



# 1766 THE ARGOS

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## Narrow Victory for Governor Whitman

by Minesh Patel

As polls closed on November 4th, nobody was certain who would be New Jersey's next governor. Thought voting ceased at eight PM, the race remained undecided until approximately 12:50am. At that time, Democratic challenger Jim McGreevey gave his concession speech handing the race over to Governor Whitman. Libertarian Murray Sabrin resigned very early in the evening. Although McGreevey gained popularity by attacking Whitman's tolerance of high auto insurance rates and high tax rates, he could not bring down the incumbent.

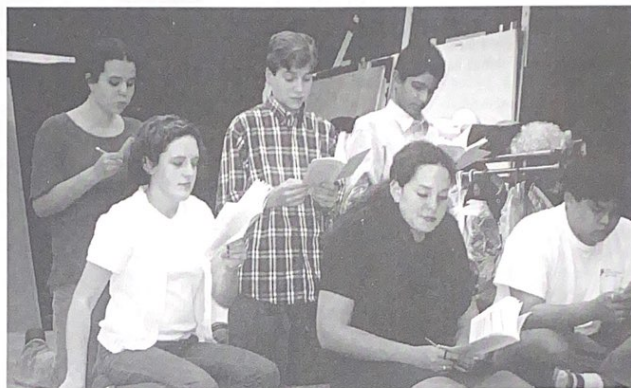
Some say that it was the late switch in strategy that saved the Governor. Three weeks before Election day, a campaign advertisement aired in which Whitman sadly admitted, "auto insurance and property taxes cost too much." In an attempt to gain the support of all the swing voters, Whitman took a gamble by admitting failure. She promised "to focus on auto insurance and property taxes if reelected. Her campaign advisors defended that they had no choice because the latest polls showed Whitman falling and McGreevey climbing. Her advisors felt that the people wanted her to send them a message, since many felt that she wasn't listening to their concerns. But she assured the people that she was listening, saying, "I heard you loud and clear."

Although every three out of five Sabrin voters polled said that they would have voted for McGreevey if Sabrin had not run, political experts believe that Whitman was hurt more by the 5% of ballots that Murray Sabrin won. If not for Sabrin, many think Whitman would have had a wider margin of victory. The race was so close that the outcome could not be determined until 99% of the districts had reported. When he conceded at 12:50am, Whitman had 47.3% of the vote, McGreevey had 46.6%, and Sabrin had 4.8% of the ballots cast. That one percent margin translates into less than 30,000 votes.

### DID YOU KNOW:

*Jim McGreevey was once a student of the great Mr. Walker.*

However, the race could have gone either way. McGreevey was helped by President Clinton's endorsement the weekend before. But, Whitman's risky ad campaign helped tilt the scale to her side and allow her to pull out a close victory. Everyone now awaits to see what plans that Whitman has for putting an end to the highest auto insurance rates in the United States. Whitman has four years ahead of her in which to prove her ability to take the state into the twenty-first century.



Kneeling cast members intently study their lines

## New Fools Take the Stage

### Eight actors will make debut in new "Fools"

by Mishana Prophete

Prep will follow up last spring's wildly successful "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" with another light comedy. But, besides genre, everything has changed. "Fools" will mark the debut of eight new actors to the Prep stage. This addition brings great change to the Prep drama department. "I was looking forward to working with the new students," says director Ms. Cora Turlish. "It's been very exciting."

"Fools" is a romantic-comedic fable by Neil Simon (writer of "Brighton Beach Memoirs" and "The Odd Couple"). It follows two life-changing days in the town of Kulyenchikov. The town is under a debilitating curse of stupidity inflicted by the evil Count, played by Dipak Debiswas. Leon Tolchinsky, played by Jeremy Wang-Iverson, is the teacher who tries to edu-

cate the people and break the curse. In the process of doing so he falls in love with a local girl named Sophia Zubritsky, played by Aubrey Hebda-Bolduc. Sophia's parents, played by Dave Pung and Rachel Rosenstein, make a funny couple adding even more humor to the plot. Even more laughs are provided by the village dwellers, played by Justin Slawson, Jason Dalal, Luba Reife, Samantha Simon, and Lee Scheinbeim.

