

# THE ARGO

Vol. 100 - No. 2

RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

NOVEMBER, 1988

## SENIOR ASSEMBLY: A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words



### African Congress Rep. at Prep

As a response to having the views of an incumbent member of the South African government spoken on, Rutgers Prep recently invited a representative of the African National Congress to speak to its students.

Mr. Mashaballa, educated in the U.S., first explained the role that the African National Congress fills. According to Mashaballa, the Congress is an organization that opposes the inhumanitarian practices of the South African government. Mashaballa went on to describe the atrocities committed against the black population in that country. Among the more gruesome facts that Mashaballa revealed was that 50% of the children that are born in homelands die before the age of five. Mashaballa added that South Africa has the highest number of

political prisoners in the world.

The greatest crime, as Mashaballa puts it, was the tremendous discrepancy between the lifestyles of blacks and whites. The only positions available to blacks are those that cater to the comfort of whites.

Mashaballa also revealed an interesting paradox in the United States. He credited the support of the U.S. public for making Apartheid openly criticized. But he went on to target the Reagan administration as an ally of the present South African government. The election, he said, will be another important event in the future of U.S.-South African relations.

Whatever the government's view of South Africa, Prep students have a strong opinion about Apartheid.

### Campus News

The R.P.S. Academic team, coached by Mrs. Goen had a successful season with a respectable finish at the Battle of Brilliance. The team travelled to Morris Hills High School on October 11, 18, and 25 to compete in this tournament. The argonauts recorded victories over Hoboken and Absegami with only one defeat to the Governor Livingston School. The team is comprised of 8 seniors, each with a specific area of expertise: Matt Lenaghan, the sports man and frequent team captain; the science whiz Melanie Dever; sideline superheros Dev Lahiri and Craig Wacker, the political and historical powerhouses of the team; Tony Foleno, the Tom Cruise of trivia; Heather Bensko, the team's answer to Vanna White, but with a brain; Mark Parker, the ever absent answer-man; and Adrienne Townsen, who holds the record for knowing the most answers that everyone else does too.

On Tuesday, November 8, the ninth grade travelled to New York City. The class is reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*, so they visited the Holocaust Memorial in the Jewish Museum. The memorial consisted of a wall with all the headlines of major and community newspapers at the time of the Holocaust. The other part of the exhibit was the mold of the bronze that commemorated the Holocaust by artist George Segal. It overlooks the San Francisco Bay.

The second part of the trip was a stop at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The freshmen looked at art dating as far back as 5500 B.C. Both museums provided for an interesting day for all.

On Saturday, November 5, the Parents' Association held Las Vegas night. The purpose of Las Vegas night is to raise money for certain Parents' Association activities. Each year, Prep parents buy tickets and raffle stubs to support the fundraiser. The top raffle prize was \$10,000, with other smaller prizes available. Another facet of the night had to do with the gambling professionals invited in order to raise extra money. The organizer of Las Vegas night was Parents' Association head, Mrs. Tuma. This year's Las Vegas night was among the more successful fundraisers for the Parents' Association.

On Tuesday, November 22 the annual School Council can drive, under the direction of Paul Konigsberg, came to a close with a delivery to the Somerset County Food Bank. Marie Sconnell, director of the Food Bank, was happy and appreciative to find that Rutgers Prep brought more than 600 cans to the center. The winning Freshman class was rewarded with a dress down day on Wednesday, November 23.



### Students Attend Courter Seminar

On October 31, four seniors, Alyssa Hauser, Tony Foleno, Craig Wacker, and Dev Lahiri attended the Jim Courter seminar at the Bush campus in Rutgers University. Some students may remember Courter from when he spoke at Prep on environmental issues. The seminar was aimed at students throughout Jim Courter's twelfth Congressional district. Some students were clad in Bush for president paraphernalia, while others sported Lautenberg and Dukakis buttons. Several students came in costumes since the seminar did occur on Halloween. One student, wearing a straw hat and coveralls was remarked on by the opening speaker. Upon seeing him, the speaker said, "A Democrat must have slipped in."

Mr. Courter spoke for about an hour on topics ranging from the expanded ceramic engineering program at Rutgers to the subjects covered by the four lectures given by his staff. He entertained general questions for an additional

half hour. Once he finished speaking, students were allowed to go to their chosen hour long lectures.

