



# The ARGGO

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THE NEWSPAPER OF THE RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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## Tense Council Elections & Speeches Conclude, Frank Cesario is New President

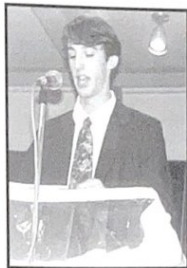
By Josh Rosen

On Wednesday, February 21 Council held its annual speeches for Council officer elections. Two days later, students flocked to the borrowed Somerset County voting machine to cast their ballots for Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President.

President Rasalan began the election speeches by addressing the gathered student body in Baldwin Hall. Before the event, she expressed her hopes for an honorable election process. President Rasalan called for everyone's full attention and open mind when listening to the candidates. Vice President Kinsfield felt, "sorrowful at losing his beloved position as Vice President."

Amanda Rabinowitz and Isaac Chahal, candidates for Treasurer spoke first. After Ria read the responsibilities of the office, the two freshmen spoke enthusiastically to the large crowd. Sophomores Whitney Case and Angela Lin ran for Secretary. Mark Markowski and Maureen Benitz each spoke persuasively for the office of Vice President. Finally, Frank Cesario and Susan Slim both jockeyed for the most coveted position of President.

All speeches were both compelling and articulate. Many of the underclassmen proved themselves exemplary orators. Was Allison Schecter, a freshman nominator, nervous? "Maybe a little, but I can handle it." All of the presentations



Frank Cesario



Susan Slim

way." The incumbent Treasurer, Whitney Case, said, "Any Council will do a good job, all the candidates were genuine. The presidential race just got a little out of hand." Maureen Benitz was more outraged, claiming, "The speeches were slandering. There should have been more maturity. We'll just have to see what the outcome is on Friday." Junior Sam Hartman said, "This is the funniest thing I've seen since Green Day played the Meadowlands!" Both presidential candidates expressed sorrow and remorse about the way things turned out.

The two presidential candidates spoke with visible energy. Mudslinging skimmed the edge of both speeches, but reservations soon abated once questioning began. Nearly all queries were directed specifically at the two presidential hopefuls, not the office. Unfortunately, partially due to the crowd's immediate feverish reaction, some personal insults were slung.

After the excitement died down, several students voiced what they thought of the election assembly. Allison Albino somberly replied, "It didn't have to be this

English Teacher Mrs. Herzberg commented, "I am sorry about the lack of questions concerning time commitment." Many students questioned whether the candidates, also involved in many activities both in and out of school, would be able to devote the proper time to their respective offices.

After the dust settled, voters arrived in heavy turnout on February 23 to elect their officers. Frank Cesario won the presidency, Mark Markowski took the vice Presidency, Angela Lin became Secretary, and Amanda Rabinowitz became Treasurer. President Cesario called his first Council meeting on February 28 and immediately began to process new ideas.



Ria Rasalan hands over the presidency to Frank Cesario

## School Council Forum Raises Typical Issues, Attendance Below Par

By Suhas Radhakrishna

A group of approximately twenty-four students and several faculty members gathered in Baldwin Hall during Activity Period on Wednesday, February 7. Students shared their concerns with the Administration, hoping for positive negotiation and compromise. Council members Rebecca Caldwell and Matt Scherb moderated the discussion. Dr. Loy, Mr. Karman and Mrs. Goen represented the Prep Administration.

Despite School Council's promotion, a relatively small group of students attended the forum in comparison to earlier years' efforts. In general, students voiced traditional concerns and met familiar nods and replies from the Administration. The dress code and schedule changes evoked a number of disparate views, but the forum achieved little more than the acknowledgment of dissent.

Seniors raised concerns, including parking and lunch privileges, towards the close of the forum and found a pledge of compromise from Mrs. Goen and the rest of the Administration.

### Scheduling

The first direct question raised addressed the short lunch period. In light of frequent long lines and the adjoining thirty-minute "E" period, students asked for lunch's either elongation or fusion, with Break or "E" period, to make lunch a bit more relaxed and convenient. Mr. Karman quickly dismissed extending the school day due to the unending problems it would create with transportation and sports scheduling. Mrs. Goen, a veteran in the struggle to make the largest number of people happy by tinkering with the daily schedule, made it clear that a improved arrangement of Activities, Breaks, and "E"

periods would be difficult, if not impossible, to create.

Students next debated the purpose of Break and Activity Period. Several conflicting views arose. Some students felt that break was nothing more than dead time, while those involved in Madrigals, clubs, and Council made a case for their organizations' livelihoods. Others, including Mr. Avella, noted that, if nothing else, Breaks were a welcome relief, pointing out the ceaseless Tuesday and Friday mornings.

"E" period's worth was justified in terms of music scheduling problems. Mrs. Szeles and Mrs. Hunt have been near militant in their struggle for the music program's due respect. Dr. Loy noted "cautious growth" in the program and promised expansion in coming years through the addition of new music teachers to alleviate scheduling problems.

### The Dress Code

The next issue concerned the tradition of senior dress down privileges during exams. Throughout midterms this winter, students complained of the unbearable heat in the gymnasium. Some asked why all students could not dress down; others noted this was one of only a few senior privileges. Mr. Karman suggested spring exams might be held within the Upper School's air conditioned classrooms.

Participants continued to discuss dress code. Two important topics entered discussion: a relaxed spring dress code, and the possibility of more frequent Dress Down Days without the required dollar donation. Council jumped to attack the latter issue, citing its primal dependency on Dress Down Days to raise needed money and support worthy charities. Others

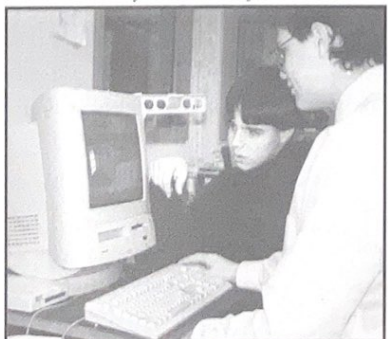
(Continued on Page 3)

## The Internet Arrives at Prep with Full Force

By Jonathan Vafai

In early February, the Computer Department acquired ten point-to-point (PPP) Internet connections via modem for the students and faculty to use. The ten connections are at locations strategically placed around the school: the Upper School Computer Lab, the Upper School Library, the Science Office, and the Lower School Library, to name a few.

