

THE ARGO

Vol. 100, No. 3

RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY, 1989

RPS Annual Blood Drive — A Success

Each year Rutgers Prep students who are seniors and have reached the age of seventeen are eligible to donate blood. Students however, are not the only ones who give at the blood drive. Students, faculty, and administration alike are among those who give.

Giving a pint of blood can be trying to almost any person. But there are those who cannot give

this amount without jeopardizing their health. People under the weight 130 pounds are not allowed to give at the Prep drive. Precautions are also taken for those who do give. Orange juice and cookies are among the foods periodically given to people after they have given blood to keep them functioning normally. The act of giving blood is bad enough in its own right. But the after effects can be

just as bad. Being depleted of a pint of blood can cause a loss of energy and drowsiness. In most people, the affect-effects of giving blood are not that major.

Blood is an absolutely essential resource to medical practice. The donation of blood is a very philanthropic activity. The reason is that the price of blood can be economically crushing. Thus, Prep's blood drive is an important gift to society. The blood donated goes to help people and institutions. This annual event has been going on for years and will hopefully last for many more. The good it does is obvious. Blood is an essential resource. Prep has been and will be providing it.

School Council Giving Spirit

In the recent holiday season Rutgers Prep contributed its services in more ways than one. The school council is responsible for many such actions during all seasons. But its contributions during this holiday season have a special meaning to many children and families.

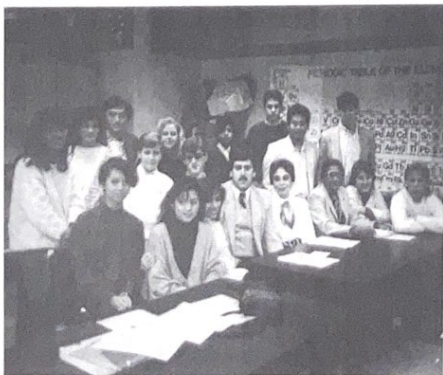
The first school council sponsored activity is the annual toy drive. This year's drive was a little different than previous ones. Students were still asked to contribute new or little used toys. But this year a personal touch was added to the program. A tree was created documenting the age, sex, and likes and dislikes of each of the fifty children involved. Under the name of each child a card was placed. Prep students chose the child they wished to buy a gift for and took that child's card. The student would then return the card with the gift for that child. The advantages of this type of program are that each

child gets a gift that suits his/her preferences. The program as a whole has been a great success. This year, with its new method, it went especially well.

Another activity which the school council sponsors is a Christmas dinner for ten families in our area. On Friday, December 16th, the school council sponsored a dress down day to provide funds for the Christmas dinners. According to council vice president Paul Konigsberg, once people knew the cause of the dress down day, they gave even more than the prescribed amount to dress down. The food was delivered to the families on December 22nd.

Overall, Rutgers Prep has a lot of giving potential. Between the new community service program and the school council, Prep's additions to its community are becoming larger and larger. These two holiday events have been and hopefully will be successful. The toy drive provides toys for children who would receive little or nothing under ordinary circumstances. The dress down day provides a Christmas dinner for ten needy families. Both these events are examples of the school council's carefully planned community services.

**Have a concern,
an idea, a question?
Why not write a
letter to the editor
(submit to
Adrienne Towsen)**



The R.P.S. School Council—the driving force behind our giving spirit.



Mrs. Lair—She not only donates her time and effort to organize the blood drive, she donates her blood as well.

Prep Computerizes Grades With Ease

Recently home room teachers handed out various forms for their students to fill out. These forms, similar to S.A.T. tests, are part of Prep's new computerization of records. For roughly three years, Rutgers Prep has been using computers to house certain information. The information, documenting a short series of facts on each student, has recently been revised. The sheets, similar to S.A.T. tests and requiring a number two pencil to be filled out, added more to the present arsenal of facts. All present Rutgers Prep students will not have to fill out these sheets again. The information forms will now be used for incoming new students.

