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RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL



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Winter Sports End On Low Note; Looking Forward To Sharp Season

by Mike Borrus

The Rutgers Prep Varsity Basketball Team ended a great season with a disappointing loss in the semi-final round of the Independent School's group "B" tournament. Coach Dick O'Connell's Squad was seeded first, but it fell to an inspired Wardlaw team, which Prep had beaten twice during the regular season. However, the team finished with twenty wins, a school record, and with two 1000 point career scorers, Paul Smith and Ray Miklos.

The Varsity Swimming Team had a disappointing season, but this was expected because of the loss through graduation, of one of the best swimmers in Somerset County, Mac Morton. The team's best, most consistent winner this year was Glenn Brewer, who graduates this year. However, Coach Fenstermaker has some bright hopes for future squads, particularly Sophomore swimmers Mike Matyas and Bob Nashed.

Coach Barry Chamberlain's Wrestling squad, crippled by a lack of wrestlers meeting weight requirements, also had a disappointing season. However, for many of the wrestlers, it was their first year out and they did perform well enough to promise a good future squad.

Prospects look bright for Rutgers Prep's teams this spring: baseball, tennis, and lacrosse.

The baseball team is a young team with good potential. For the past three years, the squad relied upon big Steve Steinberg. However, Steve is gone, and in his place there lies one big question mark: pitching.

Though there are many candidates for the job, they will have to work hard and improve if they are to pitch effectively this season.

Bolstered by a new coach, Barry Chamberlain, and Franklin transfer, Walt Rockhill, the tennis team should have an excellent season. The team is strengthened by returning lettermen David Scott, Mike Borrus, and Mark McDonnell, each with a year or more of experience. The team will have a full schedule of matches this year, including possibly some home matches which will be played probably at the Rutgers University Courts.

The lacrosse team at Prep has never been particularly successful. However, this can be attributed to a lack of fundamental skills. Their teacher and coach will be Doug Alsotrom, who played for Prep before he graduated in '68. Under his guidance the team will learn and perhaps win in the bargain.

Prep Athletes Relax After Best Season

The 19th Annual Sports Dinner was held at the Greenbrier Restaurant in North Brunswick on Wednesday, March 24th. After Dr. J. Morton initiated the ceremonies, athletic director, Dick O'Connell, assumed his role as master of ceremonies.

The first award of best runner was conferred by cross-country coach, Mr. Fenstermaker, to senior Glenn Brewer. In his speech, he praised this year's team as being the best cross-country team ever, with a near 500% season.

Due to their equally outstanding performances, both Dave Rubin and Ricky Szles were presented awards by Coach Speduto for their outstanding playing during the season. All juniors on the soccer team received Varsity letters for their hard work in almost making a .500 season record.

This year marked the first year of girls' representation at the Sports Dinner. Mrs. Leone presented the awards for the outstanding girls' basketball player to Barbara Rubin. Although this was the first season of girls' basketball, Mrs. Leone looks forward to rapid improvement in the team's record next season. Mrs. Leone also awarded Vickie Daniel the outstanding cheerleader award later in the evening.

Mr. O'Connell once again introduced coach Fenstermaker, this time in his capacity as swim coach. The outstanding swimming award was given to Glenn Brewer, while the most improved player award went to freshman Mark Baldinger.

Despite an undermanned squad, the wrestling season produced several outstanding athletes. However, the outstanding wrestling award this year went to senior "Lucky" Loris Siano. Varsity "R" letters were also given to the rest of the team for their prowess and devotion to the sport.

After one of the most successful seasons of Prep basketball ever, Ray Miklos, Prep's superstar, received the most outstanding player award. Coach O'Connell awarded each member with a team jacket and also announced that next year's team captain will be Walt Rockhill.

The final award, for sportsmanship, was given by former Prep athletic great Ron Jackowitz to Gene Lampen, president of the Varsity "R" Club. The evening was then concluded with the awarding of presents to the coaches.



