryan Avery 03

Recently, an interesting controversy took place within Somerset High School, involving the school's administration and its Amnesty International Organization as well as the freedoms of speech and expression.

In late March, students involved with Amnesty International, along with Amnesty advisor (and SHS history teacher) Nicholas Peachy planned for a candlelight vigil to be held at the Somerset Town Hall. The objective of the vigil was to honor those who had died in the war with Iraq, as well as those who would in the future, while standing by the people of Iraq against any human rights violations they might suffer during the war.

Posters stating the event's date, time and whereabouts, as well as its purpose (stated above) were created, and hung up throughout the halls of Somerset High School. However, soon after the posters were put up, corridor supervisors and school administrators were seen taking them down, much to the dismay of Mr. Peachy and Amnesty International organizers. This led to a small controversy within the school over the freedom of expression and the authority of the school's administration.

When asked about the posters, assistant principals Pauline Camara and R.W. Pineault told me that the main reason for the removal of the posters was that the Amnesty International students never asked the administration for permission to hang them up.

Mrs. Camara told me that all posters or advertisements that students wish to hang up in the school must be first run by either principal Donald Rebello or one of the as-

sistant principals. She also told me that when a few teachers and students expressed their negative reactions (although, Camara said, it was not clear whether these reactions indicated a pro or anti-war sentiment) to the posters, it was discovered that neither she, Mr. Pineault or Mr. Rebello had previously approved of the posters. The assistant principals then gave corridor supervisors permission to take down the posters.

Mr. Pineault added that the original posters did not affiliate the event with Amnesty International, rather, they made it look like the vigil was a school-sponsored activity.

However, when I questioned Amnesty International organizer Steven Nadeau about the posters, he stated that the administration's real problem with the posters was the opinions they seemed to express. Nadeau told me that when he and [fellow Amnesty organizer] Melissa DaCosta confronted assistant principal Camara on the removal of the posters, she told them that the posters were not allowed around school because they represented an opinion, and that they must be reworded in order to be hung. However, DaCosta and Nadeau rejected this explanation, as did Mr. Peachy (who, in my International Relations class, repeatedly stressed how the vigil was not expressing a pro or anti-war sentiment, rather recognizing human rights violations and loss of life). Feeling their freedoms of speech and expression were being violated, Nadeau, DaCosta and Peachy all took action to get the legal aspects of the controversy straightened out.

After calling a representative from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU),
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SOMERSET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, from left to right, Cindy Belchior, Jessica Caron, Allyse Baptista and Jocelyn Martins are seen during their trip to San Miguel.

A Taste of Somerset is cooking in graphics

By Michelle Allan

Our Graphic Communications teacher, Mr. Adams, has been diligently working on his biggest project ever, A Taste of Somerset. It is a recipe book sponsored by the PTO and put together by eighty students, all from his four Graphics classes. With recipes donated from various staff members throughout the school and the help of his students, the recipe book has been progressing along and there are big plans in its future.

Adams gives credit to his co-worker, Mr. Stradone, for giving him the idea to make a cookbook with his classes. With this idea planted in his head, Adams then requested the aid of all staff members to bring in some of their favorite recipes. But this task proved much harder than he thought. It was difficult to get them from the PTO and teachers because everyone is always so busy. In fact, Adams says collecting the recipes was much tougher than putting the actual book together. He finally had to resort to asking the students to bring in some of their own recipes.

This project has been in the works for

most of the third quarter. Everything was going somewhat smoothly until the classes learned they had copyright issues. Partway through, we discovered we couldn't rely on graphics from the Internet or Clip Art because of copyright. So the students had to change the images or design their own. This was a major problem for the project because Adams intends to apply for a copyright of his own. Once the book is finished, he will send in the application to the U.S. Copyright office. If passed, A Taste of Somerset will be kept and copyrighted in the Library of Congress forever. Adams wants to copyright the book, just to make [it] more various school events and other production work for the school offices. His classes helped produce some posters for our sports teams, too. Future plans for his classes include designing tee-shirt transfers, can labels, and towards the end of the year working with MS Power Point. Would he ever do this again? "Yes, but with individual classes; not all four classes together again. I found it hard to manage," he said.

