



PAGE 10 First Dodgeball
Tournament held at SHS

THE Somerset High School BREEZE

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Furtado on the move, appoints new principal

Jessica A. Roberge '05
Editor

After four years, Dr. Stephen J. Furtado is concluding his position as Superintendent of Somerset Public Schools. Furtado's final day in Somerset is June 19th 2005 when he will be replacing Superintendent Dr. William Connors of Freetown/Lakeville Public Schools.

As a teenager, Furtado attended Holy Family High School in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He then continued his education at Bridgewater State College, where he earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. He later received his Doctorate at LaSalle University.

Prior to his position at Somerset, Furtado was a teacher in Freetown/Lakeville for 29 years. He became assistant principal at the high school for four years and was the Director of Instructional Services for five years.

During his four years at Somerset, Furtado feels many accomplishments have been made in the school system. When questioned of these accomplishments he asked, "How many do you want?" The new policy manual, the full curricular alignment, and the new professional development options for staff are among the many positive changes. He also stated, "Over one-third of the staff in the district has been hired [within the past four years]."

Furtado admits he will miss the people he has worked with over the years, especially his secretary Michelle Courcier. He states, "I will miss the students, [along with the] many, many good people in the district who have supported me." Furtado elaborated on the great faculty and administration in the school system and continued on to

See Administrative Changes, Page 2



Jekyll and Hyde thrills audiences

Andrew Tremblay '07
Assistant Editor

On March 4, 5, and 6, the Somerset High School Drama and Music Department put on an impressive performance of the musical, *Jekyll and Hyde*. The production was a huge success due to the hard work of over 50 students and director Mr. Winslow.

Jekyll and Hyde is based on the 1886 novel by Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Set in the early 19th century, *Jekyll and Hyde* is a tale of the classic battle between good and evil. While searching to separate the forces of good and

evil, his life-long dream, the brilliant Dr. Henry Jekyll accidentally unleashes his murderous counterpart Edward Hyde. Engulfed in his dangerous work, Dr. Jekyll neglects his fiancée, Emma Carew. At the same time, the sinful Lucy Harris gets entangled with Hyde who is causing terror in the streets of London. The musical is an exciting, thrilling, and chilling show filled with outstanding music and remarkable acting.

Jekyll and Hyde is an amazing, but difficult show. The students of Somerset High School did an exceptional job, especially considering the difficulty of the show.

Nick Rocha played the role of Dr.

Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, no easy task. Performing in the position is like having two major roles in the same play. Not only were the vocals and acting very complicated, but the differences between the two roles of both *Jekyll* and *Hyde* added to the difficulty. Other leads included Vanessa Martins as Emma Carew, *Jekyll's* fiancée, Jillian Soares as Lucy Harris, and Brian Simons as Gabriel John Utterson, Dr. *Jekyll's* loyal friend.

Major roles were also played by the Board of Governors, which included Andrew Correia as Sir Danvers Carew, also Emma's father, Dan Francoeur as

See *Jekyll and Hyde*, Page 9

Administrative changes continued...

explain. "I'm leaving my successor in a good place."

Dr. Furtado gives his successor two points of advice: "First, to continue to keep the high school building project on the front burner, and second, to continue to communicate openly with the town about the district's needs." The hiring for a new superintendent will be directed by the School Committee, and Furtado will not be involved in the process.

An appointment of a new high school principal was formally announced at the School Committee meeting which took place Thursday, March 24th. Dr. Furtado appointed Mr. Robert W. Pineault to the position. Mr. Pineault has been serving as interim principal of Somerset High School since the former principal, Donald Rebello, left at the end of last year to become principal of B.M.C. Durfee High School in Fall River.

When Pineault agreed to serve as interim principal, he stated that he would not submit an application for principal, but return to his vice principal position next year. He changed his mind for two reasons: "First, once I started doing the job, I enjoyed it. You always fear the unknown. Second, I found that I was accepted by the community and staff, and I want to follow through with what I have started."

As interim, Pineault feels he has created a positive school spirit, seen by the students' positive attitudes. He will finish the year as interim and will begin his new appointment on July 1st.

Over the next three years, Pineault has several goals he would like to accomplish to better the school. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) comes to assess the school every 10 years. Mr. Pineault states, "It is very important to start preparing now," and calls the process, "Operation NEASC." Also, the future principal plans to examine and reform the school handbook; he does not want to lose sight of what is really important.

Mr. Pineault is looking forward to his permanent position next year and welcomes the students and faculty saying, "My door is always open."

THE BREEZE

Somerset High School

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

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Editor: | Jessica A. Roberge | Reporters: | Sandra Stebenne |
| Assistant Editor: | Andrew Tremblay | | Jan Taylor |
| Sports Editor: | Erin Lewis | | Megan Oliveira |
| Advisor: | Katherine Hoyle | | Samantha Dubois |
| Photographers: | Eleni Skarpos | | Jessica Silva |
| | Erin Lewis | | |

Smoking on school grounds: An issue

By Jan Taylor '06

Over the past few years, Somerset High School has been having an increasing problem: students smoking on school grounds.

Under Massachusetts state law, smoking is not permitted on school property by anyone at anytime. That includes school events that are not held during school hours, such as musical performances and sporting events. Smoking is also not allowed on school buses.

Vice Principal Mrs. Pauline Camara says that teen smoking has always been a big issue; however, she states that over the past couple of years, she has noticed an overwhelming increase in the number of students at Somerset High School who smoke. Camara says that the increase of student smokers has probably been caused by the "smoking cessation" class which, due to lack of funds, has not been offered for the past two years.

The smoking cessation class was originally a five week session held after school two days a week. However, Mrs. Camara and the health teachers at the school are working to possibly bring the class back for next year.

Camara says that students who are caught smoking on school grounds by teachers or administrators will be required to attend the smoking cessation

class; otherwise students will face long term suspension or possible expulsion from school. Mrs. Camara states that in the past, the smoking cessation class has helped students with trying to stop smoking. She is hoping that if the class starts up again, students who currently smoke will want to stop smoking.

Mrs. Camara says that any students who are caught in possession of tobacco products in school for the first offense are issued detention. The second offense is a one day Saturday School. The third offense is a two day in-school suspension (ISS), and fourth offense is a one-day out of school suspension and a parental conference with school administration.

For students who are actually caught smoking on school grounds, the first offense is a Saturday School and a student/parent conference with administration explaining the smoking policy. The second offense is three days out of school suspension, the third, a three to five day suspension and a referral to the Superintendent. Finally, the fourth offense is an appearance before the Somerset School Committee.

