



# The Breeze



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Somerset, Massachusetts



Somerset High School participated in the Brown Model United Nations this past November. Pictured above are delegates (front row): Jameson Borges, Kevin Belanger, Stephen Bethoney, Monique Smith, and Maggie Borzyn.

Smith, and Maggie Borzyn. (Back Row) Eric Correira, Ryan Avery, Kim Hudson, Jesse Martin, and Annie-Laurie Jacob. (Breeze photo by Jonathan Correira)

## SHS Reacts to New Bedford Plot

By Eric Correira '02  
Breeze Editor

Five students have been charged for plotting to kill students and teachers at New Bedford High School. The group allegedly planned to use a variety of weapons to create a massacre, which, if carried out successfully, would surpass the Columbine High School shootings that took place in 1999. Though only a near tragedy, the incident took place much closer to Somerset than any of the past school shootings over the last few years. The event, along with its repercussions, has raised concerns and questions through the halls of Somerset High School.

When asked if such an attack would be possible at Somerset High School, people offered various opinions. "I think it could happen anywhere. Unfortunately, there are many families who are not aware of their children's interests and beliefs," says world-language teacher Erica Martins. Sophomore Julie Donaghey was surprised that something of this sort could happen at New Bedford High School, and agrees with Ms. Martins. "I think it could happen anywhere." On the other hand, some students do not believe that Somerset is threatened. "It could happen, but I don't think it would," says freshman Sarah Bisch. Sarah feels safe and adds, "I don't think there are any crazy people in the school. I can't think of anyone in the school who would do such a thing," says senior Alex Monte. Disagreeing, an unnamed sophomore argues, "There are some people in this school."

Many feel that Somerset High School is working to the best of its ability to prevent a similar situation to the one that took place at New Bedford, Ma. Martins feels confident in the school. "I definitely think that the staff is well prepared to deal with

## Somerset High School receives MCAS results

By Eric Correira '02  
Breeze Staff

Last year, 216 Somerset sophomores were the first class from the school to have to pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test. The results came in approximately a month ago, and 81 percent of Somerset High School students passed both the mathematics and English/language arts sections of the high stakes test. The number of tenth graders who passed MCAS on their first attempt was 13 percent higher than the state average.

According to the high school's principal, Donald Rebello, teachers successfully helped the students prepare, parents were more aware of the test's importance, and students took the MCAS test seriously and worked hard. Current juniors Aubrey Fisher and Alex Mello, who took the exam

last spring, agree. "Everyone took it seriously because they knew they needed to pass to graduate."

Though Somerset High School saw a dramatic increase in passing scores, this sharp rise was not singular. In fact, there was a statewide rise in passing grades for both the mathematics and English/language arts sections. "It is my feeling that overall students took the test just as seriously in previous years, and that it is possible that the standards were lowered and that is why there was a such a dramatic change throughout the state," stated math department head Mr. Gerald St. Amand.

Whether or not there was any actual progress made at Somerset High School, those students who did not pass in the spring will quite possibly need to pass the test to graduate with a normal diploma once they are seniors. Legislation has been submitted to make MCAS a requirement

for graduation for all Massachusetts' public schools, though no bills have yet to be passed. The school has offered classes and assistance to all students needing help in the various areas within the test.

MCAS, since its inception, has been a very controversial issue. Questions have been raised over many aspects of the test. For example, "I think it is ridiculous that kids with learning disabilities may have to pass MCAS to graduate," says junior Aubrey Fisher. "It is not fair." Recognizing the needs of certain individual students, Mr. Rebello points out that "Students can have the test read to them or be given extra explanations, still it is far from easy." He adds, "The state has not clearly decided what will happen to students with disabilities who are unable to pass MCAS."