Entertainment



Mazelto, Mazeltov!

By Brian A. Simons Junior

This past March the Somerset High School Drama Department put on the award winning Broadway smash hit *Fiddler on the Roof*. *Fiddler on the Roof* is set in Anatevka, Russia during 1905. The story revolves around the villagers and the traditions that they live by in their minute hamlet. The play focuses in on one particular family; Tevye, a dairyman, his wife Golde and his five daughters. Throughout the show Tevye is faced with many life changing decisions that question his integrity, his traditions, his fatherhood, and most importantly his Jewish faith.

When we first started rehearsals in late January many of us thought that we couldn't pull off this beloved classic in the short period of time we had been given. We soon came to find out that we were very wrong. We did have a couple of bumps along the way such, as costumes which Oliver Ames High School so generously helped out with at the last moment. So we didn't just look hot, we were Puttin' on the Ritz!

Another bump we faced was the lack of a choreographer, but once again we pulled through. If it wasn't for two Godsend, Alyssa Laganelli and Erika Lofstrom, the show wouldn't have been such a hit. They gave up their precious Friday nights and Saturday mornings to work with the cast to make sure that our dances were as smooth as ice. Now, with our terrific director Mrs.

Colleen Sutcliffe, our talented musical director Mr. Bruce Maggs and the conductor of the best darn pit orchestra around, Mr. Bob Soares, we knew that this classic musical was going to be a spectacle in the eyes of all.

Most importantly we had a terrifically energetic cast of wonderful actors and actresses. Everyone in the cast worked extremely hard and did a fantastic job, but there are several individuals whom I feel need special recognition for their show stopping performances. Those individuals are, Andrew Nunes with a marvelous performance as Tevye, a dairyman. Katin Hagerman had, of course, a no less than perfect performance as Golde, Tevye's wife. Jenna Carreiro, who made a hilariously funny performance as wise old Yente, the matchmaker. Christina Wittey as Tevye's eldest daughter Tzeitel gave a magical performance of Matchmaker along with Cassie Tavares, who gave an eye raising ballet solo during Chavaiah as Chava, and Mariah Bliss, who gave everyone in the theater goose bumps with her stupendous solo *Far from the Home I Love*, as Hodel. Jon Driscoll as Lazar Wolf, the butcher who gave a drunken spectacle in *To Life*. Melissa DaCosta who gave a hallucinating ghostly fright when she returned from the grave as Golde's Grandmother Tzeitel and last, but most the actors stepped it up a notch and projected with all of their might.

An American way: Reality T.V.?

By Rebecca Mendzela

I'm just as sick of, yet fascinated by these reality shows as everyone else is. The problem is how the definition of reality has changed. Is it probable that tomorrow you'll be trapped on an island or forced to eat organs of a buffalo? I think not. It is possible that you could be called to duty though. The War is not a game, but an unfortunate result in conflict that takes many lives.

I went online today and saw AOL's poll. Question read something like "Does live war coverage give us the full picture?" Of course it doesn't! How can television's live version of the war measure up with combat experience? A lot of war veterans have needed therapy post war. Some won't even discuss what they have experienced.

Also, by televising live war coverage, we are only further desensitizing our society. People don't need to see more violence. Everyone should be aware of what is going on in the world today but they shouldn't be able to experience the emotional side of war.

For family and friends of those who are in active duty, these upsetting images do not bring comfort. It also disrespects in some ways, the people who are risking their lives and those whose lives are in the hands of others. They are feeling a mixture of things many of us will never have to. Soldiers fight to protect the people of their country from things such as the feelings of fear and sadness that many of them are experiencing. Let those of us who are still in the United States just honor them and keep them in our hearts.



Mrs. Lawrence and Tiffany Larose pose after the SHS Prom Fashion Show. Their tireless effort made the event an overwhelming success.

Chicago, what's the big deal?

By Rebecca Mendzela

I have seen several musicals to be able to tell apart the mediocre ones from the ones with all that jazz. I have not seen *Chicago* live but I feel the movie didn't live up to its hype. I was a little disappointed.