Mrs. Camara explains that the main reason why students smoke in school is because they are addicted to cigarettes. She says she has talked to many students who have said that they cannot go a full school day without smoking a cigarette. She explains, "A lot of kids start smoking

while they are in middle school and are hooked on it by the time they get to high school!"

Besides having the smoking cessation class put back into place,

Camara says that having more hallway monitors in areas of the school where many students smoke could possibly stop so many students from smoking in school. She explains that students oftentimes skip their lunch period class to go to the art department, a more isolated area of the school, and smoke. Also, school resource officer David Pelletier sometimes catches kids smoking; however, he is usually in the cafeteria during lunch and isn't always able to catch kids smoking in the art area. Camara also says that talking in health class about the possible health problems caused by smoking more often could stop the number of students from smoking.

Smoking is discussed a great deal in the elementary and middle school health classes, and Mrs. Camara states that by the time students get to high school, they should be well aware of the possible consequences from smoking.

Mrs. Camara said: "Because smoking is legal, there will always be students at the school who will smoke, but the staff at Somerset High School is hoping to limit the number of kids who smoke in school and in general."

Ninety-minute delay established

Liz Correia '07

Snow days are very common in New England and we're certainly familiar with them here in Somerset, especially this winter.

You know! The days you wake up in the morning greeted by a fresh blanket of snow on the ground then turn on the television or radio to find out what you had figured all along: no school.

But what about those days where it's not so clear why school was canceled? Sometimes, less than two hours later, it seems as if snow had never actually stuck to the pavement and yet a whole day still has to be made up in the warm days of June, days where the sun shines and all you can think about is being out of school and outdoors.

However, these days may now be avoided. In January the Somerset School Committee decided to institute a 90-minute delay, effective starting this school year.

On days where it may be difficult

for Superintendent Dr. Stephen Furtado to decide whether or not to open school, he now has the authority to delay the opening of school for 90 minutes and have them still count as full days; meaning they would not have to be made up.

It is always especially hard to go through the cancellation on days when more snow is expected, or days where it is tough to tell whether or not conditions will worsen. The concern is always the safety of both students and staff.

Days such as those are perfect occasions for the 90 minute delay. Many times conditions, especially roads, do improve once the town is given time to clean them.

In Mr. Robert Pineault's opinion, the 90-minute delay will help save a day of school that otherwise may have to be made up.

"A delayed start time enables both students and staff time to navigate the roads safely," says Mr. Pineault.



What people may also not realize is the process of canceling school begins at 3:00 A.M. Dr. Furtado has to talk to the Police Department, the Highway Department, the bus company and several other superintendents all which have an effect on his final decision. Dr. Furtado then has to make a decision based on both the safety of the situation and his own judgment.

The cancellation also has to be made by 5:30 A.M. because the buses for

Berkeley students that attend Somerset begin at about 6:00 A.M. The process basically goes on for 2 1/2 hours and is certainly not taken lightly.

Another issue that may also arise this year is the make-up days. However, because of teacher contracts, we are not allowed to attend school after June 30th. Therefore, if we do have any more snow days that we have to make up, it is unclear what approach the school committee will take.

We've all heard the rumors: classes on Saturdays and during April vacation.

Some schools, such as Boston, have already decided to hold classes on Saturdays. Yet as of now, Somerset has not addressed the situation.

Mr. Pineault says "policy [regarding this issue] would have to come from the school committee and at this time the school committee has not communicated anything on the topic."

In other words, lets hope spring comes soon and we don't have to worry about 90-minute delays or any more make-up days.

S.L.A.M.: Peer mediators go to jail

Megan Oliveira '08

Peer Mediation recently went to see a program called S.L.A.M. It was an excellent way for the students to see how inmates live life and a perfect opportunity to show the importance of talking things through!

Project S.L.A.M., which takes place in the Bristol County Sheriff's office, explains a very important message to students. In 1988 the program was expanded for students at schools to come and visit the jail. The program included a guided tour, questions for the tour guide, a descriptive explanation of the jail situation, and a group of inmates that tell students about how they got there. Issues surrounding crime, drugs, and violence were the central topics of discussion.

Life in Bristol County House of Correction is not easy. The freedom of the inmates is stripped and privacy vanishes. The students experienced the harsh living faced by the inmates behind bars.

Before anyone can take the tour they

must pass through the metal detectors and other security systems. Students are taken into a jail cell to see what it would be like if they were to be put in jail. The students immediately noticed how there was very little space to do much of anything, except sleep. There is also limited time outside the jail cells and the inmates are told when they must wake up.

Justine Da Silva enjoyed the S.L.A.M. field trip because she got to learn what it was like to live in a jail, which was scary. It taught her to be more careful of what she does because she doesn't ever want to go to a place like jail. Justine said, "I didn't like all the rude comments the inmates were yelling. I would never survive in a place like that!" She found it extremely scary. "These people did really bad things to get to jail, and being in a place full of murderers scared me. I didn't know what to expect," said Justine.

She learned that the different colors of the uniforms meant that inmates were at the jail for different crimes. Justine thought that perhaps not everyone in

jail is a bad person. Some of the inmates that talked to the group were very kind people. She believed this was because they had learned their lesson and they weren't going to make the same mistake again. "Scott, the first guy who talked to our group seemed really nice", Justine said.

No, Justine never wants to think about staying at the jail. She considers herself to be a good person. "Most people wouldn't be able to survive a day in jail," Justine stated.

Justine was startled when she was in the 24-hour lock up cell and all the inmates were yelling things at the group. She just wanted to get out of there. The tour guide also intimidated her because he was so big and serious.

Justine said, "I learned that if you do something really bad and get caught, you're going to hell on earth! If you follow the law and stay on the right track you won't end up in a place like jail." She has always been a good person, but she did learn that it only takes one bad decision.

Justine went on with, "You only have

one life, so don't waste

it by doing something really dumb and spend a good portion of your life paying the consequences. I don't want to spend my life rotting in a cell just because one night, I wanted to have a little illegal fun. I'll stick with the legal fun, thank you very much."

The inmates were unfortunate to have made their mistake in the first place, but they are really resourceful. Jail has helped some of them, the ones who have learned their lesson, that is.

"If my friends ever get the urge when they are older to do something wicked stupid; I can tell them not to because I went to jail and I know how it is. I know it's a place they do not want to be," Justine said.