The lectures included one on SDI, Nicaragua, the lawmaking process, and the Constitution. Everyone was able to attend two over the course of the day. All of the lectures provided resources and basically gave students an idea of Jim Courter's political views.

The lecture on strategic initiative was probably the most heated discussion. Many people in attendance were in complete disagreement with Jim Courter's views on the matter. The lecturer, Lisa Gaede, had to answer many questions of students who were confused as to the nature of SDI.

With the wide cross section of students, the day was characterized by a few friendly disagreements. Although the Courter staff has its own concrete opinions, the nature of the seminar was educational.

### Lasagna a La Prep

The annual Rutgers Prep faculty lasagna dinner was held on Friday, October 21, in the school cafeteria. The week prior to the event was marked by performances of the "Lasagna Players" in the Upper School. Under the direction of Mrs. Barbara Herzberg, the players focused on the many connections between Shakespeare and lasagna. Among memorable performances were the return of the witches of Macbeth, Julius Caesar and Romeo and Juliet.

Strong support came from faculty at all levels of the school and the two seatings at 6:00 and 7:00 were jammed. Lasagna, salad, bread and butter, sherbet and drinks were on the menu with adults allowed to add to the repast with vino.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Ron Lahiri at

the piano and the sight of teachers and administrators rushing to get everyone fed. The general chairman for the event was Mrs. Lair who stated that "this dinner had the most faculty participation and that she hoped that more Upper School parents would attend in the future." Mrs. Selez was in charge of reservations and special credit should be given to the men who manned the stoves that evening, Mr. Daviet and Mr. Masza.

The annual dinner is held to raise money for the scholarship fund and this year over \$2800 was added to the fund after all expenses were cleared. The dinner is indicative of the faculty commitment to attracting scholarship students to Prep and the faculty hopes that future dinners will bring even greater success.



Mr. and Mrs. Karman enjoying themselves at Las Vegas along with Mr. Forney and Mr. O'Connell.



## Editorial

by Adrienne Townes

Involvement seems to be the key word for many Prep students. It is rare to find a student here who isn't involved in some sort of extracurricular activity. However, there seems to be a trend that develops whereby a handful of kids find themselves involved in everything, possibly too much. Many of the students with the toughest course loads find themselves to be the two and three sport athletes as well as leaders and/or members of various other clubs and activities. Are these students in too deep, or do they really enjoy and manage all that they do?

Prep offers so much that it seems a shame not to take advantage of it. Many students thrive on things besides the academics here, and want to make the most out of their high school careers. It seems as though, especially in the upper classes, the same names turn up again and again when mentioning team captains, club presidents, and other types of leaders. Part of that comes from Prep being such a small

school, but there must be other reasons for this trend.

Basic interest is certainly a big part of it. Some students' interests lead them in many different directions and cause them to become involved in anything and everything they enjoy. But can these varied interests lead to trouble? There is such a thing as getting in over your head and trying to do more than you can truly handle. One person can only do so much and if he/she takes on too many responsibilities, it can prove to be detrimental.

These negative effects may show up gradually as a result of spreading yourself too thin. Grades may start to slip, it may seem as though there's never enough time, and the pressures can easily make anyone tense and on edge. No one should feel limited in any way, but we do have to set boundaries for ourselves. When you overcommit yourself the activities that had been a source of enjoyment can all too easily become more like chores.

## College Admissions—Just a Game?

by Paul Konigsberg

What are colleges looking for? Getting into colleges these days is becoming more and more unpredictable. Students who would have once been shoe-ins to the college of their choice are feeling the uncertainty. Not only are there more people applying to colleges, but each student is individually applying to many more than before. Early decision has become an option for many students wishing to show a college that it is their first choice, and this option usually has advantages in the admissions process. But early decision is a commitment, and many students understandably don't want to be limited in their options. It's difficult making these decisions. Each college offers just a little something different. I guess what it comes down to is which offers you the most and the best. The only way to find out is by exploring everything before you make up your mind. Don't pick one college because it's the only college you've visited, don't pick one because it offers you just as much as you offer it!

