

# The Breeze

Somerset High School

Somerset, MA 02726



Volume 3

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No. 7

Carpe Diem

## Science and God: The Last Word (Maybe)

by Peter Bonney

Paul Golaszewski's reply (March, 1995) to my article ("Has Science Killed God?"-February, 1995) brought out some interesting and valid points. However, some of his refutations are rather inaccurate.

To begin with, Mr. Golaszewski's observation regarding the scope of my article is correct. My statements were too broad and approached pure conjecture. The article should have focused strictly on the US.

However, I feel that my article's statements, when restated with this adjustment of focus, are highly accurate and founded purely in fact. As a means of countering my claim of a decrease in religious interest, Mr. Golaszewski cites a Newsweek poll which states that "almost 90% of all Americans do indeed believe in some type of God." While this is a true statement -- perhaps even a slightly conservative estimate -- it does not prove that 90% of Americans have an active interest in a God or Gods. When examined along with declining church attendance and other religious indicators, this statistic points to a high level of disillusionment with traditional religious institutions. I believe that this increased disillusionment -- not necessarily an increase in atheism -- corresponds to the scientific and social changes which have been made throughout the history of American society. From

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## Sarah Horvitz: Sophomore Skiing Sensation

by Kara Taylor

Recently I had the pleasure of interviewing Sarah Horvitz, our own skiing marvel. Sarah competes in aeriels, ballet, and moguls. Over the winter, she had an amazing season.

Throughout the season, Sarah participated in competitions in the East at Sugarloaf, Waterville Valley, Loon Mountain, and Sunday River. She won an incredible four out of seven aerial meets, including the Eastern Championships held at Sugarloaf and Junior Nationals. In ballet, Sarah placed no lower than tenth all season. Also, at a NorAm meet in Lake Placid, New York, Sarah placed 20th among skiers from many different countries.

Sarah's most amazing feats were accomplished at the U.S. Junior Freestyle Championships held in Colorado. Sarah placed first in aeriels, eighth in ballet, seventeenth in moguls, and an astounding third in the combined competition. Based on this performance, Sarah was invited to the Subaru U.S. Freestyle Championships (Senior Nationals) in aeriels and as an alternate in ballet. At Senior Nationals, Sarah placed fourth in the

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## The Inter-what?

by Jay LeBoeuf

Editors' note: Jay LeBoeuf is the author of a recently copyrighted introductory manual to the Internet. Information about obtaining copies of The Internet Survival Guide is available by contacting Jay LeBoeuf through the Somerset High School.

Lately, it seems that everyone pseudo-important (one who is or believes himself to be important) is discussing the Internet. Unfortunately, the majority of Americans are not familiar with the Internet. "What is it? What can it do? How can I obtain access?", are questions that I frequently field from Internet-newcomers.

The Internet is the world's largest computer network. (Did I lose you already?) A network is a group of computers that are connected to each other. The connections, formed by telephone lines, special cables, and satellite links, enable the computers to share files and data with one another. So, if Computer A was networked to Computer B, a user stationed at Computer A could access all the files, programs, and data on Computer B. Since the computers are linked together, the Computer A user can manipulate Computer B as if he were working directly on it.

Many college campuses decide that it is necessary to network all of their

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## Peer Leadership

by Kara Taylor

As usual, the Peer Leadership group has been quite busy in the past few months. On Monday, February 20 and Friday, February 24, the Peer Leaders helped feed greater Fall River's homeless at the Church of Ascension Soup Kitchen. The members worked together to feed over 370 people. Students obtained a greater understanding of how fortunate so many of us are and realized that they can make a difference in others' lives.

During Multi-Cultural Week, members made posters to encourage diversity and the celebration of our differences. The Peer Leadership group also did research on several noteworthy individuals of varied cultural and racial backgrounds and presented their biographies over the morning announcements. Also, daily quotes promoting multi-culturalism appeared on the silent radio in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

On March 29, the Peer Leaders put on several skits for the Spring MIAA Chemical Health Night. The skits covered the topics of steroid use, dating violence, anorexia nervosa, and drug and alcohol abuse. As well as being enjoyable, the skits taught important lessons. Hopefully, all SHS spring athletes will heed the advice of the Big Guy.

The Peer Leaders organized a successful Red Cross Blood Drive on April 10. Cochaired by Liz Ramos and Jess Simbro, the drive went smoothly and our goal of 60 pints of blood was attained. A special thank you goes out to all those who helped with the drive and all those who donated blood. Also, to all those that attempted to give but were refused, thanks for trying!!

During the remaining months of the school year, the Peer Leaders will be busy with prom and graduation activities. We hope that all SHS students have a safe, sober, and fun prom and graduation!!!

## Destiny Turns On the Radio Is the Worst Movie I Have Ever Seen!

by Emily Peloquin

It can not be put more simply than this: Destiny Turns On The Radio is, without a doubt, the worst movie I have ever seen! This cinematic disaster reeks of low quality cheese from start to finish. Like many other unsuspecting moviegoers, I was the victim of one film maker's sick practical joke. Deceiving advertisements for the film promise a "comedy of mystical proportions". I am not sure that this film even qualifies as a comedy. The one humorous moment in the film involved BobCat Golthwait running around madly and falling face first into an empty pool. This stunt, though amusing, was more of a pity laugh than anything else. Another insidious ploy is that the leading role, Johnny Destiny, is played by Quentin Tarantino, the award winning director of Pulp Fiction. Casting Tarantino in this film is like serving caviar in a dirty glass ashtray, yet insisting to your guests that the ashtray is made of genuine crystal. Tarantino's performance is not completely awful. He is quirky and appealing in the role, yet he does not remain on the screen for more than twenty seconds at a time. Another problem with his performance is that his lines are delivered too quickly. It is almost impossible to understand them. Perhaps he would have better luck if the movie was rewritten to include just a dash of humor and an ounce of plot. Any further ridicule of this film would be both unkind and unnecessary. This movie is a total waste of your hard-earned time and money. To illustrate one final time just how poor it is, I will share with you this fact. When I sat down to watch this film there were eight people sitting in the audience. When I left the theater there were only four people remaining. I, along with those four remaining moviegoers, warn you. Destiny may be able to turn on a radio, but it cannot turn on much else.