"MCAS should not be the only require-

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## Seniors Beware

By KC Dowd '04  
Breeze Staff

An insidious condition is about to afflict millions of unsuspecting seniors throughout our nation. As the warmer weather approaches and graduation nears, most students wind down their cognitive energies and look forward to more leisurely pursuits. Fueled by early college acceptances, the seniors become extremely vulnerable to this malaise. You've done your time, made your future plans and are moving on to phase two of your life, career preparation. Let the good times roll. While I certainly believe you deserve a break today, many colleges and universities are

less sensitive to the senior experience.

Increasingly, unexpected letters are being sent to already (college) admitted high school seniors, revoking their acceptances based on third and fourth term grades. Some of these annoying notes request an explanation for one's academic slide, from both the school guidance department and the student. In some instances scholarships are decreased or completely rescinded. If an acceptable extenuating circumstance is not established, then offers are annulled or penalties are invoked.

The Boston Globe, (3-27-01), cited some excerpts from various institutions of higher learning, asserting their right to

renege. "Harvard University: Your grades for this semester include a 2.7 in chemistry and a 2.3 in pre-calculus. Please write to us as soon as possible about what happened this spring. We will be in touch again after receiving your letter. Boston University: 'The Board of Admissions is disappointed in your performance... We hope you will arrive on campus in September with a renewed sense of commitment.' Babson College: 'As you know, your offer of admission was contingent upon you maintaining solid academic performance throughout your senior year...'

Competition for universities of choice is fierce. Waiting lists are long for those hoping to receive a late acceptance. Col-

leges can be stringent in their criteria for acceptance and hold you to their standards. Most acceptance policies cite their (college's) right to rescind, if your academic (or criminal) record changes. Most of us do not think about this possibility.

So, enjoy the final months in moderation. Be aware of your future alma mater's policies, and maintain whatever the standards were that opened those ivy league doors for you. (Future seniors could carry a heavier course load in their earlier years, and slide through senior year!) Look ahead, keep your head and in just a few weeks head for the beach! Best of luck to all of the seniors in whatever you pursue.

## The story of an Afghan Teen

By KC Dowd '04  
Breeze Staff

Mohammed Aga Humayan Khadim is a commander in the Afghanistan army. He leads 300 soldiers and oversees an arsenal that includes a truck mounted BM-21 Soviet era rocket launcher, six tanks and a variety of automatic rifles. Khadim is fifteen years old. After losing his father, who was killed several months ago by a Taliban

rocket attack on the front lines of West Kalafagan, Khadim assumed his dad's responsibilities. As the eldest son, Khadim looks after his three sisters, seven brothers and his late father's three wives. Khadim is also married.

Though not yet of legal age to obtain a driver's license, by United States standards, Khadim is one of thousands of teen-aged soldiers being trained and used on the front lines of a vicious and relentless war

in a country torn by political, social and economic devastation. While we, in the states, watch this annihilation of human life and dignity on television, our teen-aged counterparts in Afghanistan live it every day of their lives. This seems to be an accepted way of life and serving as a soldier is an expected and noble profession in this Middle Eastern country of constant turmoil. As we expand our skills on the football or soccer fields, Mohammed and his peers perfect their expertise on the bat-

tlefields. No Nintendo there!

This just makes you think of how fortunate we are to have been born in the USA with plenty of food, freedom and Internet access for all. I wonder also about the skewed view of America and the world that Mohammed Khadim may have, given his limited access to accurate information and the media. Propaganda, lousy living conditions and the ravages of war may be his only reality.

## The Senior Semi-Formal

By Eric Correia '02

This year's Senior Semi-Formal is being held on Sunday, January 20, from 7 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the Towne Room at the Somerset Lodge. Tickets will be on sale during the week of January 14th during all lunches. The tentative ticket price is \$27, though a final price has not yet been set because a disc jockey has not yet been hired.

A buffet style meal will be served containing a variety of food. All school policies will be in effect at the event. Dates do not have to be from the senior class. Students are allowed to bring dates from other grades and outside of the school. Also, dates are not required, all seniors are welcome to attend.

If you have any questions concerning the Senior-Semi Formal, feel free to contact Mrs. Bellino or any senior member of student council.

