

Off-shore drilling: debate reaches Prep



Dr. Sperduto introduces Mr. Suchevis and Dr. Morell who offered the March 2 assembly opposing views on off-shore oil drilling. See story above.

Prep students and faculty model at Parents Association luncheon

If Preppers start dressing with more flair this spring, perhaps they've been inspired by the Parents Association fashion show held March 6.

Featuring student and faculty models, "Spring Fashions of '76" was presented at the Travelodge on Easton Avenue. A luncheon, door prizes, and raffles were part of the afternoon event, which began at noon.

Clothes from Mrs. Joan Kossowsky's store Pride 'n Joy of Perth Amboy, showed what the well dressed Lower School student will be wearing this year. Mrs. Joan Schwartzman co-ordinated this segment and did the commentary.

Mrs. Nancy Parelo introduced the clothes from her store Lady Leslie, of Scotch Plains, designed for fashion-conscious teenagers and adult women. Chairmen for the event were Mrs. Newton Chanin and Mrs. Richard O'Connell. Mrs. Jane Jasionowski also helped in the planning.

Tickets cost five dollars each, and proceeds went towards buying audio-visual equipment for the school.

Three teachers- Mrs. Carol Howell, Mrs. Sandra Roberts, and Mrs. Dalrene Hagin, and one honorary teacher- Mrs. Eugene Bratek, modeled styles from Lady Leslie.

Student Lady Leslie models were seniors Elizabeth Pickar and Ieva Miesnieks, junior Nancy Page, freshman Kathy Anderson, eighth graders Paula Holder and Cheryl Relles, and seventh grader Christa Sanchez.

Pride 'n Joy models were sixth graders Patricia Dellapietro and Victoria Hamelsky, fifth graders Anita Kothari and Elizabeth Jasionowski, fourth grader Christine Cave, second graders Faith Schwartzman and John Kudrick, and first graders Andrew Hamelsky and Jennifer Ferro.

APOLOGY

In the last issue of *The Argo*, an article appeared which described the program presented by the Trenton State Bicentennial Singers. Unfortunately, the article neglected to mention Mrs. Amy Von Der Porten and her Bicentennial Club who arranged for the group's appearance. The *Argo* regrets the error.

by Myra Frisch

Will off-shore oil drilling harm the environment?

On March 2, a special assembly was arranged by the environmental committee to discuss this controversial subject. Mr. Suchevis, from the Chevron Oil Co., and Dr. Morell, an expert in environmental studies, debated the question.

Mr. Suchevis discussed processes involved in drilling for oil. He said the oil-drilling process is very long, and often seven to nine years go by before oil is actually produced.

In order to alleviate the oil crisis produced by the Arab states' oil embargo against the United States, and to prevent such future crises, the president proposed the leasing of ten million acres of the outershell off the coast of New Jersey.

Mr. Suchevis stated that the tracts are far enough offshore so that they cannot be seen. This area, the Baltimore Canyon Area, will be leased from the government beginning this spring.

He also mentioned that there has been drilling going on off the coast of Atlantic City since December to determine the rock structure of the ocean shelf. This preliminary drilling, involving 31 oil companies, is scheduled to be completed in a couple of months.

Dr. Morell presented possible hazards and adverse effects of the drilling on New Jersey.

An obvious drawback is the possible destruction of the shoreline's natural beauty, and the effect that would have on the prosperous tourist industry.

Dr. Morell noted that the government is leasing the Baltimore Canyon

Area without exploring it to find out how much oil it contains.

He also mentioned the danger of oil spills, and the need for unsightly refining facilities on the shore. Mr. Suchevis had said that 40 acres of shoreline is to be used for these facilities.

Dr. Morell then asked that attention be focused on energy conservation and efficiency instead of on the continuation of searching for new supplies of energy. He pointed out that, by concentrating on energy efficiency it has been estimated that by the year 2000, 40 million barrels of oil could be saved each day.

They both agree, however, that newer, more efficient methods of producing energy often cost more than an individual or company can afford.

THE ARGO

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RUTGERS PREPATORY SCHOOL

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1976

News in brief

School cited for heritage

by Doug Stahl

Dr. David Heinlein represented Rutgers Prep at the National Association of Independent Schools Conference, held February 25-27. Prep and 16 other schools received citations for their pre-revolutionary origins at a banquet.

The banners of the 17 schools adorned the main banquet hall of the Boston Sheraton Hotel. Dr. Heinlein brought the Prep flag, designed in 1921.

Language Convention

Language teachers Mr. Alfred Gaggini, Mrs. Sandra Roberts, and Mrs. Helene Sparaford will attend this year's Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, March 25-27. It will be held at the New York Hilton.