## The Northern Cross

by Peter Bonney

"How beautiful," thought the man as he woke staring deep into space. Each morning for over three years, now, he had opened his eyes to see the constellation of Ursa Minor, and it never ceased to amaze him with its beauty. He had positioned his sleeping quarters specifically for that purpose. It was the last thing he saw when he slept, and it was the first thing he saw when he woke. He often lost sleep staring into the vast infinite and pondering how the ancients came to name it. What made that group of stars look to them to be a giant bear in the sky? It was truly a feat of imagination to break the universe into clusters and name them. Perhaps if people had been content to stare with the naked eye and use their imagination to explain the universe, rather than science and computers, and gigantic artificial eyes, he would not be where he was now.

Last night had been one of those ponderous nights. As he drew closer to his goal, he found that he thought more and more. He liked that. In his old home, he couldn't lie in bed and think, for the day would not wait for him to get his sleep. But here, in this eternal night, he could lie awake until he desired to sleep, and sleep until he desired to wake. He had made a  
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## The Last Word (cont. from p. 1)

the US Constitution's non-recognition of a national religion to the forbiddance of school-sponsored prayer, waning interest in organized religion has been a common theme.

I agree with Mr. Golaszewski's assertion that science and religion can indeed coexist. In fact, I never claimed that belief in one precludes belief in the other. I merely attempted to point out the fact that it is difficult to accept traditional religious teachings in the face of scientific evidence. As Mr. Golaszewski states, scientists are still debating the origin of the universe. However, it is almost universally accepted in the scientific world that it was not created in its current form in seven days, as the Bible claims. In this case, while scientific hypothesis does discredit the creation beliefs of almost all worldwide religions, it certainly does not disprove the existence of a God or Gods. In fact, an interesting compromise is offered by some sets of religious beliefs, including Deism.

Regarding Gerald L. Schroeder's book *Genesis and the Big Bang*, I now plan on reading it at the first opportunity, particularly because of its involvement with relativity. I am curious to see how Schroeder relates relativity -- a theory which explains the behavior of time and matter at high velocities -- to evolution and, especially, creation.

As I stated previously, Mr. Golaszewski's article has some valid points. However, it also has some glaring inaccuracies. Nevertheless, I agree in particular with his concluding statement -- "people should be free to choose one, the other, or both." In no way should anyone be forced to abandon their beliefs because of scientific hypothesis. Religious institutions and science can indeed coexist. However, no one should be forced to participate in any form of religion that contradicts their own self-formulated beliefs. The key to achieving spiritual satisfaction is to examine scientific and religious images and create an individual set of beliefs that are agreeable to oneself.

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## Great Class - Great Teacher - Great Books

by Paul Golaszewski

Now is the time when most students are agonizing over course selections for the coming year. Which classes to take and, more importantly for the soon to be seniors, how many classes to take, can be an important decision. One course that most people flip right over when reading through the Course Selections Booklet is Great Books; however, this is perhaps the most stimulating and entertaining class that Somerset High School has to offer. Great Books meets once a week for half the year and is taught by the ever-popular reading teacher, Mrs. Peachy. Students are assigned to read one story each week and then discuss it in the next class. Mrs. Peachy ingeniously supplies the students with yellow sticky pads to enable them to take notes on the story and then to stick the notes on the corresponding pages. But watch out! If you should break one of the sacred "Great Books Rules for Discussion", then Mrs. Peachy might inflict the ultimate punishment on you and take back your sticky pads. The class is helpful in sharpening reading, communication, and interpreting skills which may be important later on in college. Mrs. Peachy's insightful comments and her wit help to make Great Books a truly "peachy" class.

## O.J., Anyone . . . No Thanks!

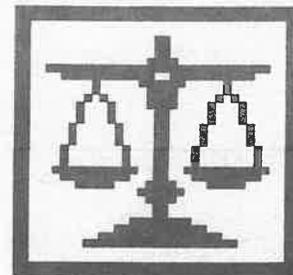
by Jerry Proulx

Lately, there is one event happening in the U.S. that no one has missed. This, of course, is the O.J. Simpson case. Everyone has heard the evidence and everyone has seen at least an hour of the case being televised. Is this necessary, and more importantly, is this fair?

The case is obviously landmark, and as the trial progresses, the end seems to become more and more distant. The courtroom appears to be a circus. A new lawyer speaking for the defense every other week, Marsha Clark and the defense continually at war to master the quirks of law, and a constantly scrutinized judge set the scene for this case. It is because of this atmosphere in court and the fame of O.J. Simpson that the media is interested in this trial.

An important issue of the trial is, of course, the media coverage. This raises several important questions. Is the media slowing down the trial? Is the media being impartial? How would the trial change if the media wasn't so present? Most importantly, is this media coverage impairing O.J.'s right to a fair trial?

One suggestion to make sure the media has no effect on the right to fair trial is to hold the trial footage until the trial is over and then release it for publication. However, since this trial is a matter of justice, it is up to you to decide.



Sarah Horvitz (cont from p. 1)

country. Sarah experienced a breath-taking moment at the Junior Nationals awards banquet when she was presented an award by Liz McIntyre, the silver medalist mogul skier in the 1994 Olympics.

