



The Breeze



Monday, December 18, 2000

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Somerset, Massachusetts



Senior Students enjoy the Case Rally

(Photo by Greg Joynt)

Massachusetts Election Results

Clarion Mendes '01

Amidst the chaos of this year's election, many local results were ignored. Along with electing a president, here in Massachusetts, many of us were also voting for senators, representatives, and answering ballot questions. This year's ballot consisted of eight questions.

Voters passed question 1. It will add an amendment to the Massachusetts constitution that when a federal census is taken, the results, which influence the boundaries for state reps, senators, etc., will affect the state election 2 years after the census is taken, as opposed to the current 4.

Question 2, which restricts the voting rights of incarcerated felons, was passed as well. Until this election, Massachusetts was one of only

three states that allowed prisoners to vote.

Question 3 was one of the most discussed questions of the election. The question debated whether or not dog races, where betting occurs, should be legal. For many, answering this question was a bit of a moral debate. If one votes yes, the lives of thousands of dogs will be spared each year, if one votes no, hundreds of jobs would be lost. Most people saw jobs as the bigger priority.

Question 4, which was supported greatly by Governor Cellucci, passed as well. It called for an income tax cut for Massachusetts's citizens. For many, the tax cut was welcomed after a promise eleven years ago that taxes would be

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Bush Wins the Presidency

Phil Sable '01

It took over a month, but a decision has finally been reached in the 2000 Presidential Election. On the night of December 13, the Democratic candidate, Vice President Al Gore, officially announced to the American public that he was conceding the election to Governor George W. Bush, the Republican Candidate.

Radical predictions that this year's irregular elections would disrupt the United States government and cause chaos have proven to be unfulfilled. On Inauguration Day, January 20, barring some unfortunate tragedy, President Elect Bush will become the next President of the United States of America.

As has been widely reported, the Presidency is determined by the vote of the Electoral College. Each state has a predetermined number of votes through the Electoral College and expresses its vote through them. Because of the way in which the number of votes per state is determined, it is possible that a candidate can win the election while actually receiving fewer votes than the opponent. This scenario in fact happened during the election.

Al Gore received more votes than did George Bush, but Bush acquired over 270 electoral votes and secured the Presidency. The number 270 represents the majority of the

votes of the Electoral College; since no other candidates received any Electoral Votes, this number was needed to guarantee a victory. Yet, the procedures of the Electoral College were not the source of controversy for this election.

The result of the election in Florida was disputed since the day of the vote. Florida was one of the first states determined to be a Gore-win, based on voting precedent and surveys taken in exit polls. However, later reports began to show that Florida was too close to call; it was taken from Gore and labeled as undecided. Still, during Election night, Florida was determined to be a win for Bush. With this determination, Al Gore called his opponent and privately admitted his concession. This issue was not dead. For the second time, Florida became too close to call. Gore made a second call to Bush, this time rescinding his concession. The results showed that Bush was in fact winning Florida, but his lead was so small that it necessitated a recount.

As it would happen, each candidate found himself needing a victory in Florida to win the Presidency. Democrats sought a recount because they hoped it might push tally of votes in favor of Al Gore, while

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Fact of the Month

In Atlanta Georgia it is prohibited by law to tie a giraffe to a street-lamp or light-pole



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

2000 MCAS Results

K.C. Dowd '04

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, MCAS, results were released November 21, 2000, by Commissioner of Education David P. Driscoll. Driscoll stated, "Overall, since 1998, we have seen improvement in the statewide results."

Beginning with the Class of 2003, a score of at least 220 on both the Math and English Language Arts will be required in order to graduate from high school. At this time, five attempts will be allowed to achieve the required scores.

MCAS scores range in four performance levels: Advanced (260-280), Proficient (240-

259), Needs Improvement (220-239), and Failing (200-219).

In the area of English Language Arts, the Somerset sophomores of last year, scored above the state wide districts 229, averaging 234 points. In Mathematics the state (average) score was 228, with Somerset at 232. Science & Technology placed Somerset again slightly above state average of 226, with Somerset averaging 231.

The Somerset School District has noted gains, and is well within or above the state averages. The extremely exciting news is that a significant amount of our students, at all

levels tested (grades 4, 8 & 10), have shown improvement. In fact the Somerset Public School district was placed second in most improved performance in the state. This is a great tribute to the efforts of our teachers and students.

It appears, however, the Curriculum Frameworks are ever-changing, and still being revised. Since this is the basis for the MCAS content, it seems a solid curriculum with adequate instructional materials, should be in place for a significant period of time, before the students (and teachers) are

(Turn to MCAS, p. 10)

The Most Wonderful Time

Laura Farias '03

The holidays are here. The Case Rally and Thanksgiving have passed and we are already into another "Christmas/Chanukah/Yule/whatever December celebration your respective religion is having" season. Now, let us play a little mind game, shall we? When I say (insert your personal holiday for December), what is the first thought that jumps into your head? Presents? A spiritual event? Snow? Vacation? Mine is close to the first, but not exactly.

When I hear about the upcoming holidays the first thing I think about is a present shopping battle strategy. Right now my gift shopping list is at around 20-25 people and I have already got half of them picked out, and a quarter actually bought. I live to buy people stuff. To me it's like a test to see how well I know them by getting something that matches their personality, needs, or wants.

But I am also a head case so maybe your holidays are a bit less mental. I certainly hope so for your sake. Back to the head games.

Now take a good, hard look at your truthful answer and ask yourself if it is politically correct (what your parents and kindergarten teacher want you to say), is it? If it really, truly is... wow. If it's politically cor-

rect and you actually attend Somerset High School as a student that makes double wow. You must wear soundproof earmuffs when you walk down the halls; or else you would have been corrupted by now.