The annual convention includes a Modern Language Film Festival presenting new films available to teachers for classroom use.

Open House

Another Open House will be held at Prep Saturday, March 13. The event is intended to attract new students to Prep. Approximately 75 guests are expected. Students will give campus tours before a general assembly presenting information concerning curriculum, extracurricular activities, student life, and facilities. Guest will attend a buffet dinner.

The Rutgers Prep Players will then perform *The Good Woman of Setzuan*.

Forum

Council President Julian Schocket's first forum was held after school on March 8. Parents, students, and teachers were invited to attend. Julian started the discussion on two topics: the quality and variety of the lunch food, and the present student dress code.

Dr Sperduto evaluates

As an agent for the Middle States Association of Colleges and Independent Schools, Dr. Frank Sperduto will evaluate St. Francis Preparatory School March 30-April 1.

Each school in the organization prepares a self-evaluation on all aspects of the school: its guidance services, library, curriculum, school facilities, student activities, and the school's philosophy and objectives. Dr. Sperduto will review St. Francis' self-evaluation and compare it to the school as he observed it.

Middle School trips

The seventh grade visited the New York stock exchange March 4. The class is studying economics as one of four mini-courses in its social studies program.

An eighth grade trip March 17 will also tie in with schoolwork. The

Broadway musical *Shenandoah* will help make the Civil War, which the students are currently studying, come alive.

Glass Menagerie

The junior and sophomore classes saw a production of Tennessee Williams' play *The Glass Menagerie* at the George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick March 3.

Math test

March 9, 20 Prep students, mainly juniors and seniors, took the annual Mathematics Level I exam of the National Mathematics Association. Their results will be known late in April.

The test was taken by high school students in the U.S., Canada, and Central America. Prep students have participated each year but have not entered the first quartile rank.

Silent Auction

The Rutgers Prep Alumni Association is having a silent auction the evening of April 24 at 7:30 P.M. The Alumni Association hopes that interested people will buy tickets (at \$5 a head) to the evening, at which drinks and professional entertainment are intended to add a smooth atmosphere to the perusal of and bidding on items.

Live band to entertain at junior dance

Baldwin "Disco" Hall will be the scene for dancing, eating, and socializing on March 19, from 8:30 until 11:00 p.m. The dance will be held directly after the Senior-Faculty basketball game, continuing the evening's action.

The main attraction of the dance is a live band - the first dance with live entertainment in three years. The band promises to put everybody in the dancing and partying mood.

In addition, admission is free and free potato chips, pretzels and popcorn will be served. Dress is informal, and guests are welcome.

The dance is being planned by the Junior Class, with support from the School Council. The Juniors are also sponsoring a bake sale at the dance in order to raise money for the prom.



Showing the clothes they modeled in the March 6 Parents Association fashion show are (left to right) Andrew Hamelsky, Victoria Hamelsky, Faith Schwartzman and Christine Cave. Photo by Mr. Joe Koye

Drama program deserves commendation and support

It has been too long that we at Rutgers Prep have neglected to give the school's drama program the recognition and support it deserves. It is one of the finest extra-curricular activities in the Upper School, yet few of us acknowledge the talent and energy dedicated by a small group of thespians to perpetuate its existence and quality.

During the past two years, Mr. Allan Pierce, the coordinator of the program, has directed five school plays that range from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to Wilder's *Our Town*. The resources with which the actors and Mr. Pierce have worked have been minimal.

The new library, not yet completed, has served as the program's theater during the past and present school years. There has been little money available to supply props or costumes, and, unfortunately, no music department to cooperate with the drama program during productions. The ingenuity and skill of the actors and director have been forced to develop to their fullest capacities. Perhaps, then, this dearth of resources has served some purpose. Granted that this be true, we should understand that the drama program must continue to progress. In order for it to develop further, resources become a necessity.

There is no doubt that one of the richest resources is the student himself, for it is he who becomes the actor. Yet this has become an obstacle in itself because of the small size of the school. Many of us, as well, tend to perceive drama as an experience for the elite. It is elite only in the sense of its uniqueness to mankind. We have the ability to create, participate in, and appreciate drama; it is a shameful waste of the human spirit to ignore such an art.

Glass Menagerie spins dream mood in repertory playhouse

An excellent cast in the George Street Playhouse production of Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* powerfully captures not only the play's dream quality but also its humor.