Any student can access the Internet connection by launching Netscape Navigator, a World Wide Web browser, to view internet sites located on computers around the world. This technology is not meant for just techies: the Internet is home to many companies, organizations and agencies such as Time-Warner, CNN, the ACLU, and the Library



Nick Lessard 'surfs' the Web using Prep's Internet Connection

of Congress, which all feature searching mechanisms. Each of these sites can help you do your research more quickly and efficiently.

The Internet Club, started by Mr. Kendall and myself, has established a web site for Rutgers Prep. The club's goal is to make it easier for students, alumni and faculty to find what they need. There is already a directory of E-Mail (electronic mail) addresses for members of the Prep community, web pages for English, History and Government classes, and the first on-line edition of *The Arggo*.

Please visit us at <http://www.ifu.net/~rutgers> and see anyone in the Computer Department if you have any questions.

### Inside...

Hate speech and the Constitution,  
Prep's Primary  
Editorials, Pages 2-3

Model United Nations,  
Academic Team,  
Winter Drama  
Features, Pages 4-5

A successful Winter  
Season ends  
Sports, Page 6

Events & Sports, Page 2



## Hate Speech: Where do we draw the line?

Editorials written by AP American Government students in response to a video, *The Shadow of Hate*.

### Safety Before Free Speech

By Barry Hirsch

Every night you tuck your two-year-old daughter in her safe bed before you go to sleep. One evening, after she returns from Hebrew school, you go into her room to say good night in the normal manner. Suddenly, you notice a group of men in white sheets outside her window. At first you are alarmed, but then decide not to jump to any rushed conclusions. Instantly you are shocked when you realize a huge cross is burning in the street. Your wife immediately informs the police, but she is too late. Your innocent daughter has already received a mental scar that will remain with her for the rest of her life.

Given the seriousness of the event, six men are arrested by the police. They are taken to jail for the evening. Eventually a grand jury is used to determine whether or not a criminal act has occurred. After a few weeks of investigation, the charges are dropped against the men because of a technicality. It's discovered that one of the men involved lives across the street from

you. Since the cross was burned on the street and on the neighbor's sidewalk, the grand jury decided that the incident was simply a private demonstration on private property. Although you protest vehemently, the grand jury decides that the act was protected by the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which guarantees the right to freedom of speech.

Although this is a fictitious example, it clearly shows the problem with the current interpretation of the first amendment. The first amendment was added into our country's Constitution in the spirit of personal freedom. The framers intended these God-given freedoms to include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. By allowing the first amendment to defend these men, an innocent family is stripped of its inalienable rights. Instead of protecting men who violently speak out by ancient pagan rituals, the U.S. government should concentrate on protecting its hard-working loyal citizens.

The only argument supporting the grand jury's decision is that although some speech may be radical and violent, if it is not physically hurting someone, or invoking a conflict, it should be legal. The only problem is that it mental pain is not accounted for.

By this so called free speech demonstration, a young girl, still unable to comprehend the world of hate in which we live, is permanently scarred. In addition, a whole neighborhood becomes alarmed for fear of another demonstration, but the government indicates that there is nothing that it can do about this.

The only way to solve this problem is to set new precedents involving hate speech. Instead of always defending the speaker's first amendment rights, we should look at the bottom line. If one's actions jeopardize the liberties guaranteed to the every citizen of the U.S., then those actions should be punished by law. It is time for the judicial system to realize who the victim really is, and act accordingly. We will not create true freedom of speech until this is done.

### Should Rationality Preclude Censorship?

By Neil Patel

With the increased focus on domestic issues in this post Cold War era, the principle of free speech and its application to hate speech has reached the political forefront. With hate groups crying, "First Amendment" at any hint of censorship, the nature of this amendment is being reevaluated. Free speech, however, is more a traditional right of Americans than one explicitly granted in the Constitution. For this reason, Americans cannot simply turn to this hallowed document for the answer to the free speech debate.

At some point, the "marketplace of ideas," the basic tenet of free speech, becomes a battleground. The ensuing controversy deals with when the exercise of free speech becomes actively harmful and what action should be taken at this point.

The college campus has become a test bed for this issue many times. Increasingly, university administrators have been folding to the demands of rash masses and preventing hate groups from speak-

ing in college facilities. This is both irresponsible and a harmful way of dealing with the issue. The campus is an intellectual environment where experience teaches as much as lecture.

Despite hate speech's potential harm, it should be allowed just as any speech would be, so long as violence is not specifically advocated. Campus students should be free to form their own opinions about hate-mongers and take appropriate action themselves. The martyrdom that censorship and oppression bring is much more beneficial to hate groups than a speech itself.

Administrators should be protected from public demands so that they can make responsible decisions without regard to their jobs. If free speech is to be respected and celebrated, we must rely on the belief that our government uses man's rationality, not censorship, to battle the influence of hate groups.

### Sexual Harassment Workshop, Drawing the Line

By Ria Rasalan and Bobby Roy

Is a conversation in the hallway, talking on the telephone, or a meeting after school friendly or antagonistic? At what point does flirtation stop and the sexual harassment begin? As high school students, we might not be able to completely distinguish or acknowledge the difference between flirtation and sexual harassment.

To inform students about the problem of sexual harassment in our lives, Students Against Dangerous Decisions (SADD) invited a teen group, called the sexual harassment stop and the sexual harassment begin? As high school students, we might not be able to completely distinguish or acknowledge the difference between flirtation and sexual harassment.

HiTops began their presentation by illustrating the differences between flirtation and sexual harassment with a skit showing different case scenarios. The skit included everyday scenarios present in any high school social environment.

Next, the students divided into small groups to further their investigation of sexual harassment and its effects on both parties. In these groups, students also explored sexual assault as a result of sexual harassment.

Junior Josh Rosen commented, "This assembly was informative and different. The actual interaction taught the important lesson in a more effective manner."

The successful assembly prepared students to deal correctly and safely with sexual harassment in the future. SADD President Caroline Chang said, "We invited HiTops in order to make people aware that sexual harassment actually does exist even though we are secluded from it as a small, protected private school. Although we do not encounter it very often, sexual harassment occurs outside the school, in the workplace and in college. I believe that the students profited from this experience and now know what to do in case they are under these uncomfortable circumstances."

