

THE ARGO

Vol. 101, No. 3

RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

MAY, 1990

Behind the Iron Curtain

Scott Mory

On March 2, 1990, a group of 15 Rutgers Prep students, including Stacey Burton, Rob Chwatko, Jennifer Cooper, Kirsten Driver, Marcy Elkes, Hallee Fish, Howie Hymowitz, Garvin Jesdanen, Russell Lee, Kim Mazzu, Nicole Martin, Rima Mian, Scott Mory, Nadine Rosenbaum, and Jill Thorsen accompanied by Miss Dashkiewicz, Mr. and Mrs. Karman, Mr. Lenaghan, and Mr. Fish departed from JFK at 9:45 p.m. Their destination—Prague, Czechoslovakia. From Prague, they would then make the final stretch of their journey to Moscow, capital of the U.S.S.R.

Arriving in Moscow late at night, they began the tiring and excruciating process of sightseeing at 7:30, the next

morning. The group took a city tour, of Moscow, seeing the Bolshoi Theatre, Lenin Stadium, the University of Moscow, the New Maiden Convent, the Panorama of Moscow, several palaces of Moscow, St. Basil's, McDonalds, Red Square, and the Kremlin. While in Moscow, the students made a day long excursion to Vladimir, Capital of Russia before Moscow, and to Suzdal, a church town overrun with Russian Orthodox cathedral, convents, and monasteries. The group also had some free time to enjoy some shopping at Arbat, the Soho of Moscow.

On the evening of Wednesday, March 7, the group boarded a train bound for Leningrad. They were on that train for 10 hours, until

they finally pulled into Leningrad's Mockbaskaya train station. On their first day there, the group took the city tour of Leningrad. They saw the Neva River, the Smolny Institute for Girls, the Fortress of Peter and Paul, the Admiralty, St. Nicholas's, and the Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan. Many other activities were enjoyed including the famous Ukraine Circus and the Fine Arts Center.

On Sunday, March 11, the group left the hotel for Leningrad Airport. After 10 days the group was ready to head home. With a stopover in Finland they arrived at J.F.K. Though a bit tired, they would always remember their fond memories of the U.S.S.R.



Vive La France

Gracie Alcidi

"We're just a bunch of over privileged teenagers who thought they would come to France to study," muttered a group of nine tired kids returning from Paris. The nine students plus one teacher (Mrs. Mansfield) who had returned from a three week stay in France were rejoicing and complaining. Some students were rejoicing because they were happy to be home, while others were complaining that they should never have left France. If one set aside the contradiction in opinion, all the people who went on the trip could agree that everyone had a great time.

The "enjoyment and learning" started in Tours where we viewed most of the

Castles of the Loire. After our one week stay in Tours, we took a two hour train ride to Paris where we met up with the host families. That night was the first time many of us were "exposed" to French, and it was a bit difficult.

The next day we were brought to the school. The only difference between RPS and their school was that they could smoke and wear jeans. During our two week stay in Paris, we visited the Centre Pompidou, Louvre, Musee d'Orsay, and many other interesting places. We also were taken shopping and to an ice skating rink.

The quote in the beginning summarized the French

trip. Most of us thought we would "study", but instead we ended up extracting knowledge from Paris by experiencing it. Some learned about France through public displays of bodily exhibition (nude commercials), French politics (lyrics in reggae songs), or lack of concern for their health (how much they smoke). But for Lisa Rupinski, Krista Stella, Maria Bondoc, John Fidelino, Sanjay Rasu, Jordana Weiner, Heidi Slurzburg, Jenny Geller, Gracie Alcidi, and Mrs. Mansfield the things that happened will be memorable forever.

Peer Leaders

Sonali Lakhani

On May 1, 1990 16 lucky juniors received the news that they were to become next years Peer Leaders. In order to become Peer Leaders they had filled out an application with several difficult questions and gone through an interview with one of the current Peer Leaders. The new Peer Leaders are Matthew Bernstein, Connie Conaway, Jennifer Cooper, Guillermo Garcia, Donna Gioffre, Jason Grey, Naledi Khabo, Sonali Lakhani, Joe Locandro, Shivam Mallick, Raguini Narotam, Marc Poole, Larry

Santowasso, William Somers, Jill Thorsen, and Eileen Velez.

The program will begin for them in August, when they will be spending the 27th through the 29th of that month in Blairstown, N.J. for a retreat. This is an important beginning, as it is here that they will get to pick their Co-Leaders.