Granted Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Queen Latifah are wonderful actresses and sang very well but they weren't able to make the transition from camera to stage. Acting on stage does not compare with acting in movies. When you sit in the audience of a well-performed

musical, you laugh when the actors laugh and cry when they cry. It's that connection that makes it different than just watching a movie. Only a few movies can make that connection. This was not one you could put in the same category as the *Sound of Music* and *West Side Story*.

If you're unwilling to see a classic like *Chicago* live, I recommend the modern day-edgy *Rent* or the heartbreaking love story *Aida*. Both of which have great music and storylines. To the cast of *Chicago*, I say great attempt but musicals are not easy to capture on film.



Perspectives



Multiculturalism and diversity

In the world there are many different races, religions, and cultures. There are many different ways of life that we do not know. In Somerset, we cannot see much diversity. Almost everyone in this town is white. Therefore, there is not a lot of diversity in our school. It would be much different if we went to a school in a big city. There, one would see many different types of people with different ideas.

Many colleges appreciate diversity in their schools. Some accept students on the basis of race. For example, they might accept a student who is Hispanic or African American in place of a white

student, even if the white student could be more qualified. Some people bring cases like this to the Supreme Court because they think that it is unfair. While I also think that it is unfair, I understand why the schools want diversity. Multiculturalism in school, in the workplace, or in other public places brings new ideas and opinions. Also, if people are exposed to other cultures, there is less probability of discrimination and intolerance.

The many cultures of the world have their own music, food, holidays, customs, and other things. When I went to Ireland with my family two years ago, I

experienced a little bit of a different culture. It is similar to the United States in many ways, but there are differences. I enjoyed the trip and the experience, and I learned a little bit about that wonderful country.

In the world today, it is especially important that multiculturalism and diversity exist. With the events that are taking place in the world now, like the war, it is necessary to learn about other cultures and religions, like Islam, to understand them better. I think that there is discrimination because people do not understand others and their differences. If we can understand one another, the

world will be a better place with less hate.

Our school tries to bring a little diversity by having events and assemblies during Multicultural Week, but many students do not take it seriously. It is not enough to teach people about different cultures. The only true way that a person can get to know a culture is by experiencing it. People have to be willing to learn and read. Hate in the world is a result of ignorance. It is necessary to eliminate ignorance about other cultures. It is a big world and more people should take the time to learn about it.

Multiculturalismo y diversidad

En el mundo hay muchas razas, religiones, y culturas diferentes. Hay muchas maneras diferentes de la vida que no sabemos. En Somerset, no podemos ver mucha diversidad. Casi todos las personas en esta ciudad son de la raza blanca. Por eso, no hay mucha diversidad en nuestra escuela. Sera muy diferentes si fuiramos a una escuela de una ciudad grande. All se veran muchas clases diferentes de gente con ideas diferentes.

Muchas universidades aprecian la diversidad en sus escuelas. Algunas aceptan estudiantes a base de la raza. Por ejemplo, ellos quiz s aceptan un estudiante quien es hispanico o negro en vez de un estudiante blanco, aunque el

estudiante blanco puede ser mas calificado. Algunas personas llevan casos como este al tribunal supremo porque piensan que es injusto. Mientras pienso que es injusto tambien, entiendo por qu las escuelas quieren la diversidad. Multiculturalismo en la escuela, en el trabajo, o en otros lugares pblicos trae las ideas y las opiniones nuevas. Tambien, si personas est n expuestas a otras culturas, hay menos probabilidad de discriminacin y intolerancia.

Las muchas culturas del mundo tienen msicas, comidas, das feriados, costumbres, y otras cosas. Cuando fui a Irlanda con mi familia hace dos aos,

experiment un poco de una cultura diferente. Es similar a los Estados Unidos en muchas maneras, pero hay diferencias. Disfrut del viaje y de la experiencia, y aprend un poco sobre ese pas maravilloso.

En el mundo hoy, es especialmente importante que multiculturalismo y diversidad existan. Con los acontecimientos que pasan en el mundo ahora, como la Guerra, hay que aprender sobre otras culturas y religiones, como Islam, para entenderlos mejor. Pienso que hay discriminacin porque personas no entienden otros y sus diferencias. Si podemos entender uno al otro, el mundo

ser un lugar mejor con menos odio.