### Bagel Eaters, Beware! Forum Hookies Left Out

By Susan Slim

On Wednesday, February 7, a group of students assembled in Baldwin Hall for forum. Unfortunately, that group of students was much smaller than anticipated. It is sad that Prep students have no qualms about complaining about the Administration to one another, yet only 20 or so exerted enough effort to venture down the stairs to the Middle School.

One discussion hinged on whether Prep should consider having uniformed dress. One would assume that many students would have very strong feelings about this one way or another. The uniform question may solve the dress code problem, as it would be easy to spot dress code violators, but would raise many other questions. We also discussed whether there should be a "spring dress code" where, perhaps, turtlenecks would not be necessary.

Many juniors and seniors were upset over the parking situation, and could be heard reasoning their positions in the hallways. As one student put it, "If you arrive at 8:00, you should get a better parking space than someone who arrives at 8:20, no matter what grade

you are in." The seniors disagreed, yet very few of them showed up to voice their own opinions.

Perhaps the student body is not aware of how futile it is to complain to maroon and white walls. The only people that can change anything in this school are the administrators. However, administrators are not mind readers: they need to be informed of student desires. There is no doubt that we are all busy people, faculty and students alike, and it is rare that we all get to sit down and talk about things that could be changed.

It is a horrible thing that out of 200 kids, only 20+ (including Council members) could drag themselves away from the cafeteria. As they ate their bagels, things they complained about could have been addressed and perhaps changed. In forum, it was discussed that perhaps break should be eliminated. There would be no time to eat your bagels if the students who managed to make it to Baldwin Hall didn't veto that idea immediately. Hopefully the next time forum is offered to those who complain, more will take advantage of it.

### Upcoming Events

March	April
13 RVCC Holocaust Program	8 Classes resume
15 3rd quarter ends	10 Council Sponsored Blood Drive
Junior Dance	24-27 Spring Drama Production
22 Spring recess begins	As You Like It
23 SAT	30 Spring Instrumental Concert

### Sports

Boy's Basketball	6-18
Boy's Wrestling	3-9
Co-Ed Swimming	3-6
Girl's Basketball	17-4
Girl's Volleyball	7-2

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## HiTOPS's Sexual Harassment is a Joke

By Maureen Benitz

Our school is not perfect, but most students concur that sexual harassment is not as big a deal as the Administration and SADD made it out to be. The recent assembly on sexual harassment over-exaggerated the problems students face here at Prep. The assembly won't change anything or anyone's actions. Harassment is hard to define, so getting a person to recognize his faults and change will be very hard. What one person perceives as harassment another person may not think twice about.

If a girl (or boy) is sexually harassed, he or she knows it. As HiTOPS repeatedly pointed out in the assembly, sexual harassment is defined when the actions are not wanted. A student who is harassed has many options, but is likely to utilize only a select few, namely

not saying anything.

A student could tell a teacher or faculty member whom they trust. What will this do? Will the harasser get a demerit? Maybe a detention? What will a demerit do? If a student reports a peer, they are driving a wedge among friendships. Many students can deal with getting whistled at, so actions that are not wanted get wisely ignored. A comment here or a whistle there won't hurt anyone. Many people would rather keep their "comment making" friends than separate groups of friends over a misconstrued remark.

If a student turned in a peer, they would more likely than not be made an example of by the Administration. They would have to deal with parents, faculty, teachers and other students. This would be such

a hassle that many students would just deal with the comments. There won't be many students turning others in.

Most students take the comments in stride. People whom these comments are directed at tend to be strong people who can take these comments without getting bent out of shape over them. If someone is going to make a comment to another, they know who to say them to. They aren't going to risk getting in trouble by whistling at someone who will run to the Administration.

Most comments are made in fun only. No one takes them seriously. In almost every conversation, there is some sort of sexual comment made. There is nothing wrong with this, as long as no one is offended. Chances are, if there

is someone who is easily offended, sexual comments will not be made. The receivers of these comments generally just laugh them off and say something just as degrading back.

After the assembly, sexual harassment was mocked to no end. If someone looked at a fellow student wrong, they cried, "sexual harassment." For the rest of the day, the halls were full of sexual harassment. "Don't look at me that way. Don't touch me. Don't sit near me." These were all made in mockery of the assembly. Did HiTOPS, the group that performed the assembly, think any of us would keep a log of when we were harassed? We have much better and more important things to do than jot down every time a member of the opposite sex looks at us funny!

If a student is ever seriously harassed, he or she should take action without involving the Administration. They didn't need a one and a half hour assembly to tell them they are being harassed. Did the group think they were telling us about something we didn't know? It is not as if harassment is a new problem. People know if they are being harassed or not. Talking one on one or with a friend or mutually liked teacher would be much more effective in resolving a harassment claim. A last resort should be the Administration because that would create an unnecessary hassle for all involved.

Sexual harassment is not a serious problem here at Prep. Our Administration should spend their time attacking other problems, not one that is nearly nonexistent!

## It's Just Politics

By Allison Albino

Thoreau said, "Politics is the gizzard of society, full of gut and gravel." As an observer and participant in the Rutgers Prep 1996 Council election, I can say that this was an election filled with heat and unfairness, true gut and gravel.

Sitting behind, watching the candidates' exchange of words, I'll admit that I felt comfortable. It is not my place, or anyone's place for that matter, to blame who for what and why, because that is not the issue. The issue for any School Council election should simply be what is best for the school: to look for the best way to interlock student and faculty views into one. School Council's purpose is to provide that connection.

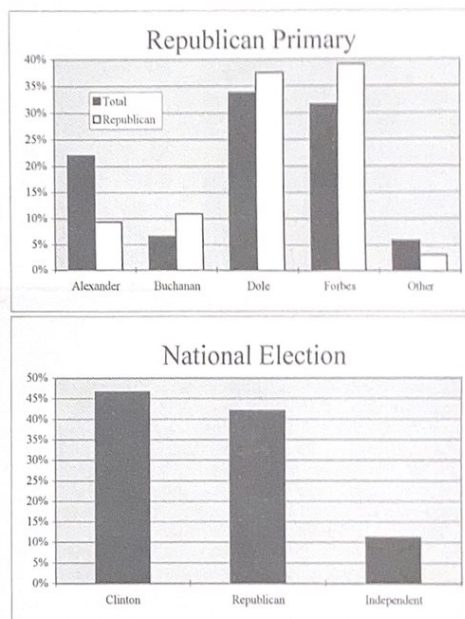
Watching both candidates argue with each other, fighting on stage, I do not believe it was completely their fault. In general, the audience always affects the ones on stage, and in this case that statement holds true as the audience absorbed the conflict and fed off of it, goading each candidate to further hostility by asking questions

irrelevant to the issues at hand, and cheering at each insult that hampered between the two. I think the audience fueled the conflict and must take equal responsibility for what happened on that stage.

