



The Breeze



Publishing for Somerset High School Since 1921

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Somerset, Massachusetts

School Committee Meets: Overcrowding, Security, and Attendance Discussed

Shyamalee Abraham

The overcrowding problem at Somerset High School this year has generated much attention from the community. The freshman class, consisting of 282 students, and the sophomore class, consisting of 270 students, have only enlarged the student population by about three percent; however, the increase, coupled with the loss of several teachers over the past few years, has made overcrowding at Somerset High a serious concern.

At the School Committee

meeting on Thursday, October 19, the overcrowding issue was addressed. The situation was

now to include new teachers would be a long and tedious task. Also, it is feared that

bringing in new teachers now and splitting up classes that are already in progress may break the bond that some students have formed with their present teachers. This, in turn, could prevent these students from

You Cut - You Fail

Julie Averill

A new truancy policy will soon be in effect at Somerset High School. This new policy will implement a five unexcused absences limit in all classes that meet five periods per week. If students exceed this limit, they will receive a term grade of "No Credit." If, upon completion of the next term, the student is again absent more than five times without an excuse, then he or she is given a term grade of no more than fifty-nine or unsatisfactory. However, if the student meets the new attendance requirements in the following term, then the grade of "No Credit" is restored to the original average earned.

Observance of religious holidays, bereavement, illness, attendance of field trips, and suspension are all considered excused absences and will not be held against the student. On the other hand, truancy will count as two unexcused absences. There is a way for students who feel they have been wrongly punished to appeal their punishment before a special committee, the principal, or the superintendent.

first brought to the attention of the School Committee in early September by many concerned parents. According to Principal Donald Rebello, there are presently 36 classes being taught at Somerset High that are over the "comfort level" of 28 students per class. Many of these classes are science classes. This violates the National Science Standards which state that there should be no more than two students to a lab station in any science class.

One way to remedy this situation is to hire new teachers. However, hiring new teachers for the 1995-96 school year does not seem to be a possibility. The budget process is very slow and changing the budget

excelling with their new teachers.

It is now clear to the School Committee that the hiring of new teachers to replace retiring teachers is necessary. There have been a few additions to Somerset High's faculty already. Along with a new full-time world language teacher, there have been several teachers who have come from Somerset Junior High School.

By the beginning of the next school year, students should expect to see many new teachers and many certified teachers from the Junior High teaching their classes.

Another issue related to over

(Turn to OVERCROWDING p. 10.)

1a

Violence in Our School

Jessica Lagasse

Violence: it is an ever-present problem in our society. Violence: it is making its way into our schools. Violence: it is a problem that must be addressed. Whether you are personally affected by violence in your environment or not, it is an issue on which everyone has an opinion. It is also an issue that must be understood before it can be resolved.

What is violence? According to Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, the Assistant Dean at the Harvard School of Public Health, violence is, "the threatened or actual use of physical force or power against another person, against oneself, or against a group or

(Turn to VIOLENCE, p. 2.)

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

1b

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Violence

(continued from p 1)

community which results in or the likelihood of injury, death, or deprivation." Violence occurs everywhere to some degree or another. Most arguments and acts of violence take place among people who know each other. Dr. Stith believes that when a community is unhealthy, its inhabitants will be unhealthy. The key to solving this "unhealthy" problem must be prevention. She feels that prevention begins with public policy. Currently, the public policies of our area are not focused on the prevention of violent behaviors and those that do not deal with the violence between people who know each other.

Somerset High School has to address its own problem of violence through its own "public policies." Principal Donald Rebello wants to do all that is possible to prevent acts of violence. Because he agrees that violence originates within society, he feels that we are forced to deal with its consequences here at Somerset High School. Vice Principal Leonard Alves feels that the problems of violence can be divided into two categories, fights and assaults. Fights, he feels, can usually be resolved by mediating. Assaults must be looked at differently. They have an underlying cause that is outside of the school environment. Assaults are not native to the positive climate of the school. However, because conflict is brought into the school environment it is the responsibility of the administration to deal

with it.

The new policies against violence at Somerset High were started into motion by the passage of the Education Reform Act of 1993. This act required schools to take a serious look at their educational environments. It also required the institution of a School Improvement Council formed of teachers, parents, and students. The School Improvement Council at SHS decided that there was a need for a separate group or sub-committee dealing exclusively with the issues of violence and security. Thus began the Security Sub-committee. This sub-committee is composed of Vice Principal Alves, parent Mrs. Plosker, teacher Mr. Pinault, and Student Council member Pamela Tomawski. Its objective is to guarantee the safety of the students and staff at Somerset High School while providing for an environment that is suitable for learning. This sub-committee has already presented many recommendations to the School Improvement Council, several of which have been implemented. For example, a monitoring system has been installed at the Grandview Avenue entrance. This year, all doors are locked at 7:30 A. M. If someone wishes to enter the school after this time, he or she must use the monitoring system which allows the secretaries to screen visitors. Once inside, the visitor must sign in. He or she is then given a visitor's badge and required to return it and sign out before leaving the building. As Mr. Alves observed, "Obviously, this is a

big improvement from the past." Another recommendation that has been implemented is the hiring of a female monitor outside of the

300's sanitary whose responsibility is to prevent smoking in that sanitary. Other solutions have been recommended but have not been followed through because of the lack of money. Such recommendations include the reinstatement of student identification cards and the hiring of a full-time police officer. This officer would not function as a figure of intimidation but rather as a friend and figure of security.

