



The Breeze



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Somerset, Massachusetts

Cyber obstruction clarified

KC Dowd
Editor '04

In the previous Breeze issue, I questioned the need for the imposed blocking of research sites on the Internet. This query was initiated in the spirit of constructive concern to enable students to access pertinent information in the course of their academic requirements. Mr. Ray Nekrasz, information technology specialist (for the Somerset Public School System), clarified the reasons for this cyber obstruction, which blocks one's access to certain sites on the Internet.

Mr. Nekrasz has worked diligently, for several months, securing federal grants to enhance the technology program and equipment for the school district. This has involved many hours of tedious paper work and documentation to secure funding that was appropriately used to update and expand our computer system. When procuring a federal grant, the recipient is usually required to adhere to specific guidelines, which are outlined by the (funding) agency. Inherent in the regulations put forth by the federal government are policies that restrict exposure of students to certain material such as hate, violence, pornography, and other material which is inappropriate for student viewing. Blocks are built into the computer programs that automatically limit or refuse access to any site that may have material or vocabulary that the guidelines have predetermined to be inappropriate. Unfortunately, this sometimes encumbers benign sites by virtue of the language or terminology that is expressed on the site. This censoring is intended to shield students from unsuitable material. In order to qualify for certain government grants, the recipients must agree to follow the rules or risk withdrawal of the

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SHS hosts Compass visit

KC Dowd '04
Breeze Staff

Somerset High School hosted the first of two "Sharing Events" under the Compass School provisions, on February 6. Highlighted were the initiatives that have been established and incorporated into the overall academic programming by the SHS faculty. These goals were defined to improve student performance on MCAS, as well as academic studies. Visitors from other Massachusetts schools will hear how SHS has integrated these ideas to raise expectations, as well as to redefine the learning environment. Utilizing the "High Schools That Work" program, Educational Reform initiatives and the NEASC self-study, SHS has promoted effective changes and outlined their implementation strategies.

One of the significant changes was the establishment of a Learning Outcomes Committee comprised of teacher representatives from each content area. Included in the tasks of this committee was to create content-related rubrics for each of the 19 academic expectations that were outlined in the Somerset High School Mission Statement.

Another addition to programming implemented the MCAS skills building clas-



PRINCIPAL DONALD REBELLO speaks at a recent Compass School visit hosted at Somerset High School.

ses, which were incorporated into the school day. This provides ongoing instruction in preparation for the MCAS, as well as improvement of general academic skills.

A more rigorous schedule of required coursework has also been executed by increasing the number of required courses and credits needed for graduation. Student performance-based instruction has been incorporated into content areas with the goal of engaging students in their learning objectives. This included employing more stringent rules of participation eligibility for athletics and other activities based on grades.

Principal Donald Rebello presented an introduction with opening comments. Following this, the various panels presented information and strategies relevant to the following topics: "High Schools That Work Initiatives," MCAS Preparation, Raising Standards, and Developing Outcome Rubrics. It is envisioned that this type of exchange will provide positive discussion and sharing of ideas to enhance student performance throughout the school districts of Massachusetts. The next information-sharing event will take place on March 20 at SHS.

State approves English immersion question

By Kelsey Pavao
Breeze Staff

On November 5, 2002 Massachusetts residents voted overwhelmingly (over 70 percent) in favor of English Immersion. By voting yes on Question 2, Massachusetts will remove its bilingual education program, which has been in existence since 1971. This was the first mandated bilingual education program in the United States.

Approximately 40,000 students will be affected by this transition to "structured English immersion." California in 1998 and Arizona in 2002 have already taken similar measures.

"I think the main problem is that the state has been in the business of trying to tell every community what the best program there is to use," Tim Duncan, chairman of the Committee for Fairness to

Children and Teachers, said. "In the past, they'd force them to use bilingual when an immersion might have been better. Now we'll err in the same way, but on the other side."

Under the bilingual education curriculum, the student's native language is used in conjunction with English in a variety of programs including English as a Second Language (ESL), partial immersion, and two-way immersion. By doing this, the children are thought to develop better English skills by making connections with their native language. Teaching both languages encourages bilingualism and biliteracy. In addition, students will also not miss out on important academic concepts because other subjects are taught in the child's native language.

Bilingual education students are not taught in regular classes with English

speaking students. Advocates of English Immersion claim that this "segregation" sets a lower standard of learning.

Students are expected to learn conversational English in one to three years and develop the ability to use English in complex academic tasks in five to seven years. This is sometimes criticized as being too lengthy a time period.

