



# The Breeze



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## An Interview with A White House Correspondent

Nate Sheehan '04



photo courtesy of msnbc.com

"The topic of ethics comes up a lot in journalism," says White House correspondent for the National Journal and frequent commentator for MSNBC and NPR Carl Cannon. He is a very well spoken, well-written individual.

A White House correspondent is a journalist assigned to cover the White House press by his/her newspaper or magazine. Although all the newspapers and magazines don't have a [White House] correspondent, they can always purchase the daily goings and comings from

a group of free lance journalists who cover everything.

A journalist's work is serious but at the same time, fun. "The White House press corps is a pretty friendly group," Cannon said. "But there are always one or two jerks or prima donna."

"It took 18 years for me to get to the White House. But I started out on a small newspaper writing obituaries. When I reached the White House I looked around and thought 'Wow! This is the big leagues.'"

(Turn to CANNON, p. 12)

## Bush Addresses the Nation About Tax Cuts, the Military, and Education

Phil Sable '01

On Tuesday, February 27 President George W. Bush addressed both the United States Senate and House of Representatives to outline his plans for the federal government's budget. During his speech Bush reiterated many of the ideas that have been discussed recently, including a large tax cut and reform to both education and military funding.

Bush's proposed tax cut was undoubtedly the most important, and controversial, issue addressed during his speech. Bush's plan will cut taxes by \$1.6 trillion dollars over the next ten years. The tax cut,

which will lessen the amount of money taken from a citizen's income, is designed to repay those who have supported the federal government through paying their taxes; it is also hoped to help the country's economy.

However, Bush's plan has received flak from many groups, including some from members of his own party. The size of the tax cut was examined by the President's advisors and determined to be a satisfactory compromise between too much and too little. Still, many fear that the cut is too big, and the passage of the plan could

result in the loss of funds for other programs and an overwhelming national debt.

Democratic leaders were especially concerned that the cut would result in the loss of money for prescription drug and welfare programs. There was also speculation that while Bush's plan calls for the government to lose \$1.6 trillion dollars on paper, the actual implementation of the tax cut could result in the federal government losing \$2.0 trillion. This, if true, means that concerns about funding problems could become serious dilemmas.

The other issue that Democrats focused on was the distribution of the tax relief. Even during last year's campaign this issue was repeatedly attacked by Democrats. The proposed tax cut is based on percentages of incomes, meaning that each person will receive a different amount of money back dependent on their earnings. The dispute rests in the fact that, percentages aside, the tax cut will return much more money to the very wealthy than it will to the poor or middle class. Democrats

(Turn to BUSH, p. 12)

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### Fact of the Month

Kentucky requires each of its citizens to take at least one bath per year.



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.

# Commentary



## Day Dreaming

Laura Farias '03

Lately, when those rare lapses of time that I have to myself come about, I start to think about the future. As cliché as it might sound, I'm starting to wonder just what is going to happen to me after I walk out the doors of SHS for the final time.

Only a mid-year sophomore, I know that I still have a good two and a half years to go before it's time for me to say goodbye to this school, and possibly this town, for good- that prospect is terrifying.

Although my grades are pretty good, I'm still afraid I won't be able to get into a half-decent college without selling my soul to student loan services.

I'm afraid of leaving home and the security of my family to live in the "real world" where the meals aren't free and no one cares whether you're feeling sick or not.

And most of all, I'm scared that when my little journey through the realm of Academia is over, I'll end up in a dead-end job, miserable, and with no real joy in life and no chance to go back.

I know a fifteen-year-old shouldn't be contemplating what their mid-life crisis would be like, but I guess a little honest to goodness terror helps get one motivated. Since these thoughts started to invade my head, I've tried to study harder and pay more attention to people when they're discussing colleges.

And when I see other students writing off good advice their teachers or whatnot are trying to dispense, I get angry. The clock on our youth is running lower by the second, and although it might seem like four years is a long time, it isn't.

We don't have enough time left to ignore the fact that someday, and it's going to be soon, we're going to be on our own in this big, bad world, and we should be trying to take in all the advice that we can get.

The advice of today will be useful later on, when no one is giving it anymore.

## When You are in the Hallways, Walk

Phil Sablo '01

There are lots of little things that bother me. And most of them are trivial and unimportant. And most of them probably have pretty good reasons that can explain them away. But still, I am working on my fourth year in this school, and some things get annoying.

I've got real issues with whoever came up with the policy of dismissing the cafeteria in two groups.

A - the first group of kids who are let out have a shorter lunch period than the others, and the administration shouldn't take that free time away from them.

B - the second group of kids is held back like animals, unable to move until the first group is gone. It makes me feel stupid.

That is the same lunch policy that I had in fifth grade. It's good to know that I am being treated the same way I was seven years ago - it's a demonstration of the administration's respect for my maturity.

But before I have to endure being dismissed like cattle, I am bothered by another nuisance in the cafeteria. People who cut in the lunch line. What a bunch of inconsiderate jerks. What do they really gain by doing that? They get their lunches five minutes quicker, that's pretty much it.

And honestly, people who cut do not make the line much longer - so their cutting is more of an annoyance than a serious problem. But it's the idea that they have the arrogance to cut a bunch of other people. They must be better than the rest of us, good for them.

I don't know what to call this, but when everyone starts shouting "hey! hey!" it irks me. The noise itself doesn't bother me, but it is just incredibly stupid. Honestly, everyone who participates in those yells demonstrates about as much intellect as a monkey. And to make it worse, I hear people discussing how they plan on

ridors as travel-ways.

In fact, the hallways are the best way to get from class to class, or to the cafeteria or gym or library or wherever. Why does a line of people have to be diverted just because a few individuals decide they would rather stand in the hallway? It makes no sense.

On that same subject, people who walk on the wrong side of the hallway are even worse. Maybe I have this all wrong, but it makes sense that you should stay to the right when you walk.

Did you ever notice that cars driving on the road tend to stay to the right? I thought perhaps we could apply this same principle to walking? Then again, maybe we should all be walking on the left. In any case, I can't figure out what would motivate anyone to walk against the flow of people.

I know I have forgotten some stuff, but those are just a few things that annoy me.