It made her sad to hear the inmates' stories. Some of them haven't even seen their families in such a long time, since their families practically disowned them when they went to jail.

The program proved to be a great success! If we had more people willing to get involved everyone will notice a change of behavior in people!

Laurence and Pavlik welcomed as new additions to the SHS faculty

Samantha Dubois '08

Somerset High School has been fortunate enough to have many great, new teachers here. This month teacher focus is Mr. Andrew Laurence, who teaches Math, and Mrs. Melissa Pavlik, who teaches in the Science department.

Mr. Laurence teaches Algebra, Geometry, and basic math at SHS. He had been teaching for three years before he came to SHS.

Mr. Laurence went to Durfee High School and after graduating, had wanted to go into Accounting. During his senior year he decided to become a teacher. He went to college at Syracuse University and Providence College for four years, and majored in Accounting.

Mr. Laurence's first job was at Boys' and Girls' club. "It was lots of fun," said Mr. Laurence. He then went on to teach at Durfee High School for two years, half a year as a substitute teacher. Working with kids is one of the reasons he became a teacher. The level of the kids "maturity" is why he chose the high school level to teach. "I chose math because I am good at it and I can explain

it. It comes easier to me. We use it in everyday life" Said Mr. Laurence. His favorite part about being a teacher at SHS is the enthusiasm, school spirit, and faculty. "My goals are to get students better at MCAS, better at math, better prepared for SATS and enjoy class" Said Mr. Laurence.

In his spare time he watches sports and plays basketball. He likes to watch all kinds of movies and listen to all types of music. Mr. Laurence also likes to read. He likes the sports section of the newspaper and "I read a sports book this summer", said Mr. Laurence. He also likes to play games on his PlayStation II. "I have two dogs, Irish Setters, one is nine months and the other is twelve years," said Mr. Laurence.

Another of the new teachers at SHS this year is Mrs. Melissa Pavlik. She teaches Physical Science levels two and three. She went to Faithaven High and attended college at UmASS Dartmouth for four years. Her major was Bio-Chemistry and she took classes in Sociology, Art Education and Music.

"Before I became a teacher I thought of becoming a Bio-Medical research"

said Mrs. Pavlik. She then decided to become a teacher because she loved to learn. "I chose the high school level because I wanted to make a difference in teenagers' lives and help them make better decisions," said Mrs. Pavlik. She has been teaching for one and a half years now. "I came to Somerset because I needed a job and there was an opening here", said Mrs. Pavlik. As a new teacher Mrs. Pavlik has a goal to help students succeed.

Her first job was as a swimming instructor. She liked teaching little kids to swim. "My previous job was raising three boys; Victor, who is eight, Eric, who is seven, and Isaac, who is four", said Mrs. Pavlik.

"I like scary movies when I have the time, which is almost never," said Mrs. Pavlik. She listens to music on the way to and from school, mostly Alternative. She watches CSI, PBS, Arthur, and Cyber Chase. "I just finished reading Dan Brown" said Mrs. Pavlik. She likes to be outside, gardening in the summer. "The less people know about me the better", said Mrs. Pavlik. Her key quality is patience and she can whistle.



Mr. Laurence is the newest addition to the math department



Ms. Pavlik has been welcomed as a new teacher at Somerset High School

Teaching the next generation of leaders

Erin Lewis '06

At around this time last year, some may have noticed an addition to the course request forms. A few, however, took advantage of this change. The leadership class (found in the "miscellaneous electives" section of the Junior and Senior course selection form) is taught by Mrs. Alice Ferris and Ms. Renee Raymond and offers much more than just credits.

The class first began under the instruction of Ms. Cynthia Davis, who is now the Somerset High School Vice Principal. When Ms. Davis took on her new position in the school's administration, Ferris took hold of Davis' "vision and created a daily curriculum." Ms. Raymond was called upon also by Ms. Davis. "In college, I was a facilitator for a leadership training conference," says Raymond of her qualifications for the position.

Those taking the class will be presented with a number of concepts. "We are [covering] leadership styles, communication, team building, time

management, conflict, planning, holding a meeting, resolution, and more," says Raymond.

The class is, however, a semester course that meets only half of the year and a mere three periods per cycle. Despite the short time that they meet every week, the students have been very involved in spreading their leadership knowledge. This year they have taken the initiative to conduct workshops for other student leaders in hopes of spreading the spirit of being a leader and making a difference. "It is a very interactive class," says Raymond of the class' current projects and curriculum.

What are the benefits of taking a class such as leadership? "My goal for students is to help them realize you do not have to be the team captain or the most outspoken person in the group to be a leader," comments Raymond on the importance of leadership skills in places that some may never have considered applying such ideas. Some of these places include their "[future or current] workplace, athletic team, student government, etc." The class also has participated in physical and



Pictured here is Mrs. Ferris teaching a lesson for her leadership course

representational leadership activities such as rock wall climbing.

Though the class has only seen a total of twenty-two students this year, the two teachers are having "a blast." "It has been a pleasure to be involved with a great group of students. The students have made this class successful with their

class participation," adds Ferris. Both teachers hope the class continues into next year to build student recognition of leadership qualities that can be applied in positive ways to make our school a better place. Build upon your leadership skills, for just three credits. Hardly ever is a leader born in a study period.

Students succeed at Distributive Education Clubs of America competition

Sandra Stebenne '06

"A customer wants a cash refund for an item, and s/he has a cash sales ticket from your shoe store. However, this brand of merchandise has never been carried by your store. You should tell the customer that.

- A. the item can be exchanged.
- B. you will refund the money.
- C. you cannot give a refund.
- D. the purchase can be credited."

Don't know the answer? If you were in DECA, you would. DECA stands

for Distributive Education Clubs of America. It's an organization for students who are interested in a business career. Members compete for scholarships and cash awards by taking a written test 100 questions long (the question at the head of this article came from that test) and a role-playing exercise which is timed and judged.

The Mass State DECA Competition took place from March 7, 2005 to March 9, 2005. Two teams from Somerset totaling four students not only scored above the national average in their team categories, but also finished in the semi-finals.

Colby Cabral and Eric Fenstermaker, in E-commerce Marketing/Management, and Matthew Benevides and Joshua Rogers, in Sports and Entertainment Marketing/Management.

They weren't the only ones from Somerset to achieve recognition. Jeffery Smith, in Food Services Marketing/Management, not only scored above the national average in an individual series category, and not only finished in the finals, but placed third as a finalist, receiving a bronze medal as well as a plaque.