Now, if you are saying that your answer is politically correct, but the first thought that entered your mine really was something like "Kissing under Mistletoe" or "Playstation 2", then keep reading. Feel free to tell mom and Mrs. Apple from pre-primary that you thought of feeding the hungry at a soup kitchen, but for the rest of us hedonists we have to ask ourselves what is it we are celebrating in this cold, snowy season? Are we celebrating some kind of spiritual event that makes us think about God and our place on the Earth or just celebrating ourselves and being stupid, greedy, ignorant humans in a capitalist country?

Now ask yourself if you're comfortable with the answer? Then, if you are happy about it? Either way just think about it and maybe you might realize something about yourself. Or you will just think this is a column that is really an attack on the students' morality covered up with a theme. Either way this is your favorite politically incorrect head case wishing you a safe and happy holiday.

Real Deal about Electoral College

Tiffany LaRose '04

The electoral college has been in existence since the United States Constitution was adopted, but not everyone knows exactly what its purpose is in our government system. It's important that high school students know about the electoral college, not only because they will have the option of voting in the next presidential election, but also because it plays an important role in the 2000 presidential election between Al Gore and George W. Bush.

Who hasn't heard about this controversy?

The electoral college was originally established, and still is used, for the purpose of assisting in the election of the President and the Vice President. However, it is only used when the country's popular vote is too slim to determine a final outcome. Electors are nominated by political parties (Democratic and Republican) in each of the fifty states and

then elected by popular vote. Each party is allowed to select a slate, or number, of electors that is equal to that of the state's number of representatives and senators in Congress.

In the United States, when Americans vote for the President and Vice President, they are actually voting for the number of electors allotted to represent their state. Federal, or national, government offi-

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Mike Morgado, Adam Miranda, Mike Meyer, Josh Sousa, Ben Piela, and Jeff Steinberg perform during the Case Rally

(Photo by Greg Joynt)

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Commentary



The End of the Never Ending Election

Editorial
Mark Souza '01

"So who do you think the next President will be?" It is a question that everyone has been asking for nearly a month now, and finally it looks like we have an answer, and its name is Bush. The hotly contested race between Al Gore and George W. Bush provided more twists and turns than many daytime soap operas. The latest is that George Bush has won the election and is the President elect.

It seems in a day and age where litigation reigns supreme that even the presidency ended up being decided in the courts. Is this how we really wanted it though? The most important position in American government was decided in the courts? That hardly seems right, in a country where so much is possible, do we not have a voting

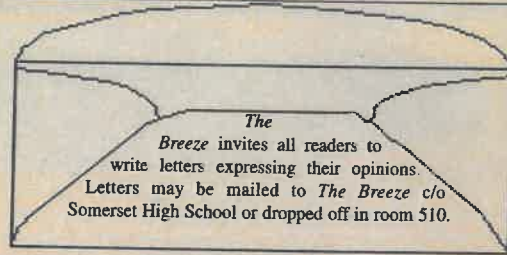
system that works without court intervention?

Well the sad truth is, no we do not. While we probably could have a standardized system where no votes would be lost because of dimples or hanging chads or any other strange problem that can be found, we do not. The way a state votes is left entirely for a state government to decide, and let's face it, this country will pick a cheap system over a perfect one any day. Luckily, we do have a system which, though not perfect, does work. Thanks to the Constitution everyone can be secure in the knowledge that all is, and will be, well. We will have a president, the country will survive.

And the best thing we can take away from this debacle

posing as a presidential election is that, in all likelihood, steps will be taken to ensure it will not happen again. No one enjoys controversy, and this country certainly will not allow another controversy like this in the near future. Whether this leads to each state having to use a federally mandated ballot, or whatever other revisions that can be thought of, the system will improve.

So to everyone concerned about the future of the country, here is some advice. Calm down. Find a nice chair, sit back, relax, and enjoy the show, because with a man like Bush in the office, the fireworks have just begun.



Addressing the Students

Kristen Kutz '01

As an active member of the school's student council, I am genuinely upset with the bad reputation, with which the council has been tagged. For years, I have listened to negative criticism about our lack of communication and events dealing with the student body.

To address the communication issue the Student Council has sent class representatives to visit each homeroom to inquire about what the students would like to see accomplished. In the past the student council has responded to the requests for activities dealing with the entire student body. However, when we have planned events, they have either been not supported or ridiculed by students.

In the hope of satisfying the requests of the student body, the council has attempted to include as many students as possible. All members must attend meetings or face dismissal. Members are also required to complete eight hours of community service.

All who wish to become members simply need to speak with the student council advisor, Mr. Alves, and must be willing to complete the membership requirements.

The Student Council attends field trips to improve the membership's leadership skills. The skills we learn and the information we gather help to solve issues that the students bring to our attention.

I realize that this interrupts a

student's learning process in school, but the students attend these field trips with the understanding that they are responsible for the work they miss. Keep in mind that these field trips are an extension of the learning process. Through conferences our council has been able to plan successful fundraisers, plan a school concert, decorate the cafeteria, and start a web site.

Last year the Student Council attempted to run a school concert. However, at the last minute the Student Council was forced to cancel the event, due to lack of interest. Spirit week has also been criticized for being trivial and silly. Is

(Turn to STUCO, p. 10)

Holiday Budget Wars

Mariah Bliss '03

I love the holidays, especially Christmas. I mean, think about it, the fun, the time off from school, the decorations, and the presents that are under your tree (real or fake - whichever you prefer). But, underneath the glittering bows and the shiny paper lies a gift that probably cost near the hundred dollar mark, or a rare edition of something that will probably be lost in a couple of weeks under the total chaos that is known as "under your bed." When it comes from my parents, I really do not mind, because at least they get a steady weekly salary (if I am

lucky, maybe I get five dollars for the mall every five months). But when it is me iwho has to buy a gift, and I have to buy a present for every single one of my friends, I start to break out into a cold sweat.