Larry Wants Garbage

Remember to save and package all papers, glass and cans according to the Environmental Committee's guidelines over vacation. Bring them to school the week of April 26th.

Course Selection Provides Greater Subject Flexibility

Course selection for the '71-'72 school year took place early this year, during the week of March 15.

As usual, the ninth grade-to-be has the most limited choice of courses, and the senior class has the greatest selection, with a choice of fourteen different options.

One brand new innovation, coming from the English Department will affect both next year's seniors and juniors. This program consists of dividing the year into two separate English semesters, during each of which the student can concentrate on an English topic of his own choosing, from a list including "Modern English novel," "American Themes," "Dramatic Literature," "World Literature," and "Dramatic Arts." These topics will be changed by the English

Department each year, to offer more variety to the students. Mr. Pierce suggests that those students who would like to take the Advanced Placement Exam in English Literature at the end of their senior year, should include in their semester concentrations the two courses of "Modern English Novel" and "English Literature," which together would be equivalent to this year's Advanced Literature course.

This innovation follows the pattern set by a number of other area high schools who set up the program two or three years ago, at the request of the students. Mr. Pierce, however, has instituted this program on his own, with the help of the English Department.

As to the validity of this new program, Mr. Pierce, feels that this program will definitely not

exclude anything necessary from last year's English curriculum, as not only is it "an outgrowth of that curriculum," but also adds to it the much needed aspect of World Literature. Mr. Pierce also feels that this new program has many benefits which include letting the students pick their own interests and concentrate on them, and motivating the student to the study of English by giving them a variety of definite subjects.

In the Science Department, Mr. Daviet has noted that the course entitled "Advanced Topics in Science," open to seniors, is equivalent to this year's "Advanced Biology" course, and will take on whatever advanced science topics desired by the people who sign up for it.

In the Math Department one brand new course, "Finite Math" has been added, and is open to all those who have had the three years of basic math. According to Mr. Beronio, this course was originated for those people who, although not primarily interested in the study of math, still desire to further their knowledge. This course will not be as difficult as Pre-Calculus.

Next year can not help but be an exciting one, if only because of the merits of these new ideas and programs.

Lower School News

School trips, class programs, and Leonard Lee Rue III's fascinating nature lecture are part of the action going on in Lower School. The seventh grade visited Newark Museum; the sixth and seventh grades attended a delightful performance of the opera Lucia di Lammermoor at Lincoln Center. The second grade gave their parents a fine program, and the seventh grade produced "Dottie's Design," a farcical skit. The sixth grade program featured science projects and a "tour" through ancient history.

The second and third graders saw "Robinson Crusoe" at the Paper Mill Playhouse, and first graders learned more about dinosaurs at Rutgers University Geological Museum.



Judy Melick, 16, is competing in the 200 yard breaststroke event by .1 sec.

This will be Judy's first National AAU meet and she will be competing against some of the finest swimmers in the world. According to Frank Elm, swim coach of the Scarlet Jets, "Judy has improved by leaps and bounds over the past 3 years she has been on the team." She has great potential and a very bright future in swimming. As it stands now, "Judy is probably one of the finest female swimmers in the breaststroke event in the East."

BOOK FAIR HIGHLIGHTS PREP'S LIBRARY WEEK

The week of April 18th is National Library Week, and Rutgers Preparatory School has planned several activities to commemorate this occasion.

On March 23, 30, and 31, two portable bookmobiles visited the campus. Supplied by the Rengow Book Service of Bergenfield, they displayed 16,000 best recommended educational paperback books.

Popular with both students and teachers, the bookmobiles travel more than 70,000 miles every year, bringing Mobile Book Fairs to over 150 New Jersey schools. "It is significant to note," says Dr. Max Bogart, Assistant Director of the New Jersey State Division of Curriculum and Instruction, "that thousands of paperback books, such as those brought to schools by the Rengow bookmobile, provide long-lasting enrichment for students as well as durable teaching tools for teachers."