As I see things now, the junior class is now more divided than ever. Whatever occurred on that stage certainly was not resolved with bickering. The truth of the matter is that Frank Cesario and Susan Slim are both intelligent, charismatic, and qualified; however, both could not have won.

In my opinion, no matter how spectacular a Council President is, no matter who it is, spirit and love for the school must come from individual students themselves. They have to want to be a cohesive unit and gain an identity through each presidential term. No one person can instill that kind of emotion; they can only lead the way. The student body is the core and the heart of the Prep Community.

So maybe it just boils down to whatever will be, will be, if that's what we allow to happen. After all, it's just politics.



## Council Forum...

(continued from page 1)

feared free and frequent dress downs would spoil the uniqueness of the event.

Relaxed spring dress code was dismissed as unnecessary due to the Upper School's air conditioning.

A controversial issue, of new concern this year, involved Prep golf shirts, which students were required to purchase if they were violating dress code. The only difference between the Prep bookstore's shirts and those available elsewhere are the school logo and a higher price tag. Many students felt it unfair to force this purchase.

The Administration had two replies. First, that the shirts are only an option designed for greater freedom with the dress code. Second, Dr. Loy was unhappy with students' lax attitude towards the demerit system and found that the "golf shirt" system presented more

immediate deterrence. Dr. Loy also emphasized that the school makes no profit on the shirts, selling them at cost.

Finally, amidst the dress code strife was the ardent concern over the sex-based double standard: girls often enjoy lax enforcement and more freedom of attire than boys. "What is the dressy top?" demanded juniors Frank Cesario and Jay Golon. This question evoked laughter and a vague answer. Gray areas predominate the girl's dress code, and, unfortunately, boys must find solace in Mr. Karman's words, "Life is a drag."

### Upperclassmen Speak

With a few minutes remaining, the forum turned towards those problems plaguing the senior class. Three main concerns arose: the possibility of bringing off-campus food back to school, going out to lunch during "5E," and resolving

the parking dilemma.

The "'5E' hope" was shot down in an earlier discussion, during the forum, about the schedule.

Senior Rebecca Caldwell pressed administrators, fearing an unwieldy garbage problem, for a chance to prove the seniors' responsibility in disposing of trash after bringing food back. Administrators met this plea with pessimism and disbelief.

Mrs. Goon was optimistic about resolving the parking lot issue if seniors would come forward and name the offending junior that were stealing senior class parking spots.

The forum closed without a definite compromise on any issue. Some students came to express their concerns; some came for free donut hole treats. A large majority remained in the Upper School quite indifferent and powerless.

(See supplementary articles on page 2 & 5)

## Primary Time At Rutgers Prep

On March 1, *The Argo* conducted a poll of students and faculty. Respondents voted in both a Republican primary and a national presidential election. New Jersey's official primaries will not occur until June, so *The Argo* created this poll to allow the Prep Community to express and analyze its opinions, all well before midsummer.

In the Republican race, Robert Dole and Steve Forbes were neck and neck. Among those who voted Republican in the poll's national election, Forbes took a narrow lead; however, among the entire Prep Community, Dole was the favorite by 2% Lamar Alexander, seemingly more moderate, attracted 22% of the vote overall, but lagged considerably in the Re-

publican only results. Buchanan benefited from the opposite effect, breaking double digits only with Republican voters.

Clinton won by 5% in the national race, taking 47% of the vote, only 4% more than he received in 1992. 11% voted for an independent; 42% backed their favorite Republican.

Clearly, Republicans are suffering from infighting and the resulting splintered vote it elicits. With no candidate to unite under, Clinton could return to the White House for another four years as he did in this poll.

Will Prep be right? Stay tuned to the election and find out. *The Argo* will bring you concise information on candidates and events as the campaign unfolds.



## Urban-Suburban Peer Leadership Trip

By Amanda Cruz

Over 1000 Peer Leaders from schools throughout New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Connecticut met at Princeton University to attend the annual Urban-Suburban Peer Group Connection conference. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance participants' understanding of differences between races, religions, and sexes.

After an introductory speech, covering prejudice and the role of Peer Leaders, by Mr. Carl Brook, each school's group divided so that each Peer Leader worked with people from different schools. This provided each Peer Leader and faculty adviser with the opportunity to find out how other Peer Leadership programs operated.

There were eighty-two groups, each consisting of about twelve people. The groups handled their meetings on their own. While

some groups chose to operate in a more structured format, others worked better in a more informal structure. Despite the initial shyness from being with strangers, most students eventually became comfortable and shared their experiences and opinions more readily.

The first activity gave group members the opportunity to introduce themselves and learn more about other participants. Then, the groups moved on to the "Response Thermometer," an activity in which each person decides what they would do in a given situation concerning prejudice. After a few more cooperation exercises, the groups participated in an activity in which people gave their opinions about various symbols and quotations pulled out of a bag. These symbols and quotations included the Star of David, the Lib-

erty Bell, Uncle Sam, a dove with an olive branch, a set of scales, and quotations relating to racism, hatred, prejudice, and ignorance.

The entire afternoon was set aside to see the play *Greensboro*, by Emily Mann, at the McCarter Theater. The play documented the Greensboro massacre of five blacks protesting for their rights. It took more than five years to convict the Ku Klux Klan members who committed the murders. A question and answer session followed the play so that some students could ask Ms. Mann about the play and her views.

Besides being an enjoyable experience, the events that occurred on this trip were both informative and emotional. Peer Leaders took this wealth of information back to Prep and hoped to incorporate this knowledge into their own program.

## Rutgers Prep Model U. N. Invades Washington

By Tilak Sundaresan

The thirty-third North American Invitational Model United Nations met in Washington D.C. from Friday, February 15 until Sunday, February 18 at the pleasant Washington Hilton on Connecticut Avenue. About 3000 students attended this outstandingly well organized event.

Students partook in several different groups: the General Assembly, Security Council, Regional Organization, Economic and Social Council, Cabinet Simulation, and International Court of Justice. Rutgers Prep had delegates in many of these programs.

