



The Breeze



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Somerset, Massachusetts



Matthew Barbosa and Andrew Nunes sit in front of their project on flight. The two participated along with many other Somerset students in the Science Fair held in the school cafeteria on February 1st. (Breeze photo taken by Jon Correira)

New Courses To Be Offered at SHS

By Eric Correira '02
Co-editor

Next year, Somerset High School will be offering new courses and making changes to the courses which it currently provides. The administration and Guidance Department have made changes in many of the departments throughout the entire school for various reasons.

In the History Department, students wishing to take Economics I have the option of taking the class in either Level 1 or Level 2. This is the last year that Problems and Interpretations, currently the department's only Advanced Placement (AP) course, will be taught. Next year, International Relations, which is presently offered as a Level 1 or 2 course, will also be offered as a Level 9 class. American History, required for graduation, will be provided, in addition to levels 1 through 3, as an AP class.

The World Language Department is eliminating Latin as a full sequence language. Incoming freshmen will have to choose between French, Spanish, and Portuguese. These students will only be allowed to take Latin as an elective course, along with one of the other three languages.

Another important change, which will only affect incoming freshmen, is taking place in the art department. The only art course being given to freshmen is a new course entitled Art Foundations. The purpose of Art Foundations is to give new art students an overview of different types of art, before they take the more advanced art courses.

Music Technology, a new mini-

course being offered by the Music Department, will give students with only a small musical background the chance to use computers to explore various styles of music. This course will use the internet, music software, and CD burners to assist students in their musical education. Music Technology takes place two periods per cycle.

The Business Technology Department will be offering several new courses next year. Business Office Technology, Practical Math Applications, Financial Accounting Fundamentals, Managerial Accounting Concepts, MS Office Professional, Programming/Access, Oracle, & Visual Basic, and Business Creativity are new additions to Somerset's Business Technology Department.

Somerset students will also be given the opportunity to be certified in First Aid and CPR in the school, free of

charge. First Aid, CPR & Fitness Nutrition will give students training, and eventually certification in both First Aid and CPR.

Many different new classes are being added to Somerset's course selection as a result of several factors. Course popularity and demand, teacher retirement, and education requirements have all played a role in the adjustment of courses at the school. Besides these new course offerings, other, more minor changes, are being implemented. This year, Somerset High School encourages students to consider the new courses being provided and be aware of the changes being made.

The Bomb Scare

By Valerie Martins '05,
Shirley McCrohan '05 and
Jessica Silva '05
Breeze Staff Writers

For most of us Friday, January 25 was just another boring day of school. Students sat in their period one classes eagerly anticipating the weekend, as the minutes seemed to creep by. Not long after the last bell rang, and the teachers began collecting the homework, an announcement was made to evacuate the school. Minutes later the entire Somerset student body

was standing out in the bitter cold wondering what was happening. As rumors flew from student to student it was finally concluded that there had been a bomb threat called into the school.

As the students filled back into their rooms, an announcement was made. The voice over the loud speakers verified that this was indeed a bomb threat called into the school. After hearing this announcement many stu-

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Around School



Welcome Mr. Sutcliffe!

By Lynn Creamer '02" and
Holly Chagnon '02"
Breeze Staff Writers

Among the several new English teachers at Somerset High School, we had the privilege of interviewing Mr. Sutcliffe. A graduate of Bishop Stang High School, he moved on to Fitchburg State College and University of Massachusetts at Amherst where he was originally a forestry major. Then, through his work in forestry, he realized that his calling was to obtain a master's degree in English. He also spent time studying at Oxford Wadham College. Mr. Sutcliffe said that he wanted to become an English teacher because he was naturally drawn to literature and he wanted to share that interest with others.

"It became a calling, it's just so inter-

esting to me," he told us.

Before coming to SHS, Mr. Sutcliffe taught at Massasoit Community College and Canton High School. He describes Somerset High as typical, but he finds the lack of funding challenging.

"At the other schools I taught, I could get new books at the blink of an eye," he said.