Overall, the administration hopes to curb the problem of violence in the school through the insight of all involved, the students and the staff. "Our approach," said Mr. Rebello, "is to work in collaboration with the students." Evidence of this is seen with the program of peer mediation, which is currently being organized. Mr. Rebello and the administration feel that input from the students would provide for the most effective solutions. Mr. Alves believes that, "Somerset High cares for its students." It is for this reason that the administration is attempting to solve the problem. Because the problem of violence does involve many personal and emotional connections, it is easy for an opinion to be formed. However, violence is an extremely complicated problem that can only be solved through the efforts of everyone! The administration of Somerset High School is looking for those opinions from you, the student body. Take the opportunity that is being offered to you and let them know what you think! This can be done by speaking with any member of the Security Subcommittee or by discussing your concerns with a member of the Student Council. Whatever your opinion, it is important, and you, as a student, have the right to be heard.

Solving Our Problem: The Peer Mediation Program

Emily Kate Peloquin

Somerset High School has recently gained the attention of the local news media. Unfortunately, this attention from the press is not of a positive nature. Just days ago an area news program conducted a special report on the growing problem of violence within the school. Physical violence among students has become a major dilemma. Thankfully, the school administration has recognized this predicament and is working to implement new programs that will more appropriately deal with the problem.

Somerset High's anti-violence campaign has begun with the founding of a Somerset High School Peer Mediation Program. The Peer Mediation Program will run school-wide. This program is intended to assist students, teachers and administrators "in the resolution of conflicts and disputes that would disrupt or inhibit the development and growth of a peaceful school community."

The Peer Mediation Program has set forth a number of specific goals and objectives. They are as follows:

1. To act as a clearinghouse for the resolution of conflicts and disputes that occur in or affect the Somerset High School community
2. To provide training in current theory and practice of mediation to the school community
3. To recruit and train students as Peer Mediators to act-

alize the purpose of the program

4. To provide training, support, skill-building and ongoing educational opportunities in the practice of mediation for peer mediators
5. To help create a peaceful school climate for all students, faculty, staff, and administrators

The philosophy of peer mediation is quite simple. "Mediation is the process which brings disputing parties together to resolve their conflicts and to produce solutions which are acceptable and beneficial to everyone involved. The focus of mediation is to explore the potential for change in the behaviors and attitudes that have led to conflict, confusion of roles and expectation, and the breakdown in communication. The goal is for these parties to create a jointly developed, written agreement that each person feels is fair, balanced, realistic, and an accurate reflection of the issues raised and addressed in mediation."

The actual process of mediation is somewhat more difficult than the philosophy behind it. To begin, a person involved in a conflict must refer this dispute to mediation. If students are involved, they are required to go through an intake interview with the mediation counselor. During this in-

(Turn to MEDIATION, p. 11)



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Commentary



Hell in the Halls

Cate Marcille

It's every man for himself in the halls of Somerset High School. In other words, courtesy is not something that is often seen. Students push, pull, and shove their way from one end of the hallway to the other. It's horrendous.

The three hundred's hallway is the worst. While most of the students can tolerate the slow moving pace that often occurs, others feel they are more important and shove through the middle causing the pace to slow down even more. The hardest spot to break through from is the small glass causeway to the three hundreds or vice versa. "Traffic jams" occur there regularly. Students are forced to shove through the crowd just to get somewhere. The students at lockers sometimes have to hang on to their lockers for dear life to avoid getting sucked in by the crowd.

The three hundred's hallway is just an example. Prob-

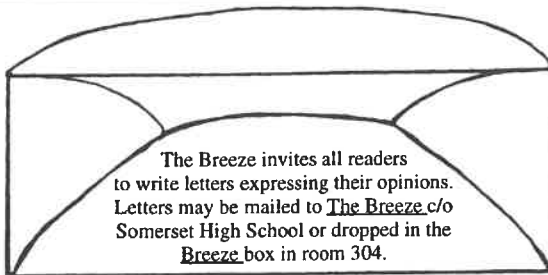
lems like those are not privy to the three hundreds, they, as well as other problems, occur throughout all the hallways (except maybe the two hundreds) on a regular basis.

An obstacle that transpires in the less congested hallways as well as the crowded ones is the bands of people who spread across the hallway so that one side has five across and the other side is single-file. Many times the group that has spread itself across is walking slowly and a student can easily become stuck behind this group, unable to pass. People walking slowly in the hallways are always a problem.

Last year, countless announcements were made by the administration concerning congregating in the hallways. Attempts were made by teachers to stop the groups of people collecting around lockers. For a small time, the warnings were heeded. Now when students

walk into the school in the morning, the groups are back. Sometimes they take up so much room that others cannot get by.

What can be done to stop this problem? Maybe the administration could add traffic reports to the morning announcements. Maybe the School Committee should think about installing traffic lights at the most congested parts of the hallway. Realistically, all students need to do is show a little common courtesy to others. If everyone stopped thinking about themselves first and started to look out for others, the problem might solve itself. Every student has pushed their way through the hallway at some point out of frustration or bumped into another person. Next time, instead of getting angry, remind yourself that everyone else needs to get somewhere too and just take the situation in stride.



Somerset High School and The Bank of Boston

Correction
Christina Barbosa

Somerset High School is seeking the support of members of the community, alumni, staff, and parents in a drive to collect "points" from the Bank of Boston. In an effort to support education, the Bank of Boston is issuing "points" to its members. Any qualifying bank transactions, even a visit to the bank, will qualify a member for "points." Computers, televisions, VCR's, and sports equipment are among the many educational items available through this program.

Points will be issued during the period from October 4, 1995 to April 30, 1996. "Points" can be mailed to Somerset High School, c/o Don McNamara, Grandview Avenue, Somerset, MA 02726. They may also be dropped off in the Main Office at the high school or you can contact Don McNamara at the high school, 324-3115.