In aerial skiing, there is a choice of three jumps of different heights to use. Towards the end of her season, Sarah became the only girl in the East to go off the largest jump. Also, Sarah is the only girl in the East who performs quad maneuvers in competition. Quad maneuvers involve four tricks in the air, including daffies and spread eagles. The jump that Sarah uses is 8.5 feet high and 20 feet back from the knoll, or the edge of the landing hill. Therefore, a great amount of height is needed to land on the landing hill. Soaring off this jump and the tremendous season she just completed are both described by Sarah as "a major rush."

Somerset is extremely proud of Sarah's accomplishments and wishes her continued success in the 1995-1996 season.

### Latin Students Excel

The American Classical league has announced the results of the National Latin Exam which was taken by 90,000 students from the United States and eight foreign countries, including Canada, Japan, Australia, Italy, England, The Netherlands, Belgium, and Zimbabwe. The test consisted of forty questions and the national average was twenty-eight correct answers. Outstanding performances from Mrs. Brock's Latin I class include Sarah Horvitz and Kathryn McMillan, who earned silver medals for scoring Maxima Cum Laude (35 correct answers). Stephanie DaCosta scored Magna Cum Laude (34 correct), and Jocelyn Whittaker scored Cum Laude (30 correct). The remaining students who took the exam, Eamon Murray and Will Sullivan, scored within the national average.

## Don't Copy That Floppy

by Jay LeBoeuf

Software piracy confronts our technology-oriented world as a major problem. For every hard working software developer, there are ten times as many people trying to pirate software. Commercial software developers, who invest their time, money, and effort into creating powerful applications, are victimized by the pirates of society.

"Software piracy?", you say. "Software piracy" is a term used to describe the illegal distribution, sale, or renting of a commercial copyrighted computer program. When one buys a program, the Copyright Act (Section 117) says that you are able to install that program on one computer and to make one copy "for archival purposes only". In general, if you have one program installed on multiple computers, you are violating the software publisher's rights. In addition, if you make copies of the program for your Uncle Chaz, you have similarly violated the publisher's rights.

"What else is forbidden?" The sale of copyrighted programs is a big No-No in the U.S. If you copy the software "willfully and for purposes of commercial advantage or private financial gain", you face criminal penalties such as fines up to \$250,000 and jail terms up to 5 years. The Software Rental Amendments Act of 1990 prohibits the rental or lending of original copies of software without the express permission of the copyright owner. (Don't hold your breath waiting for the copyright owner to grant you permission...)

"What can I do if I need multiple copies installed?" Move to a different country with less rigid copyright laws. Another alternative is to buy a special site license agreement. This agreement allows you to pay a reduced rate to install a program on a fixed amount of computers without violating copyright laws. The final alternative is to purchase as many individual copies of the program as are warranted by the number of computers... but that'll cost you a lot.

"What are the benefits to purchasing legal copies of software?" Other than avoiding the potential fines and jail terms, you will know, in your heart, that you have done the ethical thing. To spice up the reward, the software companies provide you with extensive manuals, reference cards, technical support, and future upgrades. Finally, your legal purchase will benefit all computer users by allowing the software publishers to reinvest your money in future programs.

Recently, the Software Publishers Association (SPA) was established to challenge pirates who widely sell and distribute illegal software. Financed by major software firms the likes of Microsoft, Apple, and Aldus, the SPA targets and prosecutes pirates. Please don't be alarmed!! If you copied the Romart Mouse Driver Installation Disk for a friend, you will not be punished. Software piracy is so difficult to track that 99.8% of pirates get away with their piracy. However, the .2% who establish elaborate piracy rings and peddle illegal software in back alleys, are frequented by US Federal Marshals.

Now that you understand the risks involved in software piracy, you will be responsible for deciding your future course of action. If you desire further information about software piracy, you can call the SPA Hotline at 1-800-388-7478. Or write: "SPA Anti-Piracy Materials"

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Inter-what? (cont. from p.1)

computers together. A college, with hundreds of computers connected across the campus, has its own LAN. (Local Area Network) As in the previous example, any student on a computer attached to the college network can access files on any other college computer. Now, let's say that another local college decided to attach its network to the first college's network. With this new connection, known as a WAN (Wide Area Network), students and faculty can access the computers present at both campuses.

The Internet is merely a connection of thousands of networks: the LANs and WANs of many corporations, universities, and research facilities are connected, forming a massive web of computers. Essentially, that's what all the hype is about. People can now access millions of other computers from their home offices.

Since the Internet is such a relatively new and vastly-expanding entity, there is no central site or policing authority. (Who would want the responsibility of overseeing millions of computer users worldwide, anyway?) Another point of interest is that there is no charge to use the Internet. Remember, the Internet is only a large group of telephone lines linking computers together; so, since inanimate objects can't charge access fees, they can not bill you. (The cost that you pay for access goes to the network which you use to access Internet.) No cost, no one in charge, no police force, no official rules...sounds like anarchy, right? Since individual networks form the Internet, they are the ones in charge of the rules, fees, policing, etc. People must be responsible for their own conduct on the Internet. Other people are generous enough to allow you to use their computers, so it is only proper to obey their rules.

What can the Internet do? Though the limits of the Internet's capabilities are presently boundless, there are many functions which have proven themselves to be useful in today's society. For example, you can send a typed message or document, referred to as electronic mail (e-mail), to anyone who has Internet access. You can read articles about personally chosen topics through USENET newsgroups. You can obtain free software (shareware and freeware), graphics, and information by using the FTP program. The Telnet program allows you to connect to someone else's computer and use it as if you were physically there. (...thereby enabling you to harness the full power of multi-million dollar supercomputers) The Gopher programs aid people in searching for e-mail addresses, research material, and general information. Finally, the new World-Wide-Web utility allows persons with special accounts to experience full-motion video, audio, and graphical clips.