Another difference that Mr. Sutcliffe noted was that Somerset is much less diverse than the other places where he has taught. He used to have students from many different countries in his classes; a difference that he enjoyed. Here at Somerset Mr. Sutcliffe teaches only freshman classes. He said that it's a big challenge because it's his first time teaching students of this age.

"It can be trying at times, but so far I like it," he said.

Mr. Sutcliffe commented on his supportive colleagues in the English department and how helpful they have been in his transition.

Not only did he take on the challenge of teaching at a new school and a new age group, but he also co-runs the Student Council. He told us that this activity has been a great learning experience in trust. He feels that it has been beneficial to get to know the students outside of the high school.

We are glad to have Mr. Sutcliffe as a new faculty member and head of the Student Council at Somerset, and we wish him much luck in his future endeavors.



Photo of Mr. Sutcliffe taken by Breeze photographer Jon Correia

Jazz Band to Participate in Band Camp

By Conor Murray '02"
Breeze Staff Writer

The Somerset High School Jazz Band will be proving its talent again next month. Mr. Monte and the Jazz Band will be participating in a Jazz Improvisational Clinic held by a well-known Jazz artist. The competition will take place in Falmouth, on March 5. It will be run by the International Association of Jazz Education, which is sponsored by the High School Jazz Band Camp.

The Jazz Band will be competing for the gold, silver, or the bronze honors during the competition. "We've been very busy preparing for this," Mr. Monte said.

Even though they will be competing for awards, to him, this is not just a competition to show off talent. This is an excellent way to succeed in learning a great skill, as well as a way for students to be proud of themselves.

"I feel this is a wonderful opportunity," Mr. Monte said. "I feel this com-

petition will be used as a valuable tool in assessing students' progress. Basically, we'll see how we rate to the other groups in this state."

As in the past, the Jazz Band should rate well.



Breeze



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Want to join The Breeze staff as a writer or photographer? Contact co-editors Eric Correia or K.C. Dowd at Somerset High School or call Advisor George Austin at (508) 674-4656.

A New Addition to SHS

By Kevin Silvestre '05" and Paul Mattos '05" Breeze Staff Writers

At the beginning of the school year, a pond was added in the courtyard of Somerset High School. The pond was last year's science club school project. The purpose of the pond was to relate it to the science classes, especially biology, where students could take temperature readings, study pond ecology, and take other water samples for the science classes to use.

To create ideas for the pond, biology teacher Elaine Rezendes and some other members of the science department attended a home show in Rhode Island. They also asked fellow faculty members and students for ideas. After much planning and deliberation, the final plans were made.

To make the pond project possible PG&E Generating, which owns the Brayton Point Power Plant, donated a \$5,000 grant to Mrs. Rezendes and the science club. School Committee mem-

ber David Correia also made a very helpful contribution. Along with the generous donations, the pond would not have been possible without the help of the volunteers who sacrificed their time and contributed their skills to this project.

The pond was constructed by several teachers, the science club, and several other volunteers. After the hole was dug, construction took about one work day's length. When school resumed, the final touches, such as lights, were added to the pond. This allowed other students who may not have had the chance to work on the pond to do so.

Recently, 10 fish have been added. They have been growing a lot since they were first placed in the pond. One problem that the science club met was that the pond froze due to the harsh weather. This posed a threat to the newly added fish. To lessen the problem the students first made a hole in the ice which allowed the gases to



Somerset High School pond photographed by Jon Correia

exchange and the fish to survive. Then a heater was placed near the pond to solve the problem of freezing.

The pond is available to all of the science classes. It is also available to the other departments such as art, music, and the computer courses, whenever they can relate it to their cur-

riculum.

Mrs. Rezendes would like to thank all of those who helped to make the pond possible, she told us. She also encourages everyone to visit the science club website at www.sclenclub.homestead.com, where other information about the pond and related topics can be found.