Another impact of Prep's new computerization lies in report cards. Instead of the old written forms, future report cards will be

composed on a computer printer. This system provides an easier distribution of report cards when the time comes to give them out. It also provides a permanent reference in terms of grades.

The advantages of a computerized record keeping system are already evident. Sending out report cards is still a time consuming activity. But printing out the cards is much easier than manually writing out each one. It is also easier to add onto information previously recorded. Each time a report card was produced in the past, all information had to be transcribed from records to actual report cards. With the computer, information can be updated and printed more easily. Thus, although Prep's new involvement in computers could have complications, on the most part it simplifies things.

Campus News

Stay tuned for followups to...

The peer leaders regrouped on a mid-winter retreat.

The Student Spotlight entertained audiences with drama and music.

School Government welcomed new faces after Council elections.

Coach O'Connell's team beat Neuman Prep—his 600th win.

The Academic team, now 4-3, competed at the rigorous Ridgewood tournament.

And...Congratulations to Mrs. Wacker who was named as one of the outstanding A.P. teachers in the country.

Students go to Spain SES Stays Alive

In March, a group of Rutgers Prep students will be embarking on an exchange program with students in Spain. Last year's trip of a similar nature failed because an insufficient number of students signed up. This year however, eleven students expressed an interest in the trip.

This will be Rutgers Prep's second exchange with students in Spain. The last time, in March of 1987, Prep students stayed in the state of Catalunya. This year, the town will be right outside of Madrid. For most of the three weeks the students will be staying with their host families. For four days however, the Prep contingent will be travelling around Spain. Among the cities they will visit are: La Granja, Segovia, Salamanca, and Avila. A significant factor in the stay of the Prep students is that their presence

corresponds with holy week in Spain. This week, containing the holiday of Easter, is the most important in Spain. The trip will be lead by Mrs. Hagin, who headed the last trip. She has also headed many Prep trips to Spain in past years.

The experience offered in an exchange program is a unique one. Students know little of what they have waiting for them in a particular country. In many instances they must adjust to what they are unfamiliar with. An exchange program offers the same for foreign students who wish to reside here for a period of time. Language is another thing which must be catered to. In some trips it is not necessary to use a foreign language because certain areas cater to tourists. However, staying in a foreign home students must learn to use their language

studies to the best of their abilities. Thus, an exchange program forces students to improve their language skills.

Besides being in Spain during holy week, the Prep students will also be present during their exchange student's vacation. This opens many different possibilities for visiting students. Some Prep students will be able to go skiing or visit other parts of the country. Besides language, Prep students will have to deal with other cultural differences in Spain. Food, for example, can be very different from in the U.S. Customs differ greatly as well. Dinner, for example, is a light meal. The main meal is served at 2:00 in the afternoon. Culture, as well as language, will be something the exchange students must adjust to.

Editorial

You're not actually going to go there, are you? Exactly where is that school, I've never heard of it before? Is that really the best school you were accepted to? All of these questions and many others are heard by seniors as soon as they begin to make the dreaded college decision.

All of the hard work is over. Stressing over applications and the ever long wait to hear has ended, and now you must actual-

ly make a decision. For some it's easier than others, whether it be early decision acceptances or other top choice admissions, that choice is clear. The problem develops for those who are unsure between the 6, 8, 10 or however many schools they applied to of where they want to go. There is also the problem of compromise. If that top choice acceptance doesn't materialize, which continued on page 3

Movie Review

Ron Lahiri

This past holiday provided the public with a wide variety of movies to choose from. Many of the unfortunate who didn't go to Florida for the holidays had to content themselves by seeing a movie to celebrate the Yuletide season. "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels", "The Naked Gun", and "High Spirits" were three comedies which had their audiences welcoming the new year with a good laugh.

"Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" was a movie about two con-artists, one a millionaire, played by Michael Caine, and the other a cheap American con scamming for a couple of bucks, played by Steve Martin. When the two meet, they form a hilarious relationship. They go into the scamming business together for a while, until they make a bet over who is actually the better con-artist. The movie is ironically funny all the way through and has an unimaginably surprising ending. Thumbs Up!!

Dying Environment

During the past year's presidential race we heard a lot of rhetoric about the environment from both candidates. Michael Dukakis pointed out the Reagan administration's poor record on the environment and stressed his own commitment as an environmentalist. George Bush harped on the environmentally ugly condition of Boston Harbor, while portraying himself, somewhat ridiculously as an environmentalist. Well, we all know who won. We are now waiting to find out if the newly inaugurated President Bush will live up to his promises as America's quickest recruit (during the campaign) to the environmental cause. Without being partisan, or even nationalistic, one must look at environmental problems on the global scale to truly comprehend their awesome magnitude. With such problems as global warming, overpopulation, the depletion of the ozone layer, deforestation, and improper waste disposal the entire planet must cooperate to survive this man-made scourge. To awaken those who haven't realized the dire consequences that our neglect of the environment has caused over the past century, here are some facts:

—The phenomenon known as global warming, or the 'greenhouse effect' which is predicted to raise the Earth's temperature up to about 8 degrees, may transform the entire U.S. farm belt into a desert and flood many coastal areas.

—During the next century the

"The Naked Gun", a farce from the makers of "Airplane!" is an incredibly hilarious movie that displays the antics of the Inspector Gadget-type investigator trying to find out about the attempted murder of his partner (played by O.J. Simpson). One would have to see the movie at least three times in order to catch every single joke in the movie. The comedy is endless. The audience walked out with stomach aches from laughing so hard. Thumbs (ha!) Up!!

"High Spirits" unfortunately put a damper on everyone's holiday this year. It was tedious, boring, and dragged out. It wasted the acting talents of Peter O'Toole. It is the story of how the staff of an old hotel use its hauntedness to attract guests. Steve Guttenberg's phony "Be Happy!" attitude was enough to make anyone vomit. The plot was weak, the jokes were dumb, and Steve Guttenberg was sickening after one and a half hours. Thumbs Down!!

world's current population, over five million people, is expected to double, creating an unprecedented shortage of resources.

—By 1993 five thousand of the U.S.'s six thousand landfills will be filled and closed. The U.S. currently dumps over 80% of its waste in these landfills.

—The world's rain forests are being depleted at the rate of one football field a second. Over the next thirty years it is predicted that man will drive thirty species into extinction every day.

The above are only a tiny fraction of the environmental problems which affect the world today. Hopefully some readers will be scared by the consequences of these problems, because they should. For those who don't care what kind of world they leave to their children... listen up. Many of the above problems, such as global warming, are expected to afflict us during the next fifty years—we'll still be alive then. For those who don't believe in catastrophic (but true) predictions—environmental problems are already afflicting us on a daily basis. During the past two summers many of us were afraid to do something as simple as walking on a New Jersey beach, for fear of stepping on a hypodermic needle which was so considerably disposed of in our own waters. Only a few miles from the school, in East Millstone (much too close to the author's residence, I might add) there are plans to build a toxic waste incinerator.



The Senior Plight

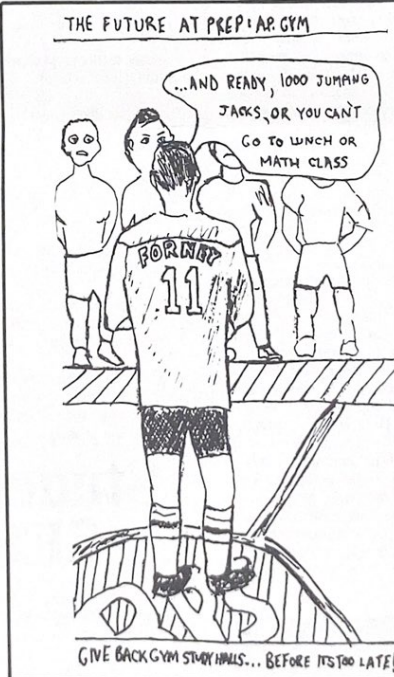
Chris Racich

The late January wind blew against the window as the student (let's call him Joe) huddled in his sweats to stay warm. It was 8:00 on the Monday before exams, and this student's worst nightmare had come true. His first mid-term