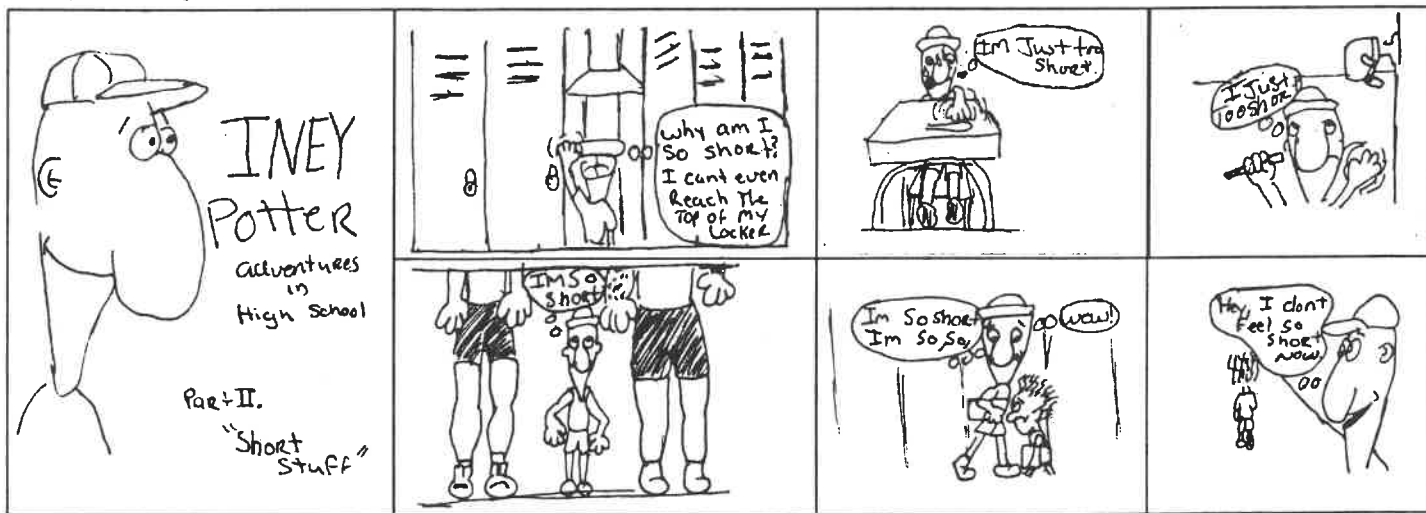
Please make every effort to assist the school in this effort. We certainly appreciate all your support.

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

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

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

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





I settled into my seat at the Providence Performing Arts Center and waited for the performance to start. The lights dimmed slowly and a hush fell suddenly over the audience. The first scene was a brief prologue, an auction outside of the old Paris Opera House in 1911.

Then the lights on the stage went

out and the orchestra started. The notes vibrated off the walls as the theme to The Phantom of the Opera was played. I was absolutely mesmerized throughout the whole performance and was disappointed when, after two and a half hours, the cast came out for the curtain call. I wanted to hear more singing and see more dancing. Both of these were done with great talent by Adrienne McEwan, who played Christine Daael and by John Schroeder, who played her fiance, Raoul. However, it was Tommy Schumacher who created "the music of the night". He was excellent as the haunted and lonely phantom who falls in love with his protegee, Christine. What's hard to believe is that Schumacher was only the understudy!

If you decide that you want a taste of some good, old-fashioned culture, I recommend you spend your money on tickets to The Phantom of the Opera. It's money well spent and you won't forget the performance any time soon.

"Near Wild Heaven": A Night With R.E.M.

Emily Kate Peloquin



Although the song "Near Wild Heaven" was not played at R.E.M.'s concert on October 4, the song's title remains the only appropriate way to describe the evening. On that Wednesday, the Providence Civic Center was not quite sold out. The crowd that gathered for the band's second area concert was thoroughly diverse. The ages of audience members ranged from as young as twelve up to forty, possibly higher. The concert opened with a half-hour set by Grant Lee Buffalo, who was joined on keyboards by Glen Danzig. R.E.M. took the stage at 8:30pm and played a full two hour set.

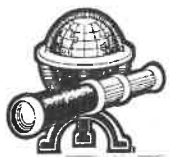
This concert was a special treat for a devoted R.E.M. fan like

myself. Many people chose not to attend this concert for a number of reasons. The major reason for the low attendance at this event was the fact that R.E.M. had played two sold-out shows just last June at the Great Woods Center for Performing Arts in nearby Mansfield, Massachusetts. Most fans were not willing to pay the \$35 charge for tickets to this concert after having seen the band so recently.

The fact that there were so few people in the audience did make the show more personal and

therefore more enjoyable. In fact, the October 4 concert far surpassed those at Great Woods. In Providence the band seemed to be having a good time for themselves. This is something that was missing in their earlier performances. Michael Stipe really opened up to the audience at this performance. He spent a great deal of his time on stage telling jokes and stories that coincided with the songs that the band played. The music at this concert was also better than that at Great Woods. Not only did the band play better, but the smaller crowd made for better acoustics. Overall this concert was an R.E.M. fan's dream come true. It was as if I had died.

Ad



Perspectives



Breeze History: Thanksgiving Then and Now

Mel Maronn

In the November 1948 issue of the Somerset High School Breeze, two front page articles focused on Thanksgiving. It was noted in one article that the Somerset High School Blue Raiders "Will launch a determined attack against its mortal antagonist, Case." Forty seven years later, sentiments have not changed.

A more thought-provoking article on Thanksgiving was featured in the center of the front page. The writer concentrated on the real definition of Thanksgiving, stating that people should realize how fortunate they are to live in a free country. The writer cautioned individuals not to take what is guaranteed to us, as Americans, for granted. While we seldom think about the personal freedom given to us under the Bill of Rights in our Constitution, the writer reminded us that we have much to be thankful for on this great American holiday - our freedom of speech, in addition to our freedom of political and religious beliefs. While this article was written in 1948, the beliefs expressed then are still appropriate today.