But once you have decided, and you know the school that is for you, a new problem arises: getting in! It has become increasingly difficult to understand what a college wants from you. How should you present yourself? God, it almost sounds as if you are selling yourself, but I guess, in actuality, you are. But colleges are changing their methods. The more personal on campus interviews are now being replaced with less personal group tours. Why is it that just when colleges finally realize that the almighty S.A.T. is not as useful as once thought, they begin to drop one of the more useful and personal methods of admissions? Yes, the S.A.T. has been slowly losing its credit as a test, and achievements are taking on more weight. But who knows how each college interprets the applications? How much weight does a college put on advanced placement courses? It is better to get a mediocre grade in an honors class than a superb grade in a free-bee? Where is the cut-off point? How should colleges interpret an application? Is there a better way?

## Moral Outrage Expressed

The theft of someone's personal belongings is a common occurrence that may not seem of the utmost importance. However, at Prep this is an outrage. Such thievery should not be happening at a small school such as ours. A student or faculty member should be able to leave a personal belonging out in the hallway without worrying about locking it up. It's ridiculous.

Yet, people are beginning to worry because there has been a wave of thefts in the school. Practically everyday a new article is reported stolen. The stolen articles range from wallets and books to calculators. This cycle of

theft has to be stopped.

While locking up our belongings and being more aware of the situation is a part of the answer, further action has to be taken. For example, the administration should get more involved. Possible beginnings might include a meeting of the class officers or just the junior class, since most of the articles reported stolen have been from that class, to brainstorm some ideas with the administration. A rigid punishment should be announced to the entire upper school, so that maybe the person(s) that are stealing these things will become more wary about trying to pull

any more fast ones.

Although some may take a laissez-faire attitude toward these series of thefts and regard this response as out of proportion, this series of thefts really does affect our lives. Now, each time a student leaves a book in front of his locker he will have to wonder whether the book will still be there when he returns. A theft can cause frustration because nothing can be done after the fact. One cannot just accuse someone on a latent suspicion. It is necessary to have evidence which is often futile to even try and obtain.



## RPS '88 Election Poll ARGO 1988 Election Poll Results

ARGO 1992			
1. What should be the most important issue in this presidential campaign?			
The economy	30%	Health, education, and the needy	10%
Social issues (crime, drugs, and abortion)	30%		30%
The Federal deficit	14%	Defense, arms control, and foreign policy	14%
The candidate's experience, character, and ideology	14%		2%
2. Are the presidential candidates, George Bush and Michael Dukakis talking enough about the issues?			
Yes	8%	Only Dukakis is	5%
No	59%	Only Bush is	5%
3. This campaign has been characterized as a 'mud-slinging contest.' Which candidate do you think is most responsible for the negative campaigning which is going on now?			
Bush	62%	Dukakis	38%
4. Which candidate do you predict to win the upcoming presidential election?			
Bush	83%	Dukakis	17%

## Commentary . . .

During the campaign Dukakis brought up a real issue which Bush completely ignores—the inequalities in American society. Bush, once again, began to question the much-talked-about patriotism of Michael Dukakis. George Bush stated that: "We are not going to be divided by class." If Bush believes that there are no class divisions that affect the education, medical care, and legal services of the American public, he really ought to wake up and smell the coffee. After all, he's much younger than Reagan—he shouldn't be sleeping his way through the Presidency yet. Could it be that Bush ignores these class divisions because he is himself a member of the affluent upper class. One interesting fact about Bush's

economic plan of further cuts in capital gains taxes is that it would reduce his own income taxes by \$22,000 a year. That would certainly be a "kinder and gentler nation"—for George Bush, at least.

The Argo Election Poll seems to indicate that the majority of the Prep student body predicted the victory of Vice President George Bush in the presidential election. For all of those who support George Bush, there is only one question which remains to be unanswered—what are you basing your decision on? If there is some secret about George Bush that I don't know about—someone tell me. Besides this enigma about George Bush that seems to gain him supporters, the facts remain very clear.

