

THE OGRA INSERT

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RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

MAY 1990

Keep Out!

Akinyi Ouma

Since the new Upper School was erected in 1985, the senior lounge has been regarded as a sacred place exclusively for seniors. Somehow, this has changed for the worse. Everyday, sophomores and juniors come in and out of the lounge as if it were their own. This trend must stop. Sophomores and Juniors have their own lounge (which by the way is much bigger than the senior lounge) and freshmen can sit in those lounges during lunch and study halls. The senior lounge is small enough as it is. Why do you deem it necessary to come in our lounge?

If a senior tells you to get out of the lounge, show some respect and leave. Don't be obnoxious for once in your lives and refuse to remove yourselves. One day I entered the lounge

during study hall. Inside the senior lounge sat twenty or so sophomores chatting away as if they were at home. I told them to leave. They wouldn't budge. I then saw a teacher coming and asked her to make the sophomores leave and return to their empty lounge. She told them to leave and I watched twenty angry sophomores exit the senior lounge.

Some of you may be saying, "What a cruel senior!" Let me defend myself. The Class of 1990 has waited three years for that lounge. It is isolated from the other lounges and is more private. When you become seniors you will act in the same fashion. I have every right to kick them out and I will continue to do so until this trend stops. Unless you have to talk to a senior in the senior lounge, stay out!



No more Two Period Senior Lunch?

Arthur Brostrom

Recently, a new problem for all underclassmen has come to my attention. It all started in the beginning of this year when the two-period lunch was instituted as an additional privilege for reaching that all-important last year of high school, the senior year. At first, I was a little surprised at this addition, but I was certainly not upset about it. After all, I am to become a senior next year, and certainly the trial basis for this program would last more than one year, right? Maybe not.

The faculty hasn't addressed the student body as to what the plan will be next year, but so far the outlook is very bleak. This isn't just a problem for next year's seniors, it is a problem for all underclassmen who want the privilege. If the free period is taken away, GYM will be reinstated! I for one would rather have time to go out to lunch than be doing jumping

jacks again next year. I'm sure most of you would agree.

If the problem here is that seniors are abusing the privilege, why not use some disciplinary action? Perhaps a month without the privilege, doing jumping jacks, would help them appreciate it, but no such action has been taken. The privilege may be taken away from people who haven't even had the chance to abuse it, and at the same time the abusers will not be disciplined! Some may try to justify this by saying that all classes are basically the same, but that can hardly be true, especially at a small school. The faculty should tell us what they have planned for next year and be honest with the student population.

As last month's guest editor pointed out (along with one out of every two OGRA articles) in his article "Travesty of Justice", students should be shown more respect, and this is just one more instance.

Good Luck Seniors !!!

THE OGRA



Patient Politics

Geoffrey Gussis

The past year has been one of dramatic political changes. Events that began in October with the opening of the Berlin Wall spread throughout Eastern Europe, bringing freedom to thousands of oppressed peoples and bringing new hope for international peace. I question, however, the long-lasting effects these changes will have on the Soviet Government, and subsequent ramifications for the United States. The freeing of the Eastern European countries from the domination of the Soviet Union has put considerable strain on Mikhail Gorbachev, who has withstood criticism from many conservatives in the Soviet Government. The question is, can he continue to withstand these internal pressures? This question becomes all too real when we consider the independence movements of the three Baltic Nations: Latvia,

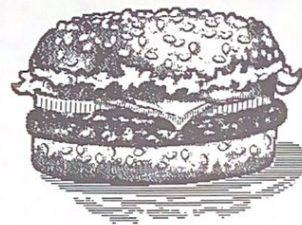
Lithuania, and Estonia. As these republics clamor for independence, Gorbachev's position worsens. If he loses the support of too many of the hard-liner party members, his efforts will be in vain.

These movements for independence are joined by a surprising country. The last communist nation in Europe, Albania, now seems to be on its way towards reform and freedom. President Ramiz Alia announced that basic human rights would be guaranteed and that citizens would have the right to travel abroad freely. The Albanian Government has also made overtures to the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union, which will obviously play key roles in the technological modernization of Albania. Albania's move towards democracy represents the final chapter of communist power in Europe.