Students from Rutgers Prep, burdened with luggage, came to school at the regular time. They attended Morning Meeting eagerly anticipating the long weekend in Washington D.C. After all of the other students had been dismissed and a few missing students had been accounted for, the bus left Rutgers Prep filled with anxious delegates.

On the way there, the bus driver, who confessed he "wasn't used to" the bus, refused to travel at a speed beyond thirty-five miles per hour. The bus stopped in Maryland so that the students might get some lunch and stretch their legs for about an hour, and then they boarded the bus for the rest of the voyage to Washington. During the ride, the students passed the time by watching movies, listening to music, or conversing with friends.

When they arrived at the Washington Hilton, the delegation only had to wait for thirty minutes while its room assignments were hastily retrieved. Then, they had about four-and-a-half hours to busy themselves before attending the Opening Session. After the Opening Session, the students from Prep dispersed and attended their own committee meeting until 11:30.

On Friday morning, students went to their countries' embassies for about three hours. After they

got back to the hotel, they had an hour to grab lunch before attending committee sessions for the remainder of the day.

After going to sleep very late at night, many delegates were treated to a crisis call at three in the morning. (The students involved in this crisis got into their "western business attire" and went down to their assigned rooms to do business. Three hours later, the committees agreed on a final solution. Some worked out. (One committee created a special council to cope with a Russian terrorist group trying to take over Eastern Europe.) but some did not do quite so well. (One committee resolved to drop a bomb on North Korea, and ended up having an atomic bomb dropped on San Francisco.) Since students had met so early in the morning, they were given a break from normal morning session to catch up on some well-deserved sleep.

After committee meetings on Saturday concluded, delegates had an hour to get dressed for the NAIMUN XXXIII Banquet. After the festivities, and several interesting speakers, the Delegate Dance began. Many Prep students had a great time dancing with 3000 other people into early morning.

While all of the delegates accomplished a great deal at the conference, all students still made time to get in a variety of other activities. Sightseeing around Washington is not very difficult with a Metro station only five minutes away. Many students went to places like the Smithsonian Institutes, the Lincoln Memorial, the George Washington Memorial, art museums, and a host of other places. The Hard Rock Cafe and Planet Hollywood were also popular stops. Even though Model United Nations entails a good deal of work, there is also a good deal of free time to do anything you please.

## Bridging Cultures: Ramadan

By Scott Vafai and Khaliq Zackria

It comes as a surprise to many people that Moslems around the world have spent the last month refraining from food, drink, and sexual intercourse from sunrise to sunset. The reason for doing this is Ramadan, an Islamic holiday that lasts twenty-nine to thirty days during which Moslems must fast.

Ramadan is the third of the five pillars of Islam which are the basis for Islamic religion. The other four pillars are: first, a verse which says that there is no god but Allah which must be said and kept in the heart of a Moslem person, second, that you must pray five times a day, third, that you must give at least two and one-half percent of your income to the poor of the world, and fourth, that you must make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in your life by means of your own money.

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, begins

and ends when the new moon is seen, thus it can be delayed by clouds covering the sky. This month marks when the Koran was sent down as guidance for the people by Allah. Ramadan is seen more as an obedient response to a command from Allah than as a time for atonement because when the Koran was received the people fasted in reverence of it. For a Moslem it is a time to learn patience and obedience and a time to become more connected to Allah by asking for his forgiveness. It is also a way to gain compassion for those who have nothing.

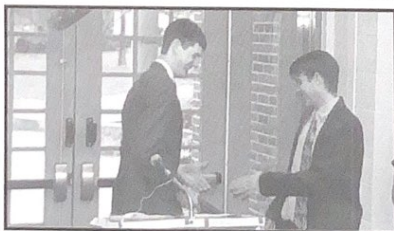
Before a person begins to fast for Ramadan he must declare, either out loud or in his heart, that he intends to fast for good intentions. Along with fasting during this month one gives to the poor and tries to become a better Moslem by reading and listening to the Koran, the holy book of Islam. People

who are for some reason unable to fast, pregnant women or sick people for instance, can make up this fasting for another thirty day period before the next year's Ramadan. Allah rewards those who fast and refrain from sexual intercourse; it is a sin not to fast.

When the month of Ramadan is over there is a day where people celebrate the passing of the month and completion of the religious experience which is Ramadan. To those who believe, Ramadan is a very important part of Moslem life; a religious observance that those who are not Moslems should respect and recognize.

*The Argo* hopes to facilitate the exchange of cultures amongst our diverse Rutgers Prep Community. If you would like to communicate an important part of your culture in a future *Argo*, please see the Editorial Page sidebar for information. - ed.

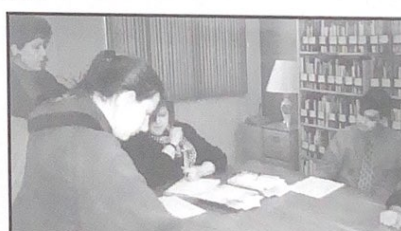
## Recent Events



John Kansfield, former Council Vice President, relinquishes the office to Mark Markowski.



Ria Rasalan, former Council President, invites students to listen to candidates for Council offices. Candidate Susan Slim and her nominator, Maureen Benitz, sit behind Ria to the left.



Jon Vafai (right), Meredith Riley (front) and other seniors meet with Mrs. Glace and Mrs. Howarth to discuss opening the first 4th grade time capsule.



Director Ms. Turlish, actors Melissa Stass and Rob Szeles, and Stage Manager Meredith Riley huddle during rehearsal for the spring play, *As You Like It*, by William Shakespeare. The production takes place in late April.



## Academic Team Wins Tournament

By Gerard Joe

The 1995-1996 season has been a remarkable one for this year's Academic Team. In the Somerset County Academic League tournament, the Varsity team posted an 8-1 record, the best record of any of the competing schools. This first place finish was an improvement over last year's second place finish, especially considering that half of last year's starting team has graduated.

In the Somerset County tournament, schools compete against one another weekly during the winter. Teams win points for answering their own questions or for correcting their opponents. The team with the most points wins the match; however, point

totals from matches are unimportant when determining the team's final standing.

Captains Matt Scherb and Gerard Joe led a Varsity team comprised of veterans Neil Patel and Meredith Riley, and newcomers Ria Rasalan, Meredith Shirley, Rob Szeles, and Jonathan Vafai.