Bush has been part of an administration which has managed to increase the federal budget deficit by phenomenal amounts,

more than a trillion dollars. Democrats have traditionally been called the "big spenders," but the Reagan-Bush administration has spent (squandered) billions of federal dollars and still managed to cut programs which directly help average Americans (head-start, school lunch programs, environmental protection agencies, etc.). With a shrinking middle class and an inflated deficit, Republicans are claiming that the American economy is "healthier". The Republican prescription of spending (phenomenally) more than the nation earns must be stopped.



## THE ARGO

Rutgers Preparatory School  
1345 Easton Avenue, Somerset, N.J.

VOL. 100—No. 2	CSPA First Place, 1988
Editor-in-Chief	Adrienne Townes
News Editor	Craig Wacker
Opinions Editor	Dev Lahiri
Features Editors	Alex Wojtenko, Erica Rafaloff
Sports Editor	Tony Folino
Photographers	Vaishali Patel, Danny Karen
Staff	Joe Davis, Melissa Dever
Adviser	Steve Finkelstein, Tim Herrmann, Paul Konigsberg, Krista Stella, Matthew Lemagham
	Mrs. Wacker



## New Faculty Brings New Life to Music Dept.

by Joe Davis

When looking at the faculty list at the beginning of each year, one cannot help but notice that almost every year, Prep experiences "teacher turnover," that is, a few faculty members leave the school and are replaced with new teachers. Rarely, however, does an entire department leave, but such was the case with last year's music department. This year the administration needed to fill the vacancies in the department, and hired Raymond Wojcik and Jean Meyers-Hunt.

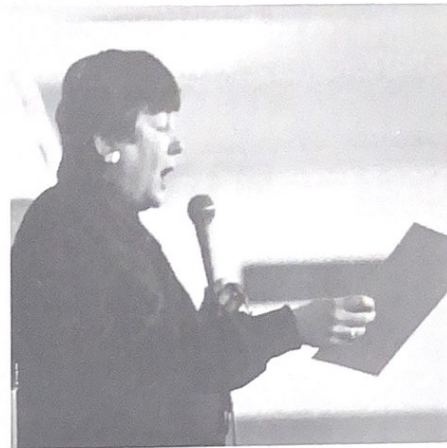
As soon as you meet Mr. Wojcik, your pre-conceived notions about symphony orchestra conductors are shattered. He isn't old and gray, and he doesn't walk around with a constant look of solemnity on his face. In fact, he's quite the opposite; always with a smile or a joke to break the ice of a first meeting. But he is the conductor of the critically acclaimed Garden State Symphony Orchestra, and music director of Plays-in-the-Park. He was educated at the Manhattan School of Music, Lamont School of Music, and Juilliard. In addition to conducting, Mr. Wojcik has also composed for dance companies, film, musical theatre and the concert hall.

While Mr. Wojcik handles mostly the instrumental end of the program, Mrs. Hunt will concentrate her efforts on the vocal

department. She is an experienced choral conductor whose choirs have often performed at Disney World and International Choral Festivals. She too is a pianist, composer, and musical theatre director. She has only lived in New Jersey for a short two months, but when she lived in Texas she was Educational Consultant to the local PBS television station, and she has directed the music for a nationally aired PBS special. Mrs. Hunt received her Master of Music degree from Wayne University, and has since studied at the University of Michigan and Mannes College of Music.

This new music department faced quite a chore: to create an entire music department with nothing but instinct to guide them. Mrs. Hunt said, "It was difficult for two reasons: number one, there was no place in the academic day for vocal music, and number two, most people adopted the 'wait and see' approach, we needed to prove ourselves." Mrs. Hunt triumphantly reports that she seems to have proved herself in the middle school, "We have a great seventh and eighth grade chorus," and when they reach the Upper school, she plans to take them to perform in Disney World. As far as musicals in the Middle School, work has already started on "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Mr. Wojcik's goals are "creating an Upper School musical performance and academic program." Response has come in "drips and drabs," but he expects that to change soon. Both new teachers seem to think it might be better to have the music classrooms in the Upper, rather than the Middle school, simply to make it more convenient for Upper schoolers to take a music class. Mr. Wojcik points out that "the music department looks forward to a Performing Arts Building." They plan to hold a fundraising concert next September in one of the auditoriums at Rutgers University.



Mrs. Wacker introduces one of the debates.

