



THE ARGGO

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December 1998

Model Congress

by Maura Pritchard

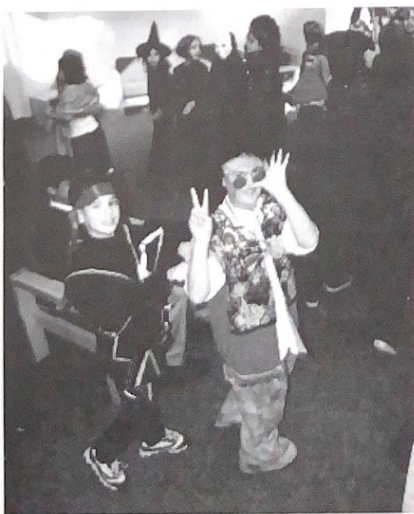
Newt Gingrich resigned as Speaker of the House, pink tiaras became the newest fashion statement, and Princeton University held its annual Model Congress in Washington D.C. It all happened the weekend of November 5-8, 1998.

Led by Mrs. Wacker and Ms. Mansfield, students from Rutgers Prep trooped down to the Capitol for this four-day trip in order to take part in a simulation of U.S. Congressional activities. Over the course of the weekend, delegates from forty schools worked in committee meetings, where they served as senators or representatives and learned much about the legislative process as well. One of our smallest delegations ever, only sixteen participants, this year's group was remarkably successful in their endeavors. Heather Crossner and Maura Pritchard were selected from among the entire congress of approximately seven hundred students to serve on the President's Cabinet, and Nina Needleman was chosen as a member of the press corps from the same pool of students. Homin Lee and Fred Kim had their bills signed into

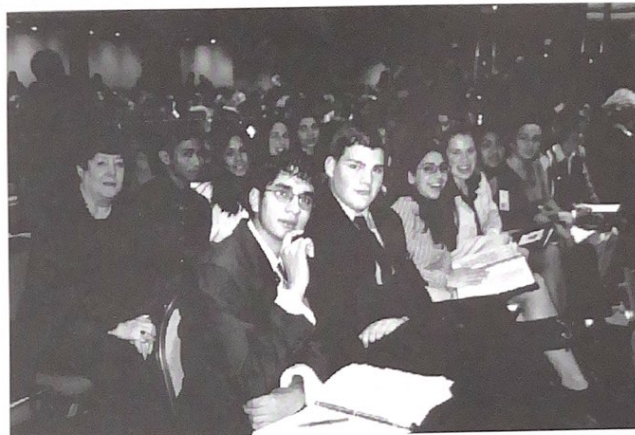
law by the President, an impressive feat due to the President's reputation of excessively exercising his veto power. Equally as commendable, Babi Das, Amanda Rabinowitz, and Andrew Venezia all received Honorable Mentions for outstanding debate work in their individual committees.

The weekend in Washington D.C. was not focused entirely in the political arena, however. On Saturday, eight hours were allocated for free time. Prep students had time for some shopping in Georgetown and some sight-seeing at The Mall. Also, the entire delegation went out together for dinner, a first in Prep's Model Congress history.

The trip was a wonderful experience for everyone involved. Mrs. Wacker was very pleased with the group's conduct as well as its successes. "Everyone was where they were supposed to be when they were supposed to be there. I didn't even have to get angry on Saturday night," she joked. As one of the delegates good-naturedly pointed out, "That's a first in Prep's Model Congress history too."



The Lower Schoolers parade through the Junior lounge in their Halloween costumes



The Spirit of Giving

by Samantha Simon

Occasionally it seems as though the upper school students lack school spirit, and it is difficult to create enthusiasm and encourage involvement in many schoolwide activities. However, members of the Prep community unite during the holiday season to successfully contribute to charitable causes. Although most Prep students are fortunate and privileged, they are not indifferent to the struggle and plight that consumes the lives of often forgotten or neglected people. Prep's commitment to community service is exemplified by the efforts of many students during the holiday season.

School Council undertakes the coordination and organization of three perennially successful drives. In a statement from Council, Vice President Babi Das explained the motivation for their efforts. "Council believes that during the holiday season it is important to remember people who are less fortunate than we are, and to try to contribute to improving their lives. The Prep community is usually very supportive."