"Surfing the Internet" and "Cruising the 'net" are two phrases that are abundantly used in today's society. It is essential to know what the Internet is so terms like these are comprehensible. Eventually, the Internet will occupy a substantial role in our lives. Therefore, those who are familiar with it and its complexities beforehand, possess a tremendous advantage.

## Are Self-Esteem and Achievement Related?

by Peter Bonney

Listen to those self-esteem champions. You know, the ones who say kids need to be told how great they are. They say that high achievement comes through boosting self-esteem. Make kids feel good about themselves, and their achievements will soar. This idealistic concept is a nice thought. However, it not only fails to achieve results, but can actually damage a student's potential for academic achievement.

The self-esteem concept in education is a complete waste of time and resources. Rather than focusing on the end -- learning -- this method focuses on the means -- making kids FEEL good. Consider some self-esteem exercises:

"Close your eyes and imagine that you are perfect."

"Write down five things that make you special."

These exercises seek to give students a sense of accomplishment without any effort on their part. Surely, a positive self-image is important, but educators cannot separate it from real accomplishment.

"You can't have self-esteem in the abstract," says William Damon, an educational psychologist at Brown University. "It is meaningless to say 'I am a great person' without having to go through the steps of who you are, what you stand for, and what you're able to do." Proponents of self-esteem have reversed the educational process. They believe that students must feel good to achieve; when in fact, students must achieve to feel good.

A result of the self-esteem craze is the tendency to over-praise students. The argument is that all efforts must be praised, otherwise the student might feel unhappy. There is no measure of excellence in self-esteem

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## Music Notes

by Sylvia Silva

It isn't always easy to say goodbye to someone. Especially someone who's been a part of your life for two or three years. So, in this last issue of the Breeze, I've asked underclassmen to say a final farewell to our senior musicians. We all hope you realize how much you mean to us, and how much we'll miss you.

"Good Luck and Have Fun!"

"We'll miss you! Have a Great Life!"

"Best of Luck! Come Back and visit sometime"

"Thanks for a Great Year"

"I'll miss you all! I think I'm going cry!"

"You guys are the best! You better come back and visit...all the time!"

"We will miss you all so much! Good Luck in what ever you do!"

"Have Fun! Come Back & Visit!"

"Hey Curry, I Love Ya! Smile!"

"Thank You so much. You have been an inspiration!"

"Hey Guys, You're all Great! Don't Forget Us!"

"Hey guys, Thanks for a great 3 years! I luv ya!"

"Jay L., Vanessa A., and Justin A., It's been Great! I love you guys so much!"

"Thanks guys! We'll Miss You All! Don't forget to visit us next year!"

"Good Luck! Thanks for all your wisdom!"

"Good Luck! Be sure to come back and visit!"

"Hi! We'll all miss you and we love you! Don't forget about us at college! Cori, I love you sis! Good Luck!"

"You'll be missed. Good Luck and thanks for all you've done for us."

"Sarah and Holly-Thanks for being great section heads!-Love the flutes&piccs"

"Oount! You're leaving! Good Luck!"

"Good Luck You Guys! I love you!"

"Justin & Jay-I love you guys! Thanks for every thing!"

"The best deeds are still undone,  
The best songs still unsung."

Thanks again seniors. You made this a year to remember!

## Fascinating Facts

by Jen Cohen

An old bachelor left all his property to three ladies to whom he had proposed marriage and who had refused. "By their refusal," he stated, "I owe all my earthly happiness."

Peter the Great had his wife's lover executed and his head put into a jar of alcohol. She was forced to keep it in her bedroom.

In Wisconsin, a woman won a divorce from her husband because "he made me nervous getting up at five o'clock every morning to scrub the floors and do the ironing."

Because the Japanese word for "four" sounds exactly like the word for "death" and the word for "nine" sounds like the word for "suffering", there are no rooms numbered 4 or 9 in many hospitals and hotels in Japan.

Napolean suffered from ailurophobia, fear of cats.

Flamingos get their color by absorbing it from the food they eat. Flamingos in the zoo turn pale if their keepers don't add colorful foods to their meals.

In most parts of Asia, it is considered rude to touch a child's head.

Two-hundred years ago: for kissing his wife in public after returning from a three-year voyage, a Boston ship captain was made to sit two hours in stocks for "lewd and unseemly behavior".

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# Good Luck Seniors!!

## The Caf.: Don't Be Mean--Be Clean

by Peter Bonney

If you want a caf. that's totally clean,  
Rest assured that you're not alone.  
But then why in the world is it such a mess?  
That's why I'm writing this poem.  
Every day during lunch we wait and we wait  
In lines longer than DNA strands.  
Why must we stand in the presence  
Of smells too strong for any man?  
We get a great feast of fries and some meat  
All for a buck thirty five.  
Then we go back to our tables to find  
Some ancient meal, now alive.  
No one wants garbage or trash at their seat.  
We all want a table that gleams.  
A clean eating place MUST start with us,  
So PLEASE don't be mean -- be clean.

## Book Review: The Hot Zone

by Paul Golaszewski

Richard Preston's true story The Hot Zone is the latest in a number of books and movies dealing with the terrifying emergence of deadly new viruses and diseases. But unlike Stephen King's The Stand or the movie, Outbreak, Preston's account is entirely non-fiction. The Hot Zone tracks the spread of some new viruses, such as Marburg and Ebola, from the African jungles to the human race. Unfortunately, these viruses are not like AIDS in that they are extremely contagious and airborne. The story climaxes when the Ebola virus is transmitted to Washington D.C. in 1989 via some infected monkeys. Although most people were unaware of it at the time, a team of army scientists had to risk their lives and sterilize the facility that contained the monkeys.