Peer Leadership Updates

By Nicole Roussel '02 Breeze Staff Writer

Currently, the Peer Leadership Group is in the process of working on the Prom Fashion Show, which will take place March 16 (Saturday Night). There will be models, performers, raffles, and refreshments.

If anyone would like to be included

in this event, please see Mrs. Laurence or myself, or come to the next meeting, which meets every Monday after school in room 303. There will also be an essay contest for the students at the Junior High. The subject of the essay is "How I am a Peacemaker." The winner will be announced at the show and the participating students

will be invited. There may also be artwork displayed at the fashion show by the elementary students. Any help regarding this event would be greatly appreciated.

The Peer Leadership group is also working on the Pre-Prom Assembly. We have now started to gather pictures and/or videos of friends. Bring these

items to room 303. Other projects are the blood drive, the Clifton Prom, and a memory garden.

Come and join the group! The participation would be enjoyable and the help would be appreciated. It would also be beneficial for your college transcripts! I hope to see y'all at the fashion show! Thanks for taking the time to read about Peer Leadership!

Senior Semi-Formal: Good time had by all

By Sue Berube '02 Breeze Staff Writer

On the chilly evening of Sunday, January 20th, the Senior Semi-formal was held in the Towns Room of Somerset Lodge. The event commenced at 7 p.m. and a buffet was served shortly after. The room was decorated rather festively with streamers and various decorations, provided by Ms. Bellio

and several senior volunteers. Brad Pineault, the D.J., offered a wide variety of musical entertainment ranging from the B-52's to Jon Bon Jovi to No Doubt. Everyone seemed to have a blast on the dance floor. There was even a brief moment of crowd surfing. Despite the remnants of snowfall outdoors, a wonderful evening was enjoyed by all.



Seniors Monica Viera, Christina Allain, Keri St. Laurent and Alissa Pieroni at the Senior Semi-Formal. Photo courtesy of Monica Viera.

Entertainment



Do you want to laugh? Monty Python's Flying Circus

By KC Dowd '04
Breeze Co-editor

And now for something completely different, try a dose of Monty Python's Flying Circus. This introduction, taken directly from a segment of the Python program, also describes the premise of this offbeat British comedy. It first aired on October 5, 1969, on the British Broadcasting Corporation, BBC. Offering some of the most hilarious, laugh out loud wit, these programs satire everything from the social-political atmosphere of the times and historical events to inanimate objects and sheer nonsense.

Entirely politically incorrect then, and more so today, Python's sketches and subsequent movies are simply funny. While the scenes can be incoherent in actual story line, eclectic

animation, distorted photos, and historical references tie the segments together. This seems to enhance its ridiculous inferences and brings a sense of reasonability to the outrageous messages being depicted.

Six young men, including Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Sullivan, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, and Michael Palin created the concept. Their non-traditional ideas were severely sarcastic, anarchic and hilarious. This translated to a satirical mockery of all conventions in a truly amusing and unconventional way. This troupe effectively parodies the human condition with a variety of quirky characters and situations of life, death and everything in between. Nothing is off limits, and no one is beyond reproach, or should I say

ridicule. Even the most depressed souls are challenged not to laugh at the depictions of human nature as portrayed by these cynical jokesters.

Some of their famous sketches include "The Ministry of Silly Walks," "The Dead Parrot," "The Upper-Class Twit of the Year," "The Spanish Inquisition," and of course "The Lumberjack Song." Python's movies of distinction include: "The Life of Brian," "The Meaning of Life," and my favorite "Monty Python and the Holy Grail." The latter almost has a story line, including the hysterical "Bring Out Your Dead," scene.

If you really want to laugh for prolonged periods of time rent a Python video. Be forewarned however. This type of humor may require some lateral thinking and ethnic perspective.

Leave your sensitivities at the door. While there is no intention to offend the

viewer, we are generally a society of defensive reactionaries. As I see it, the writers' objective was to entertain. Frequently, a thought-provoking situation evolves from a hilarious bashing of the idiosyncrasies of human nature. Also, residual laughter may occur after watching significant amounts of Python. This means you may burst out in sheer unprovoked snickering, in the middle of a biology class, simply because you've experienced a Python flashback.