The drives begin prior to Thanksgiving with the popular Can Drive. As an incentive,

Council offers a free dress down day to any member of the Upper School community who brings in a minimum of ten cans. During this year's drive, 1800 cans were collected. The cans were donated to the Franklin Food Bank. Along with other donations they will help feed needy local families throughout the holiday season.

The Toy Drive does not offer any external motivation for participation, but it provides participants with the knowledge that they have made a child's holiday wish come true. Students can play Santa Claus by choosing to purchase one of the gifts specifically requested by a child from the cards posted on the Council bulletin board. The requests range from Rollerblades and Barbie Dolls, to bibs and clothing for a two-month-old infant. The donations are going to be distributed to the children by Agape in Somerville. Maura Pritchard, one of the organizers of the drive, said, "I'm really pleased with the number of students who have participated so far, and look forward to other people becoming involved."

The Blood Drive was held on Wednesday, December 9, from 12:30-6:00, in the barn.

In addition to parents and faculty members, fearless students who meet the age requirement (seventeen or older) often participate. Students who were ineligible to give blood contributed by making phone calls to potential donors, and helped in various ways during the drive. Last year sixty members of the Prep community gave blood at the drive. The donations are made to the New York Blood Bank.

Council is also continuing the tradition of collecting a dollar to help fund research about leukemia. A dress-down day is being offered to encourage participation.

A timely response to a devastating crisis is being organized in a joint effort that involves three clubs and Council. Spanish Club, School Council, MECA and SADD are collaborating on a hurricane-relief drive for the devastated areas of Central America. In response to Hurricane Mitch, which claimed over ten thousand lives in Honduras and left a million people homeless, the clubs are collecting a variety of donations. Among the most important items are summer clothing

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Jaguars Visit Prep

by Risa Peterson

"This is fun," said Beam Seilaudom as she rode around in a wheel chair after the game. Andrew Venezia then added "Yeah, but imagine doing it for the rest of your life."

Wheelchair basketball started out with Chic Streetman singing some of our favorite songs, like "Lean On Me," accompanied by Brent Carpentier, and "Don't Worry, Be Happy," with backup singers Katie Dougherty and Christine Goetz. Even the Headmaster and all of the teachers there got to dance and "Shake their Booties" in front of the entire audience. Chic's concert ended with one of his own songs "Beau-Ti-Ful." And then the game began.

During warm-ups, the RPS faculty looked very awkward in their wheelchairs compared to the Jaguars. Mr. Wittman appeared quite attached to his wheelchair, since his feet were strapped in; this, however, did not stop him from

repeatedly falling out.

Dr. Loy made our first few points at the start of the game, while Mr. Forney and Mr. Dougherty both had a couple of rebounds, and everybody had turnovers. By the end of the first quarter, after being spotted ten points to begin with, it was RPS 14, Jaguars 16.

Next it was time for the students of RPS to show their talent. With captains Alyssa Botwinick and Nakul Rao leading the way, nobody was able to score during the quarter. As we watched these amazing athletes in wheelchairs dribble through our pathetic defense, we realized who would win this game. And it definitely was not going to be RPS.

During half-time, people were given an opportunity to shoot free throws and half court shots from wheelchairs.

Then the second half of the game started. Being spot-

ted thirty more points helped boost our confidence again. Mrs. Klinger scored in the third quarter. In the last quarter, Andrew Venezia scored, as did Brent Carpentier. The game ended: RPS 60 Jaguars 64.

We enjoyed making fools of ourselves out there, especially since we technically only scored ten points. It was challenging trying to catch the basketball on a long pass, when we realized that it was thrown right in front of us. Instead of catching it, it bounced, and we couldn't go fast enough to get it. Then one of the Jaguars zooms past and got it. It was fun playing defense but we were never tall enough to block a shot, because we were all 4'3". What was best of all, though, was watching these amazing athletes. They have fun. They don't give up (even when they're up 50 points) and they do their best no matter what. We all admire them for this.