A well-attended dance at the high school was a highlight of the '48 fall season. The theme displayed a French atmosphere decorated with the Arc de Triomphe and famous scenes of Paris. Brownies, cupcakes and soda, served as refreshments, were imaginatively transformed into French champagne and petits-fours. Would a dance like this attract as many students today?

Football, pep rallies, dances, and turkey were all happenings in the fall of 1948. Likewise, football, pep rallies, dances, and turkey are all happenings in the fall of 1995.

College Reviews: Bridgewater and UMass Dartmouth

Christina Barbosa

As many prospective college freshmen know, senior year is one of the most stressful times of life. Whether you know exactly what you want to do or even if you are completely clueless, there are two schools close by sure to fit your needs, namely UMass Dartmouth and Bridgewater State College. For some seniors these are serious choices; for others, they are merely schools to transfer from after completing some general courses. Whatever the choice, both schools have much to offer.

With a little over 6,000 students, UMass Dartmouth is an ideal school for many students. The average class size is twenty-four students and the university has both an excellent location and reputation. UMass has a first-rate science department, nursing program, and business department. The school also has campus-wide computer access, an honors program, and study abroad opportunities. From the Percussion Ensemble to the Biology Association to WSMU, the

campus radio station, the campus is overflowing with things to do. The school does offer residence halls which house about 2,100 people. The best part of the school is that it is economical. With financial aid, loans, and even merit scholarships available, almost anyone can afford it. If you are looking for a great place to learn, UMass Dartmouth is right under your nose.

Yet another great place to study is Bridgewater. This school has a 17 to 1 student-to-faculty ratio, numerous organizations, honor societies, and even a no-fare campus shuttle service. Bridgewater also has a special summer program where students study at Oxford University in England. Bridgewater is well-known for its Early Childhood Education curriculum. Like UMass, Bridgewater is an excellent school with an affordable price tag. Both merit scholarships and financial aid are available at Bridgewater. With a pretty campus and many opportunities awaiting, be sure to consider applying to Bridgewater.

Grandma Havisham and Grandma Weatherall's Boat Cruise Wrap-Up

Kerri Machado

Editors' Note: On the evening of Sunday, October 8, the senior class and guests enjoyed the annual Senior Boat Cruise on the Bay Queen, sailing from Warren, RI. This article is written from the unique perspective of a fictitious grandmother.

Hidee-ho, kids! Your favorite grandmothers are back (but we're not bearing tips on blind date enjoyment this time). Our latest mission was to spy with our little eyes on all you seniors on the boat cruise! And my, oh my, do we have incriminating photos!

Since both of us grandmothers were busy on the night of the cruise, we sent our roving on-the-spot reporter, Grandma Foley.

Grandma Foley was most impressed with the open soda bar, and it was really where she spent most of her time. Unfortunately, grandmothers' bladders being the way they are,

she also spent a lot of time in the bathroom. But this small setback did not stop her from investigating all your non-senior-citizen antics.

Grandma has offered her list of tips for boat cruise enjoyment. First and foremost, she advises that no one wear large unsightly hats, especially if you plan to visit the open deck. Grandma was wearing a large straw sombrero, which evidently took a dip in the water.

Her second tip is not to yell, or even exclaim semi-loudly, the phrase, "Man overboard!". This will not enhance your boat cruise experience.

She also advises that when eating meatballs, do not dribble them down your corduroy jacket. This is just a rule of thumb in general.

Grandma Foley was pleased

(Turn to GRANDMA, p.11)

Raiders' Turf

School Spirit At Work

The School Store.....Somerset High School

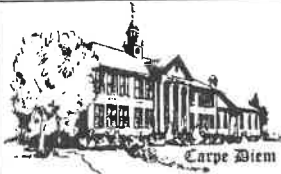
Good Quality Merchandise at a Low Raider Price

Open to Serve: 11:15-12:30 (Monday-Friday)

Order by phone: 678-1230



Thanksgiving in Somerset



Around.....

Student Council Makes Plans

Rebecca Sablo

Student Council is off to a productive start. The first meeting, at which the year's activities were discussed was held on October 3. The group has already attended a leadership conference which was held at Holy Cross High School on October 10. Candy fund-raising was approved in order for Student Council members to attend the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils held in Hyannis, during the month of March.

The following subcommittees and chairpersons under the School Affairs Committee were announced: Prom Assembly, chaired by Sarah Horvitz; Penny Pounds, co-chaired by Liz Summers and Andy Horvitz; Student Assistance, Angela Beaudoin; Hat subcommittee, Jessica Lagasse. Under the Community Affairs Committee, the subcommittees are: School Interaction, Beth

Bailey; Operation Warm-Up, co-chaired by Angela Beaudoin and Rebecca Sablo. The Fundraising Committee is chaired by Joe Donnelly. All other Student Council members have joined at least one of the committees.

Student Council hopes to participate with Peer Leadership in an AIDS dance-a-thon in mid-November. Members are looking forward to setting up a bulletin board/calendar in the cafeteria, in order to announce up-coming events. The School Interaction Subcommittee wishes to set up activities with other schools in the area. Theme dances were discussed and plans to put a student suggestion box in the school store and office were made. With the help of students and faculty, Student Council hopes to make this year the most productive and successful ever.

1996 National Merit Commended Students Announced at SHS

Nine students at Somerset High School have been selected as National Merit Commended Students: Shyamalee D. Abraham, Sarah B. Bayliss, Jennifer M. Cohen, Paul M. Golaszewski, Andrew M. Horvitz, Catherine M. Marcille, Jeremy M. Proulx, Elizabeth L. Summers, and Kara E. Taylor. The students have been commended because they placed among the top five percent of more than a million students who entered the 1996 Merit Program by taking the 1994 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Nationally, there are approximately 35,000 students who achieve

this honor.