## SHS Reacts to New Bedford . . .


such a situation and hopefully students feel that there are enough outlets to go to in the school for help. Adds Alex Monte, "The school does a lot to get kids involved. The school does as much as it can." Julie Donaghey recognizes that the school does have its limits. "I don't think that a person who would do that would necessarily go to counseling. I don't think that someone would be like, 'I want to blow up the school. I should go to counseling.'"

Though these individuals agree that the threat of an attack by students is always a possibility, they all agree that they still feel safe.

All those interviewed felt that the plotters' main motive was attention, citing

the statements by one of the charged students saying that he hoped to create a massacre larger than Columbine. "I don't think that is why people always do this, but in this case it was," states senior Andrew Lavoie. Alex Monte continues, "They did it for attention, it all goes back to the family."

Finally, when asked for a statement concerning the plot at New Bedford High School, Andrew Lavoie made an interesting observation. "This isn't scary at all because nothing happened. . . . The attention you give to situations like this only makes more people want to do it, it gives them attention. Basically what you (Breeze writer) are doing right now isn't helping."

	
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or photographer? Contact co-editors Eric Correia  
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# Around School



## The Case Rally



Juniors Chris Melanson and Courtney Farrell perform at this year's case rally as Prince Charming and Cinderella. (Breeze photo by Jonathan Correira)

### The seniors win an entertaining rally

By Donnelly Roberts '04 and Paul Mattos '05  
Breeze Staff

At this year's Case Rally there was an obvious sense of school spirit. There was a lot of participation in the prior "Spirit Week." Also, the "Penny Pounds" raised a lot of money for charity.

The day's events started off with the Junior Class. They made a wonderful skit about Cinderella. A ball was being held for the Prince the day before the big Case Thanksgiving game. Cinderella could not go because of her stepsisters. But then her fairy godmother came to her rescue. It was going well at the party and there was even a celebrity appearance by Michael Jackson. He met Cinderella but she had to leave at midnight. The next day Cinderella won the raffle for a date with the Prince. Then the skit jumped to the Prince running for a touchdown to win the game. Great musical presentation and costumes made for a great skit. The Junior Class finished second.

Next came the freshmen. They started by giving a salute to the victims of September 11. In their Good vs. Evil theme, the Case Devils' cheerleaders made a good halftime show. The Somerset Angels' cheerleaders went out to try to provoke a rally in the game for Somerset, but their act was cut short when one of the cheerleaders fell during an attempt at a pyramid. They finished last.

The third group to perform was the sophomores whose skit was about Charlie Brown. However, because of bad luck and some technical difficulties their time was cut short and the skit greatly surpassed the

time limit of 12 minutes. One thing that we noticed with the sophomores was that for most of their skit, many people in the audience did not understand what was being presented. But as things eventually improved for the sophomores Charlie Brown's adventure in the Case game was able to unfold. Charlie Brown and his friends were sitting down in a classroom and they were talking about the Case game the next day. They were discussing how Peppermint Patty could not play and how she needed a backup, which was Charlie Brown. Charlie was not happy with this and went to walk with Linus. After the walk Charlie went to go see Lucy at her psychiatrist booth. After their talk, Lucy suggested holding a football for him to kick, but she pulled it back. Finally, for their last scene, Lucy held the ball and Charlie kicked a field goal to win the Case game. This skit earned third place in the rally.

Finally, the seniors came out. The Case team called for help from Gotham's evil villains, "Grandmaster Freeze," and his henchmen, froze the Somerset football team. Then, for some reason, Snoop Doggy Dogg came out and eliminated Catwoman and Poison Ivy. After this, Batman and Robin came and saved the frozen team. The football players went on to be victorious over Case. At the end, President George W. Bush came out and gave an inspiring speech for Batman, Robin, and Snoop Dogg. An excellent script and music combined with a band and "special effects" put the seniors in first place for the first time in their high school career. Congratulations!