Nuestra escuela trata de traer un poco de diversidad por tener los acontecimientos y las asambleas durante la semana multicultural, pero muchos estudiantes no los toman en serio. Esto no es suficiente para educar a la gente sobre culturas diferentes. La manera verdadera para conocer una cultura es experimentar ndola. Las personas tienen que estar dispuestas a aprender y leer. El odio en el mundo es un resultado de la ignorancia. Es necesario eliminar la ignorancia sobre otras culturas. Es un mundo grande y ms personas deben tomar el tiempo para aprenderlo.

Understanding cultural diversity

Educating students in the diversity of various cultures within our own country and around the world is extremely important. Through such education, the students become familiar with various dimensions of the human identity such as ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, class, age and race. These aspects do not determine or predict the values of a person, nor do they affect one's life choices. But they are (by psychological definition) the commonly related parts of social experience and affiliation.

The exposition to diversity is beneficial to students in many practical ways. First, they are taught the traditions - past and present - of the world, and automatically they become more learned. Secondly, the students who are exposed to the cultures of other nations are able to try new foods, or listen to new types of music, for example, that they may come to appreciate. Next, (and to me, most importantly) students who are taught about the diversity of the world are capable of understanding the opinions and attitudes of global societies.

Therefore, they are also able to observe the arguments between nations in our world today and understand the viewpoints of both sides. Finally, the students who are exposed to multiculturalism in high school are better prepared for college and work in the real world, where they have to interact with people of various race and color.

In conclusion, as part of the Model United Nations club at Somerset High School, I have attended conferences in Providence and Boston every year. This

experience has allowed me to meet students from different parts of the country and the world. Through conversation with these students, I have learned a number of cultural traditions. I have also been able to hear about how different societies around the world view the United States. From such activity, I feel better prepared for college and my future career. Most importantly, it has truly permitted me to see the value of diversity in our world, and I believe that all students should become more aware of this reality.

Commentary



Model U.N.

By Yara Youssef and
Lyndsey Fortin

Teacher's Retirement Means End of the Era

By Rebecca Mendzela

I've heard good things about Mr. Levesque, the foreign language teacher, but I've only seen him in action when it's time for Debate. Next year Mr. Levesque, who has been teaching at Somerset High School for many years, will be retiring. He's not just leaving the life of conjugating verbs though. For over twenty-five years Mr. Levesque has coached the Debate team, and a great one at that. A normal Debate season for Somerset High School results in approximately twenty awards. Usually the first affirmative and negative teams for both novice level and varsity level are in one of the top three spots. Students are self-motivated in this activity. "I only guide them in debate. The coach is not in the room (during the Debate)," said Mr. Levesque.

Although the Debate coach is retiring he still encourages more students to get involved next year. For those of you who are not quite sure of what Debating really is, I asked Mr. Levesque to sum it up. He replied that it's something you have to observe and experience. Then he threw my question back at me saying that he was curious how I would define Debate since I had observed and experienced it. So let me break it down.

In one room there are two people who are from two different schools and a judge from neither school. One school is affirmative and the other is negative. At the start

of each season all of the schools get a resolution. The Affirmatives construct a plan for the resolution and the negatives try to find as much information on the topic as they can. Once the Debate begins, the negative team hears the affirmative plan and tries to prove how either it doesn't meet the resolution or follow Debate rules. Each of the four people speaks and is questioned by the other team during the round. In the end, the judge decides which team has debated the best. When you and your partner are in the room it's all up to you but in the end it's a team activity.

"It's an academic sport because you have to argue and defend and you have to practice too," Mr. Levesque added. Also, Mr. Levesque reminds his debaters (with a grin). You have to be part masochist and part sadist.

Mr. Levesque began debating in his junior year at St. Anthony's High School in New Bedford. In his junior and senior years he acquired about fifteen awards. He even placed tenth once and was invited to nationals but his school couldn't afford it so he was unable to go unfortunately. As a freshman in college he debated successfully all over the northeast. His sophomore year he stepped down and just helped with the research needed for the debates. With Mr. Levesque being our coach, I wondered if most of his knowledge on debate came from his coach.