Victoria Boothby is totally convincing as the mother, a former southern aristocrat abandoned by her husband in a St. Louis slum with two children. The mother shrewishly dominates her now-adult children. But Miss Boothby's performance also shows the courage and charm of this woman. The crippled, painfully shy daughter, as fragile as the glass animals she loves (the glass menagerie of the title), is sensitively played by Jeanne Cullen.

Although he longs for adventure, the son, played by Paul Austin, is trapped in a tedious warehouse job because he is the sole support of the family. Eventually, his mother's nagging drives him to abandon the family, just like his father.

The play's occasionally-appearing narrator is the son, recalling the story years later as a pensive, haunted man. Mr. Austin handles the switching back and forth extremely well. However, his farewell speech to his sister would have been more effective if it had been tender rather than angry-sounding.

As the "gentleman caller" the son brings home for his sister, Michael Martin is a refreshing breeze from the outside world.

The contrast between the present and the dreamlike world of the past was well created. But the music Williams wanted weaving in and out of scenes is used here too infrequently to complete the dream mood.

Letters to the Editor

On SAT study

Dear Editor:

I would like to congratulate the Argo for the article in the last issue on senior viewpoints on the SAT's. The Argo needs more articles such as this one which points up the school's academic interests. I think this is particularly important when we are trying to increase enrollment and interest students in a quality education. I would like to praise how well the article was written and to congratulate R.P.S. (please do not say Prep) seniors for this

Yours Truly,
A. C. Gaggini

On school spirit

To the Editor:

Observing this past basketball season, I can only think of the very small amount of fan support which our team received. Looking back at our first home loss in 3 years to Bridgewater-Raritan West H.S., at the climax of the game, an outsider would have mistaken Prep's gym for that of our opponents. The main advantage of playing at home is to have the school's support, yet during the basketball season, this was not evident. To top things off, at the state tournament semi-final game at which we lost, there were at most a dozen fans from Prep. This does not contribute to the morale of the team at all. School spirit and support are advantages at a sporting event, but to my eyes they were not seen throughout the year. Maybe in the coming years fan support will increase and it will be an advantage for one of our teams to play at Prep.

Kenneth Fried
Varsity Basketball



Photograph courtesy of Island Records.

Vocalist Russel Mael, on left, and keyboard player Ron Mael, on right, casually pose for photograph for the "Sparks" latest album cover "Indiscreet." The following are lyrics from side 2 of "Indiscreet."

"Pineapple—Ship some to the Alpine Skiing Team

The coach won't have to worry 'bout the calories

Sure it ain't a strudel (they're nice) But it helps your balance on ice,

Puts you back on the winning trail. But don't the players moan and groan and then shout:

Pineapple: we get it every old night Pineapple: but we're winning all right

Pineapple fulfills every need Pineapple: Shares are gonna divide

Pineapple: if in us you confide Pineapple fulfills every need

Pineapple: Upward trends are foreseen

Pineapple: so invest in Big P Pineapple fulfills every need.

British musicians emphasize lyrics and new sound effects

David Bowie's new release, *Station to Station*, departs from the blues quality of *Young Americans* and is entirely devoid of any of those earlier country guitar qualities. It is often said that each of Bowie's albums maintains a 'sound' different from any other; this one is no exception. As is expected, Bowie puts great emphasis on the saxophone, vocals, and special effects. The opening song, "Station to Station," begins with the chug of a train and quickly transforms into a rhythmic crescendo.

The voice of Bowie is definitely what endows this album with its dynamism. Hints of this growing dependence on voice tone and tempo were apparent in *Diamond Dogs* and *Young Americans*, but in this cut the vocals seem to give the songs their only viable coherence. Bowie's structure has also been steadily evolving. Often two or three melodies link together in one song, giving the effect of instability. In a blues song, such as "Right" from *Young Americans*, this loose structure is necessary to the composition. But in songs such as "Golden Years," which must be built on close interweaving, the effect is a dismal failure. One can only hope that this is a temporary turn of events in Bowie's music.

The British rock group, Sparks, in its most recent album, *Indiscreet*, culminates a sound that they have been grooming and preparing for a long, long time. This album best brings together their fast-paced idiosyncratic keyboard and Russel Mael's unusually naturalistic falsetto. The coordination and timing of this album, like any Sparks' album, is most apparent—Sparks works best when each instrument is temporarily and precisely brought to the foreground with the others as backup. Equally apparent is Ron Mael's sonorous and sensual keyboard, endowing Sparks with its tongue-in-check wit.

Sparks is, after all, the musical parallel to the comedy of manners. Witty and unusual in its views and satire, Sparks lyrics must definitely be heard to be believed.