I don't expect them to change nor do I really care, cause it's not like they are so detrimental that they ruin my life. That's all.



starting a "hey! hey!" yell. How much thought must one put into it? I can understand it a little more if it's a spontaneous burst of emotion, but that still doesn't make them appear any brighter.

People who stand in the middle of the hallway are wicked frustrating. Some people actually want to use the cor-

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# Commentary



## Halls of Technological Advancement

Editorial  
Mark Souza '01

Wireless internet access, a computer in every classroom, e-book technology. Yes, the technological revolution is in full swing, and thank goodness we go to Somerset High School, which has its finger on the pulse of everything new and modern. Well, maybe not the pulse but we do have some technology, though not much.

We have internet access, though certainly not wireless. Instead, all of our computers are located in the library, which at times can seem as difficult to get into as Fort Knox.

And of course, we are still years away from having a computer in every classroom. Quite to the contrary, it is quite the sight if there is a computer in most of our classrooms. As for e-book technology, well that is not even worth talking about, it is so far from being implemented.

So what is going on? We are supposed to be the technological generation, the generation where every student grows up with a computer. So, why is it that some of our less technologically adept teachers seem ill equipped to handle VCRs let alone lead us into an era where technology is constantly advancing?

Though their lack of knowledge is understandable since they really are not confronted with having to learn too much about technology, because here at SHS we do not have much.

In defense of the school I suppose change is hard and people find safety in what they

have always done and currently understand. However, it is a little ridiculous when the biggest change in the school is to the new Dell computers. Actually, maybe that is not the biggest change. The biggest change in technology in the school probably happened in, of all places, the AV department.

Of course AV focuses on television production so there is a lot of possible technological equipment that could be



acquired for the program.

There are green screens, state of the art cameras and editing equipment, wireless microphones, and many other things too numerous to mention; AV did not get any of this.

The change that took place in AV does not involve new equipment or anything of the sort. The change in AV is a simple change of venue.

Last year, the AV department was located in the 500's hallway. Located there was the AV office and a studio with more advanced cameras, microphones, and editing equipment.

AV was forced to move into a much smaller, close-like area in the main office corridor. As for the more advanced cameras, mics, and editing equipment, it was sent to the industrial technology department where it was finally set up three weeks ago.

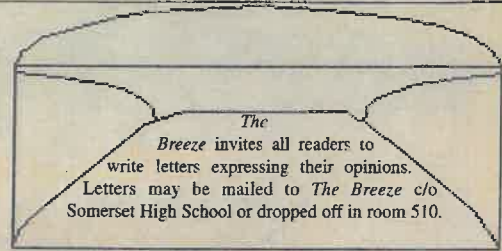
Now that the equipment is set up, once the teacher who was placed, out of his normal area of expertise, in charge of the program will be sufficiently taught how to use it, it will hopefully be available for student use again.

This may seem like an isolated example, but it should not be ignored. The AV department was one that was making advancements.

It was getting new equipment that was being used by students who had already proven themselves in statewide competitions to be talented in the art of television producing.

So yes, AV may be easy to ignore, but if that department, which was seemingly on the rise and actually advancing, can be knocked back that far, then we should worry.

It is not like the rest of the technology in the school is advancing very much, so when one department does it should be commended, not punished. I suppose that is just what we have to put up with though, because we attend Somerset High School, which has its finger on the pulse of everything outdated and mundane.



The Breeze invites all readers to write letters expressing their opinions. Letters may be mailed to The Breeze c/o Somerset High School or dropped off in room 510.

## The End of an Era

Phil Sable '01

Dale Earnhardt is dead. NASCAR's greatest driver lost his life during the Daytona 500 on February 18, 2001. He won seventy-six races, making him sixth on the all-time win list, and earned seven Winston Cup Championships, the highest distinction possible for a stock car driver. But you have probably heard that stuff on the news. His death meant a lot more than simply the loss of a great driver to his fans.

Dale was one of those people that you either loved or hated. Still, he was NASCAR's most popular driver. Everyone has their own reason for having liked him, but there are some things about Dale that will not ever be forgotten. His aggressive driving style earned him a reputation and a few nicknames, like The Intimidator and The Man in Black. He was one of the few guys not afraid to bump cars out of the way to win - this made people dislike him, but it made his fans like him even more. And once out of the car, Dale spoke his mind freely. Once again, he was one of the few drivers who would openly accuse others of wrecking him, or even admit he caused a crash.

Dale appealed to people because he embodied just about every characteristic you would expect from a race car driver. He had the macho personality that one might expect from a driver, and he was incredibly talented. He won the champi-

onship seven times. Richard Petty is the only other driver to do that. And Petty won his championships before NASCAR became big - during a time when most of the other drivers did not have rich sponsors. Dale won all of his against drivers who all had sponsors and were more competitive.

Dale died when he was forty-nine years old. He was one of the senior drivers on the NASCAR circuit, but he was as competitive as ever. Last year he almost won his eighth Winston Cup Championship, finishing second to Bobby Labonte. And even during his last race Dale was running well.

(Turn to EARNHARDT 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 libelous, obscene, or disruptive to school activities.

# ENTERTAINMENT



## Review of *Valentine* by Tom Salvage

Amanda Anctil '02

Jillian Talbot, an affluent and renowned suspense novelist, seems to have everything: a lovely home, a wonderful boyfriend, a famous actress for a best friend, an amazing career, and thousands of fans....

Somewhere in this upper class New York area there is an evil and vengeful person looking to pay Jill a lasting visit on Valentine's Day.

The history of the terrorist's murders is divided throughout the novel. His first encounter with Jill was at Hartley College sixteen years ago. He had an obsessive crush on her and her three friends. The four most popular women on campus had a so-called "clique" called Earth, Wind, Fire, and Water. Jill, along with her friends Cass, Sharon, and Belinda, all despised and were repulsed by the scrawny, geeky man named Victor Dimorta and concocted a plan to humiliate and degrade him. Jill handed him a Valentine's Day card inviting

him to Sharon's room that night on February 14.

When he arrived at Sharon's room, she stripped him and took his clothes while the other girls hid in the closet with a camcorder. When Victor became angry and physically lashed out at the girls he was expelled, which is when his plot for revenge comes into effect.