The freeing of Europe from

communism adds validity to the hard-liners of the Soviet Government. They argue that the Soviet Government has lost all of its influence in Eastern Europe. The poor economic condition of the Soviet Union also adds to their cause, and add to the predicament of Gorbachev. This is why it is very important for the United States not to raise the alarm about recent Gorbachev moves to cut supplies from the republics. If the United States attempts to aid these Baltic nations in any way, Soviet hard-liners will be able to gain control, on the grounds that the United States is on the doorstep of the Soviet Union. President George Bush has been wary so far, and has done a good job in not interfering in the affairs of the Soviet Union. This policy should continue, if we want to continue dealing with Gorbachev, and not some hard-liner like Yeltsin.

Two Period Senior Lunch: More time to enjoy the delicious cafeteria food.



The African Elephant

Kendall White and Amy Sheridan

Nobody really thinks about elephants. You've probably seen Dumbo or the elephants at the circus or zoo, but otherwise, they aren't the major topic of the day. But, the hard truth is the African Elephant population is dying out. In the past ten years, the population has plunged to less than 500,000.

The only reason for the killing is the quick cash that their tusks bring. Because the poachers only have use for their tusks, they leave the elephant carcasses to rot. The ivory is then used for piano keys, billiard balls, jewelry, carvings, and other luxury items. We cannot continue to buy the things that are the byproducts of murder. The only way to stop this killing is to declare a war on ivory poaching because 80% of all

ivory comes from poached elephants.

If you would like more information write to: Wildlife Conservation International, New York Zoological Society,

Bronx, NY 10460, or contact the World Wildlife Fund - U.S., Worldwide Fund for Nature, African Wildlife Foundation, or CITES.



Help Save me!!!

A Stream of Consciousness

Daniel Karen

Did you ever wonder why the eighth grade class trip can go to Canada for four days and three nights of uninhibited fun, while the seniors can only go away for two days and one night to a town whose sole purpose is to produce chocolate? Sure, I know what you are thinking, the eighth grade won't get a Kiss. Let's analyze the situation. Why would the senior class not be allowed to go away for as long as the eighth graders? It is not because they are more mature; it is generally accepted that, on average, eighteen year-olds are more mature than fourteen year-olds. Is it that the administration feels the missed school time would be detrimental? Get serious! If they were that concerned about missing extra school the senior trip could have been scheduled for over the Memorial Day weekend. I guess the administration does not trust that our behavior will be that of responsible adults.

I find this odd because it is a well known fact that no one at Rutgers Prep would ever drink or use drugs. We can thank the Peer Leadership Program for teaching us that alcohol and drugs are bad and have no recreational purpose. Actually, it is somewhat insulting to realize that the senior trip is so short because the school does not think that they will be able to control a group of young adults, because they are at the age of being responsible for their own decisions. Yet, there can be a week long excursion to Austria, where there is no drinking age, without the school saying anything. Of course, that took place over a period of vacation, unlike the Memorial Day weekend which is only a period of time where we do not have to go to school.

Did you ever wonder what makes a successful school trip? The ski trip to Vermont was not successful because the kids got in trouble. Last year's Colorado trip was also plagued by a few

incidents as well as last year's Model U.N. trip. In a conversation that I had with Mr. Lingenheld, I found out that it was not appropriate to publish an article with a negative tone about the Vermont Ski Trip because it did not serve the school community well. Rather, I should publish an article about the incredible success of the Austria Trip, namely, that even though the some of its participants grossly violated enforced school policies, as in the other trips mentioned, no one was punished. Kids, can you spell "HYPOCRISY."

Do you want to know what else is hypocritical? How about that the Peer Leadership Advisors getting to drop a class from their schedule to observe the peer leaders. This is because it is considered an especially important class for them, yet for the senior peer leaders it is not considered a class. Who knows, maybe they will even start getting paid to do that while the peer leaders have to cope with a sixth

class. The dress code is hypocritical, but let's not dwell on that, nor shall we dwell on the fact that it is enforced selectively. Maybe I will start bringing a cup of coffee to class and a donut too; I could sure use the caffeine and sugar in the mornings. Those nutrients are just as important for students as they are for teachers. Let us be sympathetic though, if I had a pet I would bring it to school, so that it would not get lonely.