After this they will have a Peer Leadership class every day, and meet with their Freshman groups once a week. Next year's Freshman will have a lot to look forward to in Peer Leadership, because this looks like a good bunch of kids.

New York Stock Exchange

On Thursday, March 15, Mr. Hordijk accompanied his two Economics classes to Wall Street. The classes had been learning about the stock market and were in the middle of a mock stock competition in which each member of the class was given an imaginary \$50,000 in order to purchase stocks. The student whose stock earns the most money will win the competition.

The day began with a tour around Wall Street as students observed the beautiful old architecture of the historical stock exchange. The classes were then met by Mr. Jim Coufos and his assistant Robert Sherry, who are public relations representatives from the investment firm of

Spear, Leads and Kellogg. Mr. Coufos led the group to the executive floor of the New York Stock Exchange where the class was given a history of the stock exchange and a brief explanation of how the stock exchange works. The group was then allowed to observe the trading floor from the members gallery. The trip was concluded with lunch at the World Trade Center.

The day proved to be quite an edifying experience. The group was able to witness first-hand how the stock market really works. Mr. Hordijk commented on how pleased he was with the entire trip, especially with the wonderful treatment that the group received from Mr. Coufos and Mr. Sherry.

Council Corner

Liz Chin

The Student Council is busy planning for Spring activities. Career Day was held on April 4. People of various occupations spoke about their professions. We hope to give students an opportunity to look into careers which they may pursue in the future.

On April 6, the Student Council officers will participate in a Council Exchange at Piscataway High School. We hope to exchange ideas and thoughts on school activities, school government, and fundraising.

The tentative date for Bar-B-Q Day is Friday, May 18. A committee has already been made to begin preparations.

Club allocations proposals are being looked into by a committee of council vice president, treasurer, and administrative representative. A proposed budget will be made up after careful consideration.

The position of School Council Archivist has been filled by Sonali Lakhani. Racks for magazines and newspapers have been installed in the Junior Lounge.

Dress Code Concerns

Russ Lee

I was in a typical shoe store in a mall the other day. I noticed that the price of dress shoes was slightly higher than the average price of sneakers. In the outside world, the social standard makes Nike more available than Bass. Yet at Rutgers Prep, we have our own trend-setters that say dress shoes are the norm. The "image" that the faculty must uphold is one of the "conservative look". In the same mall, I saw that a pair of jeans costs less than Bugle Boy or Cavaricci pants. Our school would ask us to pay more just to fit their idea of fashion.

To add further to the confusion, the faculty is divided on the issue. I once had a teacher who would have gotten demerits everyday, had she been in my position. Mrs.

Goen has almost made a hobby of assigning demerits, while other teachers very rarely give them for dress code violations. One of the reasons given for the punishment is that "properly dressed students work better". However, I, for one, work perfectly well at home in my street clothing.

The faculty view about dress code is also foolish because so many articles are in the gray area and because a good portion of the student body goes unpunished for infractions. The prep "image" is very important to our school, but, as in the case of the kind of shoes that are required, perhaps too much stress is being placed on the image of appearance instead of true merit.



Phys. Ed. : Forced Labor

Sandy Somers

When I came to Prep, there was a study hall instead of Gym for those involved in athletics. Ever since the gym study hall has been taken away, 96% of the student body has been outraged. Through the work of a small number, we have tried to get the study hall back for the students.

First, let's look at why the administration is not implementing the policy of gym study halls right away. They say that not all the students used the gym study

properly. The answer to this complaint is simply that those students should not be able to participate, not that the whole program should be abolished. Another administration complaint is that the physical education classes suffered from the lack of students. This statement is ludicrous-with some athletes gone those that are less athletic get a chance to participate. (This is why varsity athletes in college don't play intra-mural sports). Lastly, the administration

argues that athletes need a "non-stressful athletic activity". Who are they kidding - if I need non-stressful athletic activity I'll walk my dog, not get yelled at for talking while doing jumping jacks.

This having been said, now we must do something to rectify the situation. After several petitions, surveys, letters and "talks", the administration still will not fix the problem. Instead, they have said, "We talked to the Phys. Ed teachers and they don't like it." (who's in charge anyhow?) and "it's a question of time management" (you want us to do well in class, don't you?). If Gym-study hall is not reinstated then drastic action should be called for.

If you have any questions or comments please write us a letter.

You Call This Food?