The plot proceeds to a few years later in late January. Jill has just had another novel published and the publicity is overwhelming. She is happy and preparing to begin a new suspense novel when she receives a horrifying message on her answering machine. It's a sly, manly voice warning her that she is being watched and that her death is near. Jill thinks it's her rapist stepfather. Brian Marshall, who has since been divorced by Jill's mother after the rape "incident" and is spending time in prison.

Throughout the gruesome story, every move, thought, word, and action Jill does is

monitored by this obsessed stalker. He has planted bugs on her phone, cameras in her home, sent her Valentine's Day cards, disgusting gifts, and follows her every time she leaves her home. He has even gone so far as to kill her hired private detective, Barney Fleck, and her psychologist, Dr. Dorothy Philbin, who was the one who helped Jill realize that the stalker is Victor.

With some help from her detective (before he was murdered in cold blood) she learns about the deaths and disappearances of her other three friends, each a year apart and each on Valentine's Day. She also learns of the other gruesome and insane crimes that Victor Dimorta had committed, like when he was sent to prison for twelve years for the murder of his abusive parents. Having knowledge of this information made the defenseless novelist feel at a loss for answers and utterly alone and petrified.

Now, more than anything,

she begins to worry that she may be next in line after her other friends. Thinking of a safe place to stay where she can't be followed until after February 14, she decides to visit some of her fellow writing friends at a writing colony for fellow authors in nearby Long Island. Without telling anyone, even her soon-to-be-fiance, she simply gets in her car and leaves, hoping she will be able to escape the clutches of the psychotic stalker.

This is when she is forced to come face to face with her worst nightmare. She can either confront her fears or she can be consumed and murdered by the killer, but I won't ruin the ending.

Although this entire novel is rich in suspense and vivid imagery, the most satisfying part is the conclusion. The complete turn around and unthinkable ending left my mouth gaping in disbelief. This book is definitely the one for you if you like your horror with a twist.

## The Phantom of the Opera

Ashley Amaral '04

On January 21st my mom and I went to see *The Phantom of the Opera* at the Wang Center in Boston. I enjoyed it so much that on February 11th we, along with my uncle, went to see the production again.

Ted Keegan played The Phantom: an escaped fair-ground freak who lives somewhere in the Opera House. Rebecca Pitcher played Christine Daac: a dancer turned singer at the Opera House. John Cudia played Raoul, Vicomte de Chagny, a patron of the Opera House.

*The Phantom of the Opera* takes place at the Paris Opera House in 1881. The Phantom is in love with Christine from afar. He is giving her singing lessons so she can sing his music. However, the Phantom is thrown into a jealous rage when Raoul falls in love with Christine...and she falls in love with him!

I won't give away the ending for those who've never seen *The Phantom of the Opera*. It left the Wang Center on February 24th. I don't know when it'll come back, but when it does, I highly recommend for those who've never seen it to go see it. The music is beautiful and powerful. My favorite song was "Phantom of the Opera", a duet done by the Phantom and Christine.

The sets are really incredible, because they are elaborate, yet realistic at the same time. Overall, *The Phantom of the Opera* is an excellent show.

## Hannibal Devours the Competition

Maggie Borzým '03

Does "Hello Clarice..." ring a bell? Of course it does. Unless you've been living under a rock and you think "Silence of the Lambs" is a type of meal, then you know what movie every teenager wants to see. Yes, Doctor Lecter is back, with a vengeance. This is a hard review to do since I am determined not to give a lot away.

But the basic gist is Clarice (played by Julianne Moore) is determined to find Doctor Lecter, the genius cannibal she put away ten years ago.

Many people ask is this movie gory and in my opinion its definitely not as bad as most would think, or hope in some matters. There are those who cover their eyes when let's just say for the sake of argument,

somebody is eating his own piece of brain, and there are those who can't help but find it funny, since the idea is completely out there, and of course, it's not real.

I think this movie was well thought out. I would hope so since they had ten years to make it while the fans waited patiently for some more twisted fun. They added in some fun

characters so that Clarice was not the only one who wanted to find Doctor Lecter. A faceless man, a greedy man, an FBI agent whose job is on the line and some beautiful scenes taking place in Italy. If that doesn't intrigue you then I don't know what will.

Now is it worth to see this

(Turn to HANNIBAL, p. 10)

**The following is a letter written to The Breeze regarding last month's article about paintball.**

Mr. Nate Sheehan,

I read with great interest your article that appeared in *The Breeze* today, about paintball. I am the mother of two devout paintball players and you couldn't be more correct when you say safety is the number one rule.

They've been playing for about two years, own very expensive guns and are apparently very talented players. They have played in state tournaments in Florida, Illinois and California. They practice weekly in local tournaments.

One Sunday last fall, during a local tournament, one of my sons was "lit up", by a high-powered paintball gun. These guns fire fifteen rounds per second.

Although he was wearing jeans and heavy cotton camouflage pants, he received an

injury to his private area. Thinking (wishfully) that the pain would subside later in the day, he returned to his out of state college. On Monday the pain became more intense but he stubbornly refused to see a doctor.

By Tuesday he could barely walk. Being somewhat embarrassed, he reluctantly decided to visit the school doctor, who immediately drove him to an area hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery for a ruptured testicle.

I am certain my son would like others to know the importance of wearing a protection cup, during this sport, as they do with football and baseball.

Sincerely,  
Paintball Player's Mom

P.S. Four weeks after surgery, he was practicing in another local tournament.

**And the Winner Is...**

Jennifer Roberge '01

On February 21st music lovers from all over the country tuned in for what is considered one of the biggest musical events of the year. The year's wide variety of performers and award nominees at the 2001 Grammy Awards were enough to keep viewers glued to their seats wondering what was going to happen next.

The show opened with a performance that was everything Madonna's performances have been for years, exciting. Her recent single "Music" was released with her new album this year, and on the night of the Grammy's, that same song left the audience wanting more. Aside from all the dancing and flashback photos in the background, Madonna's performance was sending out a strong message: "Music makes the people come together."

Opening remarks from Grammy host Jonathon Stewart were also entertaining. Cracking multiple jokes about

the controversial rapper Eminem seemed to drop jaws everywhere.