## Gov't Classes Perform Mock Debates

by Krista Stella

In view of the upcoming election students in the government classes held mock debates to discuss prevalent issues in the United States today. The Democratic and Republican side each consisted of three members, while a panel of three separate students directed questions to both sides.

On Friday, October 14, nine members of Mrs. Wacker's A.P. Government class debated in a special assembly. The Democratic team for Mr. Dukakis consisted of Dev Lahiri, Craig Wacker, and

Alyssa Hauser. Opposing them were Ronke Olabisi, Mark Weitz, and Tim Herrmann in favor of Mr. Bush. The students were asked to address the topic of foreign policy. To answer coherently, they needed a working knowledge of their respective candidate's position and views of the subject.

Those who formed and asked the questions included Chris Racich, Heather Bensko, and Melanie Dever. Under the general heading of foreign policy the issues discussed were: to what extent was Mr. Bush involved in the Iran Contra affair, what was each candidate's perception of the United States and Soviet Union's attempt to reduce arms, as well as the question of support to nations such as Chile and Yugoslavia. The difficulty in phrasing the questions lay in remaining objective while raising relevant concerns.

The fourth period Government class also held a debate on Tuesday, November 1. However, the topic was changed to domestic affairs. Democrats Ezra Wiesz, Candace Juman, and John Davidson faced Republicans Doug Pagan, Kent Sheasley, and Noah Miller. Questions posed by John Lair, Valerie Abdollah, and Steven Kravetz dealt with the deficit, space program, and the homeless. Other subjects included the controversial issues of racism and abortion. One main concern that seemed contradictory was the fact that while Mr. Bush supports capital punishment he is vehemently against

abortion. On the other hand Mr. Dukakis brought up the subject of racism in referring to the particular man in the Willy Horton trial by his race.

In order to answer the questions which were not announced previously the debaters had to research and understand general information pertaining to their candidate's campaign. Unable to prepare specific answers, each student had to correlate the information gathered and respond coherently and intelligently within two minutes. The opposing side then had an opportunity for rebuttal. It was necessary for the spokesperson to address the question without wavering from the subject or rambling on with no meaning. After addressing the formal questions, the audience was then able to participate by raising issues that were not covered.

In preparing for the debates, each student found as much information as possible on the candidates keeping in mind the main points of the campaign. One strategy to cause the opposing candidate to become unnerved is uncovering contradictions or weaknesses in his political history. One example is Mr. Bush's involvement in the Iran-Contra scandal.

These were the first two presentations in what promises to be a year long series. The A.P. United States History class, who is now planning its own debates informally, may follow the example and present a debate due to the success of the Government classes.

## From Graduation Speaker to V.P. Debate Questioner

An Interview with John Margolis

by Melanie Dever

Many Prep students who attended graduation last year may remember the commencement speaker, Mr. John Margolis. Even more people know him as one of the questioners for the Bentsen-Quayle debate. Mr. Margolis, a Prep alum, could be found at five o'clock on a Sunday afternoon sitting at his desk at the offices of *The Chicago Tribune*, and agreed to be the subject of a news story rather than the author. When asked if he would mind being the subject of a news article he exclaimed, "Of all the horrible things."

He said that he enjoyed his profession for the variety, "I'm not always doing the same thing"; the excitement, "It certainly isn't dreary"; and he called a career in the media a "continuing education". His qualms about his choice of vocations were, "changing planes at O'Hare, the lines for car rentals at Avis, and hearing the same speeches six times." Mr. Margolis cited his coverage for *The New York News Day* of the 1971 Attica prison riots as the "most dramatic and moving story" he'd ever covered.

When asked what he thought of Bentsen's and Quayle's responses to the questions in the debate he admitted, "Actually, I was concentrating more on my own ques-

tions than on the answers." He spoke of a curious rivalry between the questioners and the candidates in the debate. Apparently one of the rules of the debate was that the questioners were not allowed to follow up on their questions—a rule set up by the candidates. The reporters decided amongst themselves that they would follow up on each others questions, and Mr. Margolis explained that much of his attention was devoted to preparing follow-up questions. He agreed that the candidates used the questions as ways to deliver their prepared spiels, and although he didn't denounce them for doing so, he wondered how a candidate who really did address the issues would fare in a national election.