exam began promptly at 8:45 the next morning, only twelve hours away, and Joe had no idea what he was studying. After the previous week's workload, with teachers giving tests and quizzes because the quarter was ending and college applications being

finished and handed in, Joe's mind had turned to mush. I'm a senior, he thought with confusion. This is supposed to be the easiest year of high school. Yet there was Joe, with pudding between his ears, studying for an exam that might change his life. You see, Joe had not been accepted by a college yet, and if he screwed up these tests, the college of his choice would see the results on that innocent looking "Mid Year Report" form. He had worked on the assignments and tests of the past two semesters until his fingers bled (figuratively) with good results, but these tests could torpedo the grades that his college choices would receive. Joe thought about this as he tried to comprehend the book in front of him, and he knew terror.

This is the kind of hell that seniors all over the country experience in greater and lesser degrees. The fact that almost a third of the senior year grade (the part that really counts) rests on the results of these cumulative tests can chill the blood of even the most confident senior. Even those who have already been accepted to college realize that a 'F' on an exam could spell the end of their attending "First Choice U.". Of course the underclassmen feel the pressure of exams, but these tests are a senior's last chance to succeed or fail. All the seniors past and present know this horrible fact and some are scarred for life. For those who have yet to experience this week of torture, beware.



Because of the fact that these environmental problems threaten the survivability of the human race itself, it is time we took action. To really make a dent in these problems there must be international cooperation and mobilization on these issues, but let's at least start at home first. As American citizens it is our duty to implore our new President to tackle the many environmental problems which threaten us much more than some looming, vague, if not unrealistic, possibility of a Communist takeover. There is no longer time for bad Boston Harbor joke, Mr. Bush...we need action now!!!

THE ARGO

Rutgers Preparatory School

1345 Easton Avenue, Somerset, N.J.

VOL. 100—No. 3

CSFA First Place, 1983

Editor-in-Chief Adrienne Towsen

News Editor Craig Wacker

Opinions Editor Dev Lahiri

Features Editor Alex Wojtenko

Sports Editor Tony Foleno

Copy Editor Heather Bensko

Staff Nicole Chesman, Joe Davis,

Steve Finkelstein, Ron Lahiri, Joe Lacandro,

Ronke Olabisi, Vaishali Patel, Chris Racich,

Karen Robinovitz

Advisor Mrs. Wacker

Model Congress in D.C. Brings Gavels to R.P.

Karen Robinovitz

On December 15, 1988, 27 juniors and seniors met at the Metro Park train station at 7:30 A.M. destined for Washington D.C. for the Princeton Model Congress. Led by Mrs. Wacker and Mrs. Dutta, the students waited anxiously for the train with various thoughts running through their minds: will my bill pass? do I have enough research to back it up? do I know Parliamentary procedure? how am I ever going to carry my bags to the hotel? Students from different schools from all over the east coast gathered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel prepared for three days of meetings and debates.

The students were divided into congressional groups: the Red House of Representatives and the Red Senate, the White House of Representatives and the White Senate, and the Blue House of Representatives and the Blue Senate. From there, they were further separated into specialized committees. The Judiciary Committee had a special hearing with Edwin Meese's former spokesperson, Terry Eastland. The differences between the Constitution and Constitutional Law and the Legislature's rights to ignore a Supreme Court decision were

discussed with Eastland. "He was contradictory in his responses, but I expected that response from him," said junior Vaishali Patel.