"I would say I'm self-taught. I learned early to watch finals of good debaters and model myself after their behavior and performance," he said.

A lot of debaters have been wondering the same thing. Will Mr. Levesque consider coaching again even though he'll no longer be teaching?

"I've thought about it but I have to admit it might be financially tough if I decide to take on another career," he said.

"I'll absolutely miss debate...more than teaching because I help teach kids life skills."

So there was more immediate satisfaction and worth to teaching debate than teaching languages. His advice for next year's debaters was to promote their activity. They should speak out about the value of Debate and their right to do it in order to guarantee the program will continue.

"My retirement should not be used as an excuse to end the program. Would we (SHS) not have a football team next year if the coach retired?" he questioned.

Mr. Levesque is glad to have ended on a good note though. It was one of the best years, the preliminaries showed the team's long-term stability and in the finals four teams ranked highly.

He concluded, "The students took it seriously and did a good job."

It has been a good year at SHS

K.C. Dowd 04
Editor-in-Chief

First, I would like to acknowledge with great appreciation and awe the courageous American soldiers (and coalition forces) who are protecting our freedoms, ensuring homeland security and seeking the liberation of the Iraqi people. Subjecting themselves to the atrocities of war in this hostile and oppressed desert, with unwavering determination, epitomizes the very character of our nation. These individuals are to be commended and respected for their resolve in eliminating evil and ensuring true peace in the world.

For the seniors, this is the time that you've all looked forward to, graduation. What lies ahead is mind-boggling. Whether you have decided to pursue a vocation, continue your education, serve in the armed forces, or just take time off to explore options, the possibilities are unlimited. Hopefully, you take with you incredible experiences and friendships that

will sustain you through the difficult times and propel you to more rewarding times. Best wishes in achieving your goals.

I have a few issues of annoyance to share with those who wish to listen. Why do individuals participate in polls if they have no opinion? The non-committal sector, responding I don't know, not sure, or undecided, should probably not partake in surveys that assume the respondent has an opinion on the subject at hand. At the very least, take a guess!

Another increasing nuisance is the rambling rhetoric across the television screen when the viewer is attempting to watch a news program. Along with the actual commentator reporting the news, many stations are including several lines of moving printed news flashes, the channel identification symbol, security alerts, a waving flag, the stock market, the time and temperature and sometimes a split screen visual of a news event as it's occurring. It has become a real challenge to receive and

digest the multi-media graphic effects, which are apparently intended to offer as much information as possible, at the same time. This type of media manipulation is another reason for switching to Seinfeld, which offers a more civilized and uncomplicated view of the world.

With all of the upheaval in the world, we have been fortunate to enjoy six sports team championships (with more to come with spring sports), great drama performances (Fiddler on the Roof), an exceptional science fair, various music programs and student participation in simulated United Nations activities. Hopefully, the final term of this school year will be positive and memorable to all. I have to conclude with the most profound quote of the year, as heard by many on Local Sports (channel 3), in reference to the 2002-03 championship Varsity Basketball Team, but applicable to all of our team sports; as observed and offered by Superfan Rusty Cohen. They're (Raiders) nasty!

A weekend with your friends at the Marriott in Cambridge sound like fun? Well, it's a little more complicated than that. Twenty-eight students from Somerset High School spent a weekend at Boston University's Model United Nations from February 28 through March 2. Each student selected a committee in which they represented one of the countries assigned to our school. All the countries represented are part of the real United Nations.

The students were all given two topics ahead of time that they were to research thoroughly. The topics were about current problems in the world. The students were to find out what their country's position on the topic is, and what kind of resolution they would support. Using this information, each student wrote a background paper, which they sent to their committee chair.

When the students arrived in their assigned committees, they voted on what topic should be debated first. During the debate, each student had the opportunity to stand up and speak of their country's position for an allotted time. After the debate went on for some time, a resolution was formed and discussed. This is the objective of Model U.N.; to form a resolution which solves the problem stated in the topic.