A Merit spokesperson commented, "Recognition of academically promising students and of the key role played by schools in their development is essential to the pursuit of educational excellence in our nation. Our hope is that this recognition will encourage these able young people to develop their abilities to the fullest and, also, will enhance their opportunities and stimulate support for their higher education." These students will receive a Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation at an awards ceremony scheduled later in the school year.

Musictown Festival Queen

Kathryn McMillan

On the night of October 5, a new Musictown Festival Queen was crowned. Some new light was shed on the subject after having the opportunity to hear her tell her story about what it's like being queen and all about the competition. It all started with an application and an essay.

Twenty-two years ago the first Musictown Queen was crowned. That year marked the start of a tradition which has continued ever since. This year the Musictown Festival was bigger and better than ever. The parade this year was of record length, including a large number of distinguished people and many brilliantly colored floats, including that of Somerset's newest queen, Sarah Horvitz.

On Sunday, the first of October, a total of twenty-one Somerset High School girls arrived for the day of judging. Having already written an essay which discussed the unique way that music has been able to help her express herself, Sarah entered the high school ready to face five complete strangers who would judge her suitability to become queen.

According to Sarah, the day was set up in a manner to prevent a lot of nervousness and stress. The first step was that all the contestants had to file into the room in order for the judges to observe their appearance. The dress code of the afternoon was "nice". In other words, a skirt with a blouse or a casual dress was appropriate while a fancy gown was not. After the first line-up, five contestants at a time met with the judges individually to have small-scale

Musictown Queen photo

6A

conversations. The contestants then had tea time with the judges. Coffee, tea, and pastries were served while the contestants and the judges participated in casual conversation. Again a helpful "getting-to-know-you" technique was used while the judges could also observe the girls' table manners. Following this tea was the time to read speeches. According to Sarah this was the most "stressful" part of the day. As the judging came to a close, the judges had the contestants line up once more so the judges could get a final glimpse.

The setting is now the Venus deMilo restaurant in Swansea, on October 5, 1995 late in the evening. The marching band has just completed a lively tune and the twenty-one contestants line up in front. Imagine the announcer with envelope in hand. A Somerset High School junior, contestant number twelve, is silently wondering, "Why did I do this?"

She knows that standing just beside her is stiff competition for this crown. After the results of the contestant voting for Miss Congeniality are announced as a tie between Kristen Rhodes and Sylvia Silva, the announcer continues. All the while "Why did I do this? I probably won't win!" is running through Sarah Horvitz's mind. Then Emily Peloquin is announced Princess. "If Emily's princess then there is no way I won. I thought she was going to win," flashes through Sarah's thoughts. Then the moment arrives. Number twelve is announced as the winner. In the audience you hear the happy cheers of fellow soccer team members before Sarah's mouth drops open in surprise.

Sarah looks forward to a happy and successful reign having already learned what every queen knows: waving too much in the cold will make your hand numb!

School



Peer Leaders Work for Community

Safety

Kara Taylor

Did you know that safety belts cut fatalities by 40 - 50% and reduce serious injuries by 45 - 55%? Together with Mrs. Elaine O'Keefe, chairperson of Somerset Safe Roads Coalition, the Peer Leadership group is attempting to make our community a safer and more "Street Smart Somerset." Throughout the year, peer leaders will be working on various projects to promote the wearing of safety belts and awareness of driving safety.

This fall, peer leaders will be visiting the elementary schools to demonstrate the egg-mobile and give safety tips to young children. The egg-mobile is a small car with four wheels that transports two passengers, Mr. and Mrs. Egg. In one lesson, Mrs. Egg dutifully buckles up while Mr. Egg denies the need for a seat belt. As the two roll down a hill on their seemingly pleasant drive, the egg-mobile hits a wall. Mrs. Egg remains safe and sound while Mr. Egg plummets to his death on a sheet of blue plastic. Hopefully, by utilizing this and other lessons, the peer leaders will be able to educate the children at a young age and instill in them the value of wearing seat belts for life.

Directly preceding Christmas vacation, the peer leaders will be conducting a SHS raffle.

During lunches, students will be able to enter the raffle if they sign a pledge to wear a seat belt and ensure that all passengers in their cars wear a seat belt over the following two weeks of holiday vacation. Using awesome raffle prizes as an incentive, the Peer Leadership group hopes to keep Somerset students driving safely over the holiday season.

In the spring, the peer leaders will incorporate the famous Crash Test Dummies, Vince and Larry, into the annual Spring MIAA Chemical Health Night skits. They hope to be able to better educate student athletes on the advantages of seat belts. Also, the group hopes to add a guest speaker to the prom assembly to promote wearing seat belts and driving safely both before and after the Junior/Senior Prom.

Other activities to assist the Somerset Safe Roads Coalition include helping at safety checkpoints to make sure that children are properly restrained (John Maccek and Jesse Affonso are the checkpoint chairmen) and writing for Street Smart Somerset, the quarterly newsletter. For more information on these activities to work for a safer community, please contact either Mr. Taylor, Mr. Azevedo, or Elaine O'Keefe at 672-0612. And please buckle up!

Fall Drama Productions

Lori Boulanger

Goodwin, Suzette Oliveira, and Rebecca Sablo make up the small cast of this play. Katie Martelly is the stage manager of this play.

In a courtroom setting, the plot of "You, the Jury" takes its shape. Accused of stealing money from his employer, a man, William Hughes, is put on trial. This play contains a unique ending because members of the audience are selected as the jury who will give the final verdict. Cast members of this play are: Craig Aldrich, Joe Arruda, Julie Averill, Joe Borges, Jen Cohen, Jason Ferris, Katie Martelly, Jen Plunkett, Jeremy Proulx, Katie Salamon, Kelly Santos, Joanna Taitz, Ali Viera, and Vicki Woodward. The stage manager of this play is Matt Silvia. Ali Maggs is the technical director for both plays.