## Model United Nations

By Kevin Silvestre '05 and  
Nathan Eleuterio '05  
Breeze Staff

Model United Nations is a program where high school students are given the opportunity to become diplomats of certain countries. Students from many different schools go to colleges for three days and debate on issues that are before the United Nations right now.

In November, the students of Somerset High School along with many other schools went to Brown University. The countries represented at Brown this year by Somerset were Cuba, North Korea, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Zimbabwe. The student-diplomats debated the Spratly Islands, Golan Heights, indigenous languages, and the AIDS crisis. They were on special, political, decolonization, social, and humanitarian committees. In order for the students to realistically debate, they first had to research the countries and understand the issues at hand. When they finally had their meeting, students were able to make alliances with friendly countries, be willing to compromise with nonaligned nations, and write resolutions to problems.

Somerset High School has been participating in Model U.N. for six years now. At every conference, Somerset has won awards. This year, Kimberly Hudson, a junior, won a Distinguished Delegate Award for representing Zimbabwe on the Social and Humanitarian Committee. Mr. Peachy, a history teacher here at the Somerset High School, has been running the program for the students. Previously, Model U.N. was available to only juniors and seniors. Now, it is open for all students, grade 9-12, who are willing to spend three days learning and debating about world politics.

Most students at Somerset High School, who participate in Model United Nations, take Mr. Peachy's International Relations class. Mr. Peachy appreciates how supportive the school district has been and it is his hope that the school department will fund an International Relations Club. A club would give participants more recognition and make it easier to fund Model U.N. trips.

Any students interested in participating in Model U.N., should contact Mr. Peachy in the History Department.



Mrs. York, the new chemistry teacher at Somerset High School, pictured above, is excited about her new position at the school. (Breeze photo by Jonathan Correira)

## Mrs. York joins the Science Department

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

As sad as we all were when Mr. Drewniak left SHS, the position could not have been filled by a more qualified teacher than Mrs. York. A graduate of New Bedford High, she returned to teach there for 13 years after she obtained her degree from Saive Regina. She began teaching biology at New Bedford High but in her fourth year there she switched over to chemistry, her true passion.

She has now had a full term to adjust at Somerset High as a chemistry teacher. When asked about the differences between the two schools that she has noticed so far,

she told us that she is very fond of the "smallness" of SHS but that she misses the "diversity" of New Bedford High.

Mrs. York likes the fact that she now gets a chance to know her students better. She finds the students of SHS to be very motivated and grade conscious, which is refreshing because she was tired of feeling that her former students did not care anymore. Mrs. York admits that she does miss New Bedford High and that it was a big adjustment, but she enjoys it here at Somerset. "I am very grateful for all the support that the science department has given to me," she says. All in all, Mrs. York's students seem to be very pleased with her style of teaching. Mrs. York, we all wish you the best of luck for the rest of the year, keep up the good work!

## Straight from the desk of the President

By Joseph Botelho '02  
Breeze Staff

Hi, how ya'll doin'? To start out let me introduce myself, I'm Joseph Botelho, your Senior Class president for this year. (Just deal with it and we'll all be a lot better off. Jealousy doesn't become you.) The purpose of this is for me to inform you of my thoughts about what has been going down at school thus far this year. Humor me, will you?

First of all, congratulations to Ericsson The Cell Phone. For those of you who haven't been paying attention, Ericsson is the Senior Class secretary. It was voted in democratically, and its duties are being fulfilled by its owner, Eric Correira. Personally, I think it's wonderful an inanimate object was voted into the Student Council, it can't do worse than any of the organization's living members.

Next, I want to congratulate the members of the class of 2002 who will be walking the aisle with me this June. It's been a long, hard four years with many problems to be dealt with, but in the end, I'm sure it's been worth it. Thirty-five percent, enough said. Aside from the bad aspects of Somerset, there have been many good, and we'll be glad to see the memories go as we move on with our lives. Let's hear it for those caps and gowns.