Although the trip started off with a slight misfortune as one of our students went home sick, the group continued undaunted, passing and defeating bills and resolutions. Jim Fox's bill was made law. It prohibited dumping any nuclear waste in a national park or within a 50 mile radius of a national park. Marc Weitz's bill became law, making all Democrats an endangered species within a 10 mile radius of the White House.

Within each committee, the better speakers received honorable mentions, and the gavel award was presented to the one speaker with the most influence on his or her group. Akihiko Katayama, Marc Weitz, Dev Lahiri, and Vaishali Patel all received honorable mentions. Danny Karen and Melanie Dever received the gavel award. As Danny Karen received his award, he commented, "My heart was pounding. I was really surprised that I had done so well and was recognized for it. I am really excited."

During the hours when no

meetings were held, the students had free time to socialize, eat, and see Washington. Some visited Georgetown University, malls in Georgetown, the Capitol Building and other famous monuments, and museums; others went ice skating or to the movies. James Talbot said, "Ice skating was definitely the highlight of all of my free time!" The students became friends with those from other schools, and a dance was held on Saturday night. "It was quite an interesting weekend. It was really great because I had the chance to meet so many new people from all over," said Alex Wojtenko.

With Dev Lahiri as delegation leader and Chris Racich as assistant delegation leader, the weekend was an extraordinary success. Marc Weitz said, "I was insulted and outraged by the excessive \$1.25 price of a Pepsi, but other than that, I loved it!" "With the outstanding emergence of the juniors' political insight, I see nothing but a bright future for the Rutgers Prep delegation to the Princeton Model Congress!" said senior Mark Parker. He is absolutely right; we can expect to see more of our bills passed in years to come. "Thumbs up from here!" said senior Chris Racich.



Model Congress—an industrious group of juniors and seniors.

Editorial *continued*

school will I not be totally disappointed with?

With questions and concerns like those running through your mind, you don't need the added pressure of being labeled by your decision. As if there aren't enough labels, be it brain, jock, jap or any of the others, many seem to judge the high school senior first by where he/she applied, secondly by where he/she was accepted and finally by where he/she chooses to go.

I think much of this "labeling" comes from outsiders or people not particularly familiar with the college process, although some does come from closer sources like our peers. Each one of us is different with varied expectations, intentions, necessities and wants. Therefore, each one of us has certain criteria which must be met by the college we choose. Some fail to see why the characteristics they are looking for aren't the standard. Some can't comprehend why someone doesn't choose a college that seems to have all the right things not realizing that those things may not be the ideal situation for that person.

No decision is cut and dry. Our college choice will have a major effect on the next four years of our lives and most likely many years after that as well. We don't need critics when it comes to making this decision, all we need is support.

Coming Up . . .

- Feb. 15: Spirit Day
- Feb. 16: Model U.N. to Washington D.C.
- Feb. 17: Forensics Team to Harvard
- Feb. 18: Ski Club to Stowe
- Feb. 21: Outing Club Ski Trip to Camelback
- Feb. 25: Forensics Tournament at R.P.S.
- March 1: Spring Athletic Practice Begins
- March 3: Ski Club to Killington

Christmas in Paraguay A Different Celebration

Nicole Chesman

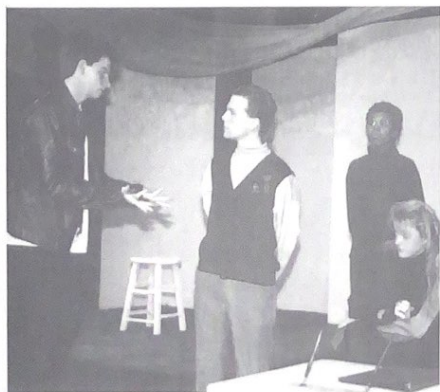
Even though Prep's community is small, it is fortunate enough to be diverse in its student body. Two of Prep's students, Nicole Fragano, grade 12, and her cousin Adriana Valdivinos, grade 9, celebrated Christmas in their homeland Paraguay. Christmas in Paraguay, according to Nicole, is celebrated quite differently from the way that we celebrate Christmas here in the United States.