The story raises some serious questions about the survival of the human race in a world where viruses mutate rapidly and bacteria is becoming resistant to current antibiotics. These new viruses have no cures and almost 90% of the cases result in horrible deaths where the victim hemorrhages from every opening of the body imaginable. While this apocalyptic nightmare is certainly possible, thankfully it is not likely. The new viruses must not only jump species, in and of itself a difficult feat, but humans must also be susceptible to them and the viruses must be extremely communicable. In addition, there are medical research facilities and epidemiological centers, like the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, tracking these diseases to prevent them from spreading. Hopefully, mankind will continue to triumph over Mother Nature; if not, the human race is in serious trouble.

## Gramma Havisham's Guide to Blind Date Enjoyment

by Angelika Brockhoff and Kerri Machado

Kids, once again, a little note from your favorite grandmother! For this month's quality article, Gramma Wetherall and I had to ask our great friend, Gramma Foley. She, of course, is much more hip and knows all about blind date experiences.

### ON MEETING YOUR DATE'S PARENTS

Meeting your date's parents is one of the hardest things to do (besides becoming an accomplished neurosurgeon). My first surefire tip is to casually mutter: "Yes, I go to Harvard", even if your mental age may only be equivalent to that of three year old. When introducing yourself to any member of the family, do mention that your father is the "king of a small but very rich country south of the Equator." Finally, verbalize to them that you've had a fabulous time, equal to one of pulling teeth.

### WHAT TO DO IN THE CAR

While riding anywhere with your date, or his/her friends,

it's a good idea to talk about boring everyday topics. (Some quality topics recommended by Gramma Wetherall are: famed embarrassing moments, your personal view on all red-hot controversial topics, and for backseat fun: sing a rendition of "BINGO".) I also speak from personal experience that singing loudly and out of tune to B101 is usually not a date turn-on. Although, if dating a Beach Boy, this may prove rather advantageous. Finally, a few closing tips: do not stick your date in the leg with your set of 8 gazillion keys, do not scream while being in the general proximity of his/her ear drum, do not elbow your date anywhere, and lastly, do NOT date anyone named Nelson. There are no exceptions to that last rule.

### AT THE GRUB HOUSE

I do not recommend going out to eat and ordering something messy to eat on a first date. This basically excludes hamburgers with the works (you will find the works all over your lap and all over your face), spaghetti (one word: sauce), Chinese food with chopsticks (unless it comes with fork/spork/spoon), soda (burp), beans (enough said), tacos (ditto), and anything else that could easily be tossed, flung, thrown, dribbled or drooled onto your date. Also, avoid spitting food in the general direction of your date swallow before speaking!

### ON THE FRONT PORCH

You may decide to kiss, or be kissed by your date. Do be courteous, even if you find a sesame seed the size of Alaska lodged between your date's front teeth. Sometimes, a good, firm handshake is a fine way to close the night. As your date shakes your hand and gives you the ever popular and cheezey: "I had a really great time tonight..." speech, nod your head several times and sweetly mumble something such as: "Never in your life, buster."

## Self-Esteem and Education (cont. form p.5)

based education. Therefore, praise is disconnected from specific academic accomplishments. This divorce of praise and accomplishment can cause a sense of self-doubt within the student. Robert T. Tauber, an education professor at Penn State, gives an example: "Say a kid comes home saying she wasn't selected for the diving team. Dad says, 'Well, they're out of their minds. You're the best diver around.' Now someone is lying, either the coach or the father. The kid quickly figures out that Dad was saying that just to be nice. Then she thinks back to that paper she did last week that Dad said he liked and she wonders, 'Was it any good?'"

Over-praising not only causes psychological problems, but also leads to poor work. Kids are not stupid. When poor work is praised, students can see that the effort did not deserve the praise it received. They then ask themselves, "If everything is praised, then what is worth doing?" When they see that good work is not given more recognition than poor work, they will opt for the easiest path, which is to submit junk. They see how the system works and take advantage of it by putting as small an effort as possible. Self-esteem provides students with a way to out-think their teacher by manipulating its ideals to their own benefit.

The proponents of self-esteem severely underestimate the mental capacity of students. They attempt to lull students into a false sense of accomplishment by over-praising them. This method is completely ineffective. Praise must follow achievement, not precede it. By refusing to criticize poor work, they promote underachievement. They also set children up for psychological damage by not teaching them to accept criticism. This backward teaching method has no place in education, and people everywhere must fight to prevent its growth. Otherwise, our great nation will one day succumb to its own mediocrity.

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## Dreams of Washington D.C.

by Shyamalee Abraham

Just recently, my cousin Sharmila, who had lived in Sri Lanka all her life, received full admission to Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA. She received the scholarship for getting extraordinary scores on the SATs and the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). While she was on spring break, I got the chance to ask about how she was adjusting to her new life. As you can imagine, she missed her parents very much. She also commented that the American way of life was much different than what she was used to. However, there were many things that Sharmila did like about the U.S., such as the diversity among the people and the more liberal role of women in American society. She claims that America is a much more exciting place than Sri Lanka.

After only one and a half years Sharmila has become fully accustomed to life in the U.S. She is enjoying her college experience and has made many friends. She is currently majoring in economics and hopes to get an internship job in Washington D.C. this summer. Sharmila revealed to me that five years ago she would have only dreamed about working in a place like Washington D.C. It looks like her dreams are coming true.

## The Northern Cross (cont. from p.2)

decision last night. He decided that, should he complete his voyage of discovery, he would not return to his old home. He would find a new goal, and spend his life in his new home, among the stars.

He climbed out of bed and commanded the lights to go on. Today would be the last day of his voyage. A year of planning, and over three years of secluded travel would come to an end on this day. Over four years ago, as a young Earthbound Astronomer, he had seen the stars shifting in the northern cross. At a time when his colleagues were far more interested in the results of the last team of worm-hole expeditionists or the latest samples of dark matter, he had no trouble keeping a discovery as boring as a shift in a constellation quiet. But he knew what it was he was seeing, and it wasn't simply a binary star system, as one colleague assured him. It was a black hole, and he would leave the Earth, alone, to document it. He was tired of science for the sake of science, or, worse yet, for the sake of money. He wanted to make a discovery for the sake of knowledge, for curiosity, and for enlightenment.