Ethics, Honesty and Integrity

by Abeer Hossain

On the night of November 10, the Rutgers Prep sophomore lounge served as a location for a forum on student ethics, honesty, and integrity. A group of roughly forty-five people were gathered, and while persons of all ages were invited to attend, the group was overwhelmingly composed of teachers, faculty, and parents, with only five students in attendance.

The discussion opened with an introductory speech by Dr. Loy outlining the meeting's purpose as a dialogue between parents, students, and teachers on the subject of honesty, and namely cheating in Rutgers Prep. Central to the opening statement was the recent dismissal of a student who was found to have had two master keys in his possession. Dr. Loy concluded his speech by stating "I am eager to face your questions head on, knowing that there are no perfect answers." These questions were collected from individuals on sheets of paper, and submitted to Dr. Loy. The questions were then answered or expounded upon within the forum.

The issue of whether cheating was indeed an eminent problem at Prep dominated most of the two hour session, with modest jabbing occurring between parents and members of Prep faculty and student body. At one instance a parent cited a recent *USA Today* poll in which four-fifths of high school honor students admitted to cheating in order to maintain their grade. A student replied very simply, "I don't want to sound naive, but that sort of cheating just doesn't go on here at Prep."

The group was able to reach a consensus on the fact that cheating was indeed a bad thing, and devised several suggestions on how to tackle a cheating problem. Among some of the suggestions were:

Honor Code in which the entire Upper School student body reviews the document together before signing.

• A suggestion box in which students are able to anonymously inform teachers and administration of offenders.

• A student review board or discussion group to evaluate the problems and indiscretions of students.

• An extra emphasis on varying tests and quizzes from period to period.

There was even a suggestion that perhaps Prep teachers were too trusting of their students and that a more constant monitoring of them would be beneficial. A Rutgers Prep teacher replied very swiftly, "One of the things that makes this school different is that we do trust our kids. We try to stay out of their way on their own time."

The statement was greeted with mixed feelings as some parents showed visible signs of duress. The forum's atmosphere shifted into that of a debate at times as people cited statistics and quoted speeches. The height of the drama came with an emotional speech from a parent who said "This crisis [student cheating] is borne out of the simple fact that today's kids don't live up to the same ethical standards that we once held so dear."

The forum did help to convey the school's stringent policy on cheating to all in attendance. Dr. Loy concluded the meeting by mentioning an upcoming forum on "Morality in the Modern World" that will take place at Prep on December 10. The forum has been organized by alumni and will feature a panel of six adults who are not affiliated with the school but who are experts in a variety of fields. Dr. Loy hoped that the upcoming assembly would "Further help everyone in understanding today's students."



The Lasagna Players advertise for a worthy cause while showing off their theatrical skills

Career Day a Success

by Jason Dalal

On November 11, men and women from various fields gathered in the Upper School to talk to students about their professions. There were many fields represented, ranging from architecture to the visual arts. One of those people in attendance was Mr. Jeffrey Venezia, who designed the Upper School building. Senior Babi Das, a co-chair of Career Day with Amanda Rabinowitz felt that "...Career Day provided an opportunity to expose students to a variety of fields and to open their minds to professions they would not have originally considered."

Among the most popular sessions to attend was that of Mr. Brian Mallon, an FBI agent. He spoke of the various terrorist groups that operate out of New Jersey using several businesses as fronts to finance

terrorist activities abroad.

Dr. Jeffrey Chalal is a radiologist and randomly threw candy to those attending his session. He showed x-rays of odd things that people had swallowed, including spoons, glasses, and coins.

The Keynote speaker, Doc Cunningham, was a motivational speaker and radio personality who preached to us the benefits of a "career that pays". Mr. Cunningham defined a career that pays as being one that is not only profitable, but spiritually fulfilling.

Career Day took months of planning and School Council, especially the chairs Babi Das and Amanda Rabinowitz along with Mr. Ralph Avella, deserves a commendation on a job well done and a thanks for allowing us to explore new fields.