Fist, I budget my money. Or, if I am limited on the cash funds (meaning I have nothing whatsoever to spend), I beg my parents for a little extra cash. My dream would be that they hand me a stack of bills, but I must be realistic. Sigh. After I have a good idea of what I have to spend, I start searching the house for holiday cards to give to most of my friends. Then it

is off to the mall to find some store that will not wipe out my savings on just one present. Last year I learned this the hard way. I bought several presents for my good friends, but they ended up breaking by the second week. That was a bit embarrassing, having to see the look on their faces when they held out the Christmas gift I gave to them and it was just a tattered mess of whatever material it was made of.

My advice to you on this Christmas is, if you are in a situation like me, pray that what-

(Turn to MONEY X-MAS p.10)

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

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

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

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

ENTERTAINMENT



How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Connor Murray '03

Everyone knows Dr. Seuss' story about a Grinch stealing Christmas. They've either read the book or seen the 1966 television cartoon special. Now we can see a whole new live action movie, starring Jim Carrey, in the theaters.

The movie begins with an image of a snowflake, and a narrator saying that there is a magical place in every snowflake. The narration was done by Anthony Hopkins. The camera zoomed into the snowflake until a tiny imaginary town could be seen, Whoville.

It is the day before Christmas and the little Whos are all bustling in their last minute shopping. We are introduced to little Cindy Lou Who and her family who are amongst the last minute shoppers on Christmas Eve. It is also the day for the annual citizen of the year award.

Cindy Lou suggests that the Grinch be chosen for it. If the Whos were nice to him maybe he would be nice back. It is agreed and they invite the Grinch down from his mountain north of Whoville. The Grinch is grateful and it looks like he might stop being the grinch he is. But something goes wrong and he accidentally burns down the Whoville tree. He is jeered and forced to leave their town.

Angry, the Grinch returns to his mountain to sulk. Then he comes up with the awful idea of taking their Christmas away. He makes himself a Santa suit, builds himself a sleigh, and turns his dog, Max, into a reindeer by planting a wooden branch on his head. Together they steal everything in everyone's homes, including presents, Christmas trees, logs for their fire, and food.

After he is done stealing Christmas, he hoists the sleigh up with his mighty Grinch strength, ready to throw it over the cliff. But, he hears the Whos singing, happily. The Grinch realizes gifts do not matter but it is the spirit that the Whos enjoy. His heart grows three sizes, he puts down the gifts before they tumble over the edge and gives them back to the Whos. They realize he is not such a bad person and invite him back into their lives.

Jim Carrey played the role of the Grinch to produce a superb comical effect. His make up was impressive and the facial expressions that Carrey made were often hilarious. He was a loveable, misunderstood creature that you had to feel sorry for. His character appealed to young and old kids and is a great holiday film. Go, have a laugh or two or three, and enjoy the slapstick zaniness of Jim Carrey as the Grinch Who Stole Christmas.



Me, Myself, and I

Amanda Anctil '02

Recently, my psychology teacher, Mr. Brezinski, recommended me to read *Sybil* by Flora Rheta Schreiber. This story, about a young woman by the name of Sybil Isabel Dorsett and her sixteen personalities, is so out of the ordinary it is almost incomprehensible to the average person.

The story begins as Sybil steps out of an elevator in Philadelphia when she last remembers being in New York. She is scared and does not even remember leaving New York.

She finds keys to a nearby hotel that she is familiar with and realizes that there was a five-day difference between when she entered the building

with the elevator and when she left the elevator. Confused?? So was I!! After finding the hotel keys she finds the hotel, the correct room, and all of her belongings.

Weird? Extremely! Overwhelmed and thoroughly frightened, Sybil decides she must immediately talk to her psychiatrist, Dr. Cornelia B. Wilbur.

The story then jumps to Sybil's visit with the doctor a few years later after she was sent home from college for strange and unstable behavior.

At first, she was reluctant to talk. Because of her reluctance, the doctor suggests that she go to Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital to undergo psycho-

analysis. Her parents, being extremely religious, disliked the idea but discussed it over with their pastor, who saw nothing wrong with it.

Sybil continues with her sessions with the doctor. The more sessions she has with Dr. Wilbur the more comfortable she becomes with discussing her emotions. This is when the personalities erupt one after another, slowly at first and then more quickly.

There are "individuals" ranging from the young, angry southern girl, Peggy Lou, to the two aggressive males, Mike and Sid. Sybil's softer, easily frightened side shows through the stubborn and nervous Clara and the constantly scared Helen, among many others.

Her personalities range from a two-month-old baby girl named Ruthie to an elderly lady who is very religious named Mary. Each personality thinks they have their own physical appearance different from the appearance of Sybil. Most share their interest of art, which is also unique to Sybil.

To describe the scientific or proper aspect, multiple personalities is the "waking self of emotions, attitudes, modes of behavior, and acquisitions." This disorder was caused by trauma during Sybil's childhood.

After discovering the personalities, Dr. Wilbur committed herself to bind Sybil back together, literally. To accomplish this, the doctor tried to get Sybil to be as open as possible

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Oscar Nomination Process

Connor Murray '02

Well Christmas is coming and it is that time of year for the holiday rush of buying gifts. It is also that time of year when the Oscar nominations are released. Many people wonder how a movie is chosen for one of these nominations. This article is meant to answer those questions.