One more congrats is in order to the Senior Class in reference to the Case Rally. Considering the amount of time and lack of props and the rushing, we pulled it together to make our senior skit memorable. Who's going to forget Snoopy Dogg and George Bush coming together with Batman and Robin to save the day? I certainly know I won't, and what about those Britany Spears dances? I'm still dreaming about them until this very day. I'm not putting anyone down, but to the members of the classes that don't do so well with their skits, don't be so distressed, we're all winners in the end.

Concluding this article of senseless drivel and nonsense, I'd like to thank you for sharing this time with me today to read what I have to say. I wish you all great happiness and health until next time, and to clear something up, I hear people accusing me of being slightly "overconfident" and "arrogant". I'd like to apologize if I come off this way. The truth of the matter is that I wouldn't be so cocky if it wasn't for the fact that I was better than everyone else. Yes, I love you too.

Your President, Joseph Botelho

# Entertainment



## “The Odd Couple” a huge success

By Shannon Dubois '03 and  
Kathleen Golden '03  
Breeze Staff

“The Odd Couple,” the female version, was successfully performed at Somerset High School on November 30 and December 1 and 2. The play was under the direction of Jerry Goldberg, an individual experienced in theater and motivated to improve the drama at Somerset High School.

The title characters, Florence Unger (Jenna Carreiro) and Olive Madison (Melissa DaCosta), are two close friends in the 1980's. After Florence separates from her husband, Olive takes her in. Their opposite personalities result in a hilarious performance.

Jenna Carreiro and Melissa DaCosta did an extraordinary job portraying the “odd couple” and demonstrating the differences in their characters. Carreiro's orderly, yet uncertain, character contrasted with DaCosta's cynical and disorganized character. The conversations and interactions between the two provided a humorous foundation for the plot.

Florence and Olive's friends, Sylvie (Molly Lawrence), Mikey (Jenn DeCambra), Renee (Cyndi Ferreira), and Vera (Amanda Lawrence), added an additional amusing quality to the play. From their game playing of Trivial Pursuit to their conversations about the relationships between men and women, each actress brought out her unique character, which gave the audience several laughs.

Another hilarious element to the play was the performance of the Spanish Con-stazuela brothers, Manolo (Conor Murray) and Jesus (Steve Nadeau). On a “dinner” date with Florence and Olive, they revealed their misunderstanding of the English language and their sensitive sides concerning Florence's and their own separations from their spouses. Their “Spanish” accents and their comical movements were also very entertaining.

Contributing to the production of the play was Katia Hagerman (stage manager), Jason Reed (sound), Joshua Gustafson (sound), and Pat Adams (light chief). The Prop Crew included Alyssa Laganelli, Erica Loftstrom, Cassie Tavares, and Nathan Tavares.

The many hours of hard work and dedication put into this production by these individuals paid off. The result was an entertaining two hours of delightful and dynamic performances.



Clockwise from left: Molly Lawrence (Sylvie), Cyndi Ferreira (Renee), Amanda Lawrence (Vera) and Jenn DeCambra (Mikey) play the friends of head charac-

ters Olive and Florena in SHS's presentation of 'The Odd Couple'. (Breeze photo by Jonathan Correia)

## The Music Department makes changes

By Sarah Sevigny '03  
Breeze Staff

At the end of last year, the music students of Somerset High School bid farewell to their faithful and devoted coordinator of fine and performing arts, Dr. Robert Perry. His retirement left a huge gap in the music staff, considering that he was not only the curriculum coordinator, but also marching band director, director of concert and symphonic bands, and the jazz band director.

Mr. Robert Soares, the former SHS orchestra director, has filled the positions of marching band director, and director of concert and symphonic bands. He seems to enjoy them, although he claims he was a bit nervous about creating field shows, a feat he'd never attempted before. He did a great job though, and the entire season, including the Thanksgiving Day halftime show, went very well.