Once in a Lifetime

by Amanda Rabinowitz

On the evening of Wednesday, November 18th, at Holly Hall, Rutgers Prep Upper School Drama opened Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's comedy, "Once in a Lifetime." This massive production featured forty-

nine parts and twenty-two actors, with some actors taking on up to six roles. In all, over forty students were involved in the production of the play, not to mention several faculty and interested parents.

The play featured several notable performances. Among these were Nathan Holt, portraying the lovable doofus, George Lewis, and Rachel Rosenstein, the sarcastic and sassy May Daniels, both in starring roles. Other stars who glittered across the stage included sophomores Aubrey Hebda-Bolduc and Jason Dalal, juniors Chris Wang-Iverson, Sean Cannon, Samantha Simon, and Lizzie Lampen, and seniors Lon Zimmet and Luba Reife. Making their debut on the Rutgers Prep Upper School stage were Manu Jain, Holly Halm, Kate Dougherty, Megan Angelakos,

Melissa Zaccagnino, Leigh Karmizian, Julia Bamford, Pam Gruntman, Meredith Clymer, and Dan Meagher, who gracefully made the transition between his whopping six different roles. Justin Slawson came in a close second with the challenge of alternating between four different roles.

The actors performed before a packed house all four nights. In fact, some people were actually turned away on Thursday night, and all nights were sold out.

The play was a success, and it looks hopeful for future productions, considering eighteen of the twenty-two actors were underclassmen. But let's not forget the seniors, Rachel, Lon and Luba, who will undoubtedly return for the spring production. All involved deserve congratulations.



The Spirit of Giving

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and shoes (new or used) and toiletries. Although food is not being collected, most other necessities and monetary contributors are appreciated. In its first few days, the drive is already summoning a tremendously positive response. The Spanish Club officers stated, "We are extremely pleased by the initial response. We have received a multitude of donations, including generous financial contributions that total over two hundred dollars. We hope that community members will continue to contribute to the relief effort, and

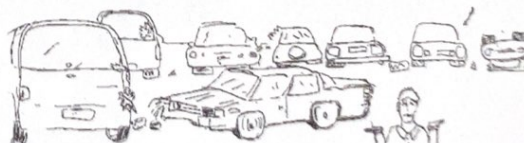
embrace the spirit of giving."

As in years past, the Prep community is continuing to demonstrate a desire to help improve the lives of the neediest people. The holiday season is a yearly reminder that not everyone can look forward to holidays spent in comfort with family members, surrounded by gifts and a kitchen table covered in food. For many, the New Year is a continuation or escalation of a constant struggle to survive. The rallying response to hunger, poverty, illness and natural disasters embodies the generosity and spirit of the holiday season.

The Prep Side

by Lon Zimmet

Illustrated by Nooraj Kumar



Just Another Insurance Rate Inflating in the Senior Parking Lot

"What's the big deal? It's only a ding."

Tennis Season Ends Well

by Deepti Anbarasan

The girls' tennis season has come to an end and it is now time to look back on this winning season and to congratulate the players on some of their unprecedented accomplishments this year. Because of its winning record of 10-3, the Rutgers Prep Tennis Team became a major threat to other schools in its division. In fact, the tennis team finished second in its conference, losing only one match to Saddle River Day (2-3). Some of the highlights of the season were playing in the Counties and the States, sweeping the Wardlaw-Hartridge tournament, and defeating rival PDS (4-1).

On October 25 the tennis team played in States, which was held at Pingry. Everyone on the team moved into the second round, either by a win or a bye. In the second round, senior Kim Brown and junior Hanny Studer, the Varsity second doubles team, played to a strong victory and advanced to the semifinals. Sophomore Deepti Anbarasan also advanced to the semifinals by defeating Blair Academy in her first singles match. Unfortunately, both the second doubles team, Kim and Hanny, and first singles player, Deepti, lost their matches in the semifinal round.

Although the end of the season was slightly disappointing for the girls, the team still, accomplished a tremendous amount this year. They managed to achieve the best record ever for a Rutgers Prep Girls' Varsity Tennis team, and proved to the other teams in their division that they were worthy competitors. Senior Kim Brown remarked, "This year our Varsity doubles teams worked especially well together. This was the second season that sophomore Daniela Accurso and senior Jessica Belser played together. And our singles players have great consistency and power. With these qualities, the team will be even better next year." Captain Jessica Belser, also commented on the potential for next year's season, "We did so well this year and half of this year's starting line up was made up of sophomores. So just imagine how much more we can achieve in the years to come."