In Paraguay, it is easy to smell Christmas in the air. The weather is very warm. White jasmine and coconut flowers are in bloom, and their sweet aroma fills the air. The Fragano family has a big celebration on Christmas Eve.

They have a big family dinner which most of Nicole's relatives attend. The dinner is similar to a feast and it lasts until midnight. At midnight, the young children set off fireworks, or "bombritos" and "manriscales", which can be heard all over the city. At the stroke of twelve, everyone has a glass of "lindra", an alcoholic beverage that is like champagne but is sweeter and less expensive. Then a toast is made, and "pan dulce", which is similar to fruitcake, is eaten. Presents are then exchanged between family members. Most of the families make their toasts in their backyards while admiring their "pesebre", a nativity scene made out of plants and fruits. There are often

contests held with prizes given for the best "pesebre."

Even though the traditions and customs of the Christmas celebration in Paraguay are different from our own, there is still the same spirit of love and close family ties as there is in the United States.



From "Antigone"—Steve Kravetz, Jon Davidson, Akin Salawu, and Nancy Sierotko.

"Antigone" — A Success RPS Drama — Strong as Ever

Joe Davis

Prep's Drama Club adds "Antigone" to its list of successful performances. The first production of the '88-'89 school year, performed December 8-10, surprised audiences. Those who didn't really know what they were coming to see were confronted with a show very different from last year's productions. While *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Children's Theatre*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* were all comedies, *Antigone* is unquestionably a tragedy. The same actors who last year buried dead bodies in the cellar, instructed children how to eat peas and fell in love with donkeys now dealt with a much more serious topic: the desecration of the dead.

The story of *Antigone* has been around some 2500 years, and was first written down by Greek tragedian Sophocles. The version the Drama Club performed was written by Jean Anouilh in the 1940's. Although Anouilh updated the play, the story remains the same. Oedipus' son Polynices

becomes a traitor when his brother Eteocles refuses to step down from the throne. In the course of the civil war, the brothers kill each other. Creon, the new king, issues an edict that Eteocles is to be given a state funeral, but Polynices is to be left in a field to rot. Antigone feels that even though Polynices was an evil brother, she must give him a decent burial, even if it means her own death.

The play featured Drama Club veterans Candace Juman in the title role, Ezra Weisz as Creon, Steve Kravetz and Jason Grey as Guards, Alex Wojtenko as the Nurse, and Joe Davis as the Greek Chorus. Newcomers to the Prep stage included Jon Davidson as Haemon, Adrienne Johnson as Ismene, Scott "Battalion" Mory as a guard, Nancy Sierotko as the Messenger, Akin Salawu as the Page and Hailee Fish as Eurydice. Another new face involved in the production was that of Miss Jessica Vitkus, the director. A recent Columbia University graduate, Miss Vitkus is tak-

ing the place of English teacher/director Peter Herzberg, who is on sabbatical.

There were many technical obstacles to overcome in the production of *Antigone*. First, technical director/Science teacher David Hickson left Prep at the end of last year. The Drama department hired Mr. Churchill Clark to take over the position. The vacant position of student technical director was ably filled by senior Kent Sheasley. A few hours before one performance, the tech staff realized that two of the stage lights were not working, but it was not long before they were tackling the problem, and had the lights working before showtime.

For its next productions, the Drama Club will have a *Student Spotlight*, which will be three nights of student written and student directed plays along with a cabaret talent show, all being held February 2, 3 and 4. In the spring, Mrs. Barbara Herzberg will direct Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

Wrestlers' Determination Shows With 6-2 Record

Prep's wrestling team has gotten off to a strong start this season and is looking to keep on winning. The team's spirit, talent, and depth are factors which have led the squad to its current success. Though the team has lost several of last year's key seniors, such as Chris Santi and Keith Hancox, new leaders have emerged to continue last year's strong season.