Congratulations go out to all who

participated. They all worked hard and did a very good job.

So what do you do when a customer wants a cash refund for an item and has a cash sales ticket from your shoe store, but you've never sold that item? The answer is C; you tell the customer that you cannot give a refund. Since you've never carried the item, the sales ticket must belong to some other purchase. Shoe stores do not accept the return of merchandise that they don't carry, nor do they make exchanges on items purchased elsewhere. Credit cannot be issued under the circumstances.

Student Council members pull an 'all-nighter'

By Erin Lewis '06

On February 11th and 12th, a few members our Student Council attended a conference at Marshfield High School, while most other people were fast asleep. The conference (with a Doctor Seuss theme to commemorate the author's 101st birthday that occurred on March 2nd) included twenty-six schools and more than eight hundred students who participated in leadership workshops and icebreaker activities to meet other students, but had to do it all under one condition: the activities were to take place between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., and they must stay awake.

As these students arrived and settled into Marshfield's gymnasium, they were presented with a song and dance performance by the students of Marshfield's own Student Government emphasizing the importance of a leader (using the example of Sam from a Dr. Seuss favorite Green Eggs and Ham and the conference's motto ("One Leader, Two Leaders, Strong Leaders, True Leaders"). Following the routine, Marshfield's student body president Matt DaPrato relayed some words of guidance with a Dr. Seuss spin. "[Our student councils] are like green eggs and ham. They are filled with diversity and maybe some other things that we don't like, but we have to learn, understand and respect all parts of the green eggs and ham," he says about what should be done within our own councils to be able to work effectively and put our leadership skills to good use.

Other leaders present from the Southern Massachusetts Association of Student Councils were Cal Legge of Middleboro High School (President)

and Jared Wortzman of Stoughton High School (Vice President).

After the opening ceremonies, students were ushered off to their designated workshop areas in different rooms throughout the high school's halls. The workshops, led by current and past members of all student councils involved, were all designed to strengthen students' leadership skills and provide ideas to bring back to their own schools'. Their topics ranged from "Planning Major Events" to "Sit Back, Relax and LEAD" and even "Team Building." Somerset's Junior Class Treasurer Hannah Manuela and Junior Class Representative Sarah Coolidge were also asked to run a workshop. "The workshop is called "Your True Colors," states Manuela about her leadership session. "The point of the workshop is for every color Skittle you pick, you have to say something about yourself. For example, if red is chosen, you have to say something you love or are passionate about."

After breaks for ice cream and volleyball, students were sent to another set of assigned rooms to put together a skit tying together both themes of the conferences - leaders and Doctor Seuss. Some books used for themes were *Great Day for Up*, *I Can Read with My Eyes Shut*, and *The Cat in the Hat*. The skits were the last bit of fun tying everything to a close at 5:00 a.m.

The early morning was filled with learning experiences as well as new friends. SEMASC President Legge adjourned the meeting at precisely 5:56 a.m. the next morning and many students clapped for its success and the knowledge they were bringing back home.



Prom Fashion Show '05



Strutting their stuff on stage are, top, Jay Lachance and Srah Couto.

Brandon Schofield, above, shows off his classy tuxedo.



Left, Greta Gaspar and Rem Turner pose for a picture backstage as they prepare to go out on stage.

Annual competition attracts young scientists

Sandra Stebenne '06

On March 4, 2005, Somerset High School's 7th annual Science Fair, sponsored by Dominion Energy, Brayton Point, took place. One hundred and twenty students participated this year, either alone or with a partner.

Elizabeth Correiro, a judge from UMass Dartmouth, has been judging Science Fairs for six years, though it was her first time at Somerset High School. She thought that it was organized well—she hadn't had any trouble finding the students she was supposed to judge. The students, she said, were very interactive and very proud of their projects; she didn't find anyone being nervous. Paula Grillo, a judge from Duxee High School, was also very impressed, and noted that Somerset's Science Fair seems to have grown larger than it has been in past years.

"It's a win-win situation," remarked Mrs. Ferrazzi, a science teacher here at SHS. For the most part it's fun, she says, and it provides students with a good

social atmosphere.

The students seem to agree with her. Katie Monahan, grade 11, and Hillary Ruggeri, grade 10, worked together on their project "Power Plants" and received Honorable Mention. Despite an overwhelming amount of technical problems—their computer, printer ink, and camera did not work at all for awhile—the pair would love to do it all again next year. "It was fun, and everyone should do it," Hillary said. They both agree that, though doing a project for the Science Fair takes a lot of time and effort, it's worth it.

Shaina Petit and Kristen Soares, a pair of sophomores who tied for third place, also thought that it was time-consuming but fun—the experiment took place over a four week period; the poster board took a week and a half. "I'm kind of sick of plants, though," Kristen added. Their project, "Plant Prosperity", determined that plants could be grown indoors during the winter because they didn't need sunlight—halogen and fluorescent light worked just fine.

Alex Mosher, a 10th grader whose project "The Effects of Exposure to Electronic Gaming Devices on Motor Skills" did not win an award, but still says that he had fun. He does not, however, wish to do the fair again next year. "It's really long. I probably couldn't think of another topic anyway," he replies when asked why not. His project took about a week and a half over vacation.

The large number of students participating this year naturally meant that there would be a large number of winners. How are winners selected? Each project gets judged by three different judges, each of whom has a rubric. The criteria that projects are judged on include their use of the scientific method, how it connects to the "real world", and creativity.

There were a total of eight teams that placed: two first place winners: Katie Billington and Janelle Parent with "Sun Block or Not" and Spencer Feuerstein and Mike DeMoranville with "Windmills"; three second place winners: Max Silva and Andrew Tremblay with

"Neural Notes", Fallon Bergeron and Kayla Frances with "The Darker Side of Tanning, and Eric Thibault and Anthony Medeiros with "Gold"; three third place winners: Ashley Nelson and Sokhtra Srey with "Effects of Soil pH on Plant Growth", Shaina Petit and Kristen Soares with "Plant Prosperity", and PJ Stanley and Tyler Roberge with "My Favorite Pickup Line".

When it came to individual winners, there were only four who placed. First place went to Kate Shively for her project "Rhythm of the Mind". Nick Kineavy won second place with his project "The Science of Hitting". There was a tie for third place: Katie Bruce won with "Sick Piercings", and Austin Bertrand won with "The Weakest Links".

