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March 1998

ANOTHER BLOODLESS REVOLUTION!

School Council Elections

by Minesh Patel

On Wednesday, February twenty-fifth, upper school students poured into Baldwin Hall awaiting the candidates' speeches for School Council positions. The question remained, however: would the speeches be as interesting as they were last year? The prospective leaders of our school were each given a few minutes to convince us, the lowly masses, why they should lead the mighty Council into the next school year. Ultimately, Tommy Roy was elected treasurer; Beam Seilaudom, Secretary; Babi Das, vice-president; and Isaac Chahal, president.

Tommy Roy started off his short and simple speech by saying, "Hey

guys, what's up?" He said that he would try to bring more people like the hypnotist, Ronnie Romm, to our school. He ended his speech by saying, "Vote for me, and it's all gonna be good." He had strong support from the audience members, who were cheering him on. Aubrey Hebda-Bolduc spoke about her good characteristics and good math skills, asserting that she would be the best for the job. Jenn Snukis used her two-hundred-twenty hours of Community Service as proof of the dedication she would take with her to Council.

In the secretary category, Maura Pritchard spoke of Beam as a behind-the-scenes force as representative; she was someone known to help out anyway she could. Beam spoke about her organizational skills and



Ari Harkov takes part in the democratic process.

her work for the Leukemia Society, school sports, and for the activities of Spirit Month. Bulletin-Board Magnate Julie Ann Miller ran for re-election on the platform of more recognition to the athletics, suggesting even more bulletin boards and display cases. In order to appeal to the artists of the community, Miller ended by propos-

ing bulletin board space for art, music, and drama.

In his speech for the vice-presidency, Brad Blecker explained that he would make a good leader because he is resourceful and knows how to get things done. Babi Das delivered her speech without notes, stating that her goal was to make Council more involved with the student body.

She ended by encouraging the students to attend the Girls Basketball State Finals game. Sahil "Mike" Khanna made the most interesting speech, proposing to end the dress code. He admitted that, although he can't promise it, with a modest four to five year plan the dream might become

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Council Year in Review

by Angela Lin

Although it has been a mild winter, the Upper School Council has been working hard to provide activities that are far from mild. Much has been accomplished within the walls of Mr. Avella's science room this year. However, most of Council's work is done outside of the meetings.

After a successful trip to Great Adventure's Halloween Fright Night, Council began planning for the annual can drive, blood drive and toy drive. Under the guidance of Isaac Chahal, Babi Das, Allison Moskowitz and Camile Melton, respect-

fully, these service projects were highly successful. In addition, Council encouraged students to participate in a new opportunity, the Clothing Drive, conducted in conjunction with the rest of the Rutgers Prep community.

In December, Council finally completed a four-year revision of the Upper School Council Constitution, making it possible for this year's election candidates to run under the new, ratified Constitution. In addition, Sahil "Michael" Khanna was elected as Archivist.

Council has also

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Faculty Squeaks by Seniors, 60-52

by Jeremy Hollander

Last Tuesday, in the Richard S. O'Connell gymnasium at Rutgers Preparatory School, crowds of students, fans, administrators, and teachers witnessed a closely contested basketball game between the Class of '98 and the Prep Faculty. In this now wildly popular annual event, seniors set a new standard of excellence for future classes to follow as they dribbled, passed, and shot their way to a disappointing loss.

The first half saw the overconfident and somewhat cocky faculty

take to the floor fresh from memories of their football victory (24-0) back in November. Led by former All-American point guard Mary Klinger and former college stars Mark Tyree and Tony Mento, the faculty five looked to get out fast to a commanding lead.

The seniors, still stinging from the football loss (albeit in a sport in which the school has neither a team nor a field), planned to mount an awesome defense against their aging opponents. With varsity members Jackie Seinkiewicz, Jennifer Franklin, Dan Chelel, Will Pabst, Ian Liggett, Zachary

Solomon, and Bolus Brzezinski matching up strongly against the faculty's top players, including Scott Neal, the game remained close for the entire first half.

Since game rules not did not allow foul shots to be taken for any infractions or "incidental contacts," one might think that the game would have continued in an out-of-control-manner. However, due to the officiating of Senior Jeremy Hollander and counselor Mike Kaufman, authority was maintained, despite rumors of bribes and threats.