To receive an Oscar nomination, a film needs to be released theatrically within January 1st and December 31st the year of its release for at least 7 days, including a public showing at a theater in Los Angeles County. Films that were not released theatrically but were a direct to video release or a television movie are not eligible. For most categories, the film must

be feature length, meaning 40 minutes or more. The exception for this rule is the Best Short Film category. Every film has to be publicly advertised both before and during the film's release in a way considered normal and appropriate by the Motion Picture Industry. During its release, the film must be viewed publicly by means of either 35 millimeter film or 70 millimeter film, with paid admissions in a public theater. The end of a film must have end credits containing every bit of information about the movie including everyone who worked on it, where it was shot, and even the Los Angeles theater it was shown in.

BOOK

(Continued from p. 4)

and to confess her true feelings, especially about her mother and her past. They traveled back to Willow Corners, Sybil's childhood home, to try to get to the root of the problem and to help Dr. Wilbur understand her past.

The doctor was forced to learn the gruesome details about her mother's miscarriages, how Hattie Dorsett molested young girls right in front of Sybil's face, and about the mental abuse and lack of attention that Sybil was subjected to day in and day out as a child.

Through learning her past, Dr. Wilbur understood how the personalities came about and how Sybil lets them interfere with her interaction with people, especially two men who try to win her affection, Stan and Ramon.

Sybil's personalities liberate themselves and finally join almost immediately once the doctor "struck the right nerve" deep within Sybil, so to speak, but I won't ruin the ending for you.

The struggle and internal conflict within Sybil throughout the entire book keeps the story flowing and the reader wondering, "Will Sybil ever be whole again?" This touching story is well worth reading when the real Sybil emerges into the world after eleven years of therapy as a new woman with a new outlook and clean slate. She was then ready to start a fresh journey and was ready to put the past behind her.



Sony Entertainment has recently launched a new video game system called Playstaion 2. While it is expensive, about \$300, it will be worth every penny. Right now, however, the company is suffering from two major problems. One being that they can not make enough to fill the demand, and the other being a lack of good games. Maybe you remember when the original Playstation came out. In most ways it is very similar. While you may think it has less loading time, you would be

wrong. For most games, you have a one and a half minute waiting time, which gets annoying after awhile. However, the system ships standard with a DVD player which comes in pretty handy. While there are several games out, I believe that there are only four good ones worth playing. The first one is *SSX*, a high flying snow boarding game that has great graphics and a variety of tricks. The second game would be *Madden 2001*, while it is a basic sports

game, the graphics have improved dramatically and alternate options have increased. The next good game would be *Time Splitters*. This shoot'em up first person shooter is very similar to *Perfect Dark*, with four times the fun. The idea of the game is hard to follow because the game spans across 300 years. The game also has a variety of weapons, from dueling pistols to sci-fi autorifles. The final game would be *Tekken*

Tag Tournament. You have probably already played this in the arcade. It features better graphics than the Tekken series for the original Playstation. There are many more characters, and they took our characters like Gon and Dr. B.

The other 30 or so current games are not very good, but for the 4 games I did mention, I believe the Playstation is worth buying.

Top Ten Christmas Films

1. *It's A Wonderful Life*
2. *A Christmas Story*
3. *A Christmas Carol*
4. *Miracle on 34th Street*
5. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*
6. *Home Alone*
7. *The Santa Clause*
8. *Scrooged*
9. *The Grinch*
10. *Home For the Holidays*



Playstation 2 Review

Shane Reed '04

**Charlie's Angels
Movie Review**

Kate Taylor '01

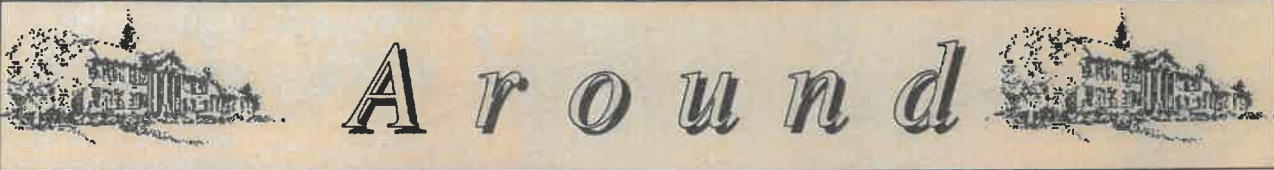
A couple of weeks ago I had the chance to go see *Charlie's Angels*, a movie recently released, which is kind of a remake of the show with the same name from the late 70's. I was never an avid watcher of the show, but that didn't change my opinion of the movie.

I thought the movie was great. The plot was cool and the outcome is not what you expect, which adds a little twist to the movie. What I liked most about it was the special effects. The fight scenes were amazing. I liked the fact that there were almost no weapons in the movie and it was almost all martial arts.

I also found that *Charlie's Angels* had a great soundtrack (Ranging from the original TV

show theme, to cool techno tracks during the fight scenes). The movie's leading roles featured many famous people. Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz, and Lucy Liu played the three angels. Bill Murray (SNL) played Bosley, the angel's assistant in their missions. Matt LeBlanc (Friends) was Lucy Liu's character's boyfriend. Tim Curry (Rocky Horror Picture show, Clue) was cast as a bad guy. Also there were a few cameos including Tom Green and LL Cool J.

This movie was better than I actually expected. Some parts were a little cheesy, but that added to the humor of it all. It's actually one of the best I've seen in a while.



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NEDT INFORMATION The national Educational Development Test will be administered on **Saturday, February 3, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Somerset High School.** This test is open to all students in grades 9 and 10. Registration closed on December 15.

COURSE REGISTRATION SCHEDULE FOR THE 2001-2002 SCHOOL YEAR The guidance counselors will be registering all students for the next academic year through workshops in English classes beginning in late January. To assist the students and parents, each student will receive, in mid January, a 2001-2002 Somerset High School Course Description Booklet and a course request form.