Mrs. Amy Von der Porten, school librarian, said that the bookmobiles were open not only to Prep students, but to parents and to the general public, and that the school earned 20% of all book sales.

In recognition of National Library Week's theme, "The Library and the Arts," two events have been scheduled. Helmut H. von Erffa has agreed to display some of his works in the library and in the display case during the week of April 18th.

Also, Mrs. Von der Porten has received a grant from the State Library Association of New Jersey in order to have a one-day program conducted by another well-known artist. The artist will speak and display some of his works in an April 22nd assembly in Baldwin Hall.

News In Brief

The Prob and Stat class is aiding the student evaluation committee by writing up, distributing, and analyzing questionnaires on such topics as clubs, curriculum, and classes. Results will be used to aid in the selection of courses in the future and for new and improved student activities.

Students will have an additional holiday on April 23 in order to allow Prep teachers to attend a conference at Peddie.

Starting February 24, Dr. Speduto began an informal current events class. Interested students meet every Wednesday and/or Thursday during third period to discuss the current events of the week. Section four of the New York Times Sunday edition is used as a reference.

French students will hold their third annual French dinner on May 7. Many have already volunteered to cook the dinner, decorate the dining area, and clean-up afterwards. All persons studying French in the Upper School have been invited to attend.

George Stetten and Mark McDonnell have been named as this year's semi-finalists of the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. They will be notified individually in April as to whether they are finalists; public announcement of the results will be made in May.

So far, only one person has submitted material to the "Urge." Unless more material is received, it cannot be published. For more information, see Judy Kalb.

Over the long weekend of March 4-7, nine Prep students, Larry Field '72, Mark McDonnell '71, Sue Kaufman '71, Nancy Harris '71, Peter Gentile '74, Warren Silverman '72, Dave Hyman '71, Joe Cahn '72, and Bob Zassler '71, accompanied by Mrs. Kanak Dutta, journeyed to Georgetown University's Eighth Annual North American Invitational Model United Nations in Washington, representing Algeria.

DETENTION...

Results from the recent questionnaire filled out by most students during class meetings indicate that about 1/3 of those who answered have served detentions, with 42% of the 8th grade, 45% of the 9th grade, 44% of the 10th grade, 30% of the 11th grade, and 11% of the 12th grade having had detentions this year. 12 1/2% of all students thought that "detention serves its purpose."

Exactly what is that purpose? Mr. Daviet, in charge of the guidance department, and thus detention, says that the purpose of having students sit for forty minutes doing absolutely nothing is to make detention "very distasteful." Therefore, persons would be less apt to do things meriting detention after such an experience. Perhaps the strategy works; a majority of the above students claim to have had 1 or 2 detentions only.

Other items clarified by Mr. Daviet are:

1. Detention is held late so that academic commitments may be met first.
2. Students may change the date or time of a detention once a year.
3. Other types of disciplinary action have been discussed; however, the method of detention is still considered best.

Dream A Little Dream With Me

by Eileen Opatut

It might be time for us all to "re-examine our priorities." Cause it's April, vacation's coming, and the third quarter has just passed. Well—are you happy? Were these past few months a time when intellectual curiosity was at its peak? I doubt it. "Senioritis" excluded, the interests of most Prep students have lagged. Problems have arisen, dissatisfaction is prominent, but total disinterest is also prevalent. Whatever happened to the expression of ideas? Duh, what's creativity? And active mental activity? (Yawn . . .) I'm tired, too. But let me give you an example that kept me alive for the past winter months.

See what you can do with improvisation. What's improvisation? Here's a situation: A teacher is walking down the hall, when you and your friend go immediately into a frantic argument over some over-cooked artichokes. Play it serious, and make up an absurd, but life-like situation. Not only will you be amused, but that teacher will give you funny stares next time he passes by. And even more important, you'll be using your mind and your imagination. Now, this can be applied to all sorts of situations: explaining to your teacher why the paper isn't written; telling your parents why you won't be home until 3 A.M. And just think: you'll be learning to express yourself and your ideas. And life may even become a little less boring. So try it. The effort is worth the results. You'll stay awake for the rest of the year and you just might make yourself happy.