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Another Bloodless Revolution: School Council Elections

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a reality. Amanda Rabinowitz criticized Sahil's proposal saying that, "abolishing the dress code is not realistic." Amanda proposed that the student body should have borrowing privileges at the Rutgers University Libraries, because of our school's lack of a true space at the present time.

Justin Nichols, who nominated Isaac Chalal, admitted that he didn't like Isaac when they first met. However, Justin explained that he realized Isaac is dedicated and full of ideas that "will make the school a better place." In describing himself, Isaac used adjectives like "charismatic and outgoing" and "flexible and enthusiastic." He said that the school has to be more unified, and that Council should publish a weekly, or bi-monthly newsletter to let the student body know what's going on; such a newsletter existed in the Cesario administration. The most experienced candidate of the three, Isaac will get the chance to carry the metaphorical torch he spoke

about. Homin Lee recalled the experiences he has had in the United States since leaving his home in South Korea nineteen months ago. He thanked everyone for helping him overcome the difficulties and obstacles that he has faced and asked everyone to help him again by voting for him. He said that he has an open mind and that, if elected, he would prove his unlimited potential. Laurie Tashman, who pointed the microphone at the ceiling to start her speech, said that she wants the students to be happy to come here each morning. She said that she would instigate change by "opening up the lines of communication between students and teachers."

Elections were held that Friday. Amanda Rabinowitz will assume Babi Das's responsibilities as representative to the junior class and Jessica Greenblatt will assume Beam's responsibilities as representative to the sophomore class. Congratulations to all and best wishes in the upcoming year!

Council Year in Review

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ushered in a new era in awareness about Prep's sports teams. This can be attributed to Julie Ann Miller and her work on the Sports Bulletin Board. As a result of her work, the student body has been kept up to date on the team sports schedules and has enjoyed many colorful photographs of Prep athletes in action.

Taking advantage of the school's computer network and technological opportunities, Angela Lin established a Council e-mail address

(scouncil@ifu.net) and web page. This addition creates many possibilities for future administrations to not only keep the school community informed of Council happenings but also to communicate with other schools and advisors.

February was deemed Spirit Month by Council. This was a project initiated to both brighten the dreary winter days and increase school spirit. It began with a special event. As a result of the organizational efforts of Isaac Chalal, the Council was able to present an excit-

ing assembly program featuring hypnotist Ronny Romm, who entertained the student body with his routine.

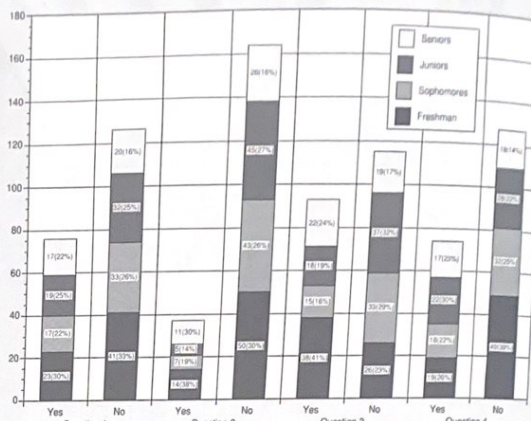
Following his visit was the first of four dress-down days, Pajama Day. Students and faculty members sported choice sleepwear of all kinds. As the month progressed, the school community participated enthusiastically in three additional dress-down days: Cupid's Valentine's Day, 50's, 60's, and 70's Day, and the Maroon and White dress-down day.

February elections marked the end of the 1997-98 administration under Angela Lin, Allison Moskowitz, Isaac Chalal and Julie Ann Miller, and the beginning of a new regime under Isaac Chalal, Babi Das, Beam Seilaudom, and Tommy Roy. From a Trenton Thunder baseball game, to an evening at Great Adventure's Halloween Fright Night, to a ski trip to Jack Frost, the current administration has worked hard with Council members and volunteers to bring about

interest and participation provoking activities. The current officers feel that they have achieved their goal of increasing school spirit and making the school community more aware of the workings of Council. In the process of achieving that goal, they have opened the doors for more opportunities in the future. As their year draws to a close, the officers would like to thank Mr. Avella, Ms. Mansfield and Mrs. Pink for their continual support and guidance. Best of luck in the year ahead!