With these feelings of optimism and confidence, the tennis season came to an end. And although the team is going to lose two very valuable seniors, Jessica and Kim, the determined underclassmen players are already looking forward to making next year's season another successful year.



Boys' Soccer Team Ends With a Shut-Out

by Stephen Montanino

On Friday, October 30, the Rutgers Prep Boys' Soccer team left the field house for the long ascent to the upper field for the last game of the season against Gill St. Bernard's, a longtime rival of the boys' team. This was also the final game in maroon and white uniforms for Varsity seniors Isaac Chahal and co-captains Brian Benitz and Rene Gbewonyo.

The Prep squad conducted its traditional pre-game huddle and then the players set out for their positions as the shadows crept over the trees. After the first whistle, the team held together strongly and won the ball. Prep played strongly in the midfield due to the excellent dribbling of junior Andrew Hobbs and sophomore Kunal Kapur. Sophomore defender Brent Carpentier's exceptional defense and driving headers helped keep the ball out of Prep's end of the field. The few times it did get through for a breakaway, sophomore goalkeeper Steve Montanino challenged for and won the ball.

The score at the half was a standoff at 0-0. Gill wouldn't budge and neither would Prep. This game was too close to call, and there was a lot of tension between the two teams.

The second half started with a Gill kickoff, but the fast attack was broken up by the defense. Neither of the teams were able to penetrate the other's defense. Twenty-one minutes into the second half, Prep won a throw and Kunal Kapur kicked the ball. It deflected off a Gill mid-fielder and then Kunal kneed it at the center line. The ball sailed fifty yards and went soaring over the goal keeper's head, into the "upper-ninety" (the top corner of the goal). This goal put Prep on top with a score of 1-0.

Prep played diligently, but Gill continued to attack. A free kick was given to Gill at the top of the eighteen yard line. The Gill player attempted to score a goal to tie the score, but goalkeeper Steve Montanino made a diving save to keep the

ball out of his goal. Steve was successful and the net remained empty, with nine saves in the game.

With about eight minutes remaining on the clock, Prep intercepted a pass made by a player from Gill. The ball was then passed up to Rene, who gracefully dribbled through the opposition. While Rene approached the opposing goal, the Gill goalkeeper left his line. Rene beat the goalie and placed an easy grounder into the net for his last goal at Prep. The boys' team took a lead of 2-0, putting the nail in Gill's coffin.

The last five minutes seemed like an eternity, and when the referee finally blew the whistle to end the game, the team rejoiced. The boys had secured their first shutout win of the season. As Brent Carpentier aptly stated, "This victory gives me hope for next year; we were able to accomplish a tremendous win at the end of an unsuccessful season. I hope we can carry this success over to next year's season."

Home Games

Boys Basketball

12/18 RPS Holiday Tourney
12/19 Hun School,
Timothy Christian
12/20 RPS Holiday Tourney
1/8 Ranney School
1/12 Pennington School
1/14 Saddle River Day
1/25 Wardlaw Hartridge
2/3 Somerset Vo. Tech
2/12 Alma Prep
2/13 Blair Academy
2/17 Pingry School

Girls Basketball

12/14 Gill St. Bernard's
12/15 Solomon Schecter
12/19 RPS Holiday Tourney
12/20 RPS Holiday Tourney
1/13 Peddie School
1/27 Stuart Day School
2/2 Saddle River
2/4 Wardlaw Hartridge
2/5 Woodbridge vo. Tech
2/12 Alma Reed
2/13 Blair Academy

Boys Wrestling

12/8 Gill St. Bernard's
12/8 Frisch School
12/15 Peddie/L'Ville
1/12 Wardlaw/Gill
2/2 Spotswood H.S.
2/3 Pennington Prep
2/8 Ridge H.S.
2/13 Newark Academy
2/16 Pingry School