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Sophomores Amanda Saulino and Ashley Morrow pose in front of their experiment on the effects of various cigarettes at the Science Fair. (Breeze photo taken by Jon Correira)



Laura Kilduff and Jonathan Beaulieu discuss their project entitled "Rats and Music" at the Somerset High School Science Fair. (Breeze photo taken by Jon Correira)

JESSE / by Jesse Berez



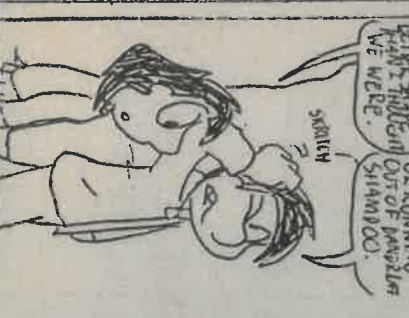
ANNOUNCED EPISODES OF 'THE SHAMPOO'.



WHEN EPISODES OF 'THE SHAMPOO' GO INTO SYNDICATION, THEY ALWAYS CUT OUT A FEW JOKES SO THEY CAN CREAM IN MORE COMERCIAL TIME.



NOW WE'RE IN EITHER TH41, BUT I'VE HADEN OUT OF MANDATE WE WERE. SHAMPOO.



Peeling The Onion

Our captures the heart of the reader

By Amanda Ancell '02
Brezeze Staff Writer

A couple months into my psychology class my teacher decided he was going to do a little demonstration for us. He took an onion and carefully cut each layer and explained that the onion represented the layers of our friends and family. The outermost layer was representative of our distant acquaintances, moving all the way down to the onion's core, which stood for our immediate family (guardians and siblings). Although the class's eyes began to water and other classes could smell our little demonstration for the rest of the day, I thought this was a creative and easy to comprehend way to explain parts of adolescent behavior and relationships.

Wondering what this has to do with this book? About a week ago I was in our school library and I came across a book entitled *Peeling the Onion* by

Wendy Orr. Thinking this ironic, I decided to read it so I could compare notes to see if the storyline was similar to my psych interpretation.

Anna, a skinny, athletic, 17-year-old girl, has been in a devastating car accident. She wakes up in a hospital bed with no knowledge of why she is there. The pain is unbearable and her fear is overwhelming. Her family and her boyfriend, Hayden, visit her and try to explain to her what has happened, but Anna cannot seem to recall the incident. After a couple months in the hospital, Anna is allowed to return home, broken neck, thumb, among other bones, and all. She is unable to walk, has a cast and a "boob" neck brace, and eventually learns to walk with a cane. Her life long dreams of being a karate instructor or a physical education teacher have been shattered when her doctor claims she will never be "right" again.



Sumantha Shaker and Martha Custallina placed first in the Science Fair held on February 1st. Their project on Red Bull won first place in the partners' competition. (Brezeze photo taken by Jon Curraira)

with her body's betrayal and adjusting to her new lifestyle. She can only go to school for one class a day and some of her friends begin to slip away from her. Psychologically, Anna has been beaten down to the level of a child and feels totally vulnerable. She questions her dwindling relationship with her boyfriend and loses all hope for recovery. However, amidst all this resentment and sorrow, a new young man, Luke, has entered Anna's life, but there's no telling how he will affect her and if she will ever heal, physically or emotionally.

After reading this story, I understand how my class demonstration can be pertained to this novel. All of Anna's "layers" that make up her individuality have been peeled away by the accident, exposing her true self and giving her no choice but to question who she really is and the type of person she wants to become. This comparative story is full of struggle and life-threatening obstacles, but consistently has a hovering glimpse of hope. For anyone who enjoys getting into the minds of characters this book deals with true to life emotions and helps to show how at times we all have to "peel the onion."