The new jazz band director is Mr. Michael Monic, who also continues his position as an elementary school music and strings teacher. The SHS jazz band sounds as excellent as ever and should be well prepared for upcoming concerts.

As the new addition to our talented music staff, the ever-energetic Mrs. Lori Anderson has brought her astounding vitality into our music system. I actually had the opportunity to interview her on Nov. 20 and she says she likes her new position very much because every day is different and interesting. Among her many responsibilities, she must evaluate teachers/programs, review the curriculums for the music and art programs, prepare the music/art budget, and teach the SHS orchestra and string ensemble.

For all you music students who are thinking of going to college for music, I

discovered that Mrs. Anderson went to the University of Connecticut as an undergraduate for music education, then went to the University of Rhode Island for her master's in music education with a minor in violin performance. Presently she is studying at Bridgewater State College for her KEGS in educational leadership. Since finishing her studies at URI, she has been teaching for 23 years. Before coming to Somerset last year as the Junior High strings director, she taught in the Dartmouth School System.

In addition to all her new responsibilities, Mrs. Anderson believes it is important to "practice your craft" and plays her violin in the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra, and in a trio that does weddings and different functions. She also does other freelance jobs, especially around this time of year. As for the MusicTown Festival, Mrs. Anderson said, "It was far better than I had imagined" and "Grand Day was really nice. All the bands did a great job and it was a nice ending to the Festival."

Also, due to the situation our country is in at the present time, the music department has decided to take a smaller trip this year. Mrs. Anderson said they are considering two festivals that are close by: the Music in the Parks Festival at Six Flags in Agawam, and the MICA Festivals in Boston in April. In conclusion, and to give you her opinion on the importance of music, I would like to quote Mrs. Anderson. "Music is extremely important to our students. Everyone needs a creative outlet. In this day and age, with the emphasis on testing, we need to remember that the arts keep us human by allowing us to express ourselves."



The female version of 'The Odd Couple' was performed at Somerset High on November 30 - December 2 and was directed by Jerry Goldberg. From bottom, Patrick Adams (lighting), Molly Lawrence and Amanda Lawrence (cast) all helped to make the play a success.

By Amanda Ancil '02  
Breeze Staff

I was on vacation in Maine this past summer when I stopped at a bookstore in Kittery. Browsing the shelves I stopped at the Romance section and grabbed *Whispers in the Sand* by LaFlorya Gauthier. Deciding "hey, why not?" I brought it home and began to read...

This book is part of a series named "Lodigo," which is a collection of love stories for African-American women. Before you judge the book by its cover, or by the section of the store that it is found, understand

## "Whispers in the Sand" a great read

that not all love stories are "mushy" and "sappy." This particular novel is about a successful African-American woman striving to excel in her career, and meeting a few bumps along the way.

Lorraine Barbette, a beautiful American film director, is sent to Senegal in West Africa, just coming out of a broken engagement with her fiancé, Andrew. She is excited that she gets to leave America to sort out her feelings. She is sitting on the plane, without a care in the world. Then she saw him; the dark, ebony man sitting diagonally from her, glancing her way. Little did she know that they would soon meet again.

Upon arriving in Africa, she is enjoying

the beautiful surroundings and refuses to think about her life in America. At the beginning of the trip she goes to a party and meets, and soon falls in love with, the Senegalese diplomat from the plane, Momar Diallo. It is at this party that they first kiss and decide to see each other again.

While filming, she is torn between spending time with her new love and proceeding with her career. She has to face her crew, who almost get her killed (but that's another story), and Momar at the same time, both wanting her undivided attention. She tries to ignore her feelings for him, but Momar persists and tries to convince her of his true love for her.

At the end of the novel, Lorraine is torn between returning to America to please her family and continue her career or staying in Senegal to marry Momar and start a family, which would ultimately satisfy her. Confronted with the most important decision of her life, Lorraine must choose between pleasing those around her and pleasing herself, but I will not give it away. Trust me, the ending will surprise you!