On *Indiscreet*, Sparks satires not less than three musical styles. The counterpoint and flowing violin of the Baroque period are satirized in "Under the Table With Her." The dependence on harmony and 'band sound' of the 40's musical are

overdone in "Looks, Looks, Looks." And the violin and country tempo are zeroed upon in "It Ain't 1918."

Sparks is definitely a top-notch group. They have had three singles hit the number one spot in England. Additionally, they have played to sell-out crowds on the Continent. Sparks' obscurity in America is obviously due to their off-beat sound and their almost total uninterest in publicity.

"Welcome Back Kotter"

Is it really that good?

"Hi there."
"Hey, Barbarino, Welcome Back Kotter is one of the two most popular new television shows of the season. What do you think of that?"
"What? . . ."

Probably the biggest reason for the success of the situation comedy *Welcome Back Kotter* is 'Gabriel Kaplan. Kaplan plays Gabriel Kotter, a former member of a rowdy remedial class called the sweatshops, who returns to his Alma Mater to teach a new group of sweatshops. Kaplan is an excellent and very versatile comedian who not only tells jokes with great expression and vivacity, but also impersonates Groucho Marx and W. C. Fields to near perfection. Kaplan is a performer with great talent and finesse and should be recognized as one of the better rising comedians on television.

One of Kotter's students is Arnold Horshack. Ron Palillo, who plays Horshack, can be very amusing at times, but unfortunately whatever talent he may have is limited on the show to a strange laugh and to an outburst of "Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh" whenever a question is asked. Vinnie Barbarino, played by John

Travolta, is the class casanova. In some of the earlier episodes of the show, Barbarino appeared to be an imitation of the "Fonz" of *Happy Days*. At best, Barbarino is a feeble replica. However, Barbarino is now a more enjoyable character because he perfectly depicts the student who is frequently "out to lunch" in the classroom.

Freddie Washington is very effective at saying "Hi there", if nothing else. Juan Epstein, another student, specializes in writing notes, usually in poetic form. Kotter's wife, Julie, played by Marcia Strassman, serves as a very charming straight woman.

An outstanding scene occurred in an episode in which Kotter was about to hand out report cards, when Epstein brought him a note. While Kotter read the note aloud, Epstein mouthed each word. "Dear Mr. Kotter, please do not give Epstein any F's on his report card because his mother, who just had a heart attack, would be 'pused over' from the shock. I appreciate your kindness very much. Yours truly, Epstein's mother's doctor."

"Welcome Back, Kotter" is not a show without flaws. Initially, the whole show is based upon unrealism heaped upon more unrealism. The "rough, tough, sweatshops" are no rougher than kittens. Horshack looks more like Mama's boy than the delinquent he is supposed to be.

Another character who is totally beyond credibility is the completely villainous headmaster, Mr. Woodman. Kotter says dolefully to Woodman, "Mr. Woodman, how would you feel if someone close to you died?" To which Woodman responded, "I don't know. No one has ever been close to me. Ha, ha, ha, ha!!!" The exposure of only four students in the entire class proves to be not only ridiculous but also monotonous.

In conclusion, if "Welcome Back Kotter" is to avoid the fate of most situation comedies, the script writers must not neglect to prevent the same old one liners to be constantly reused until they have been repeated to death. Perhaps some new characters should be inserted to add a dimension of reality to the show.

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It all began for the O'Mearas on a bus in Oxford in the 1950's. He was the driver and she clipped the tickets.



Today they're still partners living in the carriage house and working as Rutgers Prep's caretakers.

The O'Mearas stick close in marriage and in work

by Janet Berkowitz

Two people who have so completely become a part of our school's heritage and have loved every minute of it are Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Olive O'Meara, the caretakers. And that's no blame! (as you might hear Mr. O'Meara say in his deep polished Irish accent). You may catch her walking their prize-winning scottie, and most of you see him with a walkie talkie in hand directing the bus traffic. This appears to be the peaceful life after retirement, but as caretakers they have to be on their toes, always checking the grounds.

Their love story began during World War II "right in the thick of raids in Birmingham, England. They were living in Oxford, the only city escaping heavy bombings by the Germans. They met while working as a team on a public transportation bus. Mr. O'Meara (a native Irishman) was the driver and she was the clippy (clips-passenger's tickets). "During the raids, while on the bus we'd hear the warnings and go hell for leather and head for shelter," Mr. O'Meara recalls.

After they were married they became American citizens (around 1950) and worked as a butler and maid team near here. Mrs. O'Meara, however, got terribly seasick and home sick on the way over. "I never thought I'd stay here, since it meant digging all roots up." They stayed here for the children (from her first marriage), but now she explained, "I stay because I'm part of it."