Despite his age, he had considerable scientific clout, and had no problems getting a ship constructed and getting supplies. The ship took ten months to build, though, because he wanted a special room in it, unlike anything else ever constructed, which caused considerable design problems. He wanted a room which would use data collected from sensors on the hull to construct a hologram of space, to surround him on all sides. He wanted the ship's gravitational field to have no effect in that room. And, to pose a real challenge to the engineer, he wanted the stars to shift as he floated, so that he could travel closer to some stars, or away from others. This room was to give the impression

(cont. on next page)

## The Northern Cross (cont. from previous page)

of floating through space without a ship or a spacesuit. He was glad he had asked for it.

Today, however, he would not use that room. He would spend all day on the bridge, piloting and observing. He stepped through the hatch to the bridge, and his jaw dropped. On the monitor was a more impressive sight than he could have imagined. Before he had gone to bed, the central star had been close to the black hole. But the force of the hole was so strong that the star had been almost completely engulfed in the course of the night. Only a small, oval-shaped portion could be seen. Such a sight! Even a body as powerful as a star could not send its light from within the black hole's almost infinite gravitational pull. He stood, gawking, trying to ponder the awesome power of the universe, and failing miserably.

When he realized that he would never comprehend the powers at hand, he checked the ship's velocity, and noticed a subtle increase over the speed he had been flying at since dropping out of light-speed four days earlier. He was within the outskirts of the black hole's gravitational pull. He went to the computer terminal to come out of programmed-flight mode. Then, he went to the helm to manually pilot the ship into a spiralling orbit around the hole so that he could control the descent of the ship into the vast nothingness. Having completed this task, he changed the view of the monitor to the port side of the ship so he could look at the black hole as he circled it, gradually drawing closer.

For ten minutes and seven revolutions, he watched. He could not get over how black it was. None of his earthly experiences could have prepared him to understand what black truly is. His shoes were not black. He could make out a surface and a shape. He could recognize signs of wear. Shadows were not black, for one's eyes could adjust to darkness and make out shapes. When he looked into the hole, he could not focus on anything. His eyes could not adjust to the darkness. No light could escape it for the eyes to see. Not even a star of almost incomprehensible size could be seen once it was within the hole's grasp. He watched the top of the star be at last engulfed, never to be viewed again.

His curiosity incited by this event, he turned the monitor to its original position and tightened his orbit. He wanted to get to the hole as fast as safety allowed.

As his orbit got smaller, he noticed a strange occurrence. The closer he drew to the hole, the straighter his path seemed to become. Light coming close to the black hole was being bent, producing the illusion he was witnessing. The straighter his path seemed to become, the more he wondered if- There it was! His own ship was coming into view on the port side of the monitor. The light was bent to such a degree that it actually went around the black mass, allowing him to see the back of his own ship. Soon, as his orbit got even smaller, the view of his ship shifted off to the starboard side of the monitor and disappeared. Light was now being bent so much that his path seemed to lead away from the hole. He had heard scientists theorize on the possibilities of how a black hole affected the behavior of light, but their arguments were empty until he witnessed the anomaly first hand. Suddenly, he understood. In fact, the more he sat and witnessed it, it almost seemed natural to him, as if he could not have imagined it any other way. It only made sense that light would behave in such a manner.

Eventually, the black hole came into view on the port side. He strained to adjust his mind to the fact that his ship appeared to be flying away from it to the starboard side, but the port side of the monitor showed him to be circling it, drawing closer all the time. He wondered if the ancients would have imagined a black hole to behave in this manner. He wondered if the ancients knew about the existence of black holes.

The blackest darkness any human has ever experienced was slowly engulfing his monitor. The light in his ship began to behave strangely, distorting images all around him. He closed his eyes and thought.

He wondered if the distortion was in fact a trick of the light, or if the very matter of his ship and his body were being toyed with by the giant black beast.

He wondered if it was a giant, or if it had any real size at all.

He wondered if it led anywhere. Would he survive and come out in a strange new universe to explore? Would he come out in another part of this universe?

He wondered if he and his ship would be crushed.

He wondered if he would spend eternity in a nothingness such as no human has ever experienced.

He wondered if this black hole would engulf the whole constellation. Would it eventually engulf the galaxy? The universe?

He wondered if he would ever see Ursa Minor again.

He wondered if there were other being, exploring, just like he was.

He wondered...

## TEACHER FEATURE

MR. GAUDREAU

by Missy Souza

This month I had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Gaudreau of the English and History departments. Here's what he had to say.

**MISSY:** What high school did you graduate from?

**MR. GAUDREAU:** I graduated from Somerset.

**MISSY:** What made you decide on a career in teaching?

**MR. GAUDREAU:** When I went to college I was a History major. I graduated and started teaching; I've been here ever since.

**MISSY:** What college did you attend?

**MR. GAUDREAU:** I went to St. Anselm, in New Hampshire.

**MISSY:** How long have you been teaching in the Somerset system?

**MR. GAUDREAU:** I started in 1967.

**MISSY:** What do you enjoy most about teaching?

**MR. GAUDREAU:** Definitely the kids. I mean, the job would be dumb without the kids.

**MISSY:** What is the worst part about teaching?

**MR. GAUDREAU:** Things that get in the way of teaching.

**MISSY:** What do you mean?

**MR. GAUDREAU:** I don't know, just things.

**MISSY:** Do you enjoy working with your wife?

**MR. GAUDREAU:** At first I didn't think I'd like it but, I never see her so I guess it doesn't bother me.

**MISSY:** Well, thank you for your time, Mr. Gaudreau.

## Dear Raider

Dear Raider,

I have an unusual problem. I am a senior and I get A's and B's in my level I classes. I am considered to be pretty smart, but I can't tell time to save my life. Sure, I can tell time on a digital watch or clock, but clocks with the hands and numbers and stuff really mess me up. It's kind of embarrassing when somebody asks me for the time and it takes me a half an hour to figure it out. Please advise.  
ALL WOUND UP

Dear ALL WOUND UP,

The only thing I can tell you to do is to keep practicing on an analog clock (the kind with hands). Replace your wristwatch with an analog one and try to tell time on analogs as much as possible, instead of glancing at a digital. After a while, it will get easier, and you'll be able to tell time "in no time".