Although this book is definitely a love story, it is by no means "sappy" or "mushy". A true novel of power and politics, it is a great page-turner with action, tons of twists, and lots of turns along the way. The plot is very much like Senegal, exotic and always on the go.



# Sports Rap Up

By Ryan Avery '01  
Breeze Staff

The 2001 fall season has been quite a memorable one for many of our school's athletic squads. It included four teams that qualified for state tournament play, two EAC championship teams, and one runner-up state champion, with one of the town's longest tournament runs in recent years.

The Somerset High School football team, fresh off its first win of the season against Providence Country Day School, played tough in losses the next three weeks against Durfee, Coyte-Cassidy and Bishop Feehan by scores of 28-6, 13-7 and 41-14, respectively. The running game was solid for Somerset in all of these games, with senior Joey Peixoto and sophomore Jon Martel doing most of the damage. Finally after more than two weeks of practice, it was time to put the team records aside as the Raiders traveled to Case for the annual Thanksgiving Day game. However, two Case touchdowns at the end of the first quarter proved to be too much for Somerset to overcome. Case added two more touchdowns in the second half and won the 49er trophy for the second straight year, 31-0. Somerset finished the year with a 1-10 record in coach Greg Galligan's first season. However, with such a young team, the football team can only look to improve throughout the next few years.

The Somerset girls' soccer team also had a very productive year, as it was able to make the state tournament for the first time in 2001. Making it even better for the team was the fact that it earned a birth in the tournament after defeating the Case squad by a score of 5-1. Somerset then lost to a tough Falmouth squad in the first round of the tournament. The play of goalie Meggie Mello was especially superb throughout the last couple of weeks of the season. The team and coach Joe Borges look to build upon this year's advance farther into the tournament next year.

The boys and girls' cross-country squads both had success at the EAC Championships this year. The boys finished fourth in the league, beating out last year's champs, Coyte Cassidy. Eddie Michino was the top finisher for the boys at 16th

place in the varsity race. The girls' team finished fifth in the EAC, and had the only EAC All Star for Somerset cross country, Vanessa Thompson, who came in fourth place overall.

The Somerset field hockey team was once again around the top of the standings in the EAC, but could not duplicate the tremendous state tournament run of last year. The Raiders were defeated by Walpole (whose season was ended by the Somerset girls last year) in the second round of the tournament, 4-1. Congratulations to all the seniors on the squad (including Evan Minor), who have much to look back upon and be proud of!

The volleyball team advanced even farther into the tournament this year, all the way to the South Sectional Championship. With some of the best players in the league such as juniors Beth Ferreira, Kachel and Rebecca Smith and senior Jessica Tavares, the Raiders were once again able to capture the EAC Crown. After rolling through Apponequet and the second round of the tourney, Somerset lost to eventual state champion Case at Wheaton College. The combination of Case coming out on fire in the first match and an injury to Ferreira (who left the game) was too much for the Raiders to overcome. However, Somerset can only look for even better things next year as the main core of this year's team returns.

Finally, no one needs any reminders of how much the Somerset boys soccer team did for the school's pride throughout the past weeks. After finishing the regular season as EAC champions with a 17-1-1 record, the "Blonde Raiders" shut out Wellesley 2-0 in the first round of the tournament, and crushed Medfield in the second, 4-1. Alex Couto's goal of a Corey Lopes' pass gave Somerset a 1-0 victory over Oliver Ames and on November 10 the Raiders defeated the Duxbury Green Dragons 4-1 for the South Sectional Championship. After yet another win over Melrose, Somerset was headed to the State Championship against Groton-Dunstable High School. After Groton opened the game up with two goals in the first few



Pictured above is Somerset High School's wrestling team for the 2001-2002 season, headed by Coach Peachy. The squad hopes to add another Mayflower League Championship to their credit. (Breeze photo by Eric Correia)



NICK COATES AND JASON LEDO, members of the Blue Raider hockey team, recently won a Midget hockey championship with the Bridgewater Bandits.