Jason and Justin talked about how excited they are to be working in Upper School Drama. Jason said, "It's really a lot harder than you'd think." Justin, who plays a sheppard, is struggling to master the skill of blowing a sheep horn. Jeremy notes how the cast is "So much different than any other cast I've worked with. However, it still will be a very successful show."

The set is simple; bright costumes will stand out against an all black set. Subtle set changes will change the scene from inside to outside. Matt Krolak, stu-

dent technical director, was very happy to see new technicians Theresa Lin, Jen Snukis, and Nayla Oliver join tech veterans Nick Lessard, Eric Lemmo, Gina Tarlton, and Brad Blecker in creating the stage for this year's production.

If you're going off to Model Congress, be sure to catch the Wednesday show. Otherwise, there are three other nights on which you can catch this production. Fools offers its audience comedy, romance, and heart stopping drama. Come see some of the best actors Prep has to offer. We don't think you'll regret it. Both the actors and the technicians have labored day and night to bring enjoyment into the lives of the public. Performances run Wednesday, November 19th through Saturday, November 21 in Holley Hall with a faculty preview on Tuesday night. All shows begin promptly at 8 PM. Get your tickets now!! The prices are five dollars in advance and seven dollars at the door. Hope to see you there!

## SCHOOL COUNCIL DATES TO REMEMBER

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| November 14th: | Dress Down Day for Leukemia Society                              |
| November 18th: | Nominations due for School Council Archivist                     |
| November 24th: | End of the Can Drive   |
| December 5th:  | Dress Down Day<br>(for those who donated cans for the Can Drive) |
| December 10th: | Blood Drive  |

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# All School Trip Day

## Prep Plays Madison Square Garden

by Sahil Khanna

The 1997 junior and senior class trip to Madison Square Garden and Lincoln Center was a resounding success due to both the variety of what it offered and the efficiency of its execution. The trip offered something for everybody. For the artistic and culture loving student, Lincoln Center offered many architecturally, musically, and dramatically oriented interests. For the excited New York Ranger's and Knick's fans, MSG provided several fascinating and thrilling insights.

The Lincoln Center part of the trip included a guided tour of all the main buildings in the center. Students were led by homerooms through a series of backstage tunnels and the underground parking garage to all of Lincoln Center's main sights. Students saw the titanic sized opera hall where modern and classical operas are performed daily. Some groups even got a chance to hear part of the New York Philharmonic, the highest paid and most competitive orchestra in the world. Others got the opportunity to see and hear the rehearsal of a new opera called *Xerxes*.

Students with architectural interests were not disappointed by the design of Lincoln Center. The building that houses the opera hall was designed by one of the founders of the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art. It was created to mimic the look of the interior of a jewel box, to which the three story work of art

showed countless references.

Though Lincoln Center was very gratifying, many students found MSG to be a much more interesting and more enjoyable place to visit. Madison Square Garden is located close to the heart of New York so we were surrounded by a great deal of excitement.

The tour led us up one of the two private entrances to the "greatest sport's arena in the world," and then gave us a glimpse of the informal sport's bar and restaurant and the private, formal dining room. We were then given a tour of one of the special twelve seat suites which provided us with an eagle's eye view of the Madison Square Garden arena. The suites cost a reported one million dollars for three years and, thus, are only owned by the big financial corporations. We then followed our guide down to the arena itself which was frozen for that night's Ranger game. After receiving a captivating lecture on how they made the ice and how they removed the basketball court, we went down to get a tour of the Knick's locker room. The trip concluded with our visit to a smaller concert hall below the main arena.

All in all, the majority of the people who went on the trip liked it and recommended it for next time. There was something for the sports enthusiast as well as for the lover of the arts. The fact that the trip was so well organized and planned to cater to such varied interests made the day a very enjoyable one.