SURVEY: Drugs at Prep

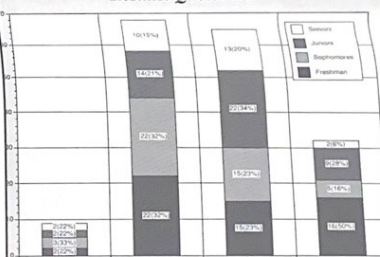
Results: Questions 1-4



The questions are reprinted below for your convenience:

- 1) Do you believe that drugs are a problem at Rutgers Prep?
- 2) Do you feel that drug testing should be implemented at Rutgers Prep?
- 3) If drug testing were implemented, do you believe that it would discourage you from using drugs?
- 4) Do you believe that marijuana should be legalized?
- 5) If you oppose drug testing, is it because:
 - a) your blood is full of illegal substances at this very moment?
 - b) you feel that drug testing is an unnecessary invasion of your privacy?
 - c) you feel that the school has no business being concerned with such aspects of your personal life?
 - d) other

Results: Question 5



Note: The percentages in these graphs are calculated with respect to the overall response given by the four classes collectively. Results may be slightly inaccurate since not all people completed all parts of the survey.

Source: Homeroom Poll

Some comments about the survey:

"This issue must be addressed when students are young. After that, it's too late." - Senior

"I was shocked to hear from a recent Prep graduate that drugs have been a serious problem at Prep." - Junior

Senior-Faculty
Basketball Game

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Early on in the fourth quarter the Seniors took a four-point lead and seemed headed for certain victory. However, by not making a call at a critical point in the game, official Hollander, who was in good position, allowed the faculty to go up-court and hit a key three-pointer against the outnumbered Senior team. Although the final score reflects the official outcome of the 1998 Senior-Faculty Basketball Game, it fails to shed light on the camaraderie, and good competition enjoyed by the many participants and spectators.

For Prep, a "Moral Victory"

by Jeremy Wang-Iverson

Hardly a loss.

The atmosphere in the Immacula gym was intense; the Prep Varsity Girls Basketball Team was looking to repeat as Prep B champions by defeating the #1 seed Wardlaw Hartridge. After 32 minutes of excitement, emotion, and great basketball, Wardlaw squeezed out a 45-44 win over a gritty, determined Rutgers Prep team.

Wardlaw took the tip, and sank the first couple of baskets, taking an early lead. Wardlaw senior Sarah Williamson, who was held in check by Alyssa Botwinik, felt the most pressure to pull out the win for Wardlaw.



Jenn Franklin shoots over Wardlaw defenders. She had 17 points in the game.

Prep players agreed they got off to a slow start, with Jenn Franklin (the fourth Prep girl to score her 1000th point) responsible for most of the scoring in the first half, which

ended 24-12 in Wardlaw's favor.

During half-time the team regrouped and focused. Coach Klinger stressed giving this last game everything they had, and the fans never counted the team out either. Barechested and in face paint, Will, Zach, and Alon led the Prep fans in cheer. Mr. Mazza was banging on the stands chanting "Defense!"

Prep did not change their strategy for the second half, but came out more determined. Whereas Wardlaw had dominated in the first half, Prep took over in the second, executing their game plan and making a tremendous comeback. Jackie Sienkiewicz led the way, scoring 15 of her 17 points in this half. Jenn, who also scored 17, hit key three pointers to slash Wardlaw's lead.

The game, however, did come down to the final minute with Prep on an 11-4 run. With :45 left on the clock Jenn Franklin left Wardlaw fans stunned and Prep fans screaming as she hit her second three pointer of the run, cutting the lead to 43-41. Prep then tied the game on a Megan Scully a lay-up, but Wardlaw answered with a field goal and once again lead, 45-43.

With seconds left in regulation play, Jackie

took an inbounds pass and got a shot off before the buzzer as she was swarmed by Wardlaw players. As the shot failed to drop, time expired. To the surprise of an already celebrating Wardlaw team, the referee called a foul and Jackie went to the line with a chance to send the game to overtime. She made the first shot, and missed the second.

