

Nov./Dec.  
1991 (?)

# The Other People's Paper

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## Welcome to O.P.P...

Ted Kennedy

In first period today, I was shocked. Then I became annoyed. Then I was downright pissed. I had seen the Ogra.

However, this was not the brave underground newspaper founded by Geoff Gussis, Amar Maktal and Danny Karen for the goal of enacting change in the Prep community and offering an alternative source of less mainstream news and opinions. It seemed to be a haphazard grouping of generally unfunny jokes and vituperative criticism of Prep and many of the people in it.

It was interesting

to see that the Argo was a prime target, considering the fact that the Argo editors had provided advice and education to various Ogra members, who had approached them in a kindred spirit and acted as if they wanted to work with the Argo. An editorial about SLURP was cancelled from the Argo at the petition of the Ogra—they had written one as well, and, wishing to make a "good first impression", they asked if the Argo editorial could be canceled so the Ogra would not seem repetitive. It was also interesting to see this criticism coming from people who (deliberately?)

"lost" a disk given to them for safe-keeping over the summer which contained valuable Argo formatting information. The "Ogra High Lord" is also supposedly an Argo Publications editor, and it is interesting as well to see comments coming from him.

A main problem of the Ogra is that it practices what is termed "yellow journalism." This refers to inflammatory, biased, unresearched, and often untrue reporting. For example, "The Ogra Poll", in a (failed) attempt at humor, phrased choices in such a way that, should someone actually believe in SLURP, the only way

for that person to express his or her opinion would be to check, "I enjoy being forced to read in my spare time." Does the Ogra wish to hear other people's opinions or a simple regurgitation of its own? It is obvious that the vast majority of the student body does despise SLURP, but we cannot tell this from the Ogra, as it does not attribute real quotes and fabricates other quotes to fit its point. (Who decides what the "typical idiot" or "typical freshman" thinks?)

The main failing of the new Ogra editors  
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## Senioritis Strikes

Morticia Addams

It's only November, and Senioritis has already kicked in soundly. While I, as an underclassman, had always viewed this common virus as a weak excuse made up by seniors who don't feel like working anymore, I can see now as a senior not only its reality but its origin and possibly a cure.

Senioritis is the feeling acquired by most seniors that gives these students a felling of utter frustration, helplessness, and fatigue. Every single grade is of utmost importance until January, and every teacher assigns graded materials and pop quizzes in almost every class. It is not only the assignments that are a hindrance to a

typical senior's health, but their frequency and timing. At the end of the first quarter this year, each teacher decided to assign at least one major paper or test in that week. On top of that, seniors were expected to finish their senior pages (which were not as much fun to do as I had expected), and to send in any early college

applications (which is one of the hardest decisions to make in the first place, without having to worry about constant tests).

But a senior can handle all of this work, right? After all there are always breaks and activity periods  
see "Senioritis",  
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# Sex vs. AIDS

Lt. Gen. Nagie-Gabali

The public must question the government and its methods of promoting education on AIDS. With specific emphasis on prevention and transmission, what is to be said about the effectiveness of government policy if someone as educated, articulate, and as bright as Magic Johnson contracts the HIV virus through heterosexual activity and may have spread it to other partners? What about the inner city kids and young adults—what will become of them? Magic, a philanthropist, corporate spokesman, and man of great ability, says he will become an AIDS activist by promoting "safe sex."

On the Arsenio Hall show, Magic repeated his message: to practice "safe sex" by using condoms. Many AIDS activists also preach that the public can practice "safe sex" in this way. This is a misconception. Condoms don't always prevent pregnancy; therefore the transmission of STDs can still occur. Using a condom is practicing "safer sex." Activities that are labeled as true "safe sex" are: fantasizing, touching, sex with an uninfected partner, or no sex at all.

Labeling what behavior puts you at risk won't cure all the reported cases of AIDS in the world. There are an estimated 1-1.5 million people who have the AIDS virus, as reported by the U.S. Center for Disease Control. In New Jersey, the Department of Health projects that by the year 1992, 17,500 people will have contracted

the AIDS virus. This is in addition to the 30,000-50,000 who already have the virus. Meanwhile, on the opposite side of the world, Dr. Chin, an epidemiologist of the Global Program, says that by the end of 1991 6.5 million people in sub-Saharan Africa will be infected with the AIDS virus.

Magic joins an extensive list of people who have acquired the HIV virus. Unlike those who only appear as a statistic, Magic can serve as a role model because of his success and positive influence in society. He is the second major professional athlete (Jerry Smith of the Washington Redskins being the other) who has admitted to contracting the virus. There are many other famous people who have contracted the disease. The cause of their death has sometimes only been revealed after extensive investigation. Rock Hudson's death in 1985 was proven afterwards to have been a result of the AIDS virus he had contracted from homosexual activity.