Eminem, who is accused, among many things, of being homophobic, was to perform his hit "Stan" with in the place of Dido, the well-known singer Elton John. This performance was one of the most anticipated acts of the night, and it was also one of the most successful. Eminem also walked away with three Grammy's that night, including Best Rap Solo Performance and Best Rap Album.

Other winners of the evening include Macy Gray (Best Female Pop Vocal Performance), Baha Men (Best Dance Recording), Joni Mitchell (Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album), Lenny Kravitz (Best Male Rock Vocal Performance), Rage Against the Machine (Best Hard Rock Performance), Radiohead (Best Alternative Music Album), and Faith Hill (Best Female

Country Vocal Performance).

One band that had an exciting night was U2. Along with performing their recent hit "Beautiful Day", the group walked away with three Grammy's: Best Rock Performance By A Duo Or Group With Vocal, Song of the Year, and Record of the Year.

Steely Dan also had a good night winning Album of the Year, Best Pop Performance By A Duo Or A Group With Vocal, and Best Pop Vocal Album.

There are many things that make Grammy performances memorable. Sometimes it's the special effects, sometimes it's the energetic dancing, and sometimes it's the skimpy costumes. Destiny's Child's Performance had all of this. The girls sang two of this year's biggest hits: "Independent Women" (from the *Charlie's Angels* movie released this

(Turn to GRAMMY'S, p. 11)

**Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook**

K.C. Dowd '02

What would you do if you were walking down the street one day, and were suddenly attacked by a swarm of African Killer bees? Would you swat? Run really fast? Dive into a swimming pool, provided there is one available?

If you chose dive or swat, you lose! According to the "Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook", written by Joshua Piven and David Borgenicht, the best thing to do is run away, preferably through high bushes or weeds for cover.

This feisty little yellow paper back is full of dire situations and common sense responses that may save your

life, or not.

Luck may be a major factor in the actual outcome of the situation; but a positive attitude is virtually a requisite.

Complete with clear instructions in plain English, this jam-packed resource does offer some useful suggestions for some very horrific encounters. I, for one, am now prepared to wrestle an alligator, stare down a grizzly bear, or land an airplane, all in one day.

This action packed lifesaver is divided into five chapters: Escaping, Defending, Leaping, Emergencies, and Adventures.

very experienced in their fields of disasters, contributed to this book. One can only hope that each survival scenario has been attempted, successfully.

Whether you are planning on

**"I, for one, am now prepared to wrestle an alligator"**

leaping from a motorcycle into a moving vehicle, maneuvering atop a speeding train, or simply in the wrong place at the wrong time, this is an interesting and amusing read.

The instructions are step by step and are accompanied by visuals. The diagram of an actual airplane instrument panel is a great aid in understanding the steps to follow, should you find

yourself in a pilotless, plummeting plane (A parachute could be useful, also).

I, for one, was very impressed with the tenacity this book displays.

It is truly filled with some interesting facts. Hopefully, you will never encounter any of these perilous situations.

If, however, you find your-

self on the brink of disaster, you will be reassured with the thought that you too can survive a poisonous snake attack, escape from quicksand, or persevere through hundreds of days lost at sea.

That is providing you have read the "Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook".

Also, should your adventurous emotions be stirred, the authors offer a disclaimer suggesting you don't actually seek out potentially dangerous situations - just to attempt the solution. Use it only as needed.



## Somerset Says Goodbye to Mr. Tavares

Amanda Ancil '02

"Carpe Diem - Seize the day!" I learned this maxim back in the sixth grade from my teacher, Mrs. Thomas Rose. That is what Mr. Robert Tavares said when asked what his most valuable piece of advice for his students is. "Take advantage of opportunities that come your way. Don't waste time. Get into the 'AP' mode (anti-procrastination)!"

Mr. Tavares, as highly educated and successful as he is, has decided to retire from the high school teaching scene at Somerset, but not from a vibrant and active life. He says "I may be retiring, but I do not feel old, and I'm still in good health!" "Mr. T," as he is referred to by his students, is working on acquiring additional certification in order to continue teaching, possibly on a

junior college or community college level. He's also considering returning to one of his passions, coaching, which has been one of his many talents over the years. He also plans to devote a good deal of quality time with his four-year-old grandson, Evan.

After living in the Flint section of Fall River until the age of nine, the Tavares family moved to Somerset. He attended class in the 300's and 400's section of Somerset High School, which was then known as Somerset Junior High. He played basketball, football, and ran track. During the "off-season" he began his working career at Bristol Knitting Mills where he worked for three to five hours a day with a salary of one dollar an hour after school. He was in charge of unloading

delivery trucks, shipping, running the steam presses, folding and buttoning sweaters, cleaning up, and "doing a little bit of everything."

During the summers of his college years he worked for the Montaup Electric Company right here in Somerset. After college, during which he played football on a full four-year scholarship, he was hired as a teacher and coach at Dighton Rehoboth, with a starting salary of \$4,600 per year.

When a position opened up two years later, offering \$6,000 at Somerset High School, Mr. Tavares "jumped for the chance" to teach at his alma mater. Mr. Tavares reflects on the "personal satisfaction I felt in returning to my hometown to teach and coach."

Since returning, Mr. Tavares has touched the lives of many of his students, many of whom he enjoyed as his athletes when he coached. Between teaching English for grades nine through twelve, coaching track and football, being a "MAX-ED" coordinator, an advisor to the "Breeze", and a part-time guidance counselor for many years, it's definitely safe to say that he has had a positive impact on his community, especially the faculty and students here in our school. His lively personality and "go get 'em / A-P mode" attitude keeps us students alert and ready to learn more.

Although there has not been one day that I have gone to my S-period English class without receiving a warm smile and a cheerful, "Good morning Amanda. How are you?" there are days when the teaching

career can become tedious and challenging, admits Mr. Tavares.

"What keeps me going strong is knowing that there are many good citizens in front of me who want to be productive and successful. I know that I owe them my best effort. Somerset is an exciting workplace. I work with brilliant and dynamic colleagues as well as bright, articulate students who are products of year

Somerset's successful school system."