When Rutgers Prep purchased this land they'd heard of the O'Meara's fine reputation and employed them as custodians. "We were really on a shoestring. We did everything for the first nine years until they brought in a cleaning crew."

Four years ago Mr. O'Meara retired and was employed by Dr. Heinlein as the school security guard. But to watch him run around one wouldn't guess he's retired. He explained that "This job has been one of the nicest we've ever had. Dr. Heinlein is a fine man and we're gonna miss him a heck of a lot when he retires."

Today the couple lives on the upper floor of the art studio with her Scottish terrier, Bonnie, and his greyhound (who is also retired). Mrs. O'Meara used to breed and show scotties, while Mr. O'Meara raced greyhounds at Johnson Park.

They are grandparents 13 times, great grandparents 5 times, and the most pleasant people to talk to. So do so when you see them with a scottie or walkie talkie in hand.

Play tonight

'Good Woman' is good Brecht

by Juliana Ratych

Can you imagine Danny Green as a Chinese god, or Dick Cohen as a water carrier? You can see them if you come to Bertolt Brecht's **Good Woman of Setzuan**, being performed tonight and tomorrow evening at 8:00, in the Middle School Library. The play requires a minimum of scenery and props, allowing the actors and audience to use their imaginations.

The main theme of Brecht's play is how to be good and yet to live. He felt that man, good by nature, must act ruthlessly in order to survive. The setting is an imaginary Chirine where gods and airplanes exist side by side. Shen Te, a prostitute with a kind heart, is rewarded with money from the gods, with which she buys a tobacco store. Unable to stand up to the petitioners who constantly harass her, she disguises herself with a mask and men's clothing, and assumes the role of an imaginary cousin, Shui Ta. As Shen Te, she meets an unemployed pilot with whom she falls in love, not suspecting his greed for her money. As the plot unfolds, we find that Shen Te becomes rich and prosperous by exploiting others, hidden behind the mask of Shui Ta. Brecht does not obviously say that it is clear to the audience, but not to the gods, who succumb to the heavens, with the assumption that they have found the good woman of Setzuan.

Mr. Pierce chose this particular play because he wanted to introduce to his students a new type of drama. He felt that it contained many relevant themes, such as the attempt of a woman to fill a male role in order to gain success. The actors were well cast, including some newcomers to the stage.

Rehearsals started only six weeks ago, and therefore had to be intensive, lasting up to five hours per day. The atmosphere was relaxed - students could be found sleeping, eating, or doing their homework on the blankets spread across the cold library floor, as they waited for their cues. Each scene was rehearsed as

many times as necessary, with Mr. Pierce and Karen Klein shouting directions from a desk in front of the stage. Karen, the stage manager, had been a great help for she was always there to do the blocking, (stage directions) and to remind the actors of their lines. From time to time, Mr. Pierce would call a break, and evaluate each actor's performance, suggesting improvements.

The next production is scheduled for May 1. Three students will direct this play, with Mr. Pierce acting as their advisor. The new directors will be able to choose three one-act plays, and then carry them through. All students are eligible, the only requirement is that they attend directing classes scheduled for Tuesdays after school. The classes will begin March 16.



Gigi Schulman (right), a newcomer to our stage, portrays the shrewd Mrs. *Shui Ta*. *Shui Ta* transforms into the male image of *Shui Ta*.

Egypt states its case

at Georgetown U.N.

by Elizabeth Pickar

If you happened to be in the New Brunswick train station at 8:30 a.m. on February 19, you may have seen a group of sleepy students lugging bursting valises and docilely following Mrs. Kanak Dutta to the platform for Washington, D.C. Those who were fortunate enough to see these nine Preppers were compelled to notice the innumerable books and pamphlets about Egypt distributed among the students. The group guarded these treasures diligently for the students were on their way to the Thirteenth North American Invitational Model United Nations at the representatives of Egypt.

The group and its advisor resided at the Shoreham Americana Hotel for the four day conference. The daily meetings and assemblies of the Model UN occurred in the hotel, where 2,000 other students from throughout the United States participated.

The structure and activities of the conference, organized by Georgetown University students, simulated those of the United Nations. The students from each delegation were divided into three separate committees dealing with economics, nuclear arms and law. Each committee

A General Assembly was held on the 22nd, during which many of the passed resolutions were voted upon for final approval. Prep students even spent one morning speaking to an Egyptian diplomat at the country's embassy.

Argo apologizes to BIOS loons

To our readers:

Many of the regular readers of the madcap column BIOS brought to our attention the scandalous wrong doings done to it the last issue. This blasphemy was the collaborated effort of the editors and printer; all sincerely apologize.