English Immersion is an overall more rigid program than its predecessor. It calls for one year of intensive English instruction before students are released into mainstream classrooms. This will force students to become proficient in English at a fast pace, which is the main goal of the program. "Seventy-five percent of foreign-born parents in a nation wide survey say that the school's first priority should be to teach English quickly, even if

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Fair opens up the world of science

KC Dowd - Editor '04
Somerset High School held an inspiring Science Fair on February 12. Brayton Point Station sponsored this event, offering financial assistance that made this student orientated and challenging experience possible. Science teacher Mrs. Elaine Rezendes is the Science Fair coordinator and organizer of this innovative science event. The goal of this inventive exhibition is to provide an opportunity for self-motivated participants to explore their interest in science and express their knowledge to others. Students in grades 9-12 were invited to partake. Participants are required to put forth thought-provoking projects that involve initiative, independent research and resourcefulness. A process must be followed to include a hypothesis, the actual experiment, visuals, a log and a report. These goals were accomplished and surpassed by this year's entries.

Student scientists certainly demonstrated a diverse presentation of extensive individual exploration, analysis and ingenuity. There were 50 entries covering subjects such as energy, plant life, aerodynamics, DNA, cloning, cerebral palsy, intelligence and more. Twenty-five judges from area colleges, high schools and the power plant viewed the creative works of the team and single project entries.

Special thanks were extended to the supportive parents and science teachers for their hard work, advice and patience. Brian Simons designed the programs, signs and banners. Also, the Science Club members were appreciated for their loyalty and generous assistance. Brayton Point's kind \$2,000 contribution was greatly appreciated for this educational experience. The judges were recognized for volunteering their time and expertise. Also supporting the event were Principal Mr. Rebello, Science Coordinator Mrs. Clement and Vice-Principals Mr. Pinault and Mrs. Camara. Mrs. Rezendes deserves praise

for countless hours of diligent planning, organizing and insights to once again create an opportunity of excellence for the students at SHS.

And the winners are:

Individual Project:

1st Place - Jeff Smith - "Battle of the Sexes"

2nd Place - Nathaniel Sheehan - "Astrobiology"

3rd Place- Matt Pettine- "Bridge or Bust"

3rd Place- Nicole Gervais - "A Little Sweat"

Honorable Mention: Amanda Cabral - "Growing Morning Glories"

Honorable Mention: Jen Patten - "Rock, Right or Raw."

Honorable Mention: Michelle LaMaire - "Camp: How Much is Too Much?"

Honorable Mention: Shayne Parent - "Sonic Machine - Clean Energy"

Honorable Mention: Alexa Ferris - "To be Cleaned or Not?"

Honorable Mention: Patrick Sullivan - "Memory- To Lose or Not?"

Honorable Mention: Courtney Rattacker - "An Unpleasant Sanitary"

Honorable Mention: Rebecca Mendez - "Hey Bemooh..."

Team Project:

1st Place - Amanda Renard & Jamie Souza - "To Wipe or Blow"

2nd Place: Kaylee Oliveira & Sebastian Minor - "Shout it Out"

3rd Place: Vanessa Martins & Alicia Lopes - "Friendship"

Honorable Mention: Christie Edicks & Kristen Savic - "Coca Cola- Taste Buds"

Honorable Mention: Steve Dolph & Adam Correa - "Paper Airplanes"

Honorable Mention: Kayla Macedo & Caitlyn Shabshtetowitz - "DNA at Your Fingertips"

Honorable Mention: Andrew Gunning & Kevin Andes - "Music in Athletics"



AMANDA CABRAL SITS NEXT TO HER PROJECT at the recent science fair held at Somerset High School.



NICK TOULIN is seen with his project at the state science fair.



JEFF SMITH participated in the recent science fair at Somerset High School.



MATT PETTINE did a project on bridges for the recent science fair at the high school.

Mr. Reginald Pelagio: Technically speaking

K.C. Dowd - Editor '04

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Reginald Pelagio, Business Department coordinator at Somerset High School. I found him to be the consummate educator, continually seeking professional growth and educational options for the students of SHS. Mr. Pelagio is an important and willing resource to students and colleagues, especially those who are seeking to improve their skills in the ever-evolving world of technology. He is also an individual who is active in fostering collaboration with local colleges to provide college credits and educational opportunities for students interested in exploring or pursuing computer proficiency. Mr. Pelagio's extensive business experience keeps him updated on the skills needed in today's job market.

Mr. Pelagio is a seasoned educator of over 30 years. He is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, with a degree in business administration. This includes a strong background in technology. He is presently pursuing a doctorate program through Columbia Commonwealth University, in business/technology.