A complete list of winners, including those who won Honorable Mentions, can be found at www.scienceclub.homestead.com. A special thanks goes out to the Science Club members for helping to organize and operate the Science Fair. Their help was, and always is, invaluable.



Approximately one hundred twenty students participated in this year's Science Fair. From left to right are: Eric Thibault and Anthony Medeiros, Katelyn Shively, Nick Kineavy, Katie Billington and Janelle Parent

Underclassmen pictures included in yearbook

Jessica Silva '05

Many people have wondered why there are going to be underclassmen pictures in the yearbook. Some seniors feel as though the underclassmen will take away from their yearbook. Mrs. Gosson, the yearbook advisor, says that there are several reasons for adding the pictures.

A big issue concerning the yearbook every year is the cost. As yearbook prices rise each year, fewer underclassmen are purchasing the books.

The main reason why underclassmen photos will be included this year is to attract new buyers. Mrs. Gosson feels that if students know that their pictures are in the yearbook, then they will be more apt to purchase a book.

Adding underclassmen pictures also creates an increase in faculty sales. Mrs. Gosson believes that the teachers are buying the yearbooks because more of their students are featured within the pages.

To the seniors: don't fret, the book will still contain predominately senior related material. In fact, the 2005 yearbook has more senior geared

material than previous years.

On every sports page in the yearbook, all senior participants can find their pictures and a quote. Because of the eventful year that Somerset High School experienced, some new events will also be included in the yearbook. Some of these events include, "ELLEgirl's Fashion for a Cause" and "Mr and Ms. SHS."



Editor's Thoughts

Jessica A. Roberge
Editor '05

As the editor of the *Brave*, I am privileged to write about anything I feel is important in the schools. I often find myself brainstorming about what will interest readers not only in our school community, but in the communities of surrounding towns as well. In light of

a recent tragedy that took place in Red Lake, Minnesota, I feel there is a need to talk about safety in our schools.

Some people may not have heard about the recent school shooting in Red Lake, Minnesota that occurred on Monday, March 21st. It was on this day that sixteen-year old Jeff Weise of the Red Lake Indian Reservation killed his grandfather, his grandfather's long-time companion, a school guard, a teacher, five students and then himself.

The shooting is the second-deadliest school shooting in U.S. history, yet many people may not be aware of the unfortunate incident. President George W. Bush has been criticized greatly by Native Americans for his silence with the event.

According to the *Washington Post*, Clyde Bellecourt, a Chippewa Indian who is the founder and national director of the American Indian Movement stated, "When people's children are murdered and others are in the hospital hanging on to life, [President Bush] should be the first one to offer his condolences. . . . If this was a white community, I don't think he'd have any problem doing that."

Regardless of whether or not the U.S. President is concerned about the incident, schools nationwide should be

concerned. First, we must look at the situation in Red Lake, Minnesota. The *Washington Post* stated that Weise himself "described the reservation in Internet postings as a place where people 'choose alcohol over friendship,' where women neglect 'their own flesh and blood' for relationships with men, where he could not escape 'the grave I'm continually digging for myself.'"

Apparently, Weise was not necessarily exaggerating the situation of the area. In fact, the *Washington Post* showed statistics that explained: "Indian youths commit suicide at twice the rate of other young people, according to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The overall death rate of Indians younger than 25 is three times that of the total population in that age group."

So what does this all mean? Should the government show more concern on the safety of schools in areas occupied by Indians? Is race the only factor to look at when considering such a deadly incident?

The truth of the matter is that all communities need to have a primary focus on safety in schools. School is a place where students and staff should feel safe, not threatened.

Though social and family conditions

may have pushed Weise to such extremes, school shootings can happen anywhere, which is evident from the Columbine shooting six years ago.

It is important that students in the Somerset Public School system feel safe. The Student Support Center is a great resource at the high school where students can go for help and guidance. Crisis Counselor and Coordinator of Peer Mediation Mrs. Amy Edwards states, "It is shocking and devastating to hear about this sort of thing. It brings home a reality that it could happen anywhere. We must take precautions for the students' and staff's well being."

A few days after the incident, an announcement was made over the loudspeaker stating that students concerned or scared could visit the Student Support Center.

Edwards added, "Anyone can ask for help from either myself or Mrs. Nassiff, [head of the Student Support Center], and we will be here to help any students affected."

It is important that all students are aware of the reality of school shootings, even though the thought may be frightening. Understanding these types of tragic events will help schools create a safer environment for their students.

Diary of a Senior: Counting down the days

When I was an underclassman, all I could ever think about was how sad it was that my friends were graduating. Every single year I lost a lot of friends to college and I always thought that I would be stuck without any friends my senior year. If any of the underclassmen feel this way now, don't worry. All you underclassmen haven't even met most of the people in your class yet. By the time your senior year rolls around, I guarantee that you will have so many new friends that you won't even remember the ones you've lost.

All you seniors that are scared to meet new people in college, don't worry, those new people are scared to meet you as well. Only a few people from each school attend similar colleges, so you will probably come across people who came to college with their friends from high school. Likewise, someone from Somerset might be going to the same school, so it's possible that you will already know someone. I guess all I am trying to say is, don't be afraid to

make new friends.
Well, all the colleges that I have



applied to have responded. I was applied to my first choice school, and I wicked want to go there in the fall. Unfortunately, as is the case with most seniors, where I go depends on who gives me the most money.

I must say, it is probably not the smartest thing in the world to completely avoid scholarships. I know that I have to fill them out quickly as most of the deadlines are coming up, but I just don't want to fill out the information. Besides, I am only eligible for a few that are in the guidance office. I know that money would help, but I am stupidly hoping that someone will just be like "Here's a bunch of money, have fun in college!"

With only two and a half months left of school, I find myself wishing it was over. The rest of the year has gone by fast, but these last few days seem to be dragging on forever. Every once in a while I'll be sitting in class thinking that lunch is coming up, when suddenly I realize it is only second block. It is days like that when I wish it was June.

**Questions?
Comments?
Concerns?**

**Feel free to send
a Letter to the
Editor and let
your voice be
heard**

*Submit letters
to either Mrs.
Hoyle or Jessica
Roberge*

Show Choir competes in New Jersey's Roxbury Invitational

Jessica Silva '05

On the weekend of March 12, 2005, the Somerset Show Choir "Electrify" traveled to Roxbury High School in New Jersey to attend the Roxbury Invitational Choral Festival. The festival is held once a year and only six groups from three different categories are invited. In order to be invited as a show choir, the group must receive a gold rating in a previous competition.