Did you ever wonder why you pay so much to come to this school? Mr. Lingenheld said in the latest R.P.S. Newsletter that, "the main reason Rutgers Prep and other fine schools remain attractive, and necessarily expensive...is that we have no choice but offer a 'product' which people want to 'buy'..." The "product" Prep is supposedly offering is an excellent education with experienced teachers and small class sizes. However, I am concerned that Prep's usually high standards may be dete-

riorating, as I have noticed that class sizes, especially AP classes, have become larger and less experienced teachers are being hired. One reason to attend a private school is that as a paying customer of a service, one has a certain degree of control over the product one receives. Although the school should not be willing to have AP classes as large as some are and to hire inexperienced teachers, there may be extenuating circumstances which justify the administration's action. If that is unsatisfactory to the customers, they do have the ability to change it with their degree of control. Although many students griped about certain solutions, for the most part the students of Rutgers Preparatory School are too complacent. I know there are things that the students feel could be improved, it is up to them to organize collectively. As Mr. Lingenheld said Rutgers Prep has "no choice" except to offer a satisfactory product. You can make him live up to that.

Selected Poetry

Love Poem

Lies

What is the truth?
it is what you want to hear
from the people you want
to hear it from.
honesty is the best policy -
so they say
plead guilty
w/o a plea bargain
hey, that might help
is honesty the best policy?
but, when the truth is defiant
you say it is false
you do not want to believe
the truth HURTS
Where is the truth?
right here!

-JTM

"How do you write a love poem?"

Well, how do you love?

"I love... I love with...
My eyes and my ears...
And my heart,
Which beats to a rhythm that
betrays my senses,
But expresses my soul.
Touch, do you feel it?"

When do you love?

"I love when my...
Chest rises and falls,
As the ocean goes in and out
With waves of care and desire
When... when my breath
Catches just inside my throat
As I try to speak
And I can't... speak, breath, or
move.
Only feel and exist."

Where do you love?

"I love wherever there are dreams,
In sadness or happiness.
I love wherever something
intangible touches me"

Why do you love?

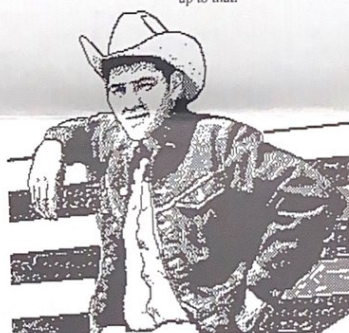
"I love because,
I know if I did not,
Or did not want to,
Or could not imagine wanting to,
Or did not think it tragic not to,
I would cease to exist."

Who do you love?

"I love someone...
Someone with more soul than body
Someone who emotes as the sun
Someone who dreams
And someone who fears."

Is that not poetry?

-JEXXAXXD



Happy Trails Dan Karen '90, an OGRA Co-Founder

OGRA Celebrates 1st Year

With this issue, the OGRA concludes its first year in print. The OGRA was founded by six pioneering individuals who sought to provide a means of expression for student opinion. After two issues were published, the OGRA combined with the ARGO to form a strong coalition. The OGRA still maintains the same autonomy as before, and students can be sure of an open medium of expression for as long as the OGRA exists.

Thank You for Your Support,

The Original Six

Daniel Karen '90
Amar Maktal
Geoffrey Gussis
Joe Locandro
Sandy Somers
Adam Lore

MAGUK Desktop Publishing

Letters to the Editor...

Dear Editors,

In response to the article, "Out, Out, Phys. Ed" I would just like to say this. I'm a senior and Physical Education is not required (By the way, I'm doing just fine). This is because the school changed the schedule so now everyone from ninth to twelfth grade runs on the same schedule. Therefore, we would

all take gym at the same time. But, you can't have 165 kids in the gym at once so they got rid of the seniors (Fifth period is now senior "quality time" better known as a longer lunch period).

If the school can rid the gym requirement so easily for seniors, why not rid the requirement for those students who play sports? Gym is not only non-stressful, it is also non-strenuous to the point where I can remember

going to gym and not doing more than WALKING! I can do that anywhere.

We disagree about 'non-stressful' gym. We think gym is a form of physical and mental torture. -T.D.

Akinyi Ouma '90