Jackie Sienkiewicz had nothing to prove. The third Prep girl to score one-thousand points, she finished this year with over 1200. She was named to the All-State team the past two years, was a key member of last year's championship team, and the MVP in this year's Prep, Gill St. Bernards, and Newark Academy tournaments. When asked what Jackie meant to the team, Megha Rao responded, "Everything." When Jackie was out injured, the offense struggled. She tied the entire Blair team, scoring 20 in Prep's 28-20 win in the semi-finals and more than figuratively carried the team on her shoulders throughout the year. Though she was denied the story book ending for which Prep fans prayed, this cannot tarnish her spectacular high school career.

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Spring Sports Preview

by Danielle Kelner

Six Rutgers Prep spring teams, golf, baseball, softball, women's lacrosse, men's lacrosse, and men's tennis, look forward to a successful season this year. Practices started on March 2, and all of the team captains are optimistic about the upcoming season.

The golf team brings back two experienced players, senior co-captains Jeremy Hollander and Dan Chelel. Last year, Coaches Nes Forney and Walter Nichols' linksters were 8-5-1. With a tough eighteen match schedule, the four new members will have to step up and replace last year's seniors.

Led by Brian Benitz, the first team Prep all-state junior captain, the Argonaut baseball team looks to replace eight departed seniors from last year's roster. Last year, Larry Santowasso and Tony Mento brilliantly coached the team to an 11-8 winning record. With many new faces on this new team, the

younger players will be key contributors to a successful season.

Senior softball co-captain stalwarts Erica Becker and Debbie Gray will lead a deep and talented softball team. Coach Robert Dougherty looks forward to an improvement in overall team play. With upper-class leadership, the team hopes to defeat their key rivals Gill-St. Bernard and Morristown-Beard. The team will be bolstered by rising freshman pitcher, Kathleen Dougherty.

Due to past success, the women's lacrosse team has moved to a new division this year, the Central Jersey Women's Lacrosse League. Last year's team outscored the opposition by almost one hundred goals. This year's co-captains, senior Priya Radhakrishna and junior Alyssa Botwinik, hope to make it to the championship round of the state finals. Coaches Carol Zboray and Matt Shifman look forward to building on last year's success.

Led by senior co-captains and all-Prep laxsters, Riki Alcid and Thom Bonanni, this year's men's lacrosse team will try to get out of the blocks quickly. Led by a strong senior class, Coach Mark Tyree's squad hopes to have a winning season and a chance to bring home a trophy.

Four upperclassmen return to Coaches Jim Ackerman and Mark Gottlieb's tennis team. Senior captain Ian Liggett feels that things are looking good for the upcoming season. Several new freshman and junior varsity players coupled with the returnees will be a valuable asset to this team.

The spring is the busiest time of the year for Prep Athletics. With all the different activities that are going on around the campus, everyone in the community should make it a point to go and see at least one of each team's games. The support a home team gets from its fans is key to its success.

Girls' Basketball

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by Lon Zimmet

All the Prep fans from Mr. Mitchell to the cafeteria guy Al agreed the game was a moral victory for Prep. Perhaps Mrs. Klinger best summed up her team's attitude when she told them, "You just didn't lay down and die." The team played their hearts out, and rallied spectacularly in the second half. All the fans present saw the tremendous determination and energy of the team which carried them to within one point of their goal.

School spirit is infectious in games like this. You'd have to be in a coma not to care. With spring sports coming up, Prep fans will have more chances to root for their friends, and hopefully they will. This game, and team should give them ample reason.

Special thanks go to Priya Radhakrishna, Jenn Franklin, Megha Rao, Emily Wilson, Brad Blecker, and Mrs. Klinger for helping with this article.

Would it surprise you if I said that only three out of twenty people I surveyed could tell me who the vice president of the school was? Well, sadly enough, it's true. The other seventeen people surveyed could only shrug. My sample consisted of five randomly selected people from each grade, each one a student at Prep for the entire Lin administration (except for the freshmen, of course). Something is really wrong in Prep.