Sports



Raider Athletes Shine in Winter Sports

By Ryan Avery '03
Breeze Staff Writer

The winter athletic season has seen the emergence of many star athletes at SHS and the continued domination of the EAC by the wrestling team and girls basketball team. Only youth/inexperience and injuries keep the boys basketball, track and hockey teams from stronger records.

The boys wrestling team captured their sixth league title in eight years with a win over Keefe Tech on January 30th, 43-27. Seniors Ryan Proulx (189) and Christos Skarpos (215) have provided great leadership and look to be on their way to 30 win seasons each. Sophomores Eddie Michno (119), Danny McGillick (140) and Mike Mendonca (145) are all having great years, as is freshman Neal Rapoza (103) and junior Ethan Shorroek (heavyweight). With a final record of 15-4 heading into the South Sectionals, the Raiders look to do some serious damage. The consistency of the Somerset grapplers to finish so strongly every year is a true credit to the coaching and leadership of the team.

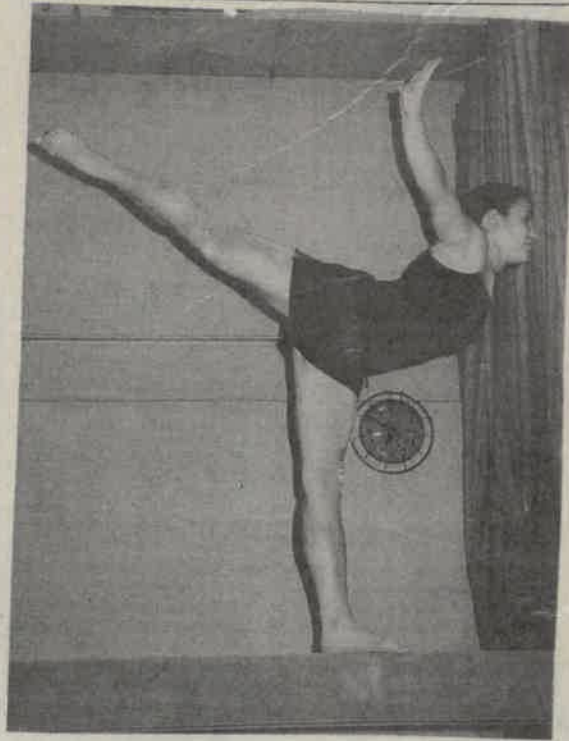
The record of the boys' basketball team does not correctly reflect the talent and hard work of the team, as it is quite realistic to say that a few buckets could have turned 1/3 of the team's losses into wins. The Raiders have taken Durfee, Falmouth and tournament-bound Bishop Stang, Attleboro and Case all down to the wire, even dominating them at some parts during their con-

tests with Somerset. Junior Tony Gaffney is one of the EAC's top three scorers, averaging 18 points per game. Captains Ross Boiselle, Mike Fisher, and Dean Toulan all have had great games along the course of the season.

The boys' and girls' track teams have struggled with very young teams this season. However, many impressive individual performances have been turned in by members of both teams. The senior trio of John Riley (state-qualifying in the 600m), Mike Perry (state-qualifying in the 300m) and Josh Gustafson (600m/1000m runner) have led the boys, while seniors Daniela Fairchild, Kirby Sabra and Casey Mulligan have thoroughly dominated their events for the girls' team this year.

Injuries to the hockey team have left them with a short bench, hurting them in many games. However, superb play by junior captain Jay Ledo and goalie Steve Grota has kept the Raiders in all their games. Besides Ledo, sophomore Nick Coates and freshman Sean McGurick have been standouts for the hockey squad.

Finally, sophomore Riley Barrar has had a tremendous year for the gymnastics team, which is not only co-operative with Bishop Connolly this year, but co-gender as sophomore Jon Correia became the first male to compete for the team this year. Barrar has been very consistent this year - at winning meets. One of the top regional gymnasts, Barrar competed at the USAG Crystal Ice Invitational at RI College in



Gymnast Riley Barrar warms up on the beam before a home meet. Barrar won all four events at the EAC Championships Meet, and as a result was the league's EAC Champion. (Breeze photo taken by Jon Correia)

January, finishing sixth in her division. Junior Mercedes Shea of SHS also competed at the Invitational, at one level higher than her classmate Barrar, and finished 3rd, only 0.25 points out of first.