SOMERSET-CASE FINANCIAL NIGHT A financial aid workshop will be held at Case High School on Wednesday, January 3. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Case High School auditorium. Ms. Susan Bearf, Director of Student Aid at Wheaton College, will conduct the workshop. The financial aid process will be discussed in detail along with a line by line review of the two financial forms that are used in the financial aid filing process - FASFA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and the Financial Aid Profile. All students, parents, and guardians are encouraged to attend this informative workshop. Please bring the financial aid forms with you to the workshop.

If you have a concern, problem, or question, please contact your guidance counselor for assistance.

Reaccreditation Team Was Here

Jessica DeSisto '02

As everyone knows, a team from NEASC came to inspect our school to see if it is worthy of reaccreditation. A lot of time and effort was put in by teachers, students, and community supporters to make the NEASC team feel confident about coming to our school.

"We worked as a group for two years on various standards [Curriculum, Instruction, Mission and Expectations Statement for student learning, Assessment of Student Learning, Leadership and Organization, School Resources for Learning, and Community Resources for Learning]. It was a two year self-study where we focused on our strengths and weaknesses," said Vice-Principal Mr. Robert Pineault when I asked what kind of preparation the school did to prepare for the NEASC team

In meetings the NEASC team discussed students' work and assessment of student learning. "They were looking at the Mission Statement and assessment, curriculum, student achievement, and professional development," said Pineault.

The NEASC team met with the school board, which included the Superintendent of Berkley, Dr. James, and the Superintendent of Somerset, Dr. Cabral. The team also met with parents and interviewed various students.

On the Monday and Tuesday of their observation, they shadowed particular students. These students were, grade nine, Missy McDonald, Andrew Lima, Kayleigh O'Donnell and John Landry; grade ten, Julie Cross, Jared Marchand, Matt Kelly, and Krystal O'Connell; grade eleven, Jessica Roberts. Corey

Lopes, Diane Medeiros, and Ryan McDougall; and grade twelve, Amy Lepage, Molly Bergeron, Nathan Mayer, and Ryan Farias.

Members of the NEASC team also interviewed students during lunch. I had the pleasure of speaking with one woman during my lunch period. She asked me and my friends what we liked best about the school, who our favorite teacher was, and what we thought were some of the strengths and weaknesses of the school.

"At the final meeting they said very little about the reaccreditation of the school. They stated that the school worked hard and they were impressed with the self-study," said Pineault. Their final report on their observation of Somerset High School will be sent to the school in a few months.

Music Notes

To the students of the Somerset High School Music Department, the Christmas season means more than time out of school and receiving presents. During the month of December, music students participate in many different concerts. Here is an updated list: December 5

Caroling - Every year, anyone who would like to, is invited to go caroling. This year, students, teachers, and commu-

nity members met at the Old Town Hall where they took a bus to go to the Charlton Memorial Hospital. Carolers sang a few of their favorite Christmas Carols, bringing a little holiday cheer to the people who were in the hospital. December 7

Mall Concert - The Jazz Band performed at the Swansea Mall, next to the food court at 4:30 pm. They provided a little entertainment to the people eat-

ing and the people who took some time off from their shopping. December 10

Christmas Vespers - This was a big concert for the music students Orchestra, Chamber Players, Concert Choir, Treble Choir, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band performed. As a special treat, four students danced while the Symphonic Band performed the Nutcracker Ballet.

December 13

Independence Harbor - The Jazz Chorale will be holding a dinner concert at Independence Harbor. This is the fourth year in a row that the Chorale has done this.

December 22

In-School Concert - This concert is held during the school day on the last day of school before Christmas break. The Concert Band and Symphonic Band will be per-

forming together, along with Concert Choir, Treble Choir, Jazz Chorale, and Jazz Band.

Chace Street School - The Jazz Chorale will perform a collection of Christmas songs for the students of Chace Street School after school on this day.



School



SCIENCE FAIR PARTICIPATION

Open to students grades 9-12. Science Fair projects provide an opportunity for self-motivated students to pursue their interest in science and communicate their knowledge to others. A project involves the preparation of a visual display for the fair held during the month of February, in addition to a research report/experiment, which the student works on independently under the guidance of a mentor or the science fair coordinator. Participation on the high school level may provide the opportunity to compete at the regional, state, and international levels. See Mrs. Rezendes for details.

What is it?

Students who have worked on a project share their knowledge and ideas with others.

Who?

Any student, grades 9-12, who is interested in science, math, computers, electronics, health, etc.

When?

February 2001

Why?

1) A science fair is a chance for you to decide what you would like to learn about and exactly how you would like to learn it. It is an independent project and can be challenging and exciting!

2) Colleges, future employers, and armed services look favorably upon a student who has chosen to participate in a science fair, because it shows great initiative, independence, and creativity. . .

3) PRIZES! Local, regional, state, national. Cash, bonds, scholarship, and tuition.



Seniors Mike Bryant, Jen Ledo, and Chris Mello perform during the senior skit in the Case Rally (Photo by Greg Joynt)

Regional Student Summit

Nicole DeCambrá '01

On November 13, the Student Council Executive Board held a Regional Student Summit at UMass Dartmouth. The schools that attended were Tiverton High School, Durfee High School, New Bedford High School, Joseph Case High School, Bishop Stang High School, Attleboro High School, and Dartmouth High School.

The idea for a regional summit to be held came from senior Nina Hewitt, after she participated in a summit held here last spring.

"There was already a wide selection of students from the different levels, but they were still all from this high school. I thought that it would be better if we included different students from different high schools."