Apologies do not please all of the people all of the time, however. The temperamental genius authors of the monthly silliness were so infuriated that they threw their crayons at the editorial board and decided to sit out this month.

Fear not faithful reader. The loons will return next issue, on this page, to continue informing.

“Kotter,” “Mash” and “the Fonz” grab lead in boob tube survey

How popular is the "boob tube" (known to some as television) at Rutgers Prep? In a recent survey conducted by **The Argo** and taken by most of the student body and faculty, only 6.2% of the students said they never like to watch T.V., whereas 93.1% said they did.

The purpose of the survey was to determine any specific trends developing among students and teachers in T.V. viewing. For instance, about 58% of the students chose comedy as their favorite genre of programs, 38% were undecided, usually swaying between detective and comedy. Some only prefer sports, movies, and news while one student invented his own category - cartoons.

What is this strange magnetic force which attracts our eyes toward the screen of comedy, sex and violence? Is it Kojack's gleaming head or the excitement of seeing Cannon, at 300 pounds, chase a murderer at 60 miles per hour? Is it the way Vinnie Barbarino smiles with an I.Q. of zero or simply Cher's *nausea*?

Whatever it is, it keeps the average Preppie glued to the T.V. set 16.3 hours per week. It is a rare case

when homework stands in the way of an ardent television viewer. 73% of the students wouldn't even allow an exam to stop them from watching their favorite show.

"Welcome Back Kotter" emerged as the most popular show. Perhaps an explanation for this obsession is that Prep students can appreciate the humor of a class where books and homework aren't important and jeans don't seem like some deadly sin. "Mash" came in next. Votes were pretty evenly divided among "Monty Python," "Starsky and Hutch," "Saturday Night," and "Mary Hartman". The favorite actor was Henry Winkler, the Fonz from "Happy Days" with next Alan Alda ("Mash") running a close race. Valerie Harper ("Rhoda") stepped out in front as the favorite actress.

The teachers are divided in their choices for best shows although sports, news, "Mash," and "Masterpiece Theatre" seem to be quite popular. They spend an average of 16.25 hrs./week in front of the idiot box, but usually correct papers while watching. Mrs. Herzberg feels, "Most T.V. is trash! Thank God for channel 13!" Mr. Beronio admits, "I am (sorry to say) an addict!" But aren't most of us?





Senior forward Nate Mullins controls tip against St. Paul's of New York as Mike Ballai (20) and Coach O'Connell look on. Prep won on way to 20-4 season. Photo by Glenn Israel

NJISAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Why did we lose?

by Billy Hyman

At a quick glance at this year's Varsity Basketball season, one would say that it was highly successful. How else can you describe a squad sporting a pair of 1000-point players, seeded first in the Somerset County Tournament, seeded second in the State Tournament while compiling a 20-4 record?

However, looking at the season as a whole there are obvious disappointments. In the first three games that Prep lost, the Argonauts were defeated by a meager 6 points. One of these losses included a set-back to Bridgewater West in the semifinals of the County Tournament. The last and final defeat of the season came at the hands of Pennington Prep, 71-63, in the semi-finals of the State Tournament.

The obvious question that comes to mind is: Why did the Argonauts lose these critical tournament games and especially against Pennington whom Prep had beaten in the regular season? All the team members seemed to point to a different aspect of the Pennington game; however, all agreed that their shooting was poor.

Mike Ballai, senior guard, replied "the shots we got were good, but they didn't fall. The rim seemed slippery." Johnny O'Connell, the other back court man, verified the poor shooting touch from the statistic which had Tony Schillaba and himself shoot 7 for 33 from the field.

Other members of the team, besides mentioning the poor shooting, stressed other aspects of the game. Nate Mullins, 6' 7" senior forward, stated "Pennington was charged up and we were a little too confident." Nate further went on to say "The Lawrenceville court was closer to Pennington, thus they had much more fans." Ken Fried and Robert Campbell, two reserve forward seniors pointed to the court. Kenny explained, "The team does not play well at Lawrenceville because of the wooden backboards, which we are not used to." Robert replied on a similar note, "We never play away as well as at home."

The statistics certainly back the team members' disappointment in their shooting. Pennington shot at a 49% clip while Prep shot at a poor 39% level. From the foul line the story was no different: Pennington 23 fouls attempted, 15 converted. Prep 6 fouls attempted only one was converted.