Although he is a teacher, don't let the title fool you. Mr. Tavares is all about having fun and showing school spirit. As a former coach and football player himself, he enjoys watching our Raiders in action in all events and sports. Recently at a girl's home basketball game against Dartmouth, I saw him shooting baskets to the beat of the music, cheering for the teams, and talking with the players during half time!

All in all, Mr. Tavares has racked up some lasting memories that bring a smile to his face. His greatest happiness is "seeing kids grow up to be successful and productive adults. I am proud to have taught students who have become great citizens: professionals such as doctors, lawyers, and engineers, administrators, commu-



Bob Tavares of the Somerset High School English Department, is retiring after 30 years

(Photo by Greg Joynt)

nity leaders, and loving, devoted parents." Also, teaching children of his first students that are in his current classes leaves him with feelings of nostalgia.

Within his own immediate family, Mr. Tavares says he is "happy and proud that my own children are successful products of Somerset's school system. Our educational system doubles as a socialization process, which reaps great personal rewards. It prepares our citizens for successful, responsible, and productive lives. The record proves that Somerset continues to perpetuate success for its growing citizens."

Of course, one of his proudest and most humbling moments was his induction into Somerset's Athletic Hall of Fame as a player, and also as a

(Turn to TAVARES p. 10)

### Junior Class Semi Formal Information

Tickets will be on sale for the Junior Semi Formal between March 12 and March 14 in the cafeteria. The price will be \$20 each.

The Semi will be held at the Somerset Lodge on March 16 and will begin at 6:30.

### Freshmen-Sophomore Semi Formal Information

The Freshmen-Sophomore Semi Formal will be held on March 23. The price and times have not yet been determined but it will be held at White's of Westport. Ryan Greene will be the DJ.



# School



## Multicultural Week Planned

Kristen Kutz '01

The school will be sponsoring its sixth annual Multicultural Week, March 12-16. For many students this week is a nice way to break up a typical school week. However, the program has two main objectives besides pure entertainment.

The first is to help students recognize the size of the world they will be thrown into after graduation. Hopefully students will end up with a better understanding of the rest of the world and be willing to work among and be productive with different cultures.

The second objective is to attempt to instill tolerance and understanding to those students who may not venture far from their home. This week will

hopefully provide some enlightenment to what the world outside of Somerset is like.

The week will contain various events and activities. Possible visitors are a Tae Kwan Do instructor, a professor to speak about Black History Month, Chris Roberge, the Smith School of Dance, a reporter from Channel 12, a Native American Chief, and a former substitute teacher here, Jay Leonardo.

The program will be run similar to how it has been in the past with classes being allowed to attend the various presentations at their teacher's discretion. There will also be certain presentations specifically for different foreign languages.



Exchange students from Portugal who are visiting the Somerset High School for a few weeks.

(Photo by Greg Joynt)

## Seat Belt Safety Grant Awarded

Somerset High School received a grant award of \$3000 from the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau to pilot a seat belt safety program, encouraging teens in Somerset to buckle up! Somerset was one of only eight high school systems in the Commonwealth to receive this grant.

Students at Somerset High

are still dealing with the recent death of a Somerset High School student in a car crash. This makes a program like this very valuable at this time. More teens will pay attention to the grave results not using their safety belts can have. According to 1999 statewide survey by the Bureau, the safety belt usage rate among

Massachusetts teens (ages 16-19) was just 37%. The rate compares poorly to the 52% rate by front-seat occupants of all ages in the state.

Somerset Police recently conducted an observational survey at the school one morning as students, faculty, and staff drove into school. Results of (Turn to SEATBELT p.12)

## STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Eight Somerset High School Student Council members will attend the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils annual conference, March 14-15.

Over 1,000 students from approximately 70 schools attend the conference.

At this conference students participate in workshops designed to enhance their leadership skills. Also, many renowned guests and keynote speakers motivate students throughout the conference. The students are also provided with entertainment, such as a dance and a lip sync contest.

In the past students have come back with unique ideas. One such idea was the dollar pick-up, which recently took place during halftime of a boys' basketball game. The idea of the Student Summit also originated from this conference.

Student Council members will also be going to Florida for the Youth Educational Series, March 29-April 2. Here, Student Council members will not only learn leadership skills, but also life lessons.

## Metis Associates to Evaluate Business Department

Laurel Gauthier '03

Metis Associates has a contract with the Massachusetts Department of Education's School-to-Career Cluster to carry out a multi-year evaluation of the Massachusetts' School-to-Career Initiative.

They are carrying out a study regarding exemplary efforts to provide career development at the high school level. Somerset High School has been identified as one of the high schools in Massachusetts that has made a concerted effort

to incorporate career development into the education of students.

On April 5, 2001, a member of the Metis Associates Staff will spend the day at our school gathering information about our school's development efforts. While at our school, the representative sent from Metis Associates would like to accomplish the following: interview Mr. Rebello, Mr. Pelagio, one or more of the guidance counselors responsi-

ble for career development, and one or more of the teachers who have incorporated career development into their curriculum.

The representative would like to meet with a few small groups of students who have participated in the career development activities. They will also be reviewing any guidance and/or instructional materials used for career development purposes, and if possible, observing any career development activities taking place.



## March Madness Is Approaching

Adam Levesque '01

When I sit down and open the paper on an upcoming Monday morning I, as is my usual routine, go straight to the sports section and open it up and on page two or three I will find an NCAA Tournament bracket ready to be filled out.

I get a pencil and begin to through each of the games and I begin to realize I have no idea who I am going to choose to win it all this year. In past years the favorites to win it all were clear, although they may have not won it all, their still were two or three clear cut favorites to finish up on top. As I continue to look at the top seeds, I notice that they all have about the same chance of winning the big dance.

One of the first teams I consider to win it all when I am filling out my bracket is Stanford. As in the past few years, they have one of the top teams in the country and they have a lot of quality wins. Sounds a lot like the past few years, high ranked Stanford team choking in the tournament and providing another Cinderella story for a low seeded team.

Then I look at North Carolina another very talented team who has an excellent chance of winning it all, but who follow the same trend as Stanford. Yeah, you might be saying last year they made a great run in the tournament and their young players are more experienced this year than last, but think of a couple of years before that when they had the excellent team with Vince Carter that choked to Arizona.