Students in attendance from Somerset were Amy Lynn

LePage, Nina Hewitt, Nick Zammit, Jillian Santos, Andy Lavoie and Brad Hart. Student Council members that attended were Jennifer Ledo, Ryan Murphy, Katelyn Hart, Jennifer Bailey, Jeff Steinberg, Allie Teixeira, Erin Barrar, Steph Dugas, and Keith Brouillard. They were joined by the Student Council Executive Board, which is made up of Dave Vital, Ryan Farias, Mike Bryant, Nils Pilotte, Kristen Kutz, Kyla Marchand, Katelan Camara, Jon Driscoll, and Sue Berube.

At the summit students discussed common issues within their school systems. They focused on three main topics throughout the day. The first was the idea that if gym is required for four years, then why are not some of the major subjects such as math or histo-

ry? And why are not students required to take an art or music course?

Students also spoke about the idea of hall passes. One student commented that hall passes were not needed. If a student was skipping a class, he or she would already get in trouble for missing a class by the class's teacher. Therefore, there was really no need for him to be in trouble for not having a pass. Students from the different high schools had much to say about this subject, as it led to a discussion about how students are treated and the level of maturity and responsibility to which they are held.

Another topic that was talked about that day dealt with various bathroom policies at the different high schools. Most

(Turn to SUMMIT p. 11)



Sports

Field Hockey's Best Season in School History

Eric Correia '02

This year our field hockey team made it all the way to the State Field Hockey Semifinals held at Bentley University against Acton-Boxboro High School. Their long, exciting, and victorious season ended after a hard fought loss to Acton-Boxboro in the semifinals, with a final score of 3 to 1. Acton-Boxboro then went on to win the Division 1 State Championship against Notre Dame High School. The semi-final game against Acton-Boxboro was the only loss in the field hockey team's highly successful season, which ended with an astounding record of 20-1-2.

The Raiders were led by head coach Jen Dopart and co-captains Kristen Kutz and Kyla

Marchand. Many leaders and players on this season's team contributed to its great success. The field hockey team won the Eastern Athletic Conference, and went undefeated with a record of 17-0-2 during the regular season. "We all worked well together and all really wanted it," said Captain Kristen Kutz. "There is no reason to make up excuses, we accomplished a lot and should be proud of it."

Junior player Meaghan Driscoll stated, "It all came with unity, we had a sense of fulfillment when it ended and we achieved our number one goal." This goal was to defeat the top seeded, highly confident Walpole High School team, who was on a 67 game winning streak when Somerset met them

in the quarterfinals. This quarterfinal win made Somerset the Massachusetts South Sectional Champions. Walpole was devastated after being handed a sound 2 to 1 defeat by the Blue Raiders, and their hopes of tacking another win on to their streak suddenly vanished. This win against Walpole was by far the climax of the field hockey team's entire season.

This year's season resulted in the best record that the field hockey team has ever had in school history. Not only did Somerset take first in the Eastern Athletic Conference with an undefeated record, they also made it all the way to the State Semifinals, and took the South Sectional Title along the way.



Senior Kyla Marchand takes a shot during a field hockey game (Photo by Greg Joyn)

BCS, Is It Fair?

Adam Levesque '01

The BCS poll was formed three years ago to determine who the top two college football teams in the nation are so they can play each other to determine the national champion. The BCS was created because three years ago Michigan and Nebraska split the Associated Press poll and the USA Today-ESPN coaches poll which resulted in them being co-national champions.

The BCS rankings are formulated by the average of the Associated Press poll and the USA Today-ESPN coaches poll, strength of schedule, num-

ber of losses, and the computer rankings. The problem with the BCS poll is that it lacks the common sense that the AP media poll and the U S A Today-ESPN coaches poll possess.

An example of the BCS rankings flaw is the current issue between Florida State and Miami who both have suffered one loss this season.

How can Florida State be ranked above Miami who beat them 27 to 24 during the season. Both teams have similar

strength of schedule but somehow Florida State is ranked above Miami in the BCS rankings. Miami's only loss came

against #4 Washington during the second week of the season. The BCS rankings do not factor in the growth Miami has made as a football team since its early loss to

Washington, which the other two polls do. The argument could also be made that Washington should be playing

for the national championship since they beat Miami but their schedule is too weak to make a strong case. The debate can go on forever of whether or not the BCS is an accurate and effective method of choosing who the nations top two teams are to play in the national championship game. One thing is certain however, Florida State will be playing for the national championship this year and Miami can only watch in dissatisfaction as their season's goal goes to waste.

"The BCS was designed to determine who has been the best the whole season, not just one game. It really comes down to who has the most valuable loss. That's where the computer and strength schedule come into play."

-Bobby Bowden, Florida State coach

Raiders Fall Short in Thanksgiving Day Battle

Adam Levesque '01

The Somerset High School football team lost to Case High School in the annual Thanksgiving Day clash between the two rivals, with a final score of 13 to 6.

Case's star running back Wayne Homol led the offensive charge for the Cardinals with a pair of rushing touchdowns, and he tacked 115 rushing yards into his single-season school rushing record which now stands at 1,551 yards.

Case's defense stifled the Raider's offense all game long, holding them to just one touchdown.

The Raiders only score came in their opening drive when they drove methodically down the field on a 12 play drive and scored on a Ryan Martel touch-

down pass to Joe Peixoto who marched into the endzone. A missed extra point resulted in Somerset having a 6 to 0 lead in the first quarter. After the opening drive it looked like the Raiders would march over Case's defense all day long but that was not the case.