Despite having only one experienced player, Frank Cesario, the JV team was also very successful, ending their season with a record of 7-2.

The Academic Team is confident that it will continue its winning season through March's B.R.I.T.E. competition at Bridgewater-Raritan High School.

## Drama Teams with Music Department for this Year's Winter Show

By Jeremy Wang-Iverson

On the evening of February 9, Prep's musicians joined with Prep's actors in this year's Winter Show. For the first time, the Winter Show, or "Student Spotlight," featured musical pieces along with the student-directed, student-acted, and in some cases, student-written scenes. The show, held in the Upper School lounge and hosted by Jessica Hedges, ran smoothly and successfully.

This show featured some scripts written by Prep playwrights. Suhas Radhakrishna and Josh Rosen performed Jason Kramer's alien mystery, *Mysterious Encounters*. The skit placed two scientists in a car being taken over by extraterrestrials. Allison Albino directed the play.

Allison also directed her own script, *A Night of Romance*. A dark thriller that followed the night of a suave serial killer, featuring Sam Hartman as the killer, and with Jen Conrad, Isaac Chahal, and Nicole Fiumefreddo.

Some of Prep's poets were also featured during the night. Jay Golon, Allison Albino, and Susan Slim all read original pieces.

Scenes were also performed that night that were not written by Prep playwrights. Jen Conrad and

Jeremy Wang-Iverson performed a portion of Harold Pinter's dramatic play *Betrayal*. Meredith Riley directed the scene in which a man, Jeremy, found out that his wife, Jen, was having an affair with his best friend.

Jessica Hedges directed Jay Golon, Frank Cesario, and Erin Leeder in David Ives's *Philadelphia*. This very funny scene followed a conversation between an ordinary guy having a bad day, Frank, and his friend, Jay, explaining why the former could not get what he asked for. Erin played the waitress at the diner where the friends were talking.

The Music department featured equally entertaining and impressive acts, which included soloist and group singers. Soloist Melissa Stass sang a Steven Sondheim piece from a Broadway musical. Violinist Kyle Szabo, who has often performed during Morning Meeting, played a piece called *Legend*, by Wieniawski. Both solos, accompanied by Ms. Szeles on piano, were excellent. Also, junior Julie Grossman played a piano piece of her own composition.

Some of Prep's singers followed up their impressive performance at the Winter Concert with

new pieces and different singing groups. The Madrigal Singers performed Dindirin Dana, a 15th Century Spanish villancico.

Four of the group's seniors, Ria Rasalan, Rob Szeles, Matt Scherb, and Melissa Stass, sang the French gossip chanson *Je ne l'ose dire*. These four singers also performed this piece last year at the Spring Concert.

Seven of Prep's male voices performed the memorable Irish-American ballad *My Wild Irish Rose*. Before beginning, singer Jay Golon took history teacher Ms. Glennon from the audience, and set her down in front of them. They dedicated the song to her, and concluded with Rob Szeles handing a rose to Ms. Glennon. The group, unofficially known as Rob Szeles and the Sexy Junior Sextet, was made up of Rob, Frank Cesario, Jay Golon, Suhas Radhakrishna, Scott Buchanan, Sam Hartman, and Gideon Dabi.

The variation of the acts made the night more memorable and entertaining. The incorporation of the singers and soloists into the show was certainly a positive addition, which should be kept for Winter Shows to come.

## Madrigal Singers Hear Fuma Sacra Concert

By Rob Szeles

After performing a selection of Christmas carols from various countries and time periods at the Winter Concert and Bridgewater Mall, the Madrigal Singers had the opportunity to attend a performance of Spanish Renaissance Christmas carols. One of the highlights of the performance was very unexpected as Fuma Sacra sang, as an encore, *I Saw A Maiden*, one of the carols the Prep group had performed. Fuma Sacra also sang *Riu, Riu, Chiu*, a Spanish carol that the Men's Choir sang last year.

The group's musicianship was admired by everyone in the audience, and certainly will be remembered by those students who attended as something to strive for in future performances beyond just perfecting each note.

some of the men occasionally sang the alto parts. One male specialized as a counter tenor. (a man who sings the female voices in falsetto)

The repertoire ranged from early tenth century Gregorian Chant, to late Renaissance Christmas carols. One of the highlights of the performance was very unexpected as Fuma Sacra sang, as an encore, *I Saw A Maiden*, one of the carols the Prep group had performed. Fuma Sacra also sang *Riu, Riu, Chiu*, a Spanish carol that the Men's Choir sang last year.

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## Senior-Faculty Volleyball

Stemming from the senior-faculty football game tradition, the class of '96 challenged the faculty in Basketball and Volleyball. The basketball game, held in late February, was competitive, but the faculty ignited in the final moments to win 42-32. Seniors had even less success at the volleyball game on Friday, March 1. After the upper-classmen lost the first three games, no one kept a running score.

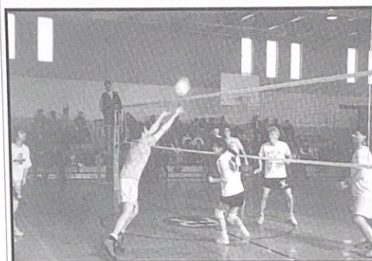


Photo: Bobby Roy sets the ball over the net as teammates Akta Patel (left) and Caroline Chang (right) look on. The faculty front line, Ms. Hardin, Mr. Szeles, and Mr. Wittman (from left to right) prepare to return the ball.

## Dynamic Duo

By Mark Markowski

Liz Alexander and Jackie Sienkiewicz led the Girl's Basketball team to a very successful season on the hardwood. The two averaged around 35 points a game between themselves. Liz, a junior, and Jackie, a sophomore, will be back for another season with their inside-outside game next year.

Both players had a wonderful season, but their hard work did not stop there. "The games are won in the off-season," said Alexander. The off-season is usually a tough time for many athletes to stay in shape.

Sienkiewicz and Alexander are determined to bring a Prep B championship banner home to the field house. Knowing that they have not been able to do this yet will surely

give them a significant incentive to push themselves.

Although both players are

distinguished in their own right, they give much of the credit to their fellow teammates. Jackie and Liz feel that Priya Radhakrishna, Debbie Gray, Katie Somers, and the rest of the team deserve just as much of the glory that comes along with a successful season. Together, the entire team is still very young. The season was a learning experience for the girls, even though they managed to come out with an impressive 17-4 record.