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This issue's inquiring reporter asked:

"What is your opinion of Dr. Heinlein's reaction to the fire in the girls' room?"

Like Doctor Heinlein, I condemn this irresponsible and self-defeating action.

Robert Zassler '71

Although those who did it were careless and unconcerned about the rest of the school, the actions that were taken against it had no relation to the thing that was done.

Name Withheld '71

The people who were smoking should have been more careful—I'm sure they had no intention of burning dear old Prep!—Loosen up on the rules and permit it, so people don't have to sneak and be careless.

Ken Kuchin '71

It was justified and we should not argue with his decision.

John Schamel '71

Making the field house off-limits accomplished nothing but contempt for him. Obviously, some sort of action was justified, but restricting everyone's privileges was not.

Mitch Kapner '74

In a time when we're constantly told not to panic and make ridiculous judgments, an action like this is totally unwarranted. The administration acts like the whole building burned down.

Peter Gentile '74

Letters To

The disciplinary system in our school has developed into a weapon against the student body and is serving as a barrier between faculty and students.

The detention and D.C. is totally abused by the faculty who proctor study halls, and sit at the desk waiting to hand out detentions. They threaten the students to have a book in front of them or receive means of forcing students to do their class work. And the D.C. has been used in the past against student relations (one student received a major for "passionately embracing").

YOU WILL ATONE
FOR YOUR CRIMES!
D.C. IS AN ORDER!



Does it really solve anything or accomplish anything to run a study hall like a prison? Why can't students discuss assignments or talk or relax, or go up to the field house? Does it make a student do well in a subject if he gets a detention? What is so wrong with student relations that one has to receive a major which appears on his college record? Does a student really contemplate his sins when he sits for forty minutes silent and still?

The answer to all these questions is "no," because the students do not feel it is wrong to discuss assignments or to kiss someone. They do not want to feel



A Visit With George Segal

by Irene Chang

On March 19th, approximately thirty people went on a trip to see George Segal's sculptures and to hear the artist talk about his work.

We entered one coop and walked randomly, curiously through the dim rooms examining individual groups of life-sized plaster people who appeared silent, absorbed. The experience was strange. At absent moments, one, while shifting position in a crowded room, might suddenly find himself apologizing to a hard, white figure. Seeing the sculptures in photographs was entirely different from experiencing the figures directly, immediately. Because this was something new, perhaps unexpected, one had a tendency to deliberate about his reactions and to wonder how to approach the composed, immediate yet remote figures.

After an hour, the artist asked for questions and answered them with an articulated sureness that comes presumably from knowing. He also had a sense of knowing through years of explaining his work to countless curious, skeptical people.

The Editor

that they are being oppressed in every move they make. Every aspect of our so-called freedom is oppressed; the way we dress, the way we talk and write, our actions, etc.

This system is like the secret police; it singles out individuals. Since it is up to the faculty member who gets the detention, it is unfair to the students. Those who are regarded as "revolutionaries" or "freaks" or who are disliked by the faculty get the worst end of it. The administration has become a dictatorship with this system, by not allowing people to express themselves.

Daniel Cahn '74

New Group Delivers Unique Sound

by Bill Ihling

Music freaks have seen a large number of so-called "super groups" rise above the other artists of the rock culture in the past three or four years. Building themselves around one or two very talented musicians from the broken groups, they are hyped by producers, and come out with an album or two, and do a few concerts, then break up themselves from the pressures of the talents musically pulling in different directions.