The homophobia that exists in society has led the public to not receive the death of Rock Hudson as openly as it has with Magic Johnson. Rock Hudson was a successful actor and Magic, a legendary basketball player. What is the difference? One got the virus through homosexual activity and the other through heterosexual activity. There will always be a hierarchy of victims, i.e., the children of AIDS victims are pitied, while intravenous drug users are looked down upon. We need to realize that they

are all victims. Of all the reported cases of AIDS, the majority have been contracted through either heterosexual or homosexual activity. Second is intravenous drug use, followed by blood transfusions. With the drugs now available to prolong the life of an AIDS patient and the research to find a cure, maybe we can overcome this murderer. "I plan on going on, living for a long time," says Magic Johnson. Hopefully he as well as others stricken with the disease will live long enough for the world to find a cure.

-For more information: National AIDS hotline (24 hr service):

1-800-344-7342

## Response to "Roman Article"

Boris Yeltsin

I went to Mrs. Glennon to question her about the validity of the "Roman Essay" article in the last issue of the Ogra, written by OHL. Mrs. Glennon, who teaches Western Civilization, denounced the article as being a false, weak attempt to make the faculty look bad. "I wrote the last line," commented Mrs. Glennon. Although there was no criticism on the actual essay by OHL, he did mean to criticize the faculty. I highly doubt that any member of the Rutgers Prep faculty, whether they are in the English or Math department, would grade a paper in this manner. The Ogra's assertion that this is the Rutgers Prep standard for grading is

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an insult to any student who has ever worked for a grade, be it A, B, or C. Perhaps the Ogra's editors are bitter because they don't always receive the grades that they try to grub for, but it is wrong for them to assume that anyone who does better than them earned their grade only through some error in the teacher's grading system.

The author of the article should be more cautious in the future to look at his own faults before he criticizes others. "One of the mothers of the authors came to see me because of all the corrections in her son's essay," pointed out Mrs. Glennon. Was the essay used to prove a point? Or, was it fabricated for a few laughs? It's your choice. Keep in mind that the essay in the article is not true, according to Mrs. Glennon. So, I guess it was meant for laughs then. Oh, pardon me: ha, ha, he-eee.



## True Quotes of the Month:

"How many clubs is that kid in?"

-Sam Finkelstein, upon hearing Glenn Grossman's fifth announcement in the same Morning Assembly

"Did you see what I did to Paul?"

-Nicole Weitz threatening Joe Foleno after a sexist comment

"Damn! I shoulda gone!"

-Dave Lee, upon hearing how many people hooked up at Mamee's party

"You [expletive]!"

-Paul McLaughlin to Sam Jethwa, after Paul's key's were accidentally locked in his trunk

"We wouldn't want the little ones under the wheels."

-Mr. Karman, explaining why Juniors and Seniors are not allowed to drive down to the fieldhouse after school

"Perhaps Dejon's words are the words of God"

-Mr. Karman, in Forum

"They're all bald!"

-Dave Lee, upon seeing the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles in the Lasagna Dinner skit (Mr. Hordijk, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Karman, and Mr. Masza)

"Do you think she realizes how much I want her?"

-PCC to OHL, referring to Miss Helmich

## Senioritis

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in which sooo much work can be done. Wrong. In all my time at Prep, never do I recall any one week so crammed with assemblies and schedule changes as that week. The wonderful new program of SLURP doesn't help much either. It all seems to be some grand design to kill off seniors, be it by sleepless nights, lunchless days, or just the pressure that seems to strangle one whose

future can be decided by the grades received in one week.

There is nothing anyone can do about that horrible week in October now. It's over, and we have, if barely, survived. But, like any historical crisis, we can learn from what happened, and make sure that this horrid treatment of the senior class ends before it is too late. We're tired, sick, and we can't be absent or late more than five times. Have pity on us. Faculty, instead of looking at our class as a form of amusement, devising new ways to watch us squirm and break down, help

us out. We know that the purpose of our school is to help us prepare for college, but we're not going to get there if every day is some kind of divine struggle. Ease up, if only a little bit. If we can just live with a little less weight on our backs, then maybe instead of having unparticipating, absent, failing students, you'd have students who almost actually look forward to a day of school, students to be proud of. Just think about it, Senioritis is a terrible illness. With some cooperation, maybe, just maybe, it can be stopped.