minutes, a Corey Lopes goal pulled the Raiders within one. However, countless shots were deflected or hit the crossbar throughout the second half, and Groton held on for the win. Obviously, however, the Somerset boys had nothing to be ashamed of in their longest state tournament run ever, with the defeat of several powerhouse schools along the way. School pride was in effect the whole way, with large groups of students traveling the more than 50 miles at times to the Raider games. Congratulations to seniors Elliot Oliveira, Corey Lopes, Phil Demeio, Kevin Mullins and juniors Jay Lopes and Alex Couto for being selected EAC All-Stars and to Corey Lopes for being selected as the league's

best player. Corey also shattered the school marks for points and goals, with an amazing 35 scores. The paper would also like to congratulate Mr. Horton and all the other fall coaches whose work obviously paid off.

As we are now in the winter season, several of the Somerset teams look to compete for the league championship and qualify for tournament play, including hockey, gymnastics and boys' and girls' basketball. Both basketball teams have returning starters coming back and the hockey, gymnastic, and winter track teams all have some of the most talented athletes in the EAC. See you next month!

# SHS MCAS results . . .

ment for graduation, there are many other factors that should be considered besides a single test," says Mr. St. Amant.

This year's sophomores do not seem to be very excited about the MCAS test. The word MCAS was met by moans and groans from an honors geometry class.

Students complained about the test and were not looking forward to it. Still, they understand its importance and plan on giving it their all this spring. Perhaps Somerset's scores will continue to climb.

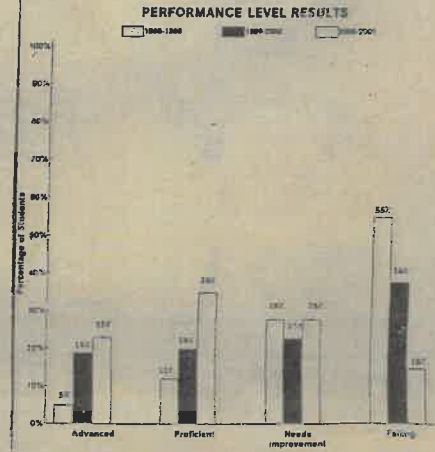
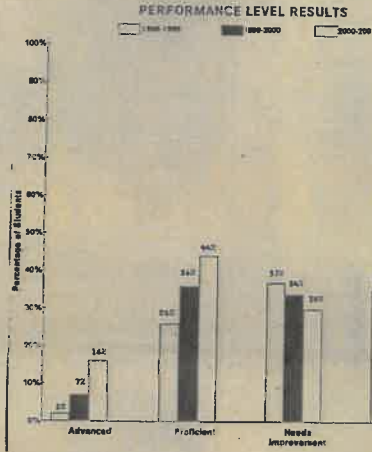
"We won't be satisfied until 100 percent of our students are passing MCAS, there is always room for improvement," says Mr. Rebello. The highly controversial, statewide test is not likely to disappear anytime soon. Somerset High School, along with the entire school district, is continuing to work to help students pass the test through many different means. Curriculum has been changed and adjusted, and MCAS style questions are now being used in many ninth and tenth grade classrooms. Meanwhile, the state has lowered the difficulty and requirements needed for MCAS passage. Some progress has definitely been made, however the situations and challenges that MCAS has created will be an underlying factor from now on in many decisions made by Somerset High School's administration and faculty.



## Massachusetts Department of Education MCAS TESTS OF SPRING 2001 Three-Year Comparison of School Results English Language Arts



## Massachusetts Department of Education MCAS TESTS OF SPRING 2001 Three-Year Comparison of School Results Mathematics



## Massachusetts Department of Education MCAS TESTS OF SPRING 2001 Performance Level Results

SCHOOL: SOMERSET HIGH  
SCHOOL ID #: 273508  
DISTRICT: SOMERSET  
GRADE: 10