Crew member Amanda Fournier stated that the plays are "going good" and also that "[Everyone] is practicing well and working hard to learn their lines." Joe Arruda, a cast member of "You, the Jury" feels that "they need a little more work," but stated, "We're capable of doing it." Director of the plays, Miss Sharon Hamlen, believes "all is going well" and feels she is working with a "good group [of kids]."

If you are interested in seeing these plays, they will be performed on Friday, November 16, and Saturday, November 17 at 7:30. On Friday night a dinner theater option is offered. Supper will be served at 6:00 and the play will begin at 7:30. Ticket prices for senior citizens and students are eight dollars for the dinner theater and three dollars for a regular ticket. For adults the prices are nine dollars for the dinner theater and four dollars for a regular ticket.

Overall, both of these plays look very promising.

7A

7B



Friends, Food, and Football

Craig Aldrich

When most people think about Thanksgiving, they think about turkey or relaxation, but coaches, trainers, and football players all think about the most important football game of the year. In this area, we are lucky enough to be able to see two of the best football teams from around go at it in all out war, namely the Somerset Blue Raiders and the Case Cardinals.

The Somerset Blue Raiders are off to a shaky start this season after losing to some of the toughest teams in the Eastern Athletic Conference and some non-conference foes. Throughout the season, everyone always wonders about Somerset's potential to beat Case on the annual Thanksgiving Day game. The head coach of the Blue Raider football team, John Wright, commented, "It doesn't matter what the teams' records are during the season. We have to go into that game like both teams are undefeated." Coach Wright also remarked that, "It's an important game and all we can do

is give it our best shot. When we play Case we usually don't use a lot of plays that we use in the regular season; we really just try to surprise them."

On the other side of the border, the Case Cardinals are basically preparing for this game in the same way. Dave Gibeau, the Cardinals head coach, made a few comments on this game. "We basically look at this as two seasons; one season being the regular season, and the second being the Thanksgiving game between Somerset and Case. It's a real important game for the seniors and the players because its either their last game or they view it as the most important game of the season because of the rivalry between these two teams and the size of the crowd that will come to see them play." When asked about any specific plans for the upcoming game, Coach Gibeau remarked, "No, we really don't have a game plan; we will just try our best to win."

Both teams said they liked playing in Somerset. The Raiders like having the home crowd behind them while Case has historically been more victorious on the Somerset field. Both teams were very dazed when asked to predict a score for the game because of how far away the game is. Coach Wright believes that Jay Vincelette, Josh Plosker, and Kevin White will come up big in this game. Coach Gibeau was undecided about who would come up big for Case. Gibeau remarked, "It's hard to tell because in the past, we've had players who were stars in the regular season come up with very little on Thanksgiving Day."

FOOTBALL PHOTO 8B

Boys Soccer: Here Come the Freshmen

Margaret Peachy

This year the Somerset High School Boys' soccer team has an unusually young look to it. Nine out of twenty players are underclassmen; three of them are freshmen. Coach Horton believes that the quality of players is improving due to the Swansea Youth Soccer League. He hopes that this increasing interest in soccer will lead to stronger teams in the future.

The freshmen are Scott Maggs, Chris Freitas, and Adrien Gonsalves. What is even more unusual is that Maggs is a starter and he is a member of the marching band. This is a great accomplishment for anyone.

The starting team this year includes sophomores Jack Butler, goalie, and Joey DaCunha. The juniors are Jimmy Liakos, and Jamie Norman. The seniors are represented by co-captains Matt Dunn and Kyle Michaud, Sean Sullivan and Nathan Taylor. The rest of the team includes Steve Cabral, Chris LaCava, Peter Saulino, Daryl Martins, Marco DeSousa, Kevin Faria, Mike Markland, Matt Moreira, and Chris Muller. Markland, Moreira, and Muller, seniors, are first year players and strong additions to the team.

Coach Horton and the team hope to have a winning record, currently 6-4-2 overall, for the first time since 1982. They also hope to make the tournament for the first time since 1988. Coach Horton has a very optimistic attitude towards reaching both goals. In order to accomplish them, according to Coach Horton, the team has to improve their ability to work together and learn their responsibilities.

Good luck to the boys' soccer team and Coach Horton on qualifying for the tournament this season.

Road to Atlanta



Pam Bustin, Somerset High School Alumna, with the U.S.A. National Field Hockey Team 1995 Tour.

USA 1, Ireland 0

Margaret Peachy

On October 4, the Somerset High field hockey team had the privilege of seeing the 24 best field hockey players in the country take on Ireland's best as the U.S.A. National Field Hockey Team took on the Irish National Team at Boston University. The skill demonstrated by both teams was phenomenal. The defensive effort for the U.S. was lead by Pam Bustin. Bustin graduated from Somerset High School, where she was an outstanding athlete, in 1985.

At the end of the first half the teams were held scoreless. The U.S. team, though, domi-

nated most of the play. About midway through the second half the pressure put on by the offense paid off with a goal. The defense held strong, allowing the Irish team across midfield only a few times.

This game was one of ten face-offs between these two teams in an eleven day tour. The U.S. team offered their expertise to some dedicated players at clinics held before some of their games. The "Road to Atlanta" tour was designed to prepare the teams for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

November Sports Events

CROSS COUNTRY

11/11 State Class Meet at Franklin Park TBA
11/18 All State Meet at Franklin Park TBA
11/25 Kinney Northeast at Van Courtland TBA

FOOTBALL

11/11 vs. Apponequet (A) 2:00
11/23 vs. Case (A) 10:00

Pumpin' Iron

Robert Tavares,
English Department

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 2:05 to 3:15, a group of dedicated young people, both male and female, go to the weight room to "pump iron". They work out in order to increase their strength, or to rehabilitate injuries of some kind.