As usual, the winter season promises some interesting post-season action for Somerset athletics. Good luck to all the teams as '01-'02 winds down!



Girl's Varsity B-Ball



By Donelly Roberts '04 and Nathan Full '05
Breeze Staff Writers

This year, the Girls' Varsity Basketball Team did extremely well. With only a few losses to Dartmouth, the girls went undefeated, beating teams by more than 20 sometimes. We talked to some key players before one of their practices and this is what they had to say.

First we talked to Rachel and Rebecca Smith who told us what they thought went wrong at both Dartmouth games. Rachel claimed that Somerset did not have enough healthy bodies to show what they really have and that Dartmouth wanted it more and brought their game. Rebecca said that Somerset just played bad as a team.

We asked the girls if they thought the team played together, and they responded with the following: Rachel says that the bench is great and when the team needs help, they are always a big help. Rebecca says that they play pretty good together and that the best game they had was against New Bedford. The third question we asked was who they thought was their biggest challenge this season. Rachel claims Dartmouth was the toughest and Rebecca claims Feehan was. The last question was what they thought their biggest problem as a team was. Rachel says that the whole team is basically good friends with one another. That causes very few internal arguments and the players work together. Rebecca proclaims that the team has a few minor arguments, but they always get through them.

We also talked to the coach, Doug Leigh. He said that some games, the girls turn over the ball too much which gets them into trouble. He says that Feehan and Dartmouth were real challengers. Also he proclaims that he would like to see the girls see the floor better, finding the open person on offense, and help out on defense.

We would like to thank Rachel and Rebecca Smith and coach Doug Leigh for their help.

In conclusion, the girls had one of the best seasons this season and if you didn't catch a game, hopefully they are this good next year.

Strong, Stronger, Strongest - Science May Engineer a New Kind of Athlete

By K.C. Dowd '04
Breeze Staff Writer

Scientific research, in the name of medicinal cures and life prolonging interventions, is continually providing us with new hope and life altering possibilities. Cloning for instance, once a comic book fantasy, is now an eerie probability with amazing implications. Recently, another scientific research effort has crossed into the sports arena. Experiments are presently being conducted on mice that involve the injection of a synthetic gene into the rodent's muscles. This gene directs its muscle cells to produce more IGF-1, an insulin like growth factor. IGF-1 is a protein that produces muscle growth and also repairs muscle damage. It is essential to the development and maintenance of strong physiques.

IGF-1 is generously produced during vigorous exercise, in the under 30 athlete. However, all good things come to an end. Muscles stop producing adequate amounts of IGF-1 as we age. Therefore, the muscles are less resilient. Repairs take longer and strength is compromised. The middle-aged athlete becomes weaker and loses speed. It's inevitable, or is it?

Injuries have accelerated the demise of many outstanding careers. Hockey superstar Wayne Gretzky would still be enforcing terror on the ice if his IGF-1 hadn't abandoned him.

At the University of Pennsylvania, under the supervision of Dr. H. Lee Sweeney, the genetically altered muscle-man mice could forever change the sport of sports, as we know it. This gene, injected into a mouse two years ago, has produced a world champion, super mouse, with 60 percent greater muscle mass than that of its peers. There has been no sign of

deterioration. This mouse is buff. This means, if the process reacts the same on humans, an injection could make us stronger, faster and bigger. We could mass-produce super dream teams.

The implications of genetic engineering are mind boggling. Gene enhancement would create stronger bodies. Career ending injuries would be eliminated. We could take our grandchildren to see Pedro Martinez pitch. Would sports turn into a freak show of genetically manipulated

Neanderthals? Could an entire team of MVP's be manufactured and/or cloned? Would there be no limits to genetically created beings?