## Flash into the Orient

by Deepti Anbarasan

On Wednesday, October 24th, approximately half of the freshman class went to Chinatown, New York. This trip focused mainly on the immigration problems of people coming to the United States at the turn of the century.

Mrs. Doryumu's, Mr. Avella's, and Ms. Ables' homerooms were grouped together for this trip to Chinatown. Upon our arrival, we were immediately shocked by the temperature, which seemed below freezing. With jackets zipped up all the way, we followed the lead of our tour guide who provided a new historical perspective of New York. The freshmen learned about the immigrants that came to the U.S. and the about the many problems they had faced upon arrival. They even saw some of the monuments that the immigrants had established in New York to practice their religions and occupations.

After the tour, the large group split up for an hour-long lunch break. Everyone battled the cold by ordering hot Chinese and Italian food. Many students challenged their tastebuds by trying foods like seaweed which one would be hard pressed to find in the Prep cafeteria.

After lunch, the three homerooms met and formed back into the big group. They visited a small museum that had fascinating ancient artifacts from the time when the Chinese started immigrating to the United States. However, as the old saying goes, "all good things must come to an end." It was soon time for the three homerooms to get back to Prep.

Rebecca Gunther summed up the trip's only flaw when she said, "It was pretty cool except for the fact that the streets were like wind tunnels." Other than the discomfort of the bone chilling cold, the freshmen enjoyed the trip immensely.



Students brave New York's busy streets and arctic conditions

## A Taste of Brooklyn's History

by Jose Torres

Wednesday, the day of the class trip had finally arrived. It was a day to be enjoyed and savored for we would be away from school for the entire day. Little did we know what was going to await us in the place they call Brooklyn!

It seemed innocent at first. We all boarded our assigned buses - I had the pleasure of riding with the classes that were to tour the Brooklyn Museum and Sunset Park. After all the heads were counted and the teachers made sure that no one was to be left alone, we went on our merry way. We were finally leaving campus.

The ride to Brooklyn seemed to last an eternity. But, when we arrived at our destination, we were all awakened by a sudden spur of action - our bus had hit a parked van and dented its bumper. After the chaos of the incident had died down, we continued on our way again. We soon arrived at the Brooklyn Museum.

In the museum, we viewed objects which represented the history of Brooklyn. Although the different exhibitions were quite interesting, most of us spent our time standing in front of a fun house mirror. In addition to the displays, we got to see a skit which had no characters and only consisted of voices and lights. Despite having no live actors, the skit allowed us to use our imaginations and turned out to be quite good. After leaving the museum, we set off on a walking tour of Sunset Park.

On the tour, we passed by many parts of Sunset Park, discussed their historical significance, and observed the different cultures that live there. Many of us, expecting a majority of the residents to be of the same ethnic background, were surprised at the diversity we found in that area. We soon left Sunset Park and made our way back to Prep. All in all, we had a wonderful time on the trip, and it was a nice learning experience.

## The Exquisite Grand Central Station

by Luba Reife

The trip to NYC on Wednesday, October 22nd could be considered a true success by Prep students. Most of us looked at it as a break in our otherwise monotonous routine and a chance to rest from classes. Since the students were grouped by homerooms, the trip was also intended to be a Prep "bonding experience." But, surprisingly enough, a lot of us actually enjoyed what we thought would be a painful experience.

The homerooms of Mrs. Herzberg, Mr. Nichols, and Mrs. Glennon had a rather interesting tour. Although most of us enjoyed visiting Madison Square Garden, we had a negative reaction to Grand Central Station. That reaction can be attributed to the fact that Grand Central is going through major reconstruction. Thus, a good part of the tour consisted of looking at black and white pictures showing the station's former glory. Perhaps it was too early in the morning for 40 people to use those images and their imagination to see the beauty and importance of the station. Furthermore, the anticipation of the upcoming lunch made it hard to concentrate on the tour guide.