Among those leaders can be counted tri-captains Adam Balsam, George "The Animal" Barrood and Emile LeMoigne. Each has exemplified the commitment necessary to win. Currently, Balsam leads the team in points. One of the season's most memorable moments came when Barrood pinned an opponent in ten seconds flat, only a fraction off the school record. Barrood has also racked up many team points. Junior Emile LeMoigne

has the season's second fastest pin at twenty-four seconds. Truly, these captains have set the tone for this season.

Another key factor, of course, is the team's enthusiastic and experienced coaching by both Bob Dougherty and his assistant Bob Marotto. Adam Taylor, the team's second ranked wrestler in terms of points, had this to say: "Coach really knows his stuff. He is an excellent influence on the team."

Newcomers such as Jay Muccioli, Mike Kukak, Rob Wines and Shaun Barber show much future promise and add to the team's depth. Seth Rosenbaum and Dilano Cupprue have greatly improved since last season and now both make many valuable contributions. Junior Josh Greenstein, sophomore Mark Poole and the consistently strong sophomore Scott Goldberg all promise

to be future leaders, and currently are amassing large numbers of points.

The only negative aspect of this season that many wrestlers complain about is the lack of fans they get at each match. Fan support can be advantageous for the wrestlers.

At the current record of 6-2, the team looks like it's going places. Especially memorable for the boys was their mauling of Saddle River, where they won ten individual matches, nine of them pins. The team hopes that such spirit and success will continue throughout the rest of the season.



Captain Heather Bensko prepares for a foul shot at a recent home game.

Boys' B-ball Maintains Intensity Despite Record

Steve Finklestein

The Varsity boys' basketball team is having a rough beginning this year, with a record of only four wins and twelve losses. The team is at a disadvantage, though, because they are faced with a very hard schedule as well as tough reputation to maintain. The squad has often been the strongest of Prep Athletics in past years, but with the loss of many valuable players, this year's team is struggling.

Captains Tim Herrmann and Darrell Breyer show strong leadership as well as skill. Tim, a senior and a point guard, is noted for his loyalty to the team. He plays enthusiastically at all times and can be seen as the foundation of the team. Darrell can be found all over the court and is the highest scorer on the team, averaging 25 points per

game. His best games were against Immaculata, where he scored 40 points, and against Franklin, where he made 35 points. Other starting players are Scott Johnson, Andrew Morrison, and Kevin Lawner. Scott Johnson, a junior, is said to be an excellent rebounder. He scores well underneath, and Scott's good jump shot sometimes allows him to score 20 points per game. Andrew Morrison, a senior, is a guard who has a good three point shot. Kevin Lawner is a good defensive player who is noted as being very unselfish. Other team players are Roger Chen, a point guard with good jumping abilities, Matthew Lehnagan, a defensive player, and Bob Malik, a forward and shooter. Several freshmen, Doug Brown, Tim Coakley, and Collin Simons provide a bright future for Prep Basketball.

Although the team's record is only 4-12, the squad remains undefeated in their conference

division. Their goal is to win Conferences and they do have a chance of winning the State tournament. Prep basketball has fared well in several of their tournaments. At Peddie, they lost a close game to Valley Forge, a team of postgraduates, by only three points. In the Prep Christmas tournament, the squad lost to Saddle River in the finals. The team has had victories over Wardlaw Hartridge, Newark Academy, and Princeton Day School.

The future seems better for Prep Basketball, as they have already played the toughest teams on the schedule. With their latent skills as well as some luck, the team may finish with a record close to the .500 mark. The team's goals of winning both the Conference and State tournaments don't seem unreasonable. As captain Tim Herrmann stated, "Using the old cliché, we're not as bad as we look."

V-ball Beats P.D.S.