When Case got the ball, Somerset's defense stopped them and forced them to punt. The snap went over Case's punter's head and he had to scramble to get hold of the ball and then to get off the punt. The punt hit a Somerset player and Case recovered it, giving themselves a new set of downs. Wayne Homol ran the ball in from nine yards out to even up the score. Case would then kick the extra point and take a 7

to 6 lead. When Somerset got the ball back it looked like they were going to march right down the field again, but after compiling a few first downs Martel under threw a receiver and the ball was picked off by Case's Jeff St. Yves.

Case would prove the turnover costly for the Raiders when Homol ran the ball in from 30 yards out to give Case a 13 to 6 lead.

Somerset got the ball back and moved down the field but came up short when a Martel pass fell incomplete as time expired in the first half.

To start the second half Case got the ball and drove within the Raiders 30- yard line. The Raiders would stop Case but

they got the ball back, pinned deep near their own endzone and they were forced to punt.

The two teams would exchange possessions in the second half until Somerset had the ball on their own 19-yard line with 5:45 left to play. Somerset drove down the field, the key plays included a 26 yard pass from Martel to Pilotte and a 19 yard pass to Mike Fisher that set them up first and goal from the nine yard line with less than a minute left to play.

On first down Mike Fisher got the carry and got no gain

and Martel was forced to spike the ball on second down to stop the clock. On third down Martel rolled out and fired the ball at a well-covered Jason Gregory sprawling in the back of the endzone. On fourth down Martel threw an interception to Wayne Homol and that marked the end of Somerset's chances.

Wayne Homol was the MVP of the game with 115 yards rushing, a pair of touchdowns, a 33 yard reception, and the game ending interception.



More shots from the Somerset Field Hockey game against Durfee

(Photos by Greg Joynt)



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Results

(Continued from p. 1)

decreased.

Question 5 concerned health care and health insurance. The question was rejected, and therefore the laws concerning such issues will remain unchanged.

Question 6 concerned motor vehicle excise taxes. This was also rejected, resulting in no change in these laws.

Question 7, another tax question, was passed. This means that Massachusetts' citizens will receive an income tax deduction for charitable contributions. This will remove Massachusetts from the list of only 8 states that do not allow for charitable donations to be deducted from state income tax.

Question 8 was rejected. As a result, no changes in the laws concerning drug-dependency treatment, and fines associated with drug crimes.

MCAS

(Continued from p. 2)

expected to be judged on those standards. Many educators and students question the appropriateness of basing an individual's graduation, and effectively his or her future, on one exam. Individuals learn and express their knowledge in different ways.

Our strengths and talents are diverse, and may not be reflected on this exam. It seems there should be various tools to assess one's knowledge. The intent should be to encourage learning, not stress failure. Time will tell if this is an appropriate assessment of student's academic abilities. I feel one's knowledge is best reflected in his or hers actions and work, throughout a course, rather than on one high stakes exam.

Money X-Mas

(Continued from p. 3)

ever chain store near you has a sale that reduces every item to fifty cents. Or, if that does not work, just make a list and plan to get a lot of Christmas cards. Merry Christmas!



Senior Jenn Roberge dances in the Case Rally

(Photo by Greg Joynt)

In memory of Sean Pierce (2/22/84 - 11/25/00)

I Will Never Forget...
Ashley Chaves '02

I will never forget your smile
I will never forget your face.

I will never forget all the jokes you cracked
and how they brought a smile upon my face.

I will never forget the times you were there for me—
good times and bad.

I will never forget the little fights we had
then just hugged and started to laugh

I will never forget that look you gave me everytime
you walked by
But most of all, I will never forget you—goodbye!!

LOVE YOU AND MISS YOU SEAN!
FRIENDS FOREVER!

Dear Sean,

Just so you know, I miss you already. It seems like it was just yesterday that you were here, but now I understand that you are gone. We all love you and I want you to know that your friends will be your friends forever. We will never forget you!

Your Friend always,
Wesley Albernaz

Stuco

(Continued from p. 3)

promoting school spirit a waste of time? What is the student council to do?

The student body calls for more events and activities; however, when the student council plans them, we are met with criticisms.

Hopefully with the Student Council visiting homerooms and receiving ideas from the student body, several of the complaints will disappear, and

students will be able to support your suggestions, which they have suggested.

I realize not everyone can always be happy, and this article is not directed toward those people. One is entitled to do as they please within reason, so you do not have to be involved. However, if you never try to better the situation, you have no right to complain. This article is also not directed toward the

part of the student body that wishes to participate in student council events, because I realize it would be frustrating to read this if you are not part of the problem.

I hope that the students who wish to participate in school activities and better the school atmosphere will take advantage of the communication solution and voice their opinions to the representatives.

Christmas Around the World

Lynn Chagnon '02
Holly Creamer '02

Hanging up Christmas wreaths and lights, singing carols, kissing under the mistletoe, drinking eggnog, and carving a turkey are traditional customs that we follow here in the U.S. In other parts of the world, however, this season is celebrated much differently.

In Asia, only about twenty percent of the people celebrate Christmas. Out of this low percentage, almost half of them spend Christmas with their friends instead of their family. To many Asians, Christmas is just another event during the course of the year. There is no religious meaning to it at all. Instead of going to church masses, they gather in halls to celebrate. Like in the U.S., they send out Christmas cards and exchange gifts.

In France, after attending Midnight Mass, families often gather to share a nocturnal meal. The children receive gifts from Pere Noel (Father Christmas) in their wooden shoes, sabots. Bad children receive spankings from his menacing companion, Pere

Fouettard (Father Spanker). Most families set up nativity scenes.

In Mexico, Christmas Eve is more important than Christmas Day. The entire celebration spans from December 16 to January 6. An important part of a Christmas party is a pinata. This tradition originated with missionaries who used clay pots to teach Catholic principles to the local natives. The traditional gift day is January 6th, the last of the twelve days of Christmas.