Mr. Pelagio began his career in the Fall River Public Schools as a junior high school teacher, then as a business teacher at Durfee High School. He briefly left education to pursue a business venture, and returned as the Business Department head at SHS, in 1982. He has also established a business, Micro Users Unlimited Inc., which provides adult training to individuals who have lost their jobs. This is in association with the Department of Employment and also provides job placement services.

During his tenure there have been significant changes in the field of technology, which has transformed the business world into a fast paced, giga-byte driven, cyberized domain. Mr. Pelagio has remained current and is extremely cognizant of today's employment needs, relevant to the progressive technological implications.

Would you share some of your personal interests or hobbies?



SOMERSET HIGH SCHOOL BUSINESS COORDINATOR REGINALD PELAGIO is seen above working at a computer terminal.

I am a wood abstract artist. Some of my work was displayed at the Brockton Art Museum years ago. I call myself a ham and eggs carpenter. I can do remodeling construction. I'm now building furniture for my home.

How/when did you become interested in the technical field?

I became involved in the technical field back in 1968, after taking a course at Providence College. It was coursework concerning programming in basic. Back then, they had main frame computers. I was very intrigued with it. At that time, we were using key punch cards and, what is now considered old technology. I later took graduate courses at UMD and became more involved with the evolving computer technology.

I created the first word processing

course at Bristol Community College in 1982. They had a classroom of new computers and did not know quite what to do with them. I established their first word processing class and have continued to update course offerings as technology has progressed.

Please speak about the technology program at Somerset High School, what's available for the students, and how we should incorporate it into our academic program to meet the needs of our ultimate goals. (presumably future employment and competitive skills).

Now that the Department of Education requires there be more technology in the classroom, I strongly feel that technology should be incorporated, in some form, in every subject that is offered. This can be accomplished in the computer lab. Every

student should also have some core of keyboarding experience on the word processor. Available to students at SHS, and essential for future employment and educational pursuits, is course work in Microsoft Word and programs such as Excel, Power Point, and Access. The type of subjects that are required now, at the post secondary level, and in general with business, require this knowledge and will afford the student an edge. Technology should, and can, be incorporated at every level, in all subject areas, at SHS.

The Tech-Prep program was started in our school about eight years ago. It was through a relationship with Bristol Community College. This was to open the door to technology for students at SHS, which it has accomplished. We initiated this program in the business department. Originally, we instructed how to use the computer, its basic functions including word processing. This program has expanded so that now we offer courses in our department that can be used for actual college credit, provided that our coursework meets the criteria of the college(s) involved. Credits are transferable to most colleges in the state. This also allows us to offer instruction in more sophisticated programming, to meet the skill levels that are relevant to what employers are looking for. The Tech-Prep program will evolve as business expectations do. This offers students a head start, as well as exposure to technology, which will assist in their career choices.

What, do you feel, are the most significant changes in the job market, related to technology?

I'll use my business as an example, because we deal with a lot of people who have gone through job changes, sometimes unexpected. When the job of the average worker is eliminated and new job training is required, it is always suggested that the training should be in technology. Most employment opportunities today require skills in computer use or programming. The noted growth area is in the medical

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Somerset music students perform with the best in the area

By Sarah Sevigny '03
Breeze Staff

Recently, the Senior Southeastern District Music Festival was held at Bridgewater State College. Nine talented musicians were selected by auditions held in December to perform with the best music students in the district. These students are as follows:

Chorus:

- * Nathan Tavares '03 Bass**
- * Andrew Correia '06 Alto**

Orchestra

- * Cyndi Ferreira '03 Viola
- * Lynn Mello '03 Viola
- * Kim Hudson '03 Violin

Band

- * Andre Faria '03 Trumpet
- * Sarah Sevigny '03 Clarinet*
- * Tim Demoranville '04 Trumpet
- * Nick Reed '04 Baritone Saxophone*

*All-State Recommendation

**Selected to perform with All-State after auditions

As you may have noticed, I was

selected to perform with the Senior District Band and personally I thought it was a great experience. Somerset was represented very well, and awesome music was performed the day of the concert. The day before the concert was completely packed with rehearsal so it was a pretty tiring weekend. Most of us purchased a CD of the concert since we weren't allowed to listen to the other groups perform. Congratulations to all the District-selected musicians and I hope you had as much fun as I did.