Next, I look at Duke and I

see another extremely talented Duke team that has almost the same players as the year before. Oh wait a second, wasn't Duke supposed to win the tournament the past two years? Once again we find the recurring theme of big time teams choking at crunch time.

Then, I see Michigan State and I finally begin to smile a little because unlike the previous mentioned teams they have met the expectations set for them in previous years. There's one problem though, where are they going to get points from? Yeah, they play great defense but they don't have a player that can carry the scoring burden and a lot of the time during the tournament, you need a player like that to get you through the close games. Then there's Illinois and once again I have a smirk on my face. Illinois is a very talented team but an unproven one. They have not made any noise in the tournament lately and they may need another year under their belts before they do.

Florida is another great choice; they have a much better team than last year's that made it to the championship game.

Virginia is also an excellent candidate to win it all; all they did this year was beat Duke and North Carolina, no big deal.

Then I look at teams who are going to be potential spoilers and I can not seem to take my eyes off Notre Dame. They can shoot the three extremely well and they have a big time player - the perfect combination to make a run in the tournament.

I also notice red hot

Kentucky, who had the same kind of momentum three years ago when they won it all.

Wisconsin is another great choice especially considering the fact that they still play the same good defense and have more potent scorers than last year's team.

Then I try to think of a team that might be the next Cinderella, but as in years past I have never heard of most of these teams like many other people. Since there will be no great Gonzaga team this year I do not even waste my time on trying to pick the next Cinderella team.

Lastly, we can look at the local scene and this year luckily we have two local teams that could have great success in the NCAA Tournament, Boston College and Providence College.

Both of these teams are led by talented point guards who know how to run the floor in crunch time. Providence College may have the advantage of the two, even with them losing to Boston College twice this year because their deep bench will come in handy as the tournament progresses.

We all have our own opinions on who is going to win it all and why, but this year there is not a dominate team above all the rest that we can side with. Everyone can beat everyone and so far this year they have. When you fill out your bracket this year keep an open mind and do not rule out any possibilities because you should know by now to expect the unexpected, come NCAA Tournament time.

## The XFL

A.J. Nasser '01

The XFL's debut began with a large fireworks display; coincidentally, the ratings began the same way. The first game of week one posted a 10.8 TV rating. Unfortunately for Vince Michelson (the XFL's founder and WWF marketing genius), the ratings did not remain as high. Ratings gradually slipped from 10.8 to 5.0 to 3.4 to 1.3 and then back up to 1.9. Last week viewer ship fell below what sponsors were promised.

Why did things drop so drastically? People may have expected too much. People have to remember that with the exception of a few male changes, XFL is still football, and is similar to the NFL.

Did NBC take a chance on McMahon and come away disappointed? NBC sports chairman Dick Ebersol told reporters to expect a TV rating that was about half of week one's 10.8 posting. After ratings like 1.3, what does NBC have to say about its investment now? The games did look better than most NFL alternatives but were still below major college football and, of course, the NFL itself.

Some of the bright spots of the XFL proved to be more player and coach commentary and in-your-face angles of both the field and locker rooms, which allow for you to be able to see the sounds of tackling being made. The league also does not allow fair catches, which have

about the extra excitement level as a pick-off move by a pitcher in baseball. And of course, you cannot forget the cheerleaders.

The XFL has some major weaknesses, such as the pitiful excuse for announcers. Give me a break. What does Jesse Ventura know about providing live commentary on a football game? The announcers act like they do not know an X from an O in a playbook and could not analyze a football play for their lives.

The other weakness the XFL has is that it has to establish itself as a league and that takes time. When I watch a NFL game, I know I'm watching to see who has the best chances of making it to the Super Bowl. When I watch an XFL game, what is supposed to be my driving force, to see two teams play to find out who will win the big bonus at the end of the year, who cares?

The XFL will gradually gain more fan support and the TV ratings will go up, but how long will it take, and how high will the ratings go? Many people believe the league will not survive unless it can compete with the NFL's level of play. Personally, after the first couple of weeks, I do not think it will be able to. However, give the XFL a try this week and draw your own conclusion.



## Caleb Bliss: Wrestling State Champion

Caleb Bliss placed first February 24 at Franklin High School in the 215-pound weight class at the All State Wrestling Tournament. Caleb won the tournament against a field that included the top twelve wrestlers in his weight class,

which had Caleb seeded as eighth going in.

In his opening match he pinned Chris Clark of Taconic at 3:43. Then, against the top seeded Rory Lydon of Quincy, Caleb pulled an upset with a 6-3 victory. In his next two

matches Caleb defeated Brian Young of Natick and Neil Pallotta of Boston College High School to win the state championship in his weight class.

Caleb competed Friday and Saturday at Pinkerton Academy in the New England Wrestling Tournament.

## Hockey Team Wins Opener

The Somerset Blue Raiders hockey team defeated South Shore Voke 3-0 Thursday in their opening game of the post-season tournament. Josh Cabral, Jay Ledo, and Jim Sine

scored the goals for the Raiders while Steve Grota shutdown the South Shore Voke offense by stopping all 25 shots on goal.

The Raiders played Coyle-Cassidy Saturday at the

Bridgwater Rink in the second round of the tournament.

Congratulations to the hockey team on having a successful season.

## Girls Basketball Team Advances

Wednesday Night the girls basketball team defeated EAC rival Dartmouth 54-47 in the opening round of the post-season tournament.

The game was closely fought throughout and featured many lead changes.

Down by a few points with two minutes remaining in the game the Raider girls began an exciting comeback that ended with them scoring 7 straight points after the game was tied at 47-47.

The girls basketball team

played the winner of Fridays game between Norwood and Brockton yesterday in the second round of the post-season tournament.

Congratulations to the girls basketball team on having a great season.

## Sox Preseason Starts Off Rough

K.C. David '01

Just a day after shortstop Nomar Garciaparra was sidelined for approximately two weeks due to a re-occurring wrist injury, outfielder and slugger Manny Ramirez asked to be moved back to his normal position (right field) after an abrupt change to left by Sox manager Jimmy Williams. This came eight days after a conference with Williams in which they both agreed to the change. Come on! For \$160 million, he should be playing the position he is told to play and do it well.