Because the group was composed of juniors and seniors, the homeroom teachers put few lim-

its on our freedom during the two hours we had for lunch. Luckily for the group, the center of Manhattan is covered with small restaurants, delis, and fast-food spots. Many students even got a chance to walk around the area, considered one of the most incredible sites in the country.

Although most of us had been to Madison Square Garden at some point in our lives, the tour turned out to be an interesting experience. Even those of us that don't care much for the Knicks or the Rangers enjoyed seeing the skating rink and hearing about the numerous basketball games. The tour guide was kind enough to take us into one of the suites otherwise off limits to the regular crowds. For some students, however, the best part of the tour was the Knicks locker room. Afterwards, the tour guide showed us one of the auditoriums which was filled with busy people preparing for the VHI Fashion Awards. He was also kind enough to share a few peculiar facts about the Garden. Apparently, because of the architecture of Madison Square Garden, there could be 3 events taking place on three different levels.

We were all truly amazed by the sights we took in during our trip. The 1997 trip to NYC should go down in the records as one of the all time greatest.

## COMING UP IN FUTURE ISSUES

- *Department Heads: What exactly do they do?*
- *Model Congress: Will Ali Naqvi win the Presidency?*
- *Winter Sports Preview: Get the latest news on the Girls' Volleyball, Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, Boys' Wrestling and Co-Ed Swimming teams*
- *Winter Concert: Sooth the soul*
- *Winter Show: A mixture of skits, poetry, and music*



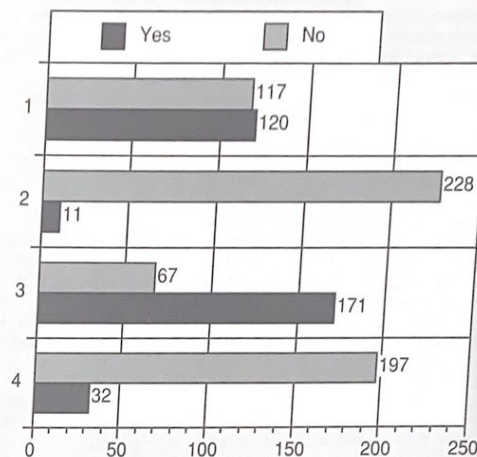
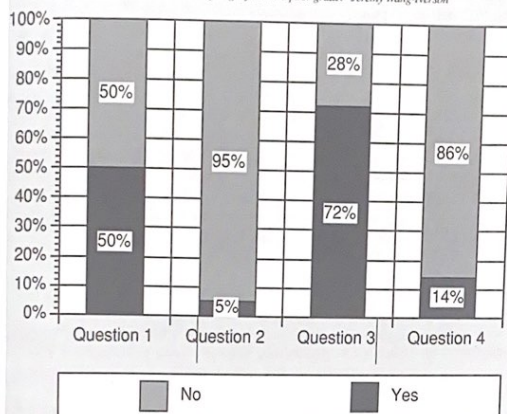
# Cheating at Prep: Special Report

In this wholesome community of Rutgers Prep, cheating is as common as seeing the colors maroon and white. From freshman year through senior year cheating is prevalent, though it becomes used more frequently as students get older. The acts and creativity of cheating that go on in this school are too incredulous to print in this paper; if it'll help someone's grade, it's certainly been done.

What moves kids to cheat? The pressure comes from three sources: teachers, parents, and students. Teachers are heard saying that it's about learning, but when you get to AP's, that general spirit seems to vanish. "You need to be getting 2/3 of these multiple choice questions right. Your parents aren't paying \$72 for this exam for you to get a 2." And this class is about learning? Maybe this pressure is good, it pushes us to study hard. What are the teachers supposed to do? But maybe it would also push kids to, oh I don't know, resort to other means.

The students most often found cheating are those right below the top tier, the kids who want to beat the 4.0 students but are not. Since middle school students have come in saying "Why can't you get grades like John?" Maybe the kids have already tried studying and it's not worked, so they cheat. Peer pressure. The competition found at Rutgers Prep is nauseating. When kids aren't getting grades to meet their own goals, but to simply be higher than other kids, something is very wrong. When you hear kids whining about A- and a B+ the strong student, but not the best, will try to reach that peak.