Special congratulations go to senior Nathan Tavares and freshman Andrew Correia for being selected to perform with the All-State Chorus. Although Nick and I each received recommendations to audition for the All-State Band, we both missed the cut-off score by a few points. I believe the All-State concert will be held at Boston Symphony Hall. If you are interested in attending, please inquire for the time and date in the music office. Congratulations

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Perspectives



Shuttle shows vulnerabilities of man's inventions

By K.C. Dowd - Editor '04

On February 1, 2003, the world lost seven of its best and brightest when the space shuttle Columbia exploded over Nacogdoches, Texas, during its orbit reentry around 9 a.m. Thousands of pieces from the Columbia were scattered across approximately 3,800 square miles of Louisiana and Texas, with reports of debris sighted in Arizona. The 178,000 pound shuttle, was flying at a speed in excess of 12,000 miles per hour, at an altitude of 38 miles, while the world watched in horror and sadness as it disintegrated into a shooting fireball. This brought back the tragedy of the space shuttle Challenger, which exploded shortly after its lift off on January 28, 1986. Also claiming seven-crew members, this loss halted future flights for 2 1/2 years.

The courageous crew of seven astronauts included six Americans and one Israeli. They were returning from a 16-day science mission. Their projects were intended to use the microgravity - environment (low gravity) of space to conduct experiments intended to impact medical science, including cancer research and other diseases. Commander Rick Husband, 45, colonel, United States Air Force, along with his numerous distinctions had logged over 235 hours in space. Pilot William McCool, 41, commander United

States Navy, graduated second of 1,083 at the U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1983. Mission specialist Kalpana Chawla, (PH.D.), 41, had already traveled 6.5 million miles in 252 orbits of the Earth, logging about 377 hours in space. Mission specialist David Brown, 46, captain, United States Navy, was a physician, flight surgeon and naval aviator, and had qualified as first pilot in NASA T-38 aircraft. Payload Commander Michael Anderson, 43, lt. colonel, United States Air Force, had logged over 211 hours in space travel. Mission specialist Laurel Clark, 41, commander, United States Navy, was a naval flight surgeon on her first space mission. Payload specialist Ilan Ramon, 48, colonel in the Israeli Air Force, was a fighter pilot on his first space mission. These astronauts were each highly credentialed, driven and multi-disciplined individuals. They all left behind family, friends and a legacy of tremendous sacrifice in the pursuit of medical and space science.

The cause of this disaster has yet to be determined. NASA engineers initially speculated that a loose chunk of foam insulation apparently struck Columbia's left wing during lift-off, and may have compromised the heat protective ceramic tiles. The re-entry into Earth's atmosphere

reaches temperatures of 3,000 degrees. Since signals sent from heat sensors from the Columbia to Mission Control during the re-entry registered significant temperature increases, the protective tile theory continues to be a strong possibility. NASA is certain that there were serious issues with the left wing. There was an obstruction of the air-flow, which may have caused the shuttle's nose to swing left and the wing to dip. Also plausible is flight control failure, which is computerized and should have registered at Mission Control. Space debris hitting the shuttle and setting into motion various compromises is another theory that is being investigated.

The Columbia's wreckage will be reassembled, video images and computer data scrutinized, and NASA's brilliant minds will determine what led to the demise of its oldest space shuttle, which initiated its first flight on April 12, 1981. Until more information is realized NASA officials have suspended flights by the remaining shuttles, the Endeavour, Discovery and Atlantis. This delay could cause new concerns for the 16-country International Space Station program, now dependent on Russian vehicles to take supplies to the station. If there are any positives to the outcome of this tragedy, it may be to strengthen international cooperation between the involved nations, as well as to increase engineering

knowledge of space vehicles. Increased diligence with safety, more funding and designing an alternative to the usage of glued on ceramic tiles for heat shielding may also come of this terrible accident.

This again serves to remind us of the vulnerabilities of man's inventions, but also the perseverance of the human spirit. President Bush solemnly vowed, "The cause for which they died will continue...our journey to space will continue."

Americans are explorers, and there remain many important questions about our Universe to be answered. For those who question the need to continue the space program, it's important to realize that NASA's technology has greatly improved our lifestyle, health and security. In the sixteenth century Ferdinand Magellan departed Spain with five ships to circle the unknown globe. Only one ship returned, minus Magellan, with 18 of the original 270 explorers. This inspired the age of exploration, even given the tremendous loss and hazards.

Columbia Astronaut Michael Anderson recently told his minister, Reverend Freeman Simmons, when discussing fears related to space travel and the possibility of not returning, "Don't worry about me, I'm just going higher."

Is Saddam a smoking gun or a smoking cannon?

K.C. Dowd - Editor '04

Much controversy and debate has continued over the need for military force to contain Saddam Hussein and his alleged stockpile of weapons of mass destruction. On February 5, Colin Powell made a strong and disturbing case of Hussein's reign of terror and imminent intentions. Powell's 77-minute speech presented graphic and alarming accounts of Hussein's past atrocities, including the torturing of thousands of people, including children, to maintain his hold on an oppressed nation.