Their offense and defense is virtually unstoppable. With Nomar Garciaparra, Carl

Everette, Manny Ramirez, and Dante Bichette smack city in the middle of the line-up, along with other offensive threats, opposing pitchers (if they are human) should have the hair on the back of their necks standing on end. The Red Sox's defense is also going to contribute greatly.

The pitchers for Boston, led by Pedro Martinez, have been built-up during the off-season. Frank Castillo, Rolando Arrojo, David Cone, and Hideo Nomo, along with others, should give the Sox the boost they need to break the so-called "curse of the Bambino." If the moon does

fall into a batting or pitching slump, I am sure that the defense in the field will pick up the slack.

The Boston Red Sox's pre-season opener didn't go quite as planned. The Sox's 12-5 loss to the Minnesota Twins should come as a wake-up call.

I realize it is a pre-season game, but they better get their act together, and fast. As a Red Sox fan, I have all the faith in the world that they can become world champs, but playing like that won't beat the Yankees in September.



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The Breeze would like to congratulate the wrestling team, girls basketball team, boys basketball team, and hockey team on successful seasons!

JESIE/By JESSIE BEN DUEZA



**EARNHARDT**

(Continued from p.3)

he was in third place until his accident happened.

Anyone familiar with Dale's career knows the irony in his death happening at the Daytona International Speedway. Daytona is undoubtedly NASCAR's most famous track, and one that Dale excelled at. He won more races at Daytona than any other driver, but for years a win at the Daytona 500 eluded him. More than once Dale was leading the race on the final turn, only to get involved in a crash or have a tire blow.

Then it happened. In 1998 The Intimidator, on his twentieth attempt, finally won NASCAR's biggest race. The end of that race saw the biggest celebration that NASCAR has

ever seen. Three years later, with his son and his teammate in front of him, Dale died on the last turn of the last lap of that race.

Being a fan of Dale I did not take his death easily. It is hard to convey what it felt like. He was the greatest NASCAR driver ever, a man afraid of nothing on the racetrack, still winning races and being successful. But he died. I own a lot of Earnhardt shirts, hats, and collectibles, but now they seem like unpleasant reminders of something that should have never happened. Not in my wildest dreams did I picture Dale dying. Even after three NASCAR drivers died last year, it never once crossed my mind. It is almost as if his

death has left a huge void that will not ever be filled. Lots of people feel that void.

Dale drove the black #3 GM Goodwrench car, and he sold all kinds of merchandise bearing that logo. But now, every hat, bumper sticker, jacket, and t-shirt with his logo has a different meaning. Those people bought that stuff to support their favorite driver, now it is all just a reminder of him.

Last month I was cheering Dale on as he made his way around the Daytona 500. Now he is gone. Everyone is used to hearing about legends from the past, but I never imagined that I would see one pass into history so unexpectedly. It just does not feel right.



Photo courtesy of dalcearnhardt.com

**TAVARES**

(Continued from p.6)

member of a State Championship football team.

At the end of my interviewing session I asked Mr. Tavares how he wants to be remembered. His reply was, "for all the positive things- that I really and truly cared about my students. I always encourage them

to be the best that they could be." He really believes that everyone can be successful, if they are willing to try hard enough.

On that final note, I'd just like to end by saying that we, as students, will all miss Mr. Tavares' jokes, mottoes, and rap

star impersonations. We wish him "peace, love, and happiness," along with enjoyment and success, in all that his future brings.

**HANNIBAL**

(Continued from p. 4)

movie? Honestly, my opinion doesn't matter since if I say "no," you'll go anyway. "Hannibal" was an overall entertaining movie where you don't really know how it's going to end (unless some cruel heartless person told you). I must say, I just hated the end-

ing. Just so you know, it's not the same as the book but even worse. If they found a more creative and thrilling end to this great movie, I give it five stars. That's too bad.

# Saint Patrick's Day

Conor Murray '02

On March 17, Ireland and America celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. In America, it is a day for parties, parades and big celebrations. In Ireland though, it is actually just a quiet, religious holiday, far from the wildness of the American celebration.

There is a lot of fact and myth to the story of Saint Patrick. Some think there may have been two Saint Patricks, both bringing Christianity to Ireland but at two different times.

Another legend about Saint Patrick is that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland. It is true that there aren't any snakes in Ireland, because Ireland had been split from the rest of Europe during the Ice Age which would have wiped out the snake population.

There is so much fact and myth about Saint Patrick that many historians do not know where the fact ends and where the myth begins. This is the story of Saint Patrick.

Saint Patrick was born in 373 A.D. in either Scotland or

Roman England. His real name was Maewyn Succat. At the age of 16, he was kidnapped by pirates and sold to slavery in Ireland. Voices told him where he could find a getaway ship and he was able to escape to France.

It was here that he became a priest and later, a bishop. In which he then took the name of Patrick. While in France, many years later, Patrick had a dream that the Irish were calling to him, asking that he return to Ireland and tell them about God and the Christian gospel.

At the age of 60 years, he made the journey back to Ireland to spread the word of God to the Irish people. He used a shamrock as a metaphor to explain the Trinity (Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit) to them. His final act to the Irish was driving all of the snakes out of Ireland, making Ireland a snake free island.

Patrick became a Saint to the Irish people and on every 17th of March, his contributions to Irish culture are celebrated all over Ireland.

# HAPPY

# SAINT



# PATRICK'S

# DAY

# Ancient Chinese Secret....Huh?

Maggie Borzym '03

Age-old national relics and priceless works of art were given a thorough scrubbing with soap and water last month when local authorities ordered a cleaning crew into the Confucius Temple in Shandong province, southeast China.

As a result the national treasures at the 2,500-year-old cradle of Chinese civilization are now beyond repair.

The government responded by sending an investigation team to Shandong. It discov-

ered more evidence of gross negligence, including an incident in which a truck driver backed over a stone tablet covered with priceless calligraphy.

In buildings around Dacheng Hall, the 100-foot high Confucius memorial, when the sage is said to have taught in 500 BC, the paint has peeled in strips of almost a foot long.

Many local people who depend on tourism are outraged.