Upon arrival at the Roxbury High School, several members of Electrify were surprised that groups from New Jersey had heard about the Somerset show choir. Jennifer Murphy, a member of the show choir pit band, commented on how "it was pretty cool when some of the other schools came up and said how they heard about us. I mean, these were schools from a different state and they thought that we were the coolest." The performance time for the show choir was at 4:20 pm, five hours after arrival.

The choral festival was set up in two stages: all day the groups performed their show, and then the top groups in each category performed again during an evening showcase. While the other schools competed, auditions for soloists



Electrify's excellent band also walked away winners at Roxbury, capturing the award for best pit band

were being held in another part of the school. Each school was eligible to enter two soloists in the competition, with only four soloists total singing in the evening showcase. Ratings were given to all the groups, and awards were presented to those involved in the evening showcase.

As the show choir took the stage, the anticipation could be seen on the faces of all. After each number, the crowd cheered on for the show choir to

continue. By the end of the performance, the energy was so high that it could be felt in the back of the auditorium. The crowd gave Electrify a well deserved standing ovation and the show choir exited the stage.

Then, the show choir eagerly sat in the auditorium seats to hear who would be performing in the evening showcase. "The show choir performing tonight at 7:15 is... Somerset Electrify!" the announcer said. Later, the announcer said the soloists that were selected to sing, Jillian Soares, a sophomore, won the honor of singing a selection from *Wicked* as a soloist in the evening showcase.

If it were at all possible, when Electrify took the stage for the second time, there was more energy than ever before. Again, the crowd gave a standing ovation. Senior Brian Simons commented after that "it's such an honor to be able to perform for people from all over the east coast... it's simply amazing." However, Somerset was not finished showing their talent just yet,

Jill Soares got up and sang "The Wizard and I." Anyone who was at the festival would agree that Miss Soares is going to be famous one day.

After the Roxbury Concert Choir gave an outstanding performance, it was time to present the awards. First, each school was given a rating. Then, the outstanding achievement awards were presented. Nick Rocha won an outstanding vocalist award for his solo in the opening number, *Façade*. Next, the "Grand Champion Soloist" award for the show category was given to Jill Soares. With only a few awards left to be presented, the show choir already won the most prestigious vocalist awards. After, the award for the "Best Band" trophy was given to the pit band of Electrify. The show choir was happy when they won best soloist and pit band, but they were even more excited when they won the "Grand Champion Show Choir" award. Another job well done by the Somerset Show Choir! Good luck with finals on April 2, 2005!



Nick Rocha did an outstanding job performing as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Jekyll and Hyde

continued from page one...



Vanessa Martins serenades Nick Rocha in their performance of *Jekyll and Hyde*

Simon Stride, Brian Moniz as the Bishop of Basingstroke, and Christine Silva as Lady Beaconsfield. Also, Randy Medina as Lord Savage, Eric Thibault as General Lord Glossop, and Armand Cabral as Archibald Proops. Toni-Ann Laberge played Nellie and served as the dance captain, Paul Clifford played Poole, Dr. Jekyll's butler, and Matt Sheehan played Spider, the proprietor of the Red Rat.

Ensemble members included Kristina DaSilva, Kirby Harrington, Anne-Marie Mendonca, Kristen Tommer, Elyse Barbosa, Liz Gardner, John Jamison, Anthony Medeiros, Sokhtra Srey, Stacy Entel, Karla Howell, Jay Kohler, Ben Medeiros, and Mandy-Sue Feixoto.

Some of the most exhilarating moments included Nick Rocha's performance of "I Need to Know," "Alive," and "The Confrontation," and Jillian Soares' performance of "Someone Like You" and "A New Life." Additionally, Vanessa Martins performed two outstanding duets, one with Rocha, "Take Me as I Am," and one with Soares, "In His Eyes." The show included amazing song after amazing song and also included "Facade" and "Murder, Murder" which included the entire ensemble.

And where would a musical be without a quality pit orchestra? The orchestra was conducted by Mr. Robert Soares, and included students Jeffrey Araujo, Jennifer Murphy, Jessica Silva, Gregory Mosher, Timothy Ferreira, Andrew Tremblay, Michael Ostroski, Michael DeMoranville, Nicole Flores, Liz Friar, Timothy Faria, Emma Sevigny, Evan Perry, Jennifer Patten, and Jason Pelletier.

The tech crew was managed by AP Productions, and included many alumni, as well as current SHS students.

The hard work of all those involved resulted in a great show. In his greeting to the audience, Mr. Pineault may have put it best, "*Jekyll and Hyde* is not only a visual pleasure, but a musical enlightenment." He also mentioned the appreciated support of all the members of the community, both those who helped in the production of the show and those who were able to attend.

The audiences were astonished by the amazing performance, and an overwhelming ovation was given at the end of all three shows.

The incredible performance has many already looking forward to next year's show.

Praise from the community

The following letter to the editor was printed in the Spectator on Wednesday, March 30:

To the Editor:

Recently I attended Somerset High School's presentation of *Jekyll and Hyde*. I had bought a ticket to the play to support the drama group in general and a participating family member in particular. *Jekyll and Hyde* seemed like a very challenging undertaking for a high school group, and I was expecting that the audience might have to make some allowances for that. I couldn't have been more wrong.

This cast was absolutely amazing. The vocal performances were strong and solid, moving me and many other audience members to tears several times. The maturity, sensitivity, skill and professionalism with which these actors played their roles had audience members looking at each other in disbelief.

After previously having seen a professional production of *Jekyll and*

Hyde, I can say without reservations that this was every bit as good. Emotionally, however, it was so much better because these were high school students with much less stage experience and much less life experience than it seems would be necessary to have made these performances as powerful as they were.

I wish that everyone in the area had seen this production. After five minutes of this production you might never again have wondered whether or not the arts are a vital part of our children's education. You might never again have contemplated eliminating the arts in order to trim the education budget.

I offer the orchestra, production staff, cast members, director and all others who helped make this production possible my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for having presented this wonderful gift to the community. I cannot praise them enough!

Marian LeComte
Somerset



Jill Soares (Lucy, right) and Nick Rocha (Hyde, left) perform "A Dangerous Game"

Dodgeball raises funds for school intramural program

By Jan Taylor '06

On March 10, 2005, Somerset High School had a different kind of athletic event take place. The school held a dodgeball tournament in our very own gym! Physical education teachers Mrs. Ann Mollicone and Ms. Renee Raymond were the coordinators of the event. Junior Ellen Skarpos was the master of ceremonies.