Powell presented the UN Security Council, and the world, with satellite visuals and photos of reported missile sites and the active transportation of artillery and banned material. Audio interceptions of Iraqi generals conversing and conspiring over "modified vehicles," nerve gas and the avoidance of U.N. inspectors were

also heard. Thirty abandoned, cleaned up sites had been located, with no accounting for its removed contents. U.S. Intelligence had identified seven mobile biological weapons production facilities that were contained in at least 18 trucks. Numerous reports and pleas from credible defectors, who have experienced the horrors and witnessed the wrath of Hussein's regime, were also chronicled. The massive list of known destructive weapons, most unconventional, was again presented, and their whereabouts unknown. Accounts of Hussein's biological and chemical weapon's testing on his own people were described. Also presented were instances of collaboration and aiding known terrorist groups, including al-Qaeda operatives.

Diplomacy and humanity are not in Hussein's dictionary. Powell referred to Hussein's interactions with the UN inspectors as "all a web of lies." He maintained

that if the Council failed to hold the Iraqi dictator accountable then, "this body places itself in danger of irrelevance." These are strong words warranted by the perceived urgency of this situation. Hussein's penchant for lies and deception has been well documented over the years, and further complicates any resolutions that are attempted in good faith.

The question remains, how can Hussein be effectively contained? Preventing a catastrophe is far better than responding to one that has already occurred, as was brought home to us with 9/11. The U.N. Security Council should truly heed the warnings and see what is directly ahead, not simply hope for the best. While over 35 nations are backing the United States in our intention to remove Hussein from his rule of terror, France is still willing to play hide and seek with his artillery. Germany is cooperating with the allies, in Afghanis-

tan and with other forms of aid, even given their non-force stand. It is truly the sentiment of most to secure this nation and the world without the means of an actual war. However, allowing Hussein to continue his reign could lead to irrevocable consequences.

As for France, in the words of talk show host David Letterman, "The last time France needed proof, it rolled through the middle of Paris waving a Nazi flag."

All (informed) opinions are welcomed. Please submit your views to the Breeze.





MUSIC TEACHER Robert Soares and Special Education Teacher Joanne DeFle are seen at the Compass School visitation at Somerset High School recently.

Library a valuable resource to the town

KC Dowd '04
Breeze Staff

Mrs. Bonnie Mendes, the reference librarian at the Somerset Public Library, has provided some useful information regarding the resources that are available at the public library. In response to her reading my article in The Breeze about concerns raised relative to filters installed on the computers at SHS, which limit the students' access to the Internet, Mrs. Mendes wanted the students to be aware that the Somerset Public Library provides a valuable resource for those seeking various research sources including unrestricted internet terminals. Mrs. Mendes explained that the library has seven Internet computers, at this time. These are not encumbered by filtered software, which prevents or limits Internet access. In order to utilize a library terminal, an individual needs to present a library card (issued from any public library in the United States). Also, if the individual is under 18, he or she is required to provide the signature of a parent or guardian, on a given registration form, acknowledging their consent of their child's use of the Internet. This is due to the nature of the material that pops up, or can be accessed on the Internet, since there are no installed blocks to prevent inappropriate material, especially for the younger population.

Mrs. Mendes explained, if there were a waiting line for computer use, there would then be a 30-minute usage time limit. Three printers are also available. The library also has two ADA (American Disabilities Act) accessible computers. These terminals are equipped with the large magnification screen and talking capabilities.

Recent renovations, including an addition, have truly transformed the Somerset Public Library into a state-of-the-art facility. It provides a comfortable environment to relax, read or research. Its user-friendly atmosphere and knowledgeable staff enhance the experience by ensuring help is available when and where you need it. Other resources include periodicals, subject related books, magazines, newspapers, and traditional encyclopedias. You or your study group may find the Somerset Public Library the perfect place to get things done.

My appreciation is given to Mrs. Mendes, who took the time to share this information with the students. I'm happy to meet another individual who reads The Breeze, and responds to it!

An interview with the SHS business coordinator...

profession. We're finding with the number of people that we are training, technology skills are necessary to get back into the job market. Whether secretarial, lab related, supervisors, bankers, most professions require the use of computers and this is the continuing trend. In order to maintain one's career or to re-establish a new one, the individual must remain marketable. This means actively responding to the changing job market needs by pursuing the skills that the market demands.