Under the guidance of Coaches Klinger and Shifman, Jackie and Liz will continue to refine their skills and become better players. The team carried a positive attitude out of this past season, which will hopefully spill over into next year. Jackie and Liz, even though it is barely spring, are excited to get out and "run the floor" for another season of fine RPS Girl's Basketball.

## Voices of the School Council Forum

By Babi Das

On February 7, the School Council forum provided an opportunity for the expression of many different viewpoints. Although the forum was unable to draw any conclusions on specific issues, the blend of different beliefs made it quite noteworthy.

The dress code has always been a target of complaints among students. On this topic, Susan Slim openly stated to administrators, "It makes no sense to allow students to wear the Prep golf shirt and not a regular golf shirt. We students basically see it as a way to make money." In defense of this institution, though, Dr. Loy stated, "The school does not make money off the shirt. We understand the dress code may be uncomfortable in warmer weather. I believe the shirt is a legitimate compromise. No one is forcing you to buy it. It's an option that we offer."

Students also used the forum to campaign for more frequent

Dress Down Days. "We have such a rigorous schedule, a Dress Down Day would help wind down the week," said senior Rebecca Caldwell, who suggested a Dress Down Day every Friday. Administrators, like Mr. Karman, quickly offered arguments against this idea, saying, "The culture of the school changes when you dress down. There's a much more relaxed atmosphere. If it becomes a regular part of the schedule, the dress down day loses its beneficial value." Furthermore, Mr. Avella cited, "Many Dress Down Days are held to raise money for charities. This is a nice thing and I would like to see it continue. With more frequent Dress Down Days, they lose their special conditions."

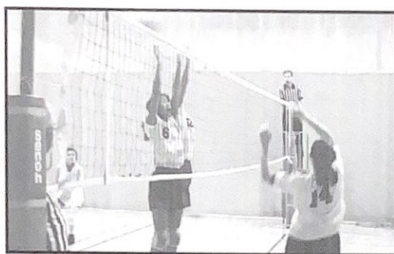
Scheduling also came to the forefront as another big concern of students. "Tuesdays and Fridays are incredibly long," complained sophomore Whitney Case. Mr. Karman, in response, explained that

afternoon Activity Periods are needed on those days to accommodate away games.

Then, Mrs. Gooen, offering a reasonable explanation for why "SE" periods were necessary, said, "Because less than half the school is involved with music, we can't put it in a scheduling place because it will conflict with academic classes. We need to protect it with the 'SE.'"

The forum provided an opportunity for seniors to express their prevailing concerns. Rebecca Caldwell, urging for the Administration to provide seniors with a place on campus to bring food back to, said, "Having somewhere to eat is a privilege. You haven't given our class a chance to prove we can handle it." However, Mrs. Gooen said, "We've tried allowing seniors to bring food back on campus, it didn't work. The rest of the school had to live with their mess."





Girl's Volleyball Co-Captain Caroline Chang reaches for the ball.

## Girl's Volleyball

By Caroline Chang

The 1995-1996 Rutgers Preparatory Volleyball Team is proud for becoming the Division B Prep Conference Champions. From the beginning of the season, Prep's spikers were gifted with the essential ingredients of a championship team: excellence in coaching, experience from veterans, fresh dive from new recruits, and an overall motivation to reach beyond expectations.

The team displayed the results of its hard work and mental discipline with its high placing in both its own RPS Spikers Tournament (3rd), and the Morristown-Beard Christmas Tournament.

On the day of the state tournament, the girls boasted a division record of 7-1. They had just defeated PDS, the only team that had previously defeated Prep. Prep played aggressive volleyball during the tournament, losing only to Collegiate in the finals by a score of 15-17, 11-15.

Co-Captains Caroline Chang

and Joyce Reyes, with senior leader Akta Patel, led the Varsity squad. Juniors Susan Slim, Nicole Fiumefreddo, and Allison Albino filled out the roster. Coach Sue Tidd, in her first year at Prep, also utilized the talents of Pookie Jones, Camile Melton, Angela Lin, Arienne Carrington, and Allison Schecter.

Captains Camile Melton and Maura Pritchard led the JV squad. Under the coaching of Denise Goldman, JV boasted an excellent record this year. JV players include sophomores Mishana Prophete, Khaleelah Coleman, Kris Farley, and Kristen Peterson, and freshmen Sara Preschel, Allison Schecter, Jessica Belser, Janel Leyden-Noels, Kim Brown, Pookie Jones, and Babi Das.

The Varsity team came so close to winning the State Cup this year, and with the team's great talent, there is no doubt that another championship season lies ahead.

## Girl's Basketball Takes Off in '96

By John Kansfield

The happiest surprise for Prep sports in the winter season of 1996 has been the Girl's Basketball team. Led by junior Captain Elisabeth Alexander, the girls had an incredible 17-4 record. Their record is even more astonishing if you consider the fact that there were no seniors remaining on this year's team. Thus, the team looked to its junior stars for leadership, and found plenty.

Although the girls enjoyed much success during the regular season, their post-season was not quite as glorious. The girls suffered a tough loss to Bridgewater in the second round of the county tournament. They fared better in the state tournament, though, making it to the semifinals. In the semi-final game, the team lost a heartbreaker to Villa Walsh by only three points.

One highlight of the season was beating arch rival Princeton Day School not once, but twice. One of those games was a very

important state tournament game. Also, the team scored an impressive, well deserved win against the highly competitive Timothy Christian.

With the lack of senior leadership, the girls relied on the dynamic duo, Elisabeth Alexander and Jackie Stenkiewicz. They also looked to Katie Somers in tough times for big rebounds and hustle plays.

A strong core of young players helped from the bench, all making huge contributions. Freshman Jasmine Orders, Denya Chingque, Dori Pettigrow and Laurie Tashman all helped to better the team. Coaches Klinger and Shifman look forward to tapping this young talent in upcoming years.

Next year should prove to be a great one for the girls, as they will not only mature, but also keep every player from this year's squad. Students will be anxiously waiting for the girls to bring home the Prep B State Championship next year.



The Girl's Basketball team practices lay-up shots on its home court.