Some students were part of crisis committees. In these committees, a crisis arose that the students had to react to. Every few minutes, the students would get news updates on the most recent information regarding the crisis. Using this information, the students had to work together and try to solve the crisis.

These students from Somerset High School met new people from all around the country. Teenagers from Florida, Canada, Philadelphia, and many other states attended. While forming these friendships, students also experienced something they would remember forever. They represented a country for three days and had a chance to see how problems are dealt with in the real world. Some students enjoy Model United Nations so much that they choose international relations or political science as their future major in college.

Students who displayed excellence in their committee were given awards at the end of the weekend. Those from Somerset High School who received recognition or awards were: Ryan Avery, Kim Hudson, Jessica McShane, Michelle Prevost, and Christina Whitey.

Model United Nations is a serious but fun experience that we will never forget. We thank Mr. Peachy for giving us this opportunity and encourage other students who enjoy international relations and public speaking to take part in future conferences.

It is the wrong time to be turning away from the flag...

others see this as blatant disrespect for the thousands of brave souls who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting America. At an U.S. Merchant Marine Academy game on February 11, Smith and her team were met with midshipmen who lined the entire basketball court perimeter, each holding an American flag at attention, throughout the duration of the game. As the team traveled to other colleges, flags were distributed and waved by those protesting Smith's tactics. Her teammates have also been harassed, even though most do not share Smith's views. This has now evolved into an emotional flag waving, shouting contest in the bleachers and the top sports news story of the week.

Personally, I have several issues with Smith's actions. The American flag is not about the government or its present ad-

ministration. It is a symbol of a nation united by the ideals of liberty. Freedom is not free. Our nation had to fight for its independence. It was the courageous acts of our veterans, from the revolutionary war to this Middle East Conflict, including the War on Terrorism, that enables Toni Smith the freedom to express her political views, choose the sport she plays and enjoy the comforts that a free society offers. It is the concept of liberty and the heroics of our United States military and citizens that the American flag represents, not the partisan policies of each administration, that drives this nation. Individuals have the freedom to effect change where they feel inequities are prevalent. The appropriate forum for that, whether in the form of protest or dissent, should not be on a basketball court. This is a sporting event, not a political rally. When you put on a team uniform,

you represent that team and its school's standards. In doing this, the individual is obligated to follow the team's code of ethics and behaviors, not one's own personal political views.

I strongly feel that Smith has the right to her convictions and should not be vilified for expressing them. However, she also has a responsibility to her teammates, who should be concentrating on playing the game, not dodging the sneers. The basketball court, or any field of play, is not the appropriate venue to express a personal discontent with any political issue. In this case, Smith's actions have reportedly disrupted the dynamics of the team and caused dissension among her teammates. Some players feel that they have been forced to make political statements of their own and choose sides. Most of them just want to play basketball. In exercising her

freedom of speech on the court, Toni Smith has disrupted the focus of the game and invited controversy that has infringed upon the rights of her team members and the team supporters who come to watch a basketball game.

I suggest that Toni Smith put a no-war message on her headband or simply remain in the locker room during the National Anthem. On her own time, Smith can march around expressing her discontent. If Smith expects any credibility in her demonstration of protest, she should have declined any federally funded scholarships or loans that have allowed her the freedom of a college education. Smith may also want to protest the oppressive inequities suffered by the Iraqi people! (Any informed opinions or rebuttals are welcomed at The Breeze.)

Amnesty posters cause controversy at Somerset High...

tional for the school to remove the posters even though they allegedly contained a controversial opinion. In actuality, the intent of the posters was to honor those who have/will die in the conflict with Iraq, and to sympathize with the Iraqi people who have suffered human rights violations for decades. After making calls to the superintendent of Somerset public schools, Dr. Stephen Furtado, Mr. Peachy found the same thing. A few days after their removal,

new Amnesty International posters were hung up throughout the school. The new posters did include the vigil's affiliation with the Somerset High School Amnesty International Organization.