Any advice to students preparing for their future? (academic or employment)

My advice is for all students to take as many elective technology courses that their schedule allows, along with their required academics. It is not enough to just have a comprehensive background in the traditional major subject areas. Technology is now in that category. The competition is out there. Now, with communication being a huge area, along with graphic design and networking, conventional studies are not enough. If a student has the capability to handle networking, I would suggest pursuing that area of course work.

A new program that we are promoting with the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth is called Computer Science Engineering Programming. Business employers are in need of computer science engineers, an area of great demand in the future.

Mr. Pelagio stressed the need to keep informed in the information age. It's important to be proactive by pursuing skills that are pertinent to what the demands of the market dictate. An excellent resource to tap into is the SHS business department.

Somerset music students attend district competition...

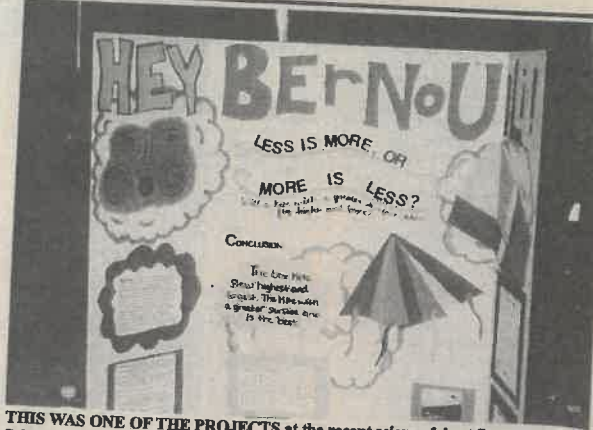
again to Nathan and Andrew.

The rest of Somerset's skilled musicians are preparing for a trip to Virginia Beach this April. A reminder to all those going on the trip: you should have turned in your first two payments towards the trip to Ms. Anderson by now. If not, please make this a priority and get it in as soon as possible. This year, the Symphonic

Wind Orchestra, select members from the String Ensemble and Jazz Chorale will be traveling the approximately 12 hours by bus down to Virginia Beach to compete with other schools for ratings of Good, Excellent, and Superior. Yes, this is the reason why so many students have been lugging around boxes of candy and begging you to cough up a buck for M&Ms, Skittles,

Reeses and Kit-Kats. Please help support the music department and indulge your sweet tooth!! Future fundraisers include a spaghetti supper and pancake breakfast (not the same day). Dates for these are tentative and will be forthcoming.

(Hey seniors—only 1 1/2 terms left until caps and gowns!!!)



THIS WAS ONE OF THE PROJECTS at the recent science fair at Somerset High School.

Voters approve English immersion...

it means that their children fall temporarily behind in other subjects," says Dr. Rosalie Porter, co-chair of the Massachusetts Bilingual Education Advisory Council.

Teachers who are found to be hindering the learning of their students by repeated English usage can be sued, fired, and barred from teaching for five years. Parents may obtain a waiver to continue a bilingual education program, but this is strongly discouraged. Children in grades 2-12 are tested annually in English proficiency.

"Structured English immersion" is accused of being a "one size fits all" and "sink or swim" program by its opposition. In addition, other academic subjects suffer because the students are solely focused on learning English. This can lead to problems throughout their education. Sup-

porters of bilingual education also feel that by prohibiting students to use their native language, negative messages are sent to the children about their race and culture.

The major backer of English immersion is California millionaire and software developer Ron Unz and his organization English for the Children. "Do we trust a right-wing millionaire from California who doesn't have any children?" asked Duncan. Mitt Romney, the newly elected governor of Massachusetts, was also a supporter of the new program. He and other English immersion advocates have been prompted by the continually low test scores and high dropout rates of Spanish-speaking students. Opposition to English immersion includes Shannon OBrien, Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate in the 2002 election, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, and Fairness to Children and Teachers.

Internet obstruction clarified...

funding. The work that Mr. Nekrasz has done to obtain state or federal funding for our technology department is certainly appreciated.

It seems it would be more sensible for the federal agencies that dictate the Internet policies (that are tied to their funding) to establish more relevant standards and distinctions for the different grade levels that utilize the Internet in the public school setting. High school students need to have access to sites that enable extensive research, and of course, free speech.