It may be possible that I just happened to ask the only seventeen people in the school who don't know who the vice president of the school is. Perhaps the rest of the school knew it was Allison Moskowitz, and I unwittingly picked out every single member of the small minority who didn't know. But, this still doesn't explain why seven out of the other twenty-eight people I polled couldn't name the president of the school.

I would like to know

how any student in this upper school couldn't know that Angela Lin was the president. Five people said they didn't know. One sophomore told me, "it's that Amanda girl," while a freshman answered, "%#@!, what's that guy's name? I know that I know this." However, the biggest surprise was that three people initially answered Frank Cesario, soon changing their answer to Angela after a moment of consideration. What's going on here?

It's painfully obvious that this last school council just didn't reach the students. The council did no less than expected of it; they did a fine job with the usual yearly drives. However, they also did no more than expected. It gave the student body a few new dress-down days and a "Fright Night," the standard fare. The most peculiar thing, however, is that Council suddenly became ambitious in the month before the election. They offered the students Ronny Romm and a spirit month that

included four free dress-down days. Perhaps the Council members presented these things right before the election in order to bring the incumbents back for reelection and to leave the old officers looking good. Perhaps it was all just a coincidence. You decide.

The School Council cannot be the only group blamed if it's not appealing to the students. Maybe no Council has ever really connected with the students. Sixteen out of the twenty-eight people in my sample couldn't specifically name anything that Council does. Five people replied with vague answers such as "collect money" and "make rules for the school," while five others answered with dress down-days and burger blasts. So only five people out of twenty-eight could come up with an accurate answer. Most would agree, however, that this can be attributed in part to a disinterested, apathetic school body.

The new Council should try to find a way

to gain the student's attention and admiration. This is a feat which no Council has been able to achieve during my time at this school. Let them take this editorial as constructive, though somewhat harsh, criticism. But, I am sad to say that I have no solutions and I definitely have no right to criticize. After all, I'm just another apathetic jerk in the student body.

The Argo Editors-in-Chief

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The Argo Rutgers Preparatory

School
1345 Easton Ave

Somerset, New Jersey
08873

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Prep Pride, or No Pride: On School Spirit

by Sripriya
Radhakrishna, with help
from Alon Tabak

For an entire activity period, the Prep student body patiently listened to speeches for Student Council elections. Year after year, students running for office try to come up with new twists to their speeches to make them appealing and different. However, most speeches end up in a cry to abolish the dress code and to instill some spirit in the Prep community. This year's speeches addressed the student athletes, attempting to rally support, but instead ending up as a whine that Prep has virtually no spirit, and the spirit we do have is forced upon us.

As a member of

three varsity sports for four years, I can attest to the mockery Prep has made of school spirit, the lack of which is ingrained in the mindset of Prep students. For example, my freshman year playing lacrosse against Stuart (a rival), I can remember a couple seniors coming out to the game to support us with a sign that bore the cheer "Go Prep". But, the second we started losing, those fans flipped over the poster and wrote "Go Stuart" on the back. They proceeded to march over to the Stuart fans and cheer for Stuart for the rest of the game.

Although that example might be somewhat outdated, there are many more recent examples of this pathetic

spirit. A perfect example would be so-called "Spirit Month." Students, excited for the free dress down days, disregarded the fact that these free dress down days were an attempt to bolster some spirit. However, most of the student body stretched the "Maroon-and-White" so far as to claim that browns and blue-grays were actually maroon and off-whites were actually white. Is it that difficult to find a shirt that is truly maroon or white? The "Maroon-and-White" dress down day failure is a microcosm of the anti-Prep attitude of the student body.

In general, Prep doesn't really have very much spirit, but on occasion we do rally some support. That same

Wednesday of Council Speeches, handfulls of students attended the Girls' Basketball game against Wardlaw at the Immaculata HS. Taking the initiative to show their Prep pride, three spunky students stormed into the gym appropriately decorated with maroon and silver paint in the letters "RPS" strewn across their bodies and faces, igniting the crowd. However, most of the Prep faculty, administrators, and parents were appalled at what they believed to be completely inappropriate and an embarrassment to the school. Is this the reward students get for finally showing some school spirit? For the sake of our athletes, let's hope things change for the better.