Sri Tangirla

"You are what you eat". If this saying is true, then many of those who attend Rutgers Prep are in serious trouble. Frankly, the food situation here is not acceptable. Students are unable to eat the unpalatable "entrees" presented to them at lunchtime, so they resort to consuming sodas and snacks. In is vital to partake of nutritious meals, yet these foods are not exactly vitamin packed.

The faculty and students

agree that there is indeed a problem. Brian Towsen summed up the basic sentiment by saying, "The food seems to be the same thing almost everyday, and it isn't particularly good in the first place." And, although this subject is supposedly being dealt with (it was discussed in assembly several weeks ago), the same "G-string" french fries and odd-shaped, undercooked meats are still served to us. Overall, everyone agrees that

some sort of change is needed.

In what way is this change to be brought about? One way would be to find a new catering service. Another, more viable alternative would be to work with the current one. Strong measures are needed to do this, however. Perhaps all students and faculty should bring their lunches from home for a week. In this way it would be possible to test the reactions of the lunch room people when

their food is not sold, thereby making an impact on the lunch system. I personally am continually upset when the prices continue to rise on the same poor quality foodstuffs. The dream of a day when one may look forward to eating during his or her lunch period may come true eventually. Until then, however, my fellow Argonauts, arm yourselves with a strong will and a bottle of Pepto when that lunch bell rings.



Opinion:

Triumph of Individualism

Erik Wasson

In times past, laws were created to insure the attendance of church. Reason had it that by allowing people to miss religious ceremony, the death of a soul would be caused. In modern times, a similar act was instated to prevent another death, that of the body; yet with modern times came modern thinking and a realization was made that both churchgoing and abortion should be by choice.

Individualism is a mighty force in western society. Granted rights permit the free

exercise of will over the body and soul. Often, however, morals conflict with granted rights. But morals, like religion, are not universally held. Therefore those whose conscience permits abortion must be allowed to act accordingly if individualism is to survive.

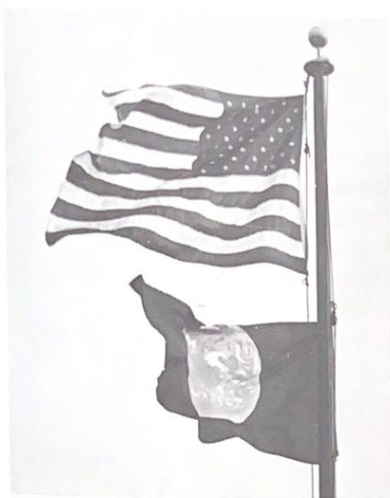
There is a line drawn between abortion and murder. When a murder is committed a body is destroyed, but so too is a personality, a set of memories and emotions, while with an abortion only a half-formed

organism is stopped from transforming into life. Society allows wars, society allows execution; in both cases it cites need as a motivation and excuse. An abortion is often no less needed, to prevent unhappy, unwanted, possibly criminal children from suffering, to protect a mother from poverty and in some cases to save lives. Life is a series of decisions; in a western society the trend toward freedom of choice should be continued.

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Editor-in-Chief Joe Locandro
News Editor.....Shivam Mallick/Raguini Narotam
Opinions EditorErik Wasson/Joe Foleno
Features EditorSonali Lakhani
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Publishing EditorsG. Gussis/A. Maktal
Asst. Publishing Editor.....William Hornbostel
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Advisor.....Mrs. Yen



Good Woman Takes Stage

R.J.F.C.V Fidelino

It has been said that Holley Hall is inadequate for Upper School Drama productions... it's true. But what the drama department can do in an inadequate amount of space is astonishing!

The Spring production, entitled *The Good Woman of Setzuan* by Bertolt Brecht, is directed by Mr. Peter Herzberg. Almost two dozen actors were casted, many of whom are new to the drama experience. However, regard-

less of the amount of experience, all of those in the play have put in great amounts of effort and energy into their characters, and all have succeeded in creating the most ambitious production Prep has seen.

The challenge the director and the actors have faced is the difficulty of acting on a revolving, circular stage. Mr. Ron Kelly and his student, technical crew designed and built the set in this manner to

add to the bizarre nature of the script. All the other crews (ie. costumes, properties, and makeup) followed suit, treating the audience to a visual spectacular.

The play ran from Wednesday, April 25 until Saturday, April 28. Many people attended and the show turned out to be a great success!!

Earth Day 1990

Shivam Mallick and Raguini Narotam

1990 marks the 20th anniversary of the celebration of Earth Day. At Prep, the Earth Day committee, was headed by Mr. Mazza and Alpa Patel. They did a great deal to help publicize and promote saving the environment, mostly through morning skits and daily announcements.