There are more interesting stories available at [www.bizzarenews.com](http://www.bizzarenews.com)

# GRAMMY'S

(Continued from p. 5)

summer), and "Say My Name" (one of the singles on their album). After the performance, U2 told the Grammy audience that they were the newest members of the Destiny's Child Fan Club. The all girl group won awards for Best R&B Performance By A Duo Or Group With Vocal and Best R&B Song.

Grammy Nominee Christina



Aguilera did not walk away with an award this year, but she did have a memorable Latin performance. Watching her sing and dance onstage in a foreign language was very impressive for Christina fans. Even though most of the audience had no idea what she was

singing about, her performance was vibrant and she had the audience captivated.

The 2001 Grammy's were not just another award show. Filled with entertainment and controversy, the show was almost addicting to viewers all over the country. By the end of the night when it was all over, some of our favorite musical

# Women's History Month

Lynn n Creamer '02  
Holly Chagno '02

Throughout history, women have made numerous contributions to society. In many present day schools, children learn only about important MALE figures in history, not about any of the many female achievements.

March is the annual celebration of women's history. We take this time to acknowledge women's history, not to separate women from men but to remember that women are a part of history.

Modern day society is a collaboration of both men and women's contributions to the

world. For better or worse, women have been just as much a part of history as men have been.

For example, where would we be now if Rosa Parks had caved in and given up her bus seat? Or what would we pledge our allegiance to every morning if Betsy Ross hadn't taken the time to sew the first American flag?

Had the women not endured such hardships and suffering, the women in society today most likely would not be as independent.

For instance, Amelia Earhart

changed the world of aviation by becoming the first woman to fly solo over the Atlantic Ocean.

In conclusion, no matter how meager their contributions seemed at the time, they were symbolic in the times to come.

So fellas, treat your women as best as you can, because you never know how they will impact future generations. Ladies, never give up, because you are just as important in society as men are!

Happy Women's History Month!

### CANNON

(Continued from p. 1)

In journalism you meet a lot of famous people. "I've met Bill and Hillary Clinton, Ronald Reagan, Cal Ripkin, Willie Mays, Bill Bradley, Chuck Yeager, Jon Glenn, and Jimmy Carter."

You also journey to other countries following the story wherever it goes. To be an investigative journalist you have to be very careful not to accuse someone who might be innocent. You also need to be empathetic to the victim and their families. You also need to be mindful that even well intentioned police officers, prosecutors, judges, and even juries can make mistakes.

"I was 19 years old. It dawned on me that a man would spend most of his waking hours at work. What that means is if you want to be happy in life you need to be happy in your work. So it took me about 5 minutes to realize that journalism would allow me to do the two things that I love to do, which are one: learn about the world, and two: tell stories to people."

Unlike most jobs there is no highest position a journalist can attain. There is no corporate ladder in the truest sense of the word. However, the highest paying job is the network anchor. The hours are long, but if you really love the work it is

not like work at all, it is more like what you do. Kind of like school is what kids do. Journalists work six days a week just like most jobs.

When applying for a job at the national journal, they look for people with enthusiasm, curiosity for the world, hard workers who are smart, the ability to write clearly, and people who are fair minded.

The best journalism schools are Columbia, Northwestern, The University of Missouri, and UC Berkley. But it doesn't really matter which college you go to, because you can only get out of college what you put into college.

In fact Mr. Cannon went to the University of Colorado where he didn't even stay for graduation day. It was so unimportant, and him, and not once has anyone asked to see his diploma.

If your goal is to be on the White House press corps, the best classes to take are classes that make you read and write a lot. In college the best classes are just general classes and courses on politics. You should always minor in something you love to do. "A good journalist is a generalist."

After you graduate, if you went to a good school, you could start out at about 21,000 a year, and the top writers can get as much as 150,000 yearly.

### BUSH

(Continued from p. 1)

argue that of the \$1.6 trillion cut, nearly half of it will go back into the pockets of those making \$900,000+ annually.

Besides his tax plan, the President addressed education, military spending, and plans for a planned surplus. Bush restated his goal of improving education in America through federally funded programs. Bush wants to increase incentives to find better teachers, to impose testing for grade school children to ensure that they are learning, and to offer more education choices to parents outside of public schools.

To support the military the President wants to implement pay increases for personnel and give funding to make sure that the armed forces are capable of handling emerging threats. The surplus that Bush expects to create could, according to him, be spent in various avenues. It could be used to support medical programs, to bolster the military's budget, or to eliminate some of the national debt.

Overall, Bush received high marks about his speech to Congress. While there was disagreement over certain issues, it was generally agreed that the tone of the President's address was optimistic and appealing. The next step for President Bush is to actually pass his tax cut through Congress, which, based on early indications, may not be easily done. Whatever the case, Bush remains firmly behind his plan and is hoping to now gather support from the general public whose influence could help it become law.

### Listen to This

\*SoapBox\* is a totally student radio show that talks about whatever you want. Listen every Wednesday from 9-11 pm on AM 1400. Call in. Get on the radio. Say what you want. (677-1400)

The panel features two SHS students... but the school's not involved. So...listen Wednesday 9-11 PM on AM 1400 WHTB. Support the only radio show that cares about you! One more time...

\*SoapBox\* - Wednesdays

### SEAT BELT

(Continued from p. 7)

the survey showed 70% of front-seat passengers that day were buckled; an encouraging figure. Safety information as well as ice scrapers with a safety message were distributed to all drivers and passengers. Somerset High School is planning a variety of student based activities to encourage students to buckle up, including a pledge drive, a poster contest, and a community safety initiative. Students will also be responsible to write a formal seat belt policy for next years handbook.

"These grant funds will enable us to develop creative ways to educate and motivate our students to buckle up," said Donald Rebello, principal at Somerset High. Safety belt use by teenagers is a proven, cost effective way to protect them from crash-related injuries and

death. Safety belts reduce the risk of death in a motor vehicle by up to 50%. It is especially critical for teenage drivers to buckle up because they are at a higher risk of death or injury due to limited driving experience. Teens are more likely to speed and to drive while impaired or distracted.

"We hope this grant program will encourage innovative school-based initiatives that result in students convincing their peers to buckle up as well as to adopt other safe driving practices," said Nancy J. Luther, Executive Director of the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau. "Adults in Somerset can assist this grant program by making sure they and all their passengers always buckle up and use the appropriate child safety seat."

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