It's not only the professional athlete who could benefit from these scientific realities. Regular weekend athletes would also be able to increase their strength and lessen their injury time. Most importantly, illnesses that involve muscular degeneration, such as muscular dystrophy, may be eliminated or at least managed. Medical intervention with health issues is the actual force behind genetic engineering. This is certainly where genetic alterations were intended to do good and preserve quality of life.

While there are awesome possibilities for the benefits of genetic therapy in the medical field, there is cause for concern with its uses or abuses for reasons other than health. One factor to keep in mind is that the gene is transferred via a virus. That opens doors of wonder as to the safety of the process. A patient has already died while undergoing a procedure involving gene therapy. Also, we are years away from realizing what the long-term effects will be, even on mighty mouse. While I would appreciate having an edge on the competition, it should not be with a consequence to our health.

Implications of an ethical nature are also disturbing. This would include the abuses of genetic engineering, which would translate to unfair advantages or cheating. Creating super beings seems to be against nature. There's always a catch. You don't get something for nothing. Disaster could be lurking.

For now, we should really think about the implications and applications. Hopefully, the bionic mouse will be a success, opening a new frontier in medical science and leaving athletes to succeed the old fashion way - with talent and perseverance.



Somerset Wrestlers Christos Skarpos, Ethan Sherock, and Ryan Proulx all placed high in the South Sectional Tournament. Somerset Wrestling had an excellent season this year.

(Breeze photo courtesy the Spectator)

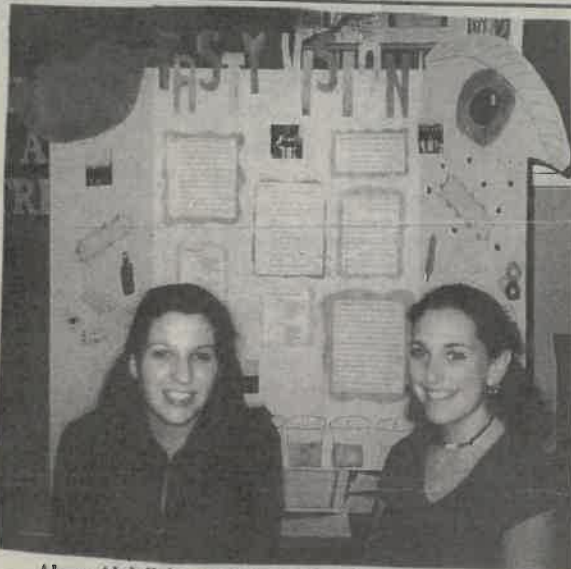
students call in bomb threat . . . (continued from the front page)

students felt that there was not enough information given to ensure safety. In an attempt to overcome such feelings, the administration allowed students to go to the auditorium to answer any questions they may have had. If the students still felt that they were not safe after this they were allowed to call their parents and get dismissed. When students were asked what they personally felt about the dismissal, several thought it was unnecessary. Others were generally afraid and felt the dismissal was a good safety precaution. Principal Donald Rebelio believed that even though there was no way of telling who was truly in fear, the number of students that were dismissed was as expected.

In the eyes of a brand new faculty member on her first day here at Somerset High School, the safety precautions were very successful. Just as students were settling in, another announcement was made to notify the students that the guilty parties had been discovered and would be apprehended. A feeling of relief spread throughout the school and the students could once again return to their regular activities.



Lyndsey Perry and Tiffany LaRose sit in front of their project entitled "Which Is Your Best Chew?" which the two sophomores entered into this year's Science Fair. (Breeze photo taken by Jon Correira)



Alyssa Abdallah and Valerie Cohen, Somerset sophomores, present their project "Tasty Vision," which appeared in the Science Fair held on February 1st in the cafeteria (Breeze photo taken by Jon Correira)



Somerset Gymnasts stretch and warm up before their EAC Championship meet. Appearing above, from left to right, are Sarah Francisco, Kayla Macedo and Allysse Baptista. (Breeze photo taken by Jon Correira)