The committee's main project was to collect money to help save the Children's Forest in Costa Rica. One fund raiser was the Earth Day concert, in

which Ron Lahiri, Joe Davis, and Mr. Clark-VonVille performed. School Council also contributed by sponsoring a dress down day and donating all of the proceeds to the Earth Day Committee. The committee also sent letters to Prep parents asking for donations to help save the rain forests.

It is important to keep in mind that Earth Day is not just one day of the year, Earth Day is everyday. Save the Environment!



Prep Visits Broadway

Nancy Sierotko

Mrs. Herzberg's Shakespeare and AP English classes ventured into New York on a brisk day late in February to see the matinee performance of *The Merchant of Venice* at the 46th Street Theatre. Before the actual performance, the students enjoyed a leisurely lunch at a French cafe across the street. Several seniors excitedly spotted a long haired Dustin Hoffman crossing the street and ran after him for an autograph. Needless to say, the seniors were too awestruck for words and didn't get the autograph. However, with ample time before the show, students braved the cold and watched the performers enter the theatre.

From the moment the footlights went up, the audience was engaged in an exquisite performance of

Shakespeare's play. Dustin Hoffman was incredible as Shylock, the Jew. Though not a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company as most of his cast members, Hoffman's performance was truly remarkable. Geraldine James also gave an outstanding performance as Portia. The entire cast put on a truly splendid performance and the students were thrilled.

Peter Hall, founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company, directed the magnificent cast of performers. The students were fascinated by the talent of the actors and the director. All who attended the event remarked on how wonderful. The day was, as one student remarked, "It was better than Cats, I'd see it again and again."



William Gets a Sponsor

Audrey Kirschenbaum

The Spanish Club became a sponsor of a young child through Children International. The Club chose a boy named William Gomez Serrano, from Bogota, Colombia.

The Club has received two letters from him since September. In the first letter he introduced himself, and in the second letter he thanked us for the fifteen dollar Christmas gift we sent him.

In Colombia, fifteen dollars goes a long way. The foundation bought William things he needed and toys to play with. He received a pair

of linen slacks, a badminton game, and an assortment of chocolates for his family. He received all these gifts at a festive party which was attended by all the sponsored children in his area. William and his family were very excited. They were happy to receive all those gifts and attend the party, especially during Christmas.

The Club feels honored to have sponsored a special child like William. Hopefully, the Club will continue to support William, and help make his life a better one.

Prom 1990

The Junior-Senior Prom is June 7th at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge.

Prom Bids are \$50 dollars per couple and should be sent to the Junior Class.

If you have any questions please contact Miss Dashkiewicz or Geoffrey Gussis.

Boy's Lax: Probable State Victory

Sam Finklestein

With two consecutive state victories in 1988 and 1989, the Boy's Lacrosse team is expecting to continue their winning streak. Despite the loss of last year's six starting seniors, the team has proven themselves to be strong through their performance in practices. Coach Sansone, along with the new Coach Tyrone, make up this year's staff. Coach Tyrone, an all-American lacrosse player, will provide the team with strategy, instruction, and inspiration.

Both experienced and new players will contribute to the Boy's Lacrosse team's strength. Experienced players such as Mike Metzger, Brian Townsen, Shaun Barber, and Mish Jaggi are the core of the team's effective, powerful offense. On the other hand, the defense remains weak due to the loss of last year's defense players. As the season

proceeds, the new defense-men should improve drastically. Danny Oross, an all-Division goalie, not only has saved numerous amount of shots, but his vigorous team spirit has been a potent motivating force.

The only way the team will meet their goal of being State Champions three times in a row is through rigorous practices and scrimmages. A typical practice includes a team stretch, ball drills (catching, shooting, passing, and scooping), and running either sprints or long distance. The team tied Bridgewater West, 7-7, but lost to Bridgewater East, 7-4. Mr. Sansone stated, "Bridgewater East and West are both public schools. No schools in Division B (the division Prep's Lacrosse team is a member) compares to the talent and skill of Bridgewater or West."

Boy's Baseball on the Rise

Jamie Kelner

If last season's potential carries over into this season's performance then people at Rutgers Prep have something to get excited about. Rutgers Prep's baseball team has a lot of experience and they are not about to let this great opportunity slip away.