This intramural weight-lifting opportunity is open to everyone. There are no requirements and everyone goes at his own pace. Participants are there to improve themselves, no matter where they have started from. There is usually a "buddy system" where lifters pair off with others who are of the same ability (strength).

The next time you are in the area, stop by and see how easy it is to become a member of this interesting group of young people. Some of the present members are: Joe Auclair, Erik Bryon, Rudy Carreiro, Ryan King, Tommy Mello, Kenny Oliveira, Adam Palmisciano, Rick Pavao, Heather Poisson, Kevin Raposo and Justin Silvia.

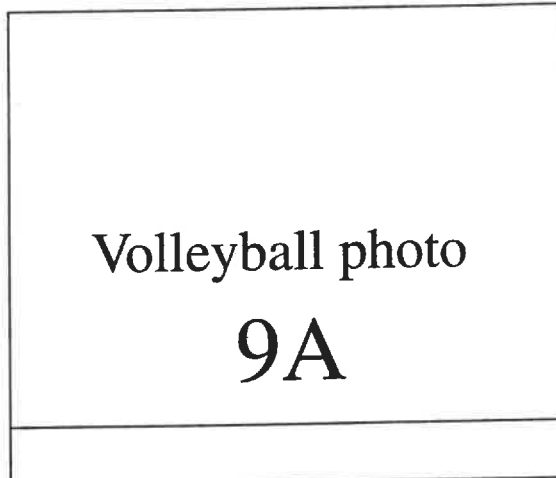
There is talk of forming a Super Strong Club which would travel to neighboring schools for competitive events. If you are interested in such an endeavor, please contact Erik Bryon in the weight room at any of the above times.

Keep on "Pumping Iron"!

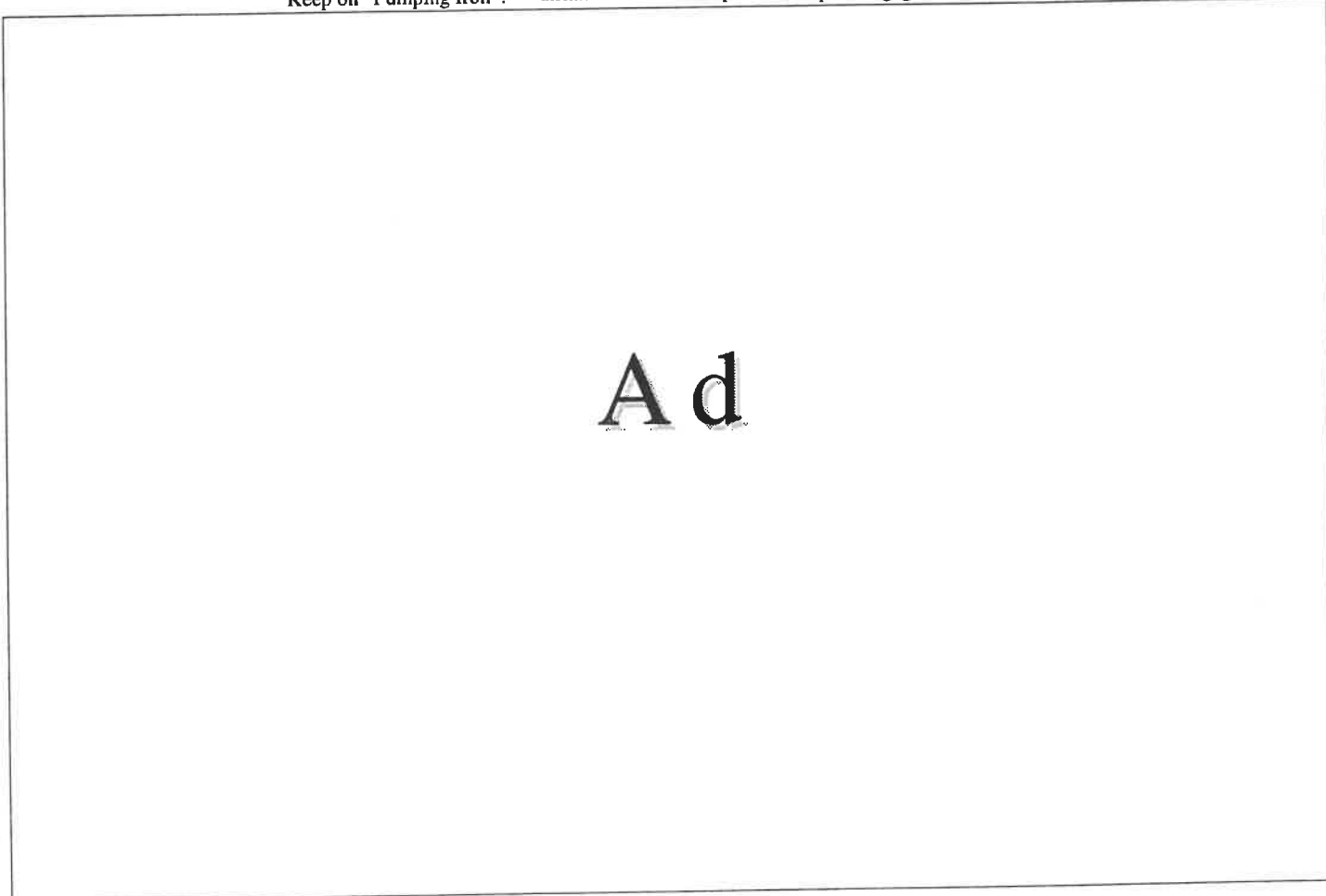
Volleyball Team Off to Successful Season

Laura Burke

Somerset High School Girls' Volleyball team has been having a great season. Coach Cathie Karl's team is now 7-9. A great team effort has allowed the Raiders to beat teams like Attleboro. Stacey Charest and Missy Tavares have set well, while Anna Oliveira and Missy Newton have done a great job blocking. Kim Handler has been playing spectacular defense and Lori Vallet, Becky Tavares, and Stephanie Fortin have been doing a great job hitting. In their Dartmouth game, Missy Newton, Anna Oliveira, and Missy Tavares all had five blocks. Despite their



losses to Bishop Feehan and Dartmouth, the members of the volleyball team feel that they have been playing well and are prepared to beat Bishop Stang and Coyle Cassidy. These two upcoming games will decide whether or not the volleyball team will make tournament. A great effort has been put forth by other team members Jessica Rossi, Erica Cote, Katie Ponte, Lisa Seery, and Amy Garganta.