Dear Raider,

We hope you can help us with our problem. One of our close friends has recently come into a lot of money. He used to be really nice and a fun person to hang out with, but he is turning into a major jerk. He brags about his new stuff and his new car and house every chance he gets. Everybody is noticing his annoying new attitude. How can we tell him what a jerk he is being without hurting his feelings too much?

FED UP FRIENDS

Dear FED UP FRIENDS,

The best way to solve this problem is to come right out and tell your friend how you feel. This might hurt his feelings at first, but I feel that he might end up thanking you. You may not want to tell him directly, but I advise you against dropping hints or not being straight-forward with him, because that approach may not have a lasting effect.

## Spring Skiing

by Lori Boulanger and Kara Taylor

From March 3-5, approximately 40 members of the SHS Ski Club attended an overnight ski trip to Sunday River. Throughout the weekend, students had the opportunity to get to know each other better, meet students from other high schools and colleges, and, of course, ski to their hearts content.

Upon arriving Friday night, skiers unpacked the bus and settled in at the comfortable Snow Cap Ski Dorm. Then the students had the option of staying at the dorm or experiencing the night life of Sunday River. At the dorm, several activities were offered, such as watching t.v., or playing pool, ping-pong, or video games. As for the night life, Club MVP provided "Music, Videos, and Pizza." On Saturday night, skiers could ice skate and watch a fireworks display from the White Cap Base Lodge.

As for the skiing, conditions were excellent. Warm sunshine and powdery snow were ideal for both beginner and expert skiers. The mountain had over 100 trails open which provided much variety. With its 14 lifts, Sunday River made skiing numerous trails easy and fun.

Overall, the ski weekend was tremendous fun and excitement. Our chaperones, Mrs. Salmon, Mr. Azevedo, and Mr. and Mrs. Soares, made it a memorable experience. If you are a skier or are thinking of becoming one, pay attention during the ski season next year, because a great trip like this, along with several day trips to different ski resorts, will hopefully be offered again.

## Sports

by Pam Tomawski

### Girls' Track

The Girls' Track Team is led by Coaches Richard Bernardo "B", and Liz DiBiasio. The Senior Captains are Holly

McNamara, Jenn Paquin, Julie Romano, Missy Langfield, Lori Sousa, and Sara Cogar.

Other Seniors are Beth Salamon, Ellen McAndrew, and Jen Silva. Juniors are Jenn Gauthier, Angelika Brockhoff, Pamela Tomawski, Jen Ozug, Kara Taylor, Lizz Summers, Jen Silva, Sarah D'Angelo, and Kelly Gasior. The sophomores are Vicki Woodward, Nicole Martins, Sarah Horvitz, Shandell Raposa, Leigh Thomas, Kelly Arruda, Leslie Crofton, Mary Kate Cichon, Brianne Richard, Katie Salamon, Tracy Almeida, Jenny Steinberg, Katie Demeo, Holly Sherman, Mary Kate Marchand, Erin Courtney, Jodie Braz, and Sara Rego, while Kim Southworth, Tascha Gaspar, Missy Souza, and Kara Torres are the freshmen.

So far this season the leading distance runners have been Paquin, Crofton, and Langfield. All of them have made states.

The middle distance is led by Lori Sousa, Bri Richard, Jodi Braz, Paquin, and Sherman- again, all state qualifiers.

Sprinters are led by the outstanding M.K. Cichon and Holly McNamara. Tomawski, Gaspar, and Gasior also place well.

Shot Putters are M.K. Marchand, Salamon, Rego, Cogar, and Summers. The Javelin queens are Lori Sousa, Leigh Thomas, and Jen



Silva(senior).

High Jump is led by M.K. Cichon, Langfield, and Paquin.

McNamara, Raposa, D'Angelo, and Richards lead the long jump, while McNamara, Tomawski, and Gasior lead the Triple Jump.

Outstanding Hurdlers are D'Angelo, Gasior, Richard, and Horvitz.

The girls have had a strong season with many state qualifiers. They have lost only to Dartmouth and Attleboro. They are looking forward to challenging Attleboro again in the EAC Meet.

### Baseball

Larry Thomas returns as the Somerset Baseball Varsity Coach this season. The Raiders have started out slowly, but they still have a whole season to go.

Senior members are Capt. Charlie Fox, Andy Ferreira, Greg Mello, Capt. Louis Benevides, Joe Neto, and Eric Ferreira. Juniors are Peter Fasel, Ryan Souza, Nate Charette, Ben Fasel, and Kyle Michaud. Aaron Birge, Josh Plosker, Jason Vincelette, and Matt Silva are sophomore members, while Chris LaCava is the lone freshman.

The positions are as follows: Fox(catching), Andy Ferreira(catch, RF), Matt Silva(OF, pitch), Joe Neto(1st B), Benevides(2nd B), Michaud(SS), Charette(CF), Souza(pitch,3rd B), Pete Fasel(3rd), Ben Fasel(OF), (Now you can tell them apart!), Eric Ferreira(OF), Greg Mello(OF), Birge(pitch), Vincelette(pitch), Plosker(pitch), and Silva(pitch).