Volleyball

12/14 Princeton Day
1/13 Wardlaw Hartridge
1/15 Peddie School
2/3 Lawrenceville School
2/8 Lacordaire Academy
2/16 Morristown Beard



Student Spotlight: Alyssa Botwinik

by Danielle Kelnner and Minesh Patel

Senior Alyssa Botwinik returned to Rutgers Prep from Hun in the tenth grade. Wearing the maroon



and white colors, she shattered the old scoring record, scoring an all time high of ninety-four goals. This year alone, she scored thirty-three goals. Alyssa is an enormous asset to the girls' soccer team, being a leader on and off the field. This is the second year that Alyssa has been captain of the team. Her primary position on the field is mid-fielder, but when asked to play another position, Alyssa is able to do so with great talent. For the second

year in a row, Alyssa was named to the All-Somerset County team and the All-Prep team. Even though this is her last season here at Prep, she will continue her success in the field of soccer in the years to come. Coach Walt Nichols added, "Alyssa is an outstanding soccer player. As captain of the team, she leads by setting an example and has a positive influence on the other girls. She is a great role model, and she will certainly be missed next year."

A Look Back at the Cross-Country Season

by Sean Cannon

The cross-country season was a season to remember. In the '98 season both the girls' team and the boys' team accomplished a tremendous amount: capturing second place in the Prep "B" States, winning the girls' counties, and coming in second place in the boys' counties, losing to rival Gill St. Bernard's.

Besides the emotional support that the team gave to each other during the races, the team contributed support to

each other during the off hours. Team members made psych-bags, performed skits during morning announcements, and participated in such events as the team dinner the night before States.

Every individual on the team felt like a winner this season, because of the team's accomplishments and individual accomplishments. When we reflect back on this season we remember the physical pain

we felt while sprinting to the finish line, the sweat that ran down our faces, the runners who ran alongside us, and the laughter that we expressed to cheer up the team. This sport, cross-country, has made us better and stronger individuals. This year we were unable to capture first place at the State Championships, but next year we hope to bring the trophy back to Rutgers Prep and reclaim our title of State Champions.

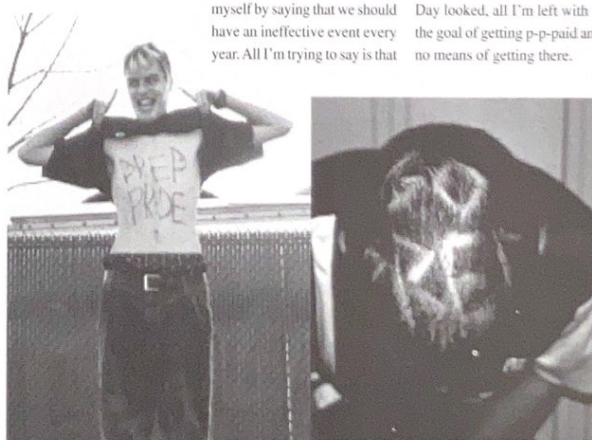


Stellar Season for Girls' Soccer

by Alyssa Botwinik

The girls' soccer team, coached by Walt Nichols, Jody McCoy, and Matt Feliz, ended the season with a 9-6 record. The season had its ups and downs, but we had key wins over Morristown Beard and Wardlaw Hartridge. We lost three players from last season, but with the talent that still remained and the talent that the freshmen added, we proved to be a young but determined team. Although we had some disappointing losses against Gill St. Bernards, Hun, and Saddle River, the determination, intensity, heart, and

skill that this team has is what provided us with the opportunity to reach the Prep "B" Quarterfinals. Unfortunately we suffered a loss, but this made the underclassmen realize what it takes to be champions. The Girls' Soccer Team is losing four starters next year: Alyssa Botwinik, Jill Nudelman, Sara Preschel, and Beth Germinsky, but with the intensity and skill that remains, the rest of the team will be ready to win it all. Girls' soccer had a stellar season this year, and all the seniors wish the team good luck for next year!