Cheating will never stop at Rutgers Prep. Let's face it, you might have learned your Biology but colleges don't and can't look at that: they might just see a poor grade. -Jeremy Wang-Iverson



## The Survey Questions:

- 1) Have you ever cheated on a test or quiz at Rutgers Prep?
- 2) If you saw someone cheating, would you report them?
- 3) Do you feel that Rutgers Prep pressures students too much when it comes to getting high grades?
- 4) Do you view cheating as a major problem at Rutgers Prep?

# Reactions to MECA Presentation

## False Perceptions of MECA

by Anu Subramanian

After the skits and discussions run by MECA on October 29, I heard many good things and just as many bad things about the program. Although I had always known that there was a generally negative feeling throughout the school about MECA, I had never realized the extent of this feeling. On that day, I heard that one student had called the club a cult, and many others denied its need in our school.

It is hard to believe that a single club can get so much flack, so much of which is rooted in misconception. Although most of the critics of MECA have never even been to one of the club's meetings, they are the first to speak out against the club. Like all clubs, MECA does have its problems. However, that doesn't entitle people to speak out against the club when they know nothing about it. For the most part, MECA has been a minority club. However, with the new influx of enthusiastic freshmen, MECA has become a more diverse organization. Our goals have changed with the new leadership, and so has our approach to achieving those goals.

People say that MECA has no place in our school. However, just last year a student came to the leadership of MECA about a racial problem on her bus. That student needed a group to talk to, and that person felt MECA would be the right outlet. MECA is not a club that wishes to force people to change their views. We wish to make people aware of those around them and more tolerant of different views. Students in our school deserve to live in a friendly environment in which they are protected from hurtful language and action.

Although MECA may have been seen as a preacher in the past, we have decided to change our image. Anyone can now walk into a MECA meeting, expound on their views, and be heard by an attentive audience of members. Though they may receive some opposition from the members, they would definitely not feel threatened. Too often, I find my fellow students saying that MECA does not represent their views or opinions; however, that is because that person has never come to a MECA meeting to voice their opinions.

## Roving Reporter: Prep Students Speak Out

Question: Do you think that the MECA presentation was effective in illustrating prejudices and stereotypes that are a problem at Rutgers Prep?

"At our school, there really is no problem of prejudice and by raising these issues, we're bringing about trouble where there was none to begin with. If you don't like someone in this school, it has nothing to do with race."

-Nina Needelman

"We attend Rutgers Prep School, a school of many ethnic groups and of wealthy middle class, well educated people. How can we really say that the racial issue is not a problem anymore on our campus? There are still a lot of people who suffer and are offended by cultural prejudices and racism. We are all "too narrowly focused".

-Homin Lee

"It was humorous but their goal was to change racism in the school and this wasn't accomplished. There's a lot of stereotyping by students, and they should've focused more on the sexism in this school."

-Will Pabst

"There was no racial tension until they brought it up. It is also my right to have preferences and even if I did have preferences, I'm mature enough to keep them to myself."

-Brian Benitz

"I think everyone could relate to the skits in one way or another since they merely reflected the diversity of our environment. Even if only a couple of people were deeply touched, it was worth it. MECA raised issues that are problematic yet rarely addressed in our school. I highly respect their initiative; it was a definite learning experience."

-Angela Lin

"The real problems of prejudice, like homophobia and prejudice against Indians and sexism, were not adequately addressed by the program."

-Amanda Rabinowitz

"I think the presentation was very necessary. To a point it was effective because I know that a lot of people came up to me later and said that they never realized that there were certain issues in the school because it was covered up so well. They personally started to think about it. I know a lot of people say the school's okay, but a lot of people were also open about it."