Somerset lost their opener to Dighton-Rehoboth by a score of 5-4.



Charette, Fox, and Benevides batted well.

Somerset has also lost to Feehan(13-12), Attleboro(7-5), Stang(6-5), and Durfee(13-4).

However, they have won some also. Somerset beat Connolly 10-4 and Tiverton 10-4. Fox, Andy, Ferreira, Charrette, Michaud, LaCava, Mello, Plosker, and Souza played well against Connolly while Birge, Neto, Fox, Andy Ferreira, Charrette, LaCava, and Ben Fasel played well against Tiverton.

Although the Raiders have not won many games, they are a strong team and the scores are often extremely close.

### Softball

The Softball coach is Ken Day. The Raider girls started the season looking to defend their EAC title.

Capt. Nicki Castonguay, Jocelyn Medeiros, Amy Costa, Lindsey Spellman, Sara Ponte, Ann Silvia, and Alisson Cordeiro, are the senior members. Juniors are Johanna Boiselle, Capt. Shellie Silvia, Katie Considine, and Jen Francis, while sophomore members are Brooke Lackey, and Melissa McDonald. Lindsay Haddad and Kate Ponte are the freshmen members.

Johanna Boiselle stood out in the season opener with her no-hit pitching. Ponte, Ann Silvia, Spellman, Shellie Silvia, and Medeiros had outstanding games.

Somerset also had a loss to the Case Cardinals 2-1. Boiselle and Spellman had a good game.

In a game against Connolly, Sara Ponte really excelled with a single, a double, and a triple. Somerset performed best in the third inning when they scored 10 runs. Costa, Spellman,



Ann Silvia, Boiselle, and Francis also had good performances.

Somerset then went on to crush Wesport 6-1. Shellie Silvia, Castonguay, Ponte, Spellman, Ann Silvia, Costa, and Francis also did well.

Some other wins by the Raider girls were against Stang(4-0), and Durfee(7-2)(non-league). Johanna Boiselle, Castonguay, Ponte, Shellie Silvia, and Jocelyn Medeiros performed well against Stang. Amy Costa, Boiselle, Ann Silvia, and Castonguay excelled against Durfee.

As of May 10, the Raider team was 10-2 overall and was then leading the EAC.

### Boys' Track

The 1995 Spring Track Team is coached by "Az" and his assistant David Walsh. The captains are seniors Bill Langfield and John Killoran and junior Jay Parent.



Team members include freshmen Marc Davis, Eamen Murray, Johnathan Berube, John Tomawski, James Friar, and Louis Ginsburg. Sophomores are Shawn Parent, Joe Donnelly, Jason Viveiros, Jon Azevedo, Eric Rocha, Matt Smith, Brian Austin, Mike McGee, Chad Parkman, and John Martin. The juniors include Eric Cassidy, Jason Lopes, Kyle Cabral, Devin McAvoy, Roberto Sosa, Jay Reverdo, Josh Sowersby, Robert Angelini, Sean Kelley, and Kevin Smith. Seniors are Matt Dill, Christopher Friar, TJ Dempsey, Bill Carey, Eric Southworth, Craig Sowersby, and Marc Mollicone.

The team has been solid in field

events this season. Bill Carey and Bill Langfield have owned the shot and discus this season while Brian Austin has also done well in shot. Once again it has been Marc Mollicone who has been the best javelin thrower for Somerset this year. The high jumpers who have performed well are state qualifiers Sean Kelley, and Jay Viveiros. Craig Sowersby has been doing well in long and triple this season. Along with Sowersby in long, Sosa has done remarkably well.

The Raider runners are strong again. Jay Parent and John Killoran are leading the way for long and middle distance. Also helping them out is Rob Angelini. Sowersby, Dempsey, Donnelly, Southworth, and Sosa are the top sprinters for Somerset. Sowersby(again), Kelley, and Sosa are the top performers for the Raiders in the hurdling events this season.

With the field events stronger than usual and the runners performing their best, the Raiders are having a respectable, positive year.

### Tennis

Coach Doug Chapman has a strong team that consists of many veterans and many newcomers.

Seniors are Dan Abrams, Rob Curtin, Capt. Chris Friar, Jessica Simbro, Danny Leonardo, Capt. Michael Butler, Tim Matos, and Capt. Matthew Machado. Juniors are Sean Sullivan, Jason Herndon, Magan Ratte, and Jesse Affonso. Mike Lanneville, Chad Figuerado, Jay Canulla, Matt Horvitz, Rick Gaspar and Jessica Lagasse are sophomores, while Beth Bailey, Jeremy Rich, Craig Hall, Jack Butler, Andrew Machado, and Jason Matos are the freshmen members.



Somerset lost their first game to Feehan 4-1. Friar and Leonardo(No. 2 doubles team) got the only Raider point.

The Raiders then beat Coyle-Cassidy(4-1)(No. 1 doubles team). Abrams, Rob Curtin, Craig Hall, Jesse Affonso, and Mike Butler all played great matches.

Hopefully the team will continue performing well throughout the whole season.

### Golf

Coach Bill Sullivan's team is made up of five seniors and five veterans. They also had a surprising amount of newcomers sign up. Even though they lost four of their first matches, they still look promising.

Seniors are Capt. Corey Richard, Doug Noble, Mark Rosa, and team leaders Jay Oliveira and Luke Brisson. Jon Girard, Eric Hussey, and Andy Horvitz are the junior members. Matt and Justin Silvia are the sophomores, while Eric Neville, Matt Plosker, Brad Dean, Adam DeSouto, Ryan King, and Chris Fitzpatrick are the freshmen.

The team won their match against Connolly, but unfortunately lost 7 others. Doug Noble, Matt Plosker, Chris Fitz, Mark Rosa, and Andy Horvitz have all scored well in the matches.