10a

Overcrowding

(Continued from p. 1)

crowding is school security. Somerset High has begun to increase its security this year with the installment of a new security camera and identification system. At the School Committee meeting, three security measures were proposed: identification cards, surveillance cameras in the parking lot, and more police patrolling around the school. At this point, the School Committee is seriously considering identification cards for all of the students. However, more information is needed about the costs, how it will work, and what gains in security can be expected.

David Matthews Band

Brian Lewandowski

People who like rock and jazz will probably like the Dave Matthews Band. In Rolling Stone magazine, the Dave Matthews Band was voted #6 by the readers, but on the Billboards they fell from #14 to #18. They have been in the top 250 for 50 weeks.

Carter Beauford plays drums, Stefan Lessard plays electric guitar, Dave Matthews plays acoustic guitar and vocals, Leroi Moore plays three different saxophones and flute, and Boyd Tinsley plays acoustic violin. A special guest on the song "What Would You Say" is John Popper playing the harmonica.

This group started in the college town of Charlottesville, Virginia, and have gone far. They have two CDs out. One is Remember Two Things, and their most recent one is Under the Table and Dreaming. One of their two most popular songs on Under the Table and Dreaming is "What Would You Say" which features an awesome sax solo. The other song is "Ants Marching" which has a drum line with an awesome rock beat and excellent guitar riffs.

Grandma

(continued from p. 5)

to announce that the dancing was the most fun of all on the whole cruise. Here, she had the opportunity to boogie down with the rest of you "young-uns." And let me tell you, she

can really boogie!

That's our wrap-up, kids. We hope you all had a fabulous time! The three grandmothers would like to thank everyone who made the cruise happen. And remember, hats off to the Bay Queen!

Ad

Mediation

(continued from p. 2)

terview the student will be informed of mediation guidelines and procedures. At this point mediators that are well matched to the disputants will be chosen. This matching will be based on gender, age, race and ethnicity, and personality, as well as scheduling. Once mediators have been picked, the disputants will be informed of the time of their mediation. In the typical mediation, the party involved will meet with a pair of trained peer mediators. The mediators will explain the basic guidelines, which are that no name calling or interruptions will be allowed and that mediators will not be allowed to take sides. It will also be explained that the mediation program is entirely voluntary. The parties will then talk through their problems and discuss possible solutions. This

will occur in joint and private sessions. The conclusion of the mediation process is the signing of an agreement that is "clear, concrete, realistic, reflective of needs, and verifiable." A follow up of all cases will be conducted by the mediation coordinator in order to ensure that the agreement is being upheld.

Students interested in becoming peer mediators are strongly encouraged to apply. They may do so by filling out applications that are available in the main office and returning them to Mr. Alex Nesson, Peer Mediation Coordinator. Students who are chosen for the program will undergo twenty hours of training in conflict resolution skills.

The joining of students and administrators in a program such as Peer Mediation is the first step to solving our problem.

Double Victory For Cross Country Teams

Pam Tomawski

On October 24, the Somerset High Cross Country teams competed against Bishop Connolly in a meet that Coach Richard "B" Bernardo called, "our best this season". Somerset came out the victor with a Boys' score of 24 - 31 and a Girls' score of 19 - 38. The sunny and cool weather was perfect for running, and the Fall foliage added a splash of excitement to the 2.7 mile course at Connolly. Much to the competitors surprise, there was an enormous amount of fans at the meet besides the few select parents that go every time.

During stretching the team's spirit was high but they also knew that they had a very important race to run. Everyone was pumped, and there was an occasional joke from a competitor like "Oh, Bernardo, I

can't run today! My shoes are too tight". Soon, however, the joking ended and the Boys' team began their race.

The Boy's race consisted of 35 runners, both Varsity and Junior Varsity. It was a race full of tension and many runners were fighting to the very end. Kevin Donnelly from Connolly was the first runner to bolt past the finish line in a time of 14:14. Rob Angelini of Somerset came in second and was the first Raider to finish with a time of 14:42. One more Connolly runner followed Angelini before Joe Nunes led a pack of Raiders to victory. Nunes finished 4th (15:09), Jay Parent, 5th (15:40), and Matt Smith, 6th (15:49). Freshman Justin Kenney clinched the raider victory when he dashed past a Connolly runner at the finish line in 7th place, for there

were many more Connolly runners right behind him.

The Girls' race went just as well, with all 13 runners trying their hardest. Leslie Crofton amazed the crowd when she finished her race in 1st place for Somerset with a time of 17:41. Somerset's , Holly (Sherm) Sherman finished 2nd in a time of 18:31 followed by Anne Short in 3rd for Connolly. Jodie Braz and Tascha Gaspar ran well with Braz coming in 4th at 19:49 and Gaspar in 5th at 19:50. Tarrah Parent received 7th for Somerset with a time of 21:05, while Katie Considine finished 9th at 22:39.

Overall the meet against Connolly was a huge success for the Raiders and they will be talking about it for a long time; that is, at least until the big EAC Championship on the 28th when it all begins again.

Ad