-Jyaldia Jones



## Announce This!

by Lon Zimmet, Amanda Rabinowitz, and Marvin Quesada

What would you do if someone got up to the podium and said, "I like meatloaf." We don't know what we'd do, but it would be a nice change of pace. Every day, we can count on Angela Lin going up to the podium during morning announcements and saying, "Good morning, student announcements." We also know that every day, Mr. Kaman is going to get up at the end of morning meeting and say, "If there's nothing else, I'd like to excuse the seniors first." Just recently we can depend on a certain sophomore's eclectic display of cross country announcements. Now we, Amanda, Lon and Master Marv are aspiring to be liberators of a school in bondage by a combination of the extremes, the mundane, and the over zealous. We, as the liberators, are attempting, not striving, to find a happy medium and forever free RPS from this never inspiring start to our daily routine.

As we see it, there are a couple of major problems with morning announcements. The first issue is the amount of time that these announcements take up. We'd like to think that we are speaking on behalf of the entire RPS student body when

we say that a few extra minutes in the lounge before our first period class would be nice. But all too often, this is not the case. Lately, it is more likely that announcements will spill into first period. This could be easily avoided by following our suggestion of practicing the art of being brief and concise. Skits that can be summed up in four words need not take four minutes of our morning, especially when they prove to be humorless and embarrassing for those involved (and in some cases even for audience). Also, sports announcements involving the phrase "we could use your support" is unimaginative if not detrimental to the actual cause of raising public enthusiasm. We prefer short phrases that get to the point like, "We will win, come watch," or "We will win, come watch or I will hurt you," or something to that degree. Saying they need support is like comparing us to an athletic supporter, which is a rather uncomfortable device that we do not like being compared to.

Furthermore, what we need is a gong. It would be in the junior lounge in that space that we got kicked out of because we were talking rather than listening to these ridiculous mockeries of announcements. If an announcement runs too

long or is (how should we put it?) so inane that it is painful to listen to, then an appointed junior will bang the gong, ceasing the announcement and doing what is "necessary and proper" for the "general welfare" of the community. If someone happens to get gonged, then that person will be banned from making announcements for that week. We feel that this punishment isn't too harsh and we can only hope that they learn their lesson.

We're not trying to put down anyone with this commentary, but only to inform and educate the misguided. We in fact applaud their confidence in making these various announcements, but we feel their efforts would be best directed to other purposes, like say the winter show, spring play, mariachi band or some other festive event that would make the best use of their talents.

In closing, we'd like to leave you all with this. Think before you speak. Will the senior class enjoy it? Will the junior class enjoy it? Will the sophomores or freshmen? But most importantly you should ask yourself if Marvin, Amanda and Lon will enjoy it. If the answer to that question is no, then please save your speech for Oscar night. Thank you, and have a nice day.

## Spotlight on the Cinema

by Justin Nichols and Denya ChinQuee

Welcome to The Argo's first ever movie column. The question you are probably asking is what do we know about being movie critics? Well, the answer is absolutely nothing. But we definitely know how to complain, a skill that makes us perfect for the job. So, without further ado...

"I Know What You Did Last Summer" is the new thriller from the makers of "Scream." A group of best friends in high school get in trouble on the night of their graduation. They run a man over after drinking themselves into a stupor. After trying hard to cover up the incident, the friends are shocked when a year later a man confronts them about it.

Denya: "I Know What You Did Last Summer" was definitely better than "Scream." I didn't think "Scream" was very scary, but this movie kept me jumping.

Justin: I thought this movie was pure crap.

Denya: That's intelligent.

Justin: The whole plot idea was weak, the actors were bad, the writing was horrible. The movie just didn't do anything for me.

Denya: I should hope not. But the general idea behind the story lent itself well to the horror genre.

Justin: NO! There was no idea behind the story, it wasn't even suspenseful to me. It felt like I was watching one of those low budget made-for-TV movies on Fox. One of those long and drawn out movies that you watch only because it is Thursday night and you don't want to do your homework. But, one thing bothered me in particular about the movie. Why in the world was that guy walking around in a fisherman's suit in the middle of the god forsaken summer? You know he was hot.