Another part of the celebration is Three-Kings Day, which has its own ritual. The ritual often begins at dinnertime when the family shares a rosca, which is a sweet, ring-shaped loaf, with a ceramic doll baked inside to represent the Christ child. Whoever the unlucky family member is who gets the doll in their piece of the cake, must host a party on February 2, which is Dia de Candelaria.

So wherever you happen to be celebrating Christmas this year, we hope that it's merry!

Electoral

(Continued from p. 2)

positions are not eligible to hold positions in the electoral college. Allowing only state government officials to hold office creates a fair and equal vote. Each state is able to voice its opinion through its chosen electors. Candidates for the electoral college are nominated by party conventions, commonly known as primary elections, and are then elected on Election Day. One electoral vote per state is cast, and the victorious presidential and vice presidential nominees win the entire state's electoral vote. In the end, the candidates with the majority of the total electoral votes in the country are elected to office.

The operation of the electoral college is not as easy as it sounds. In presidential election years, the electoral college meets on the first Monday following the second Wednesday in December. A ballot, or secret vote cast on a sheet of paper, is taken. When an elector is voting, he/she must be sure that one candidate (either the President or Vice President) is not originally from his/her

home state. The ballot is then sent to the president of the U.S. Senate. On January 6, of the following year, Congress meets, and the votes are counted by tellers. If there is a lack of electoral votes for the presidential spot, the House of Representatives is called upon to elect the three highest standing candidates. If there is a shortage of electoral votes for the vice presidential spot, the Senate is called upon to elect the two highest standing candidates. Both branches vote in ballot form. A majority vote is needed for a candidate to win the election.

By depending on the House of Representatives and the Senate to decide the final outcome of an election, the electoral college shows one of its major weaknesses. As in this year's election between Gore and Bush, the popular vote of the electoral college is questionable. A situation like this has not occurred since 1960 between John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. This election year is definitely one that will be remembered for years to come.

Summit

(Continued from p. 11)

students were shocked to discover that Tiverton High School could only go to the bathroom between passing time, and that it was locked during class periods.

The student summit was started here in Somerset in 1998 to give students an opportunity to discuss issues that were important to them. Although teachers were allowed to attend, they were limited in how much they were allowed to say. The summits focus on specific problems and ideas to solve them.

Student Council Advisor Mr. Kyle Alves said that he thought that the summit was a "productive activity".

"We would like to hold one again next year. I feel the students learned a lot. They heard from the other schools and learned that a lot of the issues that we have here [at Somerset] exist elsewhere at other school systems."

E-Board member Nils Pilotte commented "It was good because we got to come together with all the different schools. But it was also kind of bad because all the problems that were similar between the schools, we couldn't fix because they were state mandates. All the problems that were different didn't affect all of us so it didn't matter."

Nina was pleased and displeased with the final outcome. "In some ways, it was good, but it still wasn't what I meant. Even though we had different schools involved, it was still the same group of kids, who were involved in their school. The problems aren't with the students who are involved, they're with the students who aren't. And you can't have the involved students giving the opinions of those who aren't."

President

(Continued from p. 1)

Republicans wanted to bid the recount because new numbers showed Bush's lead to be only a few hundred votes. Eventually both sides would use the courts to resolve the issues to their favored outcome. Beginning with local county courts, the matter was not resolved until it was taken before the Supreme Court of the United States. The Supreme Court ruled that the recount, as pursued by the Democrats, was unacceptable because it was not uniform throughout the state and repre-

sented an unlawful change in voting procedure. The recount ended and the original numbers, which had George Bush leading, were acknowledged.

George Bush has won the most hotly Presidential Election of the twentieth century. Now, it remains to be seen how effective his administration will be in governing a divided nation. Another important factor to pay attention to is the so-called Tecumseh's Curse.

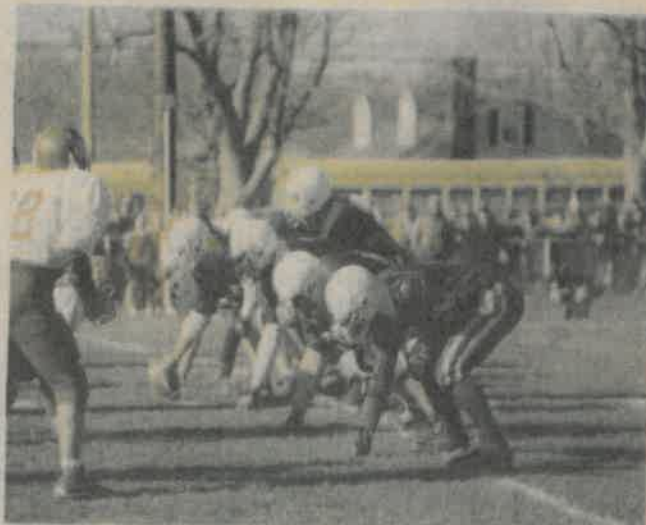
Beginning in 1840, every President who was elected in a

year that ends with zero (1840, 1860, 1880, etc.) has either passed away or been killed while serving his term. The only exception to this rule is Ronald Reagan; he escaped with his life but was still shot by a would-be assassin. If something like this would happen to George W. Bush it would obviously be a horrendous tragedy.



Senior Chris GaCosta participates in the Case Rally.

(photos by Greg Joynt)



Photos from this year's Somerset-Case Thanksgiving Game. Case defeated Somerset 13-6. Somerset finished the season with a 2-6 record. The total record for the Somerset-Case game is 42 wins for Somerset, 25 wins for Case, and 4 ties.

(Photos by Jeff Steinberg)