Vaishali Patel

Although the girls' Varsity volleyball record of 2-5 may seem disheartening, there is much hope for the future. This hope is based upon their J.V. record of 5-0. From this record, one can see that within a few seasons, the Prep volleyball team will be very strong. As Coach Nestvogel remarked, "The best thing right now is that we have a lot of underclassmen who are dedicated and work hard."

Practices are long and hard. One might have thought that because three sports play in the gym, practices would be cut short; however, this is not true. As explained by player Maria

Bondoc, their time off the court is used to build up their strength by running up and down the stairways and doing other exercises. The Varsity team's dedication and teamwork payed off, as shown in their win against P.D.S.

Prep was considered the underdog in its game against P.D.S., and were lightly regarded. However, the team disregarded this and played well together to beat them in two games. This game gave much needed confidence to the team. Both Megan Coakley, co-captain of the team, and Coach Nestvogel considered the P.D.S. game to be one of the high points in the season so far and look forward to the rest of the season with high hopes.

Swimmers 2nd In Confs.

This year's swim team is one of the best in Prep history, mainly due to the team's outstanding senior members. The seniors have not only added depth to the squad, but they have also shown a remarkable pool of talent (no pun intended). The team's efforts culminated in the dramatic Conference championships, where the swimmers placed second overall.

Todd Haedrich is recorded to have said, "We've got the depth that we need. We've got the swimmers that we need. All we need now is the Conference championship." And the team came remarkably close to obtaining this goal, only beaten by that perennial powerhouse and home team, Morristown-Beard. Haedrich himself gained a personal victory, as he was the only

swimmer at the entire meet who garnered three first places. One of them was in breast stroke, where he cut several seconds off his already low personal best. Two of the team's other stars, Paul Wiener and Chris Conlon, received a first place and two second places apiece. Everybody was psyched for the meet and each swimmer strove to contribute team points. Many came out with personal bests to be proud of, such as Paul Konigsberg's personal best sixth place in breast stroke and Melanie Dever's eleventh place in fly.

"Awesome" seems to be a key word when the swimmers talk of their season. Key players of this season include Haedrich, Wiener, Conlon, Jim Fox, Mandy Holliday and Andrea Grumet, who showed her amazing talent by qualifying for the Easterns in four events. Several swimmers belong to other teams and therefore get a double dosage of swim practice each day.

Coach Forney agrees with the swimmers in his estimation of the season's success: "6-1 is very easy to say. We're having a very good year. We're going to miss those seniors next year."



The RPS Swim Team—a force to be reckoned with.

Girls' B-ball Rebounding

Joe Locandro

To most teams, the loss of a fantastic All-State player would destroy any hopes for a good season. But although former star Julie Conjak graduated Prep last spring, the 1988-89 Girls Basketball team has survived—and succeeded.

This year's girls squad is led by returning All-State player, senior Heather Bensko, who is captain of the team. Coach Mary Klinger, who has much praise for Bensko, calls her "A good leader and an excellent player. She's really the ideal captain." Heather is very proficient both in terms of her rebounding and inside shooting.

The team's starters include point guard Jen Gussis, who Klinger feels "...is improving steadily." Her ball handling is an asset to the team. Janice Kirschbaum and Alisha Coleman, the two starting forwards, have done excellent jobs under the basket, giving Prep a solid inside game. Nicole Chelel has also played

well. She is one of the team's better outside shooters.

Other players include Akinyi Ouma, Connie Conaway, Krista Stella, Ida Fiumefreddo, and Jessie Gopinathan. Gopinathan, who is normally Klinger's first reserve off the bench, has been out this season due to an injury.

Coach Klinger has established a ball-control type of offense where the players move the ball around and attempt high-percentage shots. On defense, the team plays a tight game, trying to force turnovers and getting the opposition out of sync.

The team is presently 4-4, coming off a close victory over Franklin where they won the "Mayor's Cup", 31-30. Klinger feels that "...our play has really improved." Both Coach Klinger and the team hope that the extra work they put in during the Christmas vacation will help them continue their success, and carry them to a State Championship title.