Mrs. Mollicone and Ms. Raymond say that the dodgeball tournament went "extremely well" for a first year event. About 700 people attended, which was enough to fill the entire gym. They raised about \$2,600 altogether, which was a lot more than either of them expected it to be. The money will go towards providing intramural sports activities at the school.

Mollicone and Raymond were very happy with the number of students and teachers that participated in the dodgeball tournament.

There were eighteen student teams

in addition to two teacher teams.

Each team had ten members and all of the teams were required to have both males and females. Mollicone and Raymond feel that the high number of participants in the tournament brought a lot of students together who usually do not interact with each other.

The dodgeball teams were all very creative with their team names and uniforms. Team names ranged from "The Green Alligators" to "The Lumberjacks" to "The Blue Armadillos" to "The Double D's" (the D stood for Diva). All of the teams made their own uniforms. Some of the teams spent more time making their uniforms than others did, but they all turned out to be very creative! Each game could last up to seven minutes in order to eliminate each other, but most of the games had a winner after three or four minutes. After some exciting student games and a great game between the two teacher teams, the "Green Alligators" ended up winning the championship.



The Green Alligators hoist their "Golden Dodgeball Trophy"

Mrs. Mollicone said that they decided to have the dodgeball tournament because some of her students ask her to play it a lot in gym class. She states, "Dodgeball is a popular sport in gym class, but because of the nature of the sport, sometimes we cannot play it. We are afraid of too many kids getting hurt." Ms. Raymond included, "we were also trying to raise money to provide more activities for students after

school." They also felt that an event like a dodgeball tournament would help to promote school spirit at the school.

Since the dodgeball tournament was so successful, it will now be an annual event held at the school. Each team who wins the tournament will have their names on a trophy that will be on display in the main office, and eventually, the dodgeball trophy will end up being on display in the hall of fame area.

Pierce proves his worth to the track team and the community

Megan Oliveira '08

Have you ever wanted to be the best at an activity you tried? Mike Pierce has definitely been significantly successful his senior year. Just take a good look at Mike and I promise a glimpse of a winner will shine through. He is an excellent leader, which proves why Mike was the captain of winter track. He also is extremely well-built, but don't think for one minute that Mike didn't work for them. He weight trains for the level of competition he is at. Even with all the physical work, Mike would be nothing without his strict diets, which doesn't include a single chip or French fries.

Mike has participated in track for all of his four years. Mike had set the records in hurdles. He broke and then

later re-broke the record. Freshman and sophomore year, Pierce was mediocre. With great dedication, hard work, and experience Mike continued to improve. By junior and senior year his hard worked kicked in.

Mike made All-States in not one, but two events. This is a rare thing to see. The two events were high jump and hurdles. Mike says if anyone were to push hard they would never find it hard to compete against the best. He said, "I must be set mentally, so that's my only challenge. I don't do different when it comes to facing anyone else." He does the best he can do and that is good enough for him. Mike never really pays attention to his opponents.

Mike said, "I believe I worked so hard and trained extra hard since it was

my senior year. This was also because I was captain. I really wanted to get far this year because it was my last year." Mike has a lot of willpower. He is consistently pushing himself, striving to beat himself. Mike is very gifted when it comes to track.

No one can possibly be the finest without experience. Time and dedication has gotten Mike where he is today. Mike had an excellent time at All-States and he found it very cool. He even got a free t-shirt, with his name printed on it! To Mike, All-States was no pressure at all. It did take much longer than he had originally expected, though.

Mike had a lot of appreciation toward his three coaches. They all focused on him when he made it to All-States. "It was such an honor to have made it to

all-states," Mike said. He doesn't give himself enough credit, he never thought he would have made it to All-States in hurdles. In high jump Mike thought he might have a chance but didn't rely on it. Mike did so well because of all the hard work he put in.

"No, I was not nervous because I was in the same exact position as the other kids." He accomplished an immense goal and thought he pushed himself to the max in hurdles. However, he did think he could have done better in high jump. He was incredibly thankful that the coaches helped him so much. His sister also showed him how to jump a little better, which was helpful.

Mike's experience in track has caused

See Pierce, page 12

Winter Sports Banquet: Students recognized for their success

Erin Lewis '06

Regardless of the bitter cold on the morning of March 13th, many students and their guests piled into the cafeteria in order to commemorate and recognize great achievements by all of the athletes who participated in this winter sports season.

The awards began with the Eastern Athletic Conference All Star Award, presented to a great number of Somerset's student athletes. This award is received by an athlete after he or she is nominated by the coach of their athletic team as well as other team coaches in the league involved with the same sport. The decision is also based on statistical information, overall skill, and sportsmanship. For ice hockey, Jon Galego and Ronnie Parva took home this award. Also, Kayla Prendergast and Sarah Jane Bibeau received EAC plaques in the area of gymnastics. Other winners were Allie Harr in girls' basketball, Jason Greene in boys' basketball, Shaina Petit in girls' winter track, and Mike Pierce in boys' winter track. John Michno, Pat McCrohan,

Matthew Dube, and Apollon Skarpos took home the EAC All Star awards for the wrestling team.

Athletic Director Whitney Horton, the presenter of awards for the ceremony, made it very clear that his motive as the Athletic Director has been to promote good sportsmanship. "Role modeling of parents is critical. Parents only have so much control over what happens with the student body," Mr. Horton said about how students should act while as an athlete or a spectator at Somerset High School.

Mr. Horton's view on the importance of sportsmanship was clearly depicted in his enthusiasm to present a few sportsmanship awards to a handful of deserving athletes. Two awards in this category were given by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association to William Fyfe of boys' basketball and Meghan Kelley for girls' basketball.

Besides the two MIAA awards that are given at each sport season's awards banquet, a couple more were available. The Old Colony League Sportsmanship Award was honored to Rob Travers of the wrestling team. (The wrestling



Athletic Director Mr. Whitney Horton speaks at winter sports banquet

team joined the Old Colony League this year, and all of our sports teams will be participating in the league by 2007. This was due to the deterioration of the Mayflower league the team was once a member of.) Jon Galego of the ice hockey team also received an award for exceptional sportsmanship.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Mr. Horton proceeded to thank this

year's seniors. "I have gotten to know some of you [very well] and I respect everything you have done," Mr. Horton says of the class of 2005's student athletes. Horton also mentioned his realization that his time here at Somerset is close to being over and hopes the future athletes of Somerset High School continue a winning tradition, with an evident core of sportsmanship.