## Letters to O.P.P.

We seem to have gotten a letter before we even printed our first issue. Obviously someone must have spied on us. We make no accusations, but whoever wrote the letter seems to have embraced the Ogra spirit: lowhanded blows and the cowardice of writing the letter anonymously. Whoever wrote it seems to be under the impression that we "desperately" want to keep our identities secret. We did wish to remain anonymous, but not because we are afraid, but rather, as stated in the "Welcome" article, "[what we have to say] should stand on its own value, and not be judged by who [is] saying it." However, our desire to remain anonymous will not cause us to subject ourselves to blackmail. Thus, we have printed the entire letter, not just the portion asked (the request doesn't make much sense anyway, considering the fact that, as a more liberal paper, we are for publishing facts about such topics as women in politics). By the way, Mr. Nixon, your guessing skills may not be as accurate as you think.

Dear Gracie and Dave and the rest of the underground underground paper,

I know about your little, secretive paper and I know how desperately you want to keep it a secret. If you don't want me to blow your cover you must print the following:

### "Feminist Update:

Fact-----There are only two women in the US Senate, even though the US population is 51% women.

Question-----Why is that?

Answer-----Why ask why? Try Bud Dry! "

Love,

Richard Milhous Nixon

P.S.-----Make sure the above statement is in bold print.

P.S.S.---Tell Foleno to get a new code name because Kennedy stinks and so does he.

P.S.S.S---Don't play games with me or I'll fink on you.

It better be printed or else.



## "Welcome"

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seems to be that they do not understand the history or the purpose of the original Ogra, maybe because they weren't in the Upper school for its debut. It was founded because its editors saw a need for change. While the tone was sometimes harsh and often humorous, a positive solution was always suggested or implied. The "Original Six" were anonymous, not because they really feared recrimination, but because they believed that what they had

to say should stand on its own value, and not be judged by who was saying it. The new Ogra has widely missed the mark. It has degenerated into pure criticism and cheap shots with no redeeming value. Bitterness alone loses its humor quickly and grows tiresome. The Ogra editors also saw fit to publicize their own participation and pseudo-rebelliousness widely. Titles such as "Constantine Productions" and "Ogra High Lord" betray the intent of the original Ogra staff. This tendency to place more value on positions

and titles (and college applications) was noted by the Argo editors last year. The "Ogra High Lord" raised quite a large fuss so that he could have his name listed as a Publications Editor, yet Argo has yet to see him match a fraction of the hours put in by other editors.

Maybe we should view the Ogra editors in a more sympathetic light. Given, it is difficult for someone to effectively observe Prep while dividing the day between the Computer Lab and math homework. In addition, they are only sophomores.

(Perhaps an elitist statement, but they do lack the experience and ability to contrast Prep now and Prep in the past that those who have been around longer possess.)

So, what is this you're reading? Why all the criticism of the Ogra? The point is, we saw something wrong. We saw a betrayal of trust and the decline of a good institution due to poor taste and dreadful humor. So, unlike the Ogra, we will do more than merely moan and groan. We propose an alternative—"The O.P.P."

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# Environmentally Concerned?

*Babs Bunny*

Environmentalists face a new crisis-hypocrisy and phonyess. One example of this is Mr. Environment himself, Russell Lee. Mr. Lee seems to have first heard of the environment when he was nominated to the prestigious Governor's School for the Environment. Since then he has embraced the cause somewhat unenthusiastically. He shows up for few club meetings and yet he persists in thinking he is the President of the club. Of course, he probably babbled a great deal about the Mother Earth and voting awareness on his college applications.

The hypocrisy of the members of the RPSEA

goes beyond the president. Other members preach about the use of styrofoam and then drink out of it. (Liz and Danielle, does this ring any bells?) Other members such as Windy Treese say they have great interest in the environment yet they don't show up for meetings or assist with the paper recycling. Still more members join because of their friends or because they think it is the "correct" thing to do.

Some people do deserve praise. Glenn Grossman is an example of someone who actually supports the club and its objectives. Melissa Rosenbaum and Debbie Rothberg are other mem-

bers who are truly concerned about the environment and encourage more students to enter the cause. I especially appreciate Mr. Mazsa's efforts, as he tries to guide the dedicated, but unfortunately doesn't realize most are truly apathetic.

People are starting to actually think about recycling and what they are buying, but it has to go further than that. It has to become mandatory, encouraged and the moral thing to do. People need to build enthusiasm for helping the earth and the environment. Knowledge is the first step in fighting ignorance, hypocrisy and apathy. The RPSEA has

taken steps to instill us with environmental know-how by presenting a fact each day during morning assembly. While the effects of these announcements are not known, the fact that at least some students and faculty do listen is encouraging. The environmental club is not a stagnant, know-nothing club: it is composed of some members who are generally concerned and others who merely desire an extracurricular activity to add to their resume. A weeding-out process is needed to honor those members who are truly concerned and cast out those who are not.