## Co-Ed Swimming

By Chris Pink

As Coach Nes Forney will tell you, "Swimming is unique at Prep because with such a small student body, and no on-campus facilities, we are able to consistently field a good team of both male and female members." Since there are no real home swimming meets, and students can not watch the team, swimmers are often forgotten. With the team's continued success this year, and the bright outlook for the future, it's time for RPS swimmers to receive some recognition.

Under the leadership of senior Co-Captains Matt Needleman and Meredith Riley the team achieved a fair 3-6 record.

This year's seniors led a very talented field of swimmers. Along

with the co-captains, seniors Chris Pink, Sid Singh and Corrie Graham helped make this season a memorable one.

The addition of Abbey Winant and Winston Chow, a star breaststroke, should better the team for years to come.

As with most Prep sports, the swimmers usually participate in conference and state tournaments at the end of the season. This year though, the end-of-season schedule was changed because of new opportunities and bad weather. Unfortunately, the team was not able to attend the conference tournament at Morristown Beard because of snow; however, the team did place fourth at the state tournament at St. Benedicts.

Highlighting their season, the swimmers went on a weekend trip to Easterns at La Salle University in Philadelphia. The competition was tough, but the experience was certainly memorable. Although no Prep swimmer placed, the experience gained was worthwhile and helpful for all of Prep's swimmers.

The Rutgers Prep Swimming team is going through a tough rebuilding time necessary for success. They have optimism in their upcoming stars, Winston Chow, Abbey Winant, George Cox, and Nick Lessard. Hopefully, Coach Forney will be able to quickly rebuild the team into strong competitor.

## Boy's Wrestling: Optimism for the Future

By David Papa

Over the past few years, the Boy's Wrestling team has been one of the most successful teams at Rutgers Prep. Under the leadership of coaches Robert Dougherty and Garikai Campbell, the boys have been able to gather many conference and state titles. In addition, many team members have achieved personal success. Unfortunately, many of these wrestlers have now graduated. Although there are one or two strong wrestlers remaining, the team is now looking to rebuild from the inside.

Luckily there is optimism for the future. The current Middle School wrestling program is extremely successful, and the coaches are looking forward to working with the upcoming young talent. Also, talented freshman and sophomores will now fill many of the weight classes.

This season's brightest stars were two of the oldest team mem-

bers. The lone senior, David Papa, finished his career at Prep with the same winning ways that have characterized his success throughout high school. This year, junior Craig Feinberg, who worked extremely hard during off-season, helped Dave support the team. Unfortunately Henri Renard, another junior, was injured early in the season and was unable to contribute. Hopefully he will rejoin the team in the future.

Although the team's record did not compare to those of past years, the team did experience some success in key matches. In this year's Prep B Conference Championships, held at Prep, the team fared very well. David Papa and Craig Feinberg won their respective weight classes. Chris Wethern, John Vicari, Alon Tabak, Brett Rubin and Herb Roberts all placed second. Overall, the team placed third. At the state tournament,

held at Peddie, Dave Papa finished in second place, while Craig Feinberg finished a strong third.

In addition to these tournaments, Boy's Wrestling spent a weekend in late February competing in a national tournament at Lehigh College. Given the intense competition, Prep wrestlers found success hard to come by. The only wrestler to win even one match this year was David Papa. Unfortunately, he was unable to progress any further.

Even though the team finished with an unimpressive 3-9 record, the future looks bright. Rising talent includes John Vicari, Brett Rubin, Alon Tabak, Dave Thompson, Chris Wethern and Greg Verb. Next year, juniors Craig Feinberg and Henri Renard will captain the team. With the addition of several much needed heavyweights, the team should be able to improve on this year's lackluster performance.

## A Tough Year For Boy's Basketball

By Justin Auciello

The 1995-96 Boy's Basketball team ended with a lopsided 6-18 record, but that doesn't tell the whole story. Playing with one freshman, three sophomores, seven juniors, and only one senior, the team had an uphill climb this year. The team had trouble rebuilding after three key starters, Mike Maccia, Scott Stenkiewicz, and Jamie Jimenez, graduated last year. Led by captains Joe Zizewski and Jason Maikos, and Coaches Dick "Oke" O'Connell and Scott Neal, the young team had hope, and next season it will surely do better.

As always, the team played a tough schedule, facing such dominating schools as Franklin, Lawrenceville, and Wardlaw Hartridge. Throughout most of the season the starting five consisted of senior center John Kansfield, junior center-forward Joe Zizewski, junior point guard Jason Maikos, sophomore forward Will Pabst, and freshman guard Jarrett Sutton.

Maikos, assuming the position of point guard, again led RPS on the court this year. Although Zizewski did not know if he would play this year, because of an injury, he came out and dominated

the middle of the court, collecting numerous rebounds, rejections and points. Kansfield added depth to the team with his ability to reject shots and rebound. Pabst utilized his rebounding and blocking skills to rule the inside of the court. Sutton completed an excellent freshman year, showing his ability to do just about anything on the court.

The solid starting five usually played most of the games because of its consistency and teamwork. Juniors Mark Markowski and Jeremy Kenney, sixth and seventh men off the bench respectively, helped the team with quick-wit and sportsmanship. The rest of the team consisted of juniors Joe Fuoco, Scott Yelity, and Dave Weitz, and sophomores Zack Solomon and Ian Liggett.

This season, the boys were extremely excited about traveling to Florida to play basketball at the Saint Andrews Tournament in Boca Raton during winter break. The trip included a lot of fun, team bonding, and participation in a very competitive tournament. The head coach of Saint Andrews is Oke's son, John O'Connell.

Unfortunately, the team had some very large defeats and down-

falls this year. Going into Prep's own Holiday Tournament, the team was favored to defeat Blair; however, the team lost a hard and emotional game to five post-graduates. Some other tough defeats came at the hands of a quick, strong, and athletic Franklin team, a mostly post-graduate Lawrenceville team, and a veteran Wardlaw-Hartridge team. The team earned second seed from last in the Prep B Tournament and the Somerset County Tournament, and exited early in both.

The team did have some upbeat victories this year. They staged a comeback win over Gill Saint-Bernards, and played very well in the Saint Andrews Tournament, reaching the finals.

Rutgers Prep Basketball will miss its lone senior this year, John Kansfield, and will hope to rebound from its mediocre record. Watch out for this team next year, as they could be contenders for the Prep B Conference Championship. As coach O'Connell nears the end of his long career, the boys will try to awaken the winning ways of Rutgers Prep Basketball for one last time.