Boys' basketball team walks off court with heads held high

Liz Correia '07

Another winter sports season has ended and certainly one of the most memorable teams was the boy's basketball team. Under first year varsity coach Kevin Dowd, the boys of Somerset were able to complete a winning season

and proudly wear their blue and white.

After a loss to John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science in the quarterfinals of the Division II South State Tournament, the boy's basketball team was able to walk off the court with their heads held high. They in fact ended with both a great 18-6 record and

an E.A.C. (Easter Athletic Conference) Title both under their belts.

This may be no big deal for a coach who has coached teams as high as college level, but to Mr. Dowd it is. Winning the E.A.C. meant more than just a title. Coach Dowd said that the title meant more knowing that all of the members truly played a role in achieving the title. He also adds "this year was especially rewarding because I had the pleasure of coaching a great group of kids, some of whom I coached since they began playing basketball in the recreational league in sixth grade."

However good it may sound, the record was not the team's only achievement. Mr. Dowd is also proud of the fact that most of the players participated in all of the games that they were eligible to play in. He said "it's quite an accomplishment to play 80% of the basketball team in any given game and win. High school sports are about the kids, and it makes sense to include all the kids." Mr. Dowd also appreciates the positive "feedback from those who truly understand what high school sports are all about."

Coach Dowd also feels that "sportsmanship, responsibility, and the concept of teamwork are just as important as dribbling, shooting, and passing," and feels that the team has achieved all of that and more.

This year the talent ran deep on the team, with each player contributing. Some of these players include: Jason Greene, a three year E.A.C. All-Star and David Cowen's nominee who led the team in rebounds and blocked shots; Mark Fairchild, a versatile guard, shooter and top notch defensive player; Bill Fyfe, who offered the team solid rebounding and leadership; Mike Dolan who will be remembered for his game saving steal in the tournament versus Wellseley, as well as other things; and Matt Pettine who displayed incredible defensive anticipation for steals.

Ten seniors will be graduating come May and Coach Dowd says he feels confident about the returning players and upcoming juniors. He also says that the team is fortunate to have the talent and experience of Bud Gaffney, an



Coach Dowd reviews the game plan before the team returns to the court

See Basketball, page 12

Basketball continued...

outstanding point guard, and Tim Daley and Matt Fanning, both returning forwards. John Kinney and Eric Fennstermaker will also be returning, assuming increased roles in the team, along side of some strong Junior Varsity players stepping up. Coach Dowd says "the dynamics will be different though very exciting."

Some advantages that this year's team possessed were the "high standards that were established early on and that stressed hard work and teamwork," says Mr. Dowd.

To prepare for the tournament Mr. Dowd conducted his usual solid practices with his motivational discussion.

Yet for the third straight year the boys faced O'Bryant and suffered their second loss to them in two years. Coach Dowd feels that although O'Bryant did have home court advantage, it is not an excuse. He believes his team played hard to the finish, left Boston as winners, and perhaps on another day the game may have turned out different.

So does that make it a new tournament

rivalry? Coach Dowd hopes so because that would mean that next year the boys will be back in the tournament.

He also adds that "team rivalries can be a good thing if they bring out the fans and inspire the players."

Coach Dowd also believes that Somerset fans are truly "Super Fans". He went on to say that "they are the sixth players whose support fueled some exciting wins," and that "it means so much to have the students, parents, faculty, and community members show up and cheer [the team] on." He believes that the team was definitely encouraged by the energy and confidence the crowd displayed.

In closing, it was a year filled with excitement for the players, the fans and for Coach Dowd himself. He says "It was an honor coaching this outstanding group of student athletes," and adds "I wish all the seniors the best life has to offer, as they head for new challenges. There is no doubt they will achieve their goals with the same integrity and tenacity that made them this year's champions."



Track star Mike Pierce competes at a recent winter track meet

Pierce continued...

him to become so magnificent. He honestly believes that without experience his track years wouldn't have been as terrific. Mike hopes to continue to excel in his events. He wants to do track in college, if the college he has contains a track team.

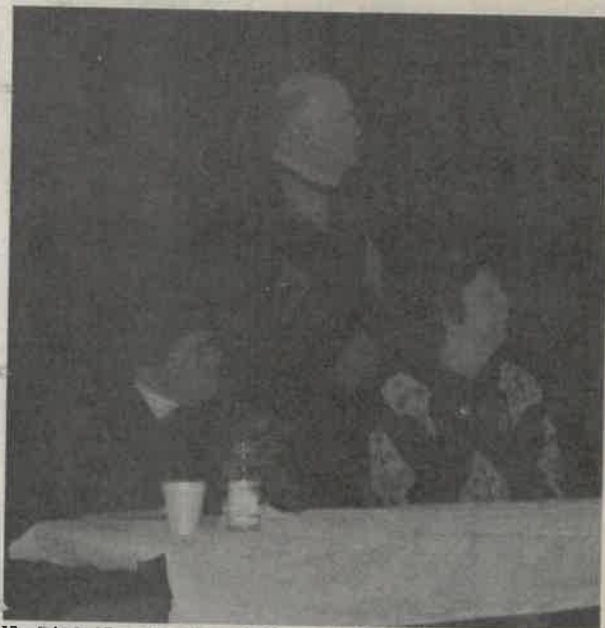
"I have pushed myself more than anyone else to become the best," stated Mike. Support from the team, coaches, and Mike's family has helped tremendously! They also made it fun while Mike was at the top, even though they didn't get him there.

Mike looks up to his cousin Keith who is twenty years old. Keith also did track but now is serving in the army. Just like Mike, Keith was an all-star in high school and has proved to be Mike's idol. He was an excellent athlete and always exceeded the limits.

Mike feels he helped his team achieve victory. He added to the success by contributing many points at meets. He wouldn't have been able to achieve such a huge goal without concentration. High jump is a mental event. When Mike warms up it is all mental and doesn't help him jump. It does set his mind in the mode and line for jumping.

During every meet, Mike wore his lucky socks. It is something that he likes to believe helps a little. Mike has such a great passion for the sport, especially since he is so remarkable at it! Track is something Mike looks forward to after school. It has been so entertaining and aided him through high school. The coaches are like family to Mike.

"Your only as good as you think you are," Mike said. That is his advice to any athlete trying to become triumphant.



Vice Principal Davis, Principal Pineault, and School Committee member Ann Correia look on at the recently held winter sports banquet at Somerset High School