Coach Marotto believes that, "pitching is the main stay of High School baseball." If Coach Marotto is correct, then the baseball team is in for a successful

season, with returning starting pitchers Wasseem Boraie and John Hegedus, teaming up with several new pitchers to the squad.

The pitching may be the foremost factor in winning games, but the hitting will attract crowd attention. Coach Morotto believes that this year's team, "will do a lot of hitting, running, and base stealing. Scott Johnson, Larry Rascio, Emile LeMoing, Delano Capprue, Rob

Wines, Larry Santowasso, and Eric Tavel will play prominent roles this season.

"With this team's immense amount of talent and experience, the boys baseball team have a great shot in placing well in counties and even has a chance to win states", exclaimed Mr. Marotto. It seems that victory always depends on the team's desire to win.



Softball Searches for Success

Regis Renard

The 1988-1989 Softball team, led by captains Debbie Spitzer, Carla Gonzalez, and Mandee Holiday, ended their season with two wins and nine losses. Coach Heidi Nestvogel and assistant coach Mary Klinger were, "Less than satisfied," said an anonymous player, and looking toward to the next season of softball.

The next season of softball has come. "The team is very young, energetic, and inexperienced," said Coach Heidi Nestvogel. "We only have 2 seniors, 2 juniors, and a couple of handfuls of sophomores and freshmen." The team includes the returning seniors Nicole Chelol and Jen Costanza, who are also the captains, returning juniors Connie Conway and Naleadi Khabo, and returning sophomores Janet Jenkin, Charissa Grill, and Ida Fiumefreddo. This year's freshman are Lynne Schwartz, Andrea McLaughlin, Cherie Gallini, Amy Holliday, Kiera Westphal, Melissa Rosenbaum, Rena Patel,

Bobbi Kader, and Idalia Boneisha. This wide array of young talent may be inexperienced, but "A team to look at in the next few seasons," says Coach Nestvogel.

The new team has lost many of its starting players, but the coaches are confident that the team will do well. "I think that our pitching will be hurt the most from the loss of last years seniors, but I'm satisfied with the pitching staff that we have got," said Coach Nestvogel. This year's pitching includes Connie Conway and Amy Holliday.

In their early scrimmages, the team has performed well. The team lost their first game to Princeton Day School by a score of 9-13 and later lost to Pennington by a score of 4-14. Even though these scores are not impressive, Captain Nicole Chelol said, "I think we will be a competitive team throughout the season." The softball team will gain a lot of experience this year, and will have a wonderful future.

Girls Lax Hopes High

David Lee

Placing third in the states last year, the girl's lacrosse hope to have a strong season. Daily rigorous practices improve the efficiency and strength of the girl's lacrosse team and will prepare them for their games. Ms. Glantzow, the head coach, stated that "the team hopes to win states but it is not probable. Mrs. Glantzow along with Mr. Shifman, the assistant coach, provides the team with insight and motivation.

Everyday, after school, a rigorous practice is held for two hours. The players begin practice running through Demott Lane for about two miles. The players frequently refer to this treacherous run as "Death by Demott." All the players return dead tired.

Then, catching, running, and throwing are practiced through tough and effective drills. Both the experienced and inexperienced players gain endurance and improve their lacrosse skills.

The teams offense is incredibly strong but they often fall back on their week defense. Megan Coakley, Gracie Alcid, Nicole Wietz, and Andrea Grumet are prominent players on the team. Although it is Gabriela Desantis' first year of playing goalie, she is doing well and improving rapidly. The girls lacrosse team, placing third in states last year, hopes on placing second or even first by a long shot in the states. However, if they don't win this year, there will always be a chance in the near future. Most of the team is made of sophomores and freshmen who will return next year. There future looks bright !!!

Teeing Off

Jason Kaplan

"We're off to a warm start," answered Mr. Forney when asked about his golf team. He then continued to discuss the players real potential. This year's team consists of captain Sandy Somers, Mathew Bernstein, Garvin Jesdanun, Chris Racz, Tim Coakley, Josh Cutlin and Jason Kaplan. Mr. Forney thinks that the top three players, Sandy, Tim, and Mat, improve daily. It will be difficult deciding who will be ranked fourth. It is definitely a building year for the 1991 team.

Although the team has not had any matches yet, they have been practicing every day since the end of the first spring break. While they lost two seniors last year, Adam Taylor and Jim Fox, the team gained one freshman, Josh, and two new sophomores, Tim and Chris. Through personal coaching, and with Mr. Forney's love and inspiration, the team is planning on a winning season.