Coach O'Connell made a remark that many Preppers seem to forget

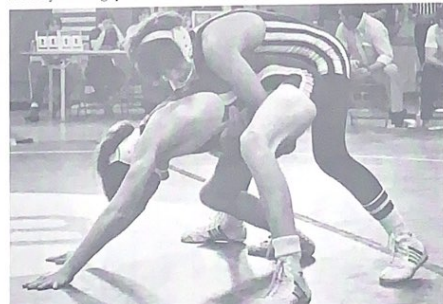
when they utter their obscenities at the squad. "Sure, the tournament game was a disappointment. As a coach I'll never be disappointed with a 20-4 record. A twenty game season is not commonplace. It takes a lot of effort and dedication."

Mr. O'Connell agreed with his players about the shooting. "In the 2nd half the outside shooting was not good enough to win the game." He went on to say, "Pennington, by playing a 2-3 zone, was tough to get offensive rebounds."

There are those spectators who always claim Prep has a "hoggish" style of playing: a player always wanting and shooting the ball. Todd Milligan, 6' 7" senior forward, put it in these words, "If a player is shooting well, the team as a whole is confident and will pass off to him. However, that is not considered hogging the ball." O'Connell agreed, "A player gets a certain proficiency, thus creating confidence in his shooting ability. We don't have any personality conflicts. Out style blends the opportunity for a player to score."

Although this season did have its disappointments, no one can take away its accomplishments. Coach O'Connell leaves no doubt of his opinion towards the squad. "This team rates as one of the best in my 24 years of coaching. We've had high scorers before but never have we had better players as seniors Nate Mullins and Todd Milligan."

Of course there will always be those to blame the losses on the players or the coach's strategy. But as senior reserve guard Pete Wepinsky put it "It's a lot easier to be a Monday morning quarterback."



Senior captain Paul Grippo gains control of J. Naut from Delbarton. Paul won 6-0 to take third place in the NJISAA wrestling tournament at 129 pounds. Photo by Glenn Israel

12-5 wrestlers finish fourth in state despite disappointing individual losses

by Andy Golden

Finishing with a 12-5 record, the wrestling team capped off their season by taking fourth place in the fifteen-school Independent School State tournament held at Prep. Highlighting the tournament for Prep were place winners sophomore Dave "Flash" Jr. Yurcisin, junior Tony Jones and seniors Jay Goldbaum and Paul "Bud" Grippo. Dave polished off a perfect season of 25 wins, no losses, easily beating his opponent from Delbarton in the finals to take first place in the 101-

pound weight class. Dave's varsity career record now stands at 47-1, the loss coming in last year's state finals.

Grippo's loss in the semifinals prevented him from wrestling in the finals, the first time this has happened in three years. The loss was a tough one, the deciding points coming in the final ten seconds of the match. Perseverant Paul went on to win his consolation matches to take third place in the 129-pound class, adding the bronze medalion to his two golds and one bronze from years past. Also capturing a third was Jay Goldbaum in the 122-pound class.

Jay said after winning his consolation finals bout that he was "completely satisfied with my performance." Tony Jones took fourth place in the 148-pound class for the second year in a row. Many spectators watching Tony's consolation bout were heard to say that it was one of the most exciting of the tournament because of the evenly matched competitors and the often changed advantage during the bout.

To some, Prep's fourth place finish might be considered a disappointment. This is not to degrade that accomplishment, but many thought that this was to be the year that Prep could "take it all," upsetting four-time defending champions Blair Academy. It would have been hard to catch Blair, who dominated the meet with five champions, but a second or third place finish would have indeed been possible if certain close matches had gone the other way. Many matches, like the aforementioned one of Paul Grippo, were decided on points scored in the final seconds of the match.

Best. With four returning lettermen the team should either equal their last season record of 5-10 or hopefully better it.

The tennis team will be extremely strong this year. If the team can stay injury free (which hurt them last year) they will win a great number of meets and also put the top varsity players in strong contention for county tournament honors.

When you think of spring sports here at Prep you can not forget the girls' softball team. This year's team should also have a fine season. With the loss of only two seniors from last year's team the team should have no problem in filling those two gaps.

The state tournament and the national tournament that followed a week later represented the end of the high school wrestling careers of the team's four seniors: Goldbaum, Grippo, Paul Daviet, and Joe Yurcisin. Their loss will be felt on next year's team, but it is hoped that the returning eight wrestlers along with new recruits from the junior team will balance out this deficit.

Lack of depth, perennial nemesis, missing from spring sports' scene

by Ken Schindler

With the end of a fine winter athletic season, Preppers will now be going outside for spring sports contests. This spring our athletic teams will be quite strong. There are no teams in rebuilding processes, therefore there should be much excitement whether you are on the Baseball diamonds, Lacrosse field, Golf greens or Tennis courts.