Response to inquiries regarding content filtering

Ray Nekrasz, information technology specialist, Somerset School District

Upon reading KC Dowd's first article in the last issue of The Breeze, I became concerned that students and staff

at all the Somerset schools did not really understand the purpose of "content filtering" with regard to the Internet. Although I understand the frustration of being blocked out of certain sites, it is necessary, if for no other reason than to secure funding from the government (as mentioned in Mr. Dowd's current article). I might suggest that all concerned students and staff visit <http://sl.universalservice.org/> to learn more about the program and its requirements. As for the ability to perform research, the ACLU has filed suit on the basis of free speech. In response, public libraries do not have to provide content filtering of their Internet access; feel free to use this avenue. Oh, yes, the High School library has many books that cover such topics that might otherwise be blocked over the Internet.

Editor: Winter sports teams congratulated

KC Dowd '04
Breeze Staff

I would like to extend a major appreciation to the fans that attended the Dartmouth/Somerset basketball game. Every much a part of our victory was the crowd's input that fueled the fervor, which ignited the team's determination to prevail against the previously undefeated Dartmouth team. You maintained the appropriate decorum, while exhibiting strong school spirit. That is the inherent perk and point of home court advantage. The sixth man, the Superfan, is welcomed on this team. The basketball team appreciates your continued support.

Looking on the bright side, these days, is a challenging task given the media's attempts to sensationalize every tragic event that occurs. The news moguls seek to embellish and replay each excruciating disturbance to the point of nausea. Terrorism, extortion, executive greed, crime and turmoil need to be reported to keep the public informed, but not manipulated or distorted by the media to improve their ratings. This again victimizes the victims and misleads the listeners. The press recently found itself a victim of manipulation by the false claims of the Clonaid group, who claimed to have cloned the first human baby. Every news station jumped on this deception, without substantiation in repeated broadcasts. The media effectively provided a significant amount of free publicity to a renegade cult with misguided ideals, and appeared inept in the process.

Another publicity seeker with no credibility is Sean Penn, Baghdad's latest vehicle of propaganda. Penn, an actor, set out on an erroneous mission to comfort Saddam Hussein and attempt to vilify the United States, (where he makes millions of dollars). Snapping photos of carefully selected, destitute Iraqi people, Penn was lead though Iraq's impoverished villages in an orchestrated effort to imply that Hussein's merciless oppression was actually the fault of the U.S. government. Hardly the most articulate performer, Penn fraternized with this demonstrated homicidal tyrant. We never did see Sean Penn photographing the devastation in New York, following 9/11. What is he thinking, or is he?

Instead of perpetuating Iraqiphobia or "the sum of all fears," we should emphasize what has truly emerged from the world events; "the sum of all strengths," or a nation united. Replay the good news initiated by the true heroes of everyday life or unexpected obstacles. Acknowledge



KC DOWD

those who go out on a limb to rescue or aid others who may be in harm's way.

On to the good news! Congratulations to Rachel Smith who broke her mother's (Elizabeth Smith '74) previously established single-game scoring record, by netting 44 points against New Bedford. This has been a record season for the SHS sports teams. The Boy's Varsity Basketball Team is now the EAC Champs - shooting for the tournament victory. Congratulations to senior Tony Gaffney who slamdunked his 1,000th career point in the final season game. Another strong season for the Wrestling Team as they won the Petrillo Cup and are looking to place high in the sectionals. This is their third consecutive year qualifying for the state championship takedown. The Girls' Gymnastics Team is on a roll, defeating Attleboro for the first time in 10 years. They are also tumbling towards a trophy year. The Varsity Hockey Team continues to represent SHS with wins. Skating strong, they have certainly iced a playoff spot. Senior Jay Ledo entered the record books when he achieved the most points scored by a defenseman.

Appreciative acknowledgements should be extended to our Winter Track Team. Given extremely limited facilities, they have maintained a positive attitude and pushed the limits of their endurance with a competitive spirit. Good luck to all teams as tourney season comes upon us.



Sports



Somerset Varsity EAC Champions: Front; Volunteer Corey Phillips, Kevin "K.C." Dowd, Jonathan Velozo, David Moniz, Brian (Bud) Gaffney, Gregg Molinar, Dylan Dunne. Back: Coach Chris Mendes, Ben Pratt, Judson Chapman, Jay Greene, Tony Gaffney, Ryan Avery, Jonathan (J.D.) Driscoll, Ryan Greene, Freshman Coach David Lanczycki and J.V. Coach Kevin Dowd.

Boys basketball EAC champs!

The Somerset High School varsity basketball team won their first ever Eastern Athletic Championship, on their final season game at Coyle Cassidy. Adding to this tremendous feat for the Blue Raiders was senior Tony Gaffney earning his 1,000th career point in front an enthusiastic crowd of fans, friends and family. With

less than four minutes remaining in the first half of the Coyle game, Tony slammed in his 1,000th career point with a crowd-rousing dunk. The referees called a celebratory time out as the gym exploded in applause. It was a well-deserved, proud moment that will be acknowledged with the SHS record makers.