At any rate, another new group has entered the field, and after only a few weeks, with the release of their first album, has created for itself the billing of "Super Group." Three of England's finest musicians have teamed up, calling themselves simply, "Emerson, Lake, and Palmer." Keith Emerson, formerly of The Nice, plays piano, organ, autoharp, and Moog synthesizer. Greg Lake, who used to be with King Crimson, plays bass, acoustic guitar, and also sings. Finally, comes Carl Palmer, an ex-Axis, on drums and percussion. These three have come out with a new sound, unique, yet each work showing some influence of The Nice or King Crimson.

Throughout the album, Emerson, Lake and Palmer show brilliant solo performances and composition genius. Even beyond the solos is the importance of such a group playing as a group, being able to work together, often in three distinct levels of sound, yet all blending as one. The heavy concert organ and bass, grand piano, acoustic guitar, electric sounds all backed up by brilliant percussion, stand out in the individual songs, yielding an almost indescribable sound. Judge for yourselves: buy the record and listen . . . form your own adjectives.

Sometime late this spring, Emerson Lake and Palmer will be making their Eastern U.S. tour. It should be interesting to see all the equipment on stage, and how they work live. If a group can come out with an L.P. like this one, they should be phenomenal on stage. I hope they last. Judging from the album, I think they will—and last for a long time, possibly becoming the sound in the foreground of rock for the next years to come.

Fireside Chat

with Tom Ronell

The School Council recently asked each class if they would support the idea we have for a trip up the Hudson River by chartered boat. We would bus the entire school to New York to meet the boat, from which point a three hour ride up the Hudson would bring us to Bear Mountain Park. The park is big, beautiful and offers a wide variety of activities to keep us busy for about four hours, after which we would return home in the same manner that we came. We would have a band on the boat, among other things.

The support for this idea was tremendous. Therefore, we are now working in the direction of making such a trip in May, when the weather will hopefully be nice.

The Talent Festival is progressing smoothly. Our plans call for our inviting a few other schools to participate in all categories of talent: music, art, drama, debate, photography, science projects, etc. The Festival will be like a smorgasbord—at any given time one may witness or participate in a number of different activities. A multi-school festival publication will also be distributed. If you have any—yes, any—ideas, do see me; the purpose of the Festival is that you participate in an activity that you enjoy while being exposed to others' talents.

IN THIS CORNER

by Mike Borrus

Your intrepid reporter, "Uncle" Bill Ihling, is recovering from his haircut, so I graciously decided to take his column. Now for the news:

Congratulations to the senior class—led by "Big Gene" Lampen—as they overthrew the lifeless faculty team composed of, among others, "Mad-man Fretz" (sorry about that), "Ridiculous Richard O'Connell," and "Monster Mike Stang." Congratulations also to referees Walt "the Still" Rockhill and Matthew "Moo" Shiffman, who had the ball stolen from them during half-time.

Speaking of congratulations, the Administration and Athletic department certainly deserve credit for getting the tennis team's courts built on time. Well, it looks like another year at Johnson Park for Prep's tennis court-less racquet-eers.

As my philosophy is to "give credit where credit is due," I will proceed to do just that. Remember, if you will, back to the first Argo, where Uncle Bill posed the question of whether Prep's female Athletic Star, Barbara "Babe" Rubin, could shoot a basketball as well as she hits a baseball. Well, the answer is not Babe shoots a basketball better than she hits. This was proven to be especially true at the last game of the season, when Babe scored an unbelievable total of 27 points. As we say, "Give the lady a cigar!"

As I write this, the news comes over the radio that Philadelphia has just lost to Atlanta, thereby giving the New York's Darlings, the Knicks, the division crown. Now, it's prediction time again: this reporter predicts the Knicks over the Bucs in six games to win the NBA Championship for a second straight year.

It's history, but it deserves repeating: Joe Frazier is the Champ!!! To commemorate:

Frazier was smoking and smoking, Too much for Ali.
Knockdown in the fifteenth round, That was the victory key.
Ali fought a lousy fight, He wasn't sharp; that's no lie:
Frazier won at the ball, Goodbye, Mohammed, Bye-Bye.

It's been a pleasure,
Mike