The baseball team should have no problem winning. The team has 8 returning players from last years 12-7 squad, who are capable of producing an exceptional season. These players will be helped by new teammates who are young and have bright futures with the team.

Lacrosse players should enjoy a fine season. With one of the biggest turnouts in years, there will be a mixture of both young and old players. This year's coach is Spence Willard. Last year's record was 6-7.

It shouldn't be hard for the Golf team to remember how to win after having their best season last year. This team is led by Mr. Lee Anderson and senior captain Russ

With other schools cutting back on number of interscholastic teams, Rutgers Prep Athletic Director Dick O'Connell has announced that Prep is adding 2 teams to the athletic scene this spring. "The students and coaches have shown me a need for a junior level (either 7&8 or 7-8 and 9 grade) program in girls softball and boys lacrosse. We have 20 7, 8, 9 grade boys out for lacrosse and 21 7 & 8 grade girls out for softball. It is our promise to offer a program for each girl and boy in our school, so we are fielding 2 more teams."

In a school with an enrollment of about 300 boys and girls in grades 7 thru 12, almost 160 have turned out for 11 different squads this spring. Boys baseball 36, girls softball 41, boys tennis 34, boys lacrosse 39, and golf 7.

Prep offers 21 other teams in the fall and winter.

"Prep's athletic program is an opportunity program, not a required program."

Mark My Words?

Editor's Note: Mark Hyman, past Sport's Editor of the ARGO, now a regular sportswriter for the DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN of the University of Pennsylvania, was asked to tell us his memories of Prep's sports. Being an aspiring Dick Young, he greatly surprised us when he turned in this totally ineffective and irrelevant piece of "memoirs." So, for what it's worth, here it is.

by Mark Hyman

What are you going to remember about Prep?

Fifteen years from now, when you're fat, bald, and wrinkled, what are you going to remember about dear old RPS? Ever think about it? I have. Even though it was less than two years ago that Dr. Heinlein handed me the sheepskin, I've already begun to formulate those exaggerated high school tales you tell your grandchildren. Some of the more outlandish stories deal with my female conquests (those aren't exaggerations, they're just plain lies), my perfect 1400 SAT scores, and my unparalleled athletic career. But somewhere along the line, I'm going to drop in a few stories about Prep people; the athletic coaches in particular.

It always fascinated me the way Dr. Sperduto could explain the fiscal policies of Warren Harding one minute, and show Keith Warren how to dribble a soccer ball the next. Sperduto wasn't the only one that did it. A lot of faculty members shouldered the double responsibility. And it is to these dedicated men (and women) that I dedicate my return to the sports page with this column entitled: What I'll always remember about the coaches at Prep.

Coach O'Connell—This is the guy whose image will forever be etched on my brain. The first thing that comes to mind when you mention O'Connell are those hideous white shoes he always wore to basketball games. He must have had those things hidden in the equipment closet in the field house because the only time he ever wore them was on the day of a game.

The other thing I'll always remember about Coach O'Connell is that he could never remember my name. For four years he struggled with it, but he never got it straight. Sometimes he called me Mike and sometimes Dave. But mostly he just called me Lefty. It wasn't as good as Mark but it did have a classy ring to it. Occasionally, for spite, I'd forget his name; call him Mr. Jones or something. That made me feel better.

Coach Chamberlain—My most vivid memories of Coach Chamberlain are the tuna hoagies we used to bet on pro football games. Most of the time he won. But even when he didn't, he did. You see, he was my math teacher too.

Coach Anderson—A lot of people didn't think of Mr. Anderson as Coach Anderson, but as the golf team's head man, the title was certainly deserved. The thing I remember about Anderson was that no matter what question you asked him, you always ended up talking about his little league team. It was kind of a helpless feeling. If you asked him about the quadratic formula, he told you about his eleven-year-old shortstop. The man was totally dedicated.

Coach Fenstermaker—My recollections of Coach Fenstermaker were the problems he had with his swimmers and runners. That problem? None of them wanted to swim or run. They were forever making up wild excuses to get out of practice. It wasn't unusual for Coach Fenstermaker's athletes to suffer eight heart murmurs, ten flu bugs, and twelve collapsed lungs — all in one week.

Mr. Bratek—He wasn't a coach, but I just had to get this in. I shall always remember the way Mr. Bratek laughed. I've never met anyone who could match that half-cackle, half-belly laugh that he produced. It was a delightful sound.

Those are my memories; or at least some of them. What are yours? It won't be long until they'll be all you've got of dear old RPS.