No matter what your feelings on the war in Iraq (or peaceful demonstrations) are, it is good to understand what your constitutional rights within the school are, and where the school's regulations fit into the

picture. As Mrs. Camara told me, the situation with the posters should be an eye-opener to students that any posters or affiliation paraphernalia they wish to hang up around the school must be first approved by the school administration. However, in this

case, it was clear that the students' freedom of expression, a right guaranteed in our Constitution, overrode the rules set up by Somerset High School, because the posters did not infringe on the rights of anyone else within the school.

Book review: Don't Try This at Home

K.C. Dowd 04 editor

In my ongoing pursuit of satirical humor and extraordinary exploits, I came across a book by Hunter S. Fulghum that conveniently offers both. Don't Try This at Home provides easy reading for the passive risk-taker, presented in an amusing yet informative format. The provocative title doubles as a disclaimer, while daring the reader to imagine that they too could Retrieve Mayan Gold from a Sacrificial Well, if properly instructed.

For those who may actually believe they can accomplish great feats by simply following the directions, Fulghum provides a detailed list of the materials needed, a time line for the entire mission, background information and step by step instructions on the execution of each operation. He also includes straightforward graphics to visually demonstrate each maneuver, as well as helpful hints such as which media division to notify for proper recognition of ones astonishing accomplishment.

Author Fulghum tapped into the personal experiences and expertise of his friends, family and colleagues to write this adventurous how to handbook. In the process he discovered that most individuals harbor unrealized knowledge in

a variety of specialized areas that could be applied to achieving unusual tasks. While Fulghum admits that many of these adventures could lead to legal issues or bodily harm, he assumes the reader will apply common sense and simply be amused by the possibilities rather than actually attempt to duplicate them.

The entertainment factor of this read allows that one may imagine where there is a will, and proper instruction, there is a way to accomplish the most outlandish feats that will impress your friends while saving the world. Some of the exploits include such humanitarian deeds like Rescuing MIAs from a POW Camp, Water Bomb a Forest Fire, and Rescue an Injured Mountain Climber in Antarctica. More self-centered feats involve Catching a Great White Shark, Form an Independent Nation, and Wrestle and Win a Sumo Match, to name a few.

Don't Try This at Home is an amusing read that mixes adventure with interesting facts. Its provoking scenarios tempt the thrill seeker and incite the curious. Just imagine being the only one in your school who can Drive a Tank through a Tornado or Shut Down an Out-of-Control Nuclear Reactor.

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Sports



After an incredible season, the Somerset Basketball Blue Raiders posed for one final picture in the Fleetcenter after a disappointing defeat to Charlestown High School.

The Raiders ended with a record of 21-4, 5 of which were tourney games. (Photo by Greg Zygmunt)

SHS hockey team wins EAC What it's like to be a wrestler

Kim Hudson

Somerset High School's Hockey Team became the first public school team to win the Eastern Athletic Conference Title. The team also boasted three EAC Allstars, four Herald News All-Scholastic All-Stars, and one Record Breaker this season.

Somerset High School's Hockey team is coached by Kevin Snyder. The Assistant Coaches are Manny Silva, Steve Grotta, and Scott MacPherson. The Team Captains are Jay Ledo and Josh Letorneau.

The team's record this year was 17-5-1. The EAC All-Stars are Tim Medeiros, Jason Ledo, and Josh Leterouneau. The Herald News All-Scholastic All Stars are Josh Leterouneau, Jason Ledo, Tim Medeiros, and Steve Grotta. Jason Ledo also broke the record for points by a defenseman that was held by the head coach, Kevin Snyder. The record was 85 points and is now 106 points.

Congratulations to the Somerset High School Hockey Team on their outstanding season!!

By Chris Arruda

In a wrestler's state of mind,
He has nothing to prove.
A move is like a groove.
He must learn it and improve.
You want to give him a stereotype?
Get in the circle and find out what it's like.
To get flattened on the mat,
Spread out on your back.
When you start crying like a baby,

He puts you in a cradle.
You will never be able
To break a wrestlers grip.
The most dedicated,
You're going to have to be medicated.
So take back what you said,
cause now you know you misread
How much time, energy, and training,
Is put in by A WRESTLER.