On the likelihood of a Dukakis victory he simply said, "Any? Yes, Much? No." A recent *Newsweek* poll suggested that many people felt the negativity of this campaign was due largely to the press' treatment of the news. Mr. Margolis said he knew of that particular article, and while he criticized that particular article he agreed that the press did have a tendency to be picky and go for the little issues rather than the real policies. Unfortunately, he noted, there was very little in the way of real issues being

discussed.

In closing, Mr. Margolis said that he had had a good time at the debate, despite the "silly" follow-up rule, and that while he enjoyed being recognized on the street for the few days following the debate, he was glad to have regained his anonymity.

**Ready to Laugh?**  
**Coming Soon...**  
**The Viscous**  
**Rumors Column**



Kent Sheasley, Doug Pagan and Noah Miller representing Mr. Bush during the November 1 debate.



## Boys' Soccer Ends Season on an Up Note

Boys' soccer faced many ups and downs this season. But on the last game of the season, the team played a game that they could really feel good about against Montclair-Kimberly. Though the squad only tied, the team's intensity and teamwork were truly something of which to be proud.

There were many times during the season when the team became demoralized about their record. Also, they were knocked out of the first rounds of both the County and the State tournaments, losing to Bernardsville and Newark Academy, respectively. But there were also many bright spots in the season, such as the team's rousing overtime victory over Dwight-Englewood and their annihilation of Ranney's Varsity.

Players like captains Tim Herrmann, Matt Lenaghan, and Rich Hanle provided the team with examples of the right attitude. New leaders are sure to emerge next season, such as juniors Danny Oross, Chris Giotfre, Josh Greenstein, and Mark Levy. The team will be losing eight of its eleven starting

members. Among those seniors lost will be Tim Herrmann, the team's leading goal scorer; Matt Lenaghan, a team player who can score in clutch moments; and Doug Pagan and Rich Hanle, both fierce competitors. The team's two flanking fullbacks, Ted Liscinski and Tony Foleno, also will be leaving, as will Jim Fox. Also leaving is goalie Andrew Morrison, who will be tough to replace.

The Varsity finished with a record of 4-11-1, which is surprising, considering the players' overall talent. Many of the games lost were very close, hard-played contests. For example, Gill-St. Bernards scored a winning goal in the last minutes of the last quarter to beat Prep, in a game which Prep had dominated.

"We seemed to have had a lot of problems putting the ball into the back of the net. The opportunities were there a lot of the time," commented one player.

"A lot of good juniors are coming back next year. We had a good team this year, but just a lot of bad luck. I hope the next team overcomes that bad luck," says

Lenaghan.

The J.V. has had an extensive schedule this season, and has gained a lot of experience under the new coaches Stoll and Clark-VonVille.

"We might have been better to field a boxing team, but as a soccer team we had our ups and downs. We ended our season pretty well against Montclair. The Dwight-Englewood game was a highlight," says Herrmann.



Senior tri-captain Rich Hanle takes control of the ball.

## X-Country Ends Season With Fantastic Record

by Tim Herrmann

Contrary to most of Prep's fall teams, the boys' and girls' cross country teams had a great year. The girls, led by Mandy Holliday, Ginger Truan, and Adrienne Townsen, have posted their best record ever at 5-2. The girls' only problem was finding meets to run in, as there are not that many teams in the Prep Conference. The boys have also had a phenomenal year, posting a 10-4 record, their best record in the last ten years.

The boys have also posted some impressive victories; for example, beating P.D.S. for the first time in ten years. They also broke up Peddie's undefeated season. Other teams that the boys have beaten include Newark, Wardlaw, Pennington, Dunellen, Montclair-Kimberly, Saddle River and Dwight Englewood. Their only losses were a one point defeat to a tough Pingry team, and to Montgomery and Morristown Beard, two perennial powerhouses. Their only other loss came early in the season against Piscataway, a loss which Coach Dougherty called a "fluke", citing injuries as a problem.

Both the boys and the girls had a good outlook on their main goal of States, but came out disappointed. Prep's squad, which was hoping for a State championship, came in fifth overall. An unexpected arrival of Pingry, which usually runs against Division A

schools in states, could have tipped the balance against Prep. Of course, there were many standout individual victories, such as Mandy Holliday's third place and Chris Conlon's seventh place finishes.