This has been a season of outstanding effort, determination and teamwork. While there have been many exceptional instances of noted individual achievement, the Championship Raiders want to be recognized and acknowledged as a team. This season has been a collaboration of 13 strengths and talents that have ignited this

Team to its designation as EAC Champs. With an overall record of 17-3, and a division best of 11-1, the Blue Raiders dominated the usual powerhouses including Attleboro, Bishop Feehan and Dartmouth. We also acknowledge and appreciate the support of the Somerset Superfans, the real sixth man!

Somerset High School wrestlers win Petrillo Cup

Chris Laganeli '05 and
Kevin Silvestre '05
Breeze Staff

The Somerset High School wrestling team was victorious at the Petrillo Cup on Wednesday, February 5, against Durfee High School. The Petrillo Cup is held annually in honor of former SHS principal and Durfee graduate, Salvatore Petrillo. The cup has stimulated a rivalry between the two schools and is settled each year on the mats.

Among the winners from Somerset Mendonca (145 pound weight class),

were Sean Golembewski (140), Mike Danny McGillick (152), Chris Bell (189), Apollo Skarpas (215), Rob Travers (112), Jeff Huard (119), Ed Michno (130), and Matt Dube (135).

Along with a successful Petrillo Cup, the Raiders have had a successful season. The team was champion of the Mayflower League, for the second consecutive year; they were undefeated in their league, and the Raiders placed third in the Somerset Tournament.

The team finished second in the sec-

tionals. The Raiders wrestling team is extremely young with only two seniors. Ethan Shorrock and Matt Stains, however, the freshman have also been able to contribute to the team's success.

Ed Michno credited the team's freshmen recently, "The freshmen have filled in during crucial times in matches and have gotten the job done." Teammate Sean Golembewski agreed and said, "The team looks promising for next year." Team freshman Brandon Schofield says that he enjoys wrestling, "I like it a lot and have a lot of fun but it's hard work too." All of the

hard work has definitely been paying off for the team.

A large part of the team's success is because of the coaching. Coach Nick Peachy and assistant coach Mark Jardin have done a great job at training the wrestlers to compete at the high school level and be victorious. "In the long-run we really appreciate all of the dedication and hard work he (Coach Peachy) puts into the sport," said Sean Golembewski. As the Raiders gear up for the sectionals, they hope that they will be able to achieve the same or higher level of success as they have throughout the season.

Wrestlers win league title for third year in a row

By Ryan Avery '03
Breeze Staff

The wrestling team at Somerset High School has continued its tradition of excellence this season by once again capturing the Mayflower League title for the third straight year. This year, the Raiders are undefeated in the league, with a 5-0 record. The team has had some truly dominant performances, including a 42-0 victory

over Southeastern Regional High School, a Mayflower team.

Somerset's losses this year have come at the hands of powerful wrestling programs from around the area, such as Burlington, North Providence, and Catholic Memorial.

Coach Nick Peachy once again has his squad working extremely hard this year, and as usual, has a strong crop of under-

classmen to build the team around in the future. These promising freshmen and sophomores include Jay Michno, Brandon Schofield, Matt Dube, Dave Desrosiers, and Apollo Skarpas.

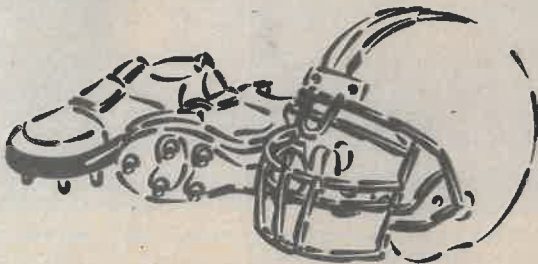
Somerset wrestlers will also, in all likelihood, collect a majority of the Mayflower League All-Star Awards. Probable recipients so far include juniors Eddie



Michno, (125 pounds) Mike Mendonca, (145 pounds) Shane Read, (171 pounds) and Danny McGillick (152 pounds), as well as senior Ethan Shorrock (heavyweight). Coach Peachy is hoping that the team will finish within the top three this year at the South Sectionals in North Attleboro, where a number of Somerset's grapplers look to finish near, if not at, the top of their weight classes.

Thompson's last SHS football game

Senior Tyler Thompson, defensive lineman for the SHS football squad, also earned congratulations on his final game as a Blue Raider. His name was inadvertently left out of the Breeze's football high-

lights. Tyler's contributions to the team were certainly recognized and appreciated. Good fortune in your future pursuits!



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