Denya: Justin, we're trying to be professional here.

Moving right along, the next movie is "Playing God," starring David Duchovny and some other people. The movie is about an ex-doctor who saved a criminal. The head of the crime syndicate befriends Duchovny and gives him the chance to be a doctor again on the condition that he will work for him. Duchovny's character gets caught up in the world of crime and struggles to keep from going under. Oh yeah, he's also a drug addict.

Justin: There was one real reason why I liked this movie, plain and simple.

Denya: And what was that?

Justin: David Duchovny. He's one fine piece of meat.

Denya: Well, I don't know about that.

Justin: But, in all seriousness, the movie's theme was excellent and it had an enormous amount of potential.

Denya: Potential that it didn't live up to.

Justin: Exactly, I couldn't agree with you more. I left the movie feeling empty and cheated of my 8 dollars, if you know what I mean. David was good, but nothing else was.

Denya: Wow! I actually I agree with you this time.

Justin: All in all, "Playing God" is a must see for all you "X-Files," or "Red Shoe Diary" fans out there (you know who you are). Unfortunately, by the time this gets to your hands it'll probably be long out of the theaters and well on its way to the "Request Channel" or "Viewer's Choice." So, just get your VCR's warmed up because this one is going to home video faster than you can say "Police Academy Mission to Moscow."

To recap the two movies reviewed: there was a split on "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and two thumbs down for "Playing God." Although Denya thought "I Know What You Did Last Summer" was a fairly good horror movie, Justin thought it was rehearsed nonsense and wasn't nearly as good as "Scream." "Playing God" got a mutual thumbs down from the two of them, a failure in every sense of the word. However, Justin still insists David Duchovny is one fine piece of meat.

## The Neglect of our Teams

by Sara Preschel

I have been attending Rutgers Prep for five years. When I first came in the Middle School I immediately realized that there were some drastic differences between Rutgers Prep and public schools. Many of the changes I experienced were for the better, such as smaller classes that provided more efficient one on one teaching and a safer atmosphere. But what I also soon realized was that the Rutgers Prep was not as skilled in sports as public schools. Rutgers Prep's records were not as successful as public schools and I wondered why. But now as a junior in high school I began to understand why Rutgers Prep was not as successful in the athletics department. In other public schools and private schools, the athletic department is considered a major aspect of the school. In our school, however, many people do not even involve themselves in sports due to lack of motivation. Our attempts to psych our teams with rallies are lame and pathetic. Our only other attempt to try to get the

student body involved in sports is Spirit Week, which does not attract a lot of students. We lack school spirit and drive, the drive that causes schools to have strong and successful athletic teams. We need motivation to draw in as many students as possible to participate in athletics. Coming from a small school like Rutgers Prep, the more people that participate, the more chances that a team will be successful.

Another problem that we face is the many inconvenient restrictions that we are forced to live with because they are beyond our control to fix. For example, consider the limited space in the gymnasium. Have you ever seen a home volleyball game and a home basketball game at the same time? Of course not, because we do not have the space. Have you ever wondered what that tiny little room is in the gym near the sports equipment room? For those not familiar with the wrestling team, that is where the wrestlers practice. Many people are squeezed into that hot and sweaty room, forced

within a room the size of a cubicle to prepare and practice for a match. Is that fair? Are these efficient practice conditions? Why does the school spend so much of its money in academics and not nearly enough in the athletics department? Is acceleration in athletics prohibited?

I am aware that there is a new gymnasium being built which will provide a lot more space. But this will not suffice. We will still not have a pool, which would really benefit the swim team, and other facilities that would help the cross country team. We are still lacking strong ingredients that will allow us to have a stronger athletic department. We need to get the student body involved more to create a sense of spirit and to have better teams. We must also raise enough money so we can modernize our facilities which will in turn improve the athletic teams. The neglect of the athletic department does not enable our teams to reach their potential. I do believe that academics is important, but I also believe that athletics is important too.

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