Looking at the entire season, however, the teams have nothing at all to be ashamed of. Their success came as a surprise to many overconfident teams. Strong determination and commitment was standard for the team. The right competitive attitude for an athlete was exemplified by such runners as captain Mark Parker.

The teams next year will

definitely miss graduating seniors. The boys will lose veterans and leaders, such as Mark Parker, Chris Conlon, and Chris Racich. But new runners will be taking their place; runners like Steve Finkelstein and Brian Townsen. The future of the girls team is more uncertain, as the team is losing six strong seniors—Mandy Holliday, Adrienne Townsen, Ginger Truan, Jessica Gopinathan, Valerie Abdullah and Sherry Lynn Lee.

Coached by Bob Daugherty and Mary Klinger, the two teams have posted a combined 15-6 record this year, and sixty wins over the past six seasons.



Senior co-captains Mark Parker and Chris Conlon and junior Steve Finkelstein take a jog around campus.

## Girls Rebound as Season Concludes

by Steve Finkelstein

The Varsity girls' soccer team was off to a slow start this year, but they did rebound to finish with a stronger second half of the season. There were several reasons for this turnaround. First, the team was introduced to a diamond defense formation. Once this was understood and executed, the team improved drastically as a playing unit. In addition, many adjustments were made in moving players to new positions. For example, Sandy Wardlow was moved from a halfback to a sweeper, Megan Coakley shifted from a forward to stopper, and Jen Gussis played defense. These adjustments improved the team's quality and also illustrated some of the players' unselfish loyalty.

The girls finished with a 3-10-1 record, which, in Coach Nestvogel's opinion, does not represent the team's true ability. They had a tough schedule in the beginning of the season, but things turned around in the end. Victories for

the team included Mount St. John's (5-3), Ranney (3-0), and St. Paul's (5-1). In addition, the squad made it to the semifinals in the State tournament. Unfortunately, they were beaten by Saddle River.

Fortunately, only a few seniors will be lost. Sandy Wardlow, the team's captain, and Nicole Fragano will be sorely missed. Soccer mainstays, such as juniors Jen Gussis and Megan Coakley, will remain, however. The team looks to be stronger next season, as a result of the experience gathered by younger players this season. After losing such strong players as Julie Cunjak and Kristina Pouch last year, it was obvious that this season was a time to rebuild, which is exactly what the team did.

The girls' soccer team had many young players who lacked the necessary experience. With upcoming years, excellent attitude and more practice, the team is sure to grow in strength.



Junior Akinyi Ouma strides ahead of the opposing team.

## Tennis Gains Experience

A team that comes out time and again, facing long odds, gives it all they have, and ends up losing deserves at least as much credit as a team with a winning record. This is the case of the girls' tennis team. Though their confidence was lagging, the girls stuck it out.

As Coach Snider pointed out at the beginning of the season, this fall was a time to rebuild. Many of the girls are very young and have used this season to gain needed experience. The coach has worked hard to help the team. He has worked with each player and has helped them with their stroke techniques. Teammates have described him both as a good coach and a good

friend.

The final record was 2-10 in regular season play. Many feel that the record does not accurately reflect the team's talent. Though two games were cancelled, the schedule was still very tough for the girls.

Players like Naledi Khabo, Edana Kartzenel, Michelle Korn, Kirsten Driver and Jennifer Costanza helped provide leadership for the struggling team. Young talent appreciated this, as in the case of the doubles pair of Gracie Alcide and Meredith Israel, who advanced to the second round of the State tournament.

A key problem for the team was the constant shift of the

lineup, due either to a changed strategy or an absence of a particular player. It seemed that after the first few games, some players did not make the commitment necessary in order to maintain cohesiveness. This by no means happened all of the time, as can be seen by the constant commitment of players like Gracie Alcide.

But overall, the team's spirit was captured in the competitiveness of such players as Naledi Khabo. Though Naledi had a somewhat disappointing record, she did not let that fact control her game. Instead, she gave it all she had. This attitude prevailed among many of the players.