Students demonstrate Prep Pride

Editorial: Career Day

by Marvin J.P. Quesada

As far as I can tell, Career Day went pretty smoothly. I wasn't on the inside of this whole career day operation so I can't really speak of any specific problems or situations that arose. However, I imagine that getting speakers and scheduling choices for every student in the upper school is rather difficult, and I didn't notice any mix-ups or any real complaints with schedules, so I guess the Career Day planners pulled it off. What I did notice, though, is that no one really cared. There were a few cases where a speaker was highly entertaining and effective in keeping the students' interest, but complete and utter boredom was much more common.

Who's to blame for the lack of interest? It's easy to blame the professionals. They volunteered to come to Prep to talk to students, so they should at least be enthusiastic enough to spark a student's interest, right? Maybe, but Prep students are also partly to blame. From the very start no one cared about Career Day. Most were reluctant to ask their parents or any career individual to come in and talk about their profession, and even more picked unrealistic career possibilities. It simply wasn't taken seriously. But then again, how do you know what's possible if you don't ask, right? So is it the Career Day planners' fault for not getting the careers that people are interested in? I would really like to blame them for not getting that pro-wrestler, but some things are just out of their control. So, now what I blame is the actual set-up.

The first problem is that career day is not annual. I'm not trying to contradict myself by saying that we should have an ineffective event every year. All I'm trying to say is that

not having Career Day every year makes it hard to correct errors. What this means is that many of the students who helped plan for one Career Day may not be here for the next Career Day and the same flaws could take place without anyone with experience to deal with them. The Burger Blast is a good example of how annual events work well; and a more regular Career Day could weed out all the problems and shape it into something more enjoyable.

The second problem is that career day is too much like a lecture or seminar. The students sit back and let the speaker talk a little bit. Then time passes and the students sit back even more while the speaker continues to talk and finally the students just fall asleep and the speaker probably just keeps talking. When the speaker asks if there are any questions, no one asks any because no one has paid attention or really cared. I think a more hands-on format would be effective. It would take more of an effort to organize, but if Career Day were more like a workshop, I think more students would take an interest. Maybe the speaker could submit a sort-of lesson plan ahead of time so he or she could work with the Career Day planners on how to make it more interactive so the students won't be bored.

Career Day is a great idea as a concept. Who hasn't been asked the question: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Career Day should be a helpful step in answering that question by offering direct exposure to career possibilities. But the way this current Career Day looked, all I'm left with is the goal of getting p-p-paid and no means of getting there.

Hit and Run: Prep Style

by Katie Crisafulli

Picture this: you are a senior walking out to the parking lot after a long day. As you load your heavy book-bag into your trunk you notice something, but you can't believe your eyes. There is a noticeable dent and scratch on the side of your car. You know it was not there this morning, and you did not hit anything when you went out for lunch. It becomes obvious that a fellow student hit your car while pulling out of the space next to you at some point during the day. Unfortunately, you cannot remember who it was that was parked next to you. You assume, naturally, that whoever it was will be calling you tonight to admit to the ugly deed, since they did not say anything to you during school. The night passes without a call from the mysterious person who nailed your car. A week passes without any acknowledgement of the accident and you realize angrily that you will be paying for the damage done to your car by somebody else.

This is a situation that two seniors have experienced already this year. When walking out to their cars at the end of day, or after sports practice, they found damage done to their cars. In both incidents, the person who did the damage never surfaced. I do not believe that

the individuals who did this damage did not realize they had hit another student's car. Besides, if someone who does not hear, feel, or see the fact that they have hit someone else's car, is entirely too oblivious to handle the task of driving a vehicle. These two minor accidents in the parking lot need to be addressed for several reasons. The most obvious reason is that what happened in these accidents was illegal.

The two individuals who hit cars in the parking lot and ignored what they had done should consider themselves lucky no one saw their mistake. If someone had seen and reported it, it is highly possible that those two people would no longer have licenses. The act of hitting someone else's car and driving away without acknowledging the accident is known in the legal world as "hit and run" and "leaving the scene of an accident". If someone is found guilty of these crimes, he or she has a mandatory six months suspension of their driver's license to look forward to. Accompanying these charges is the total of seven points that will go on one's license. So what happened in the parking lot here at school is not something to be taken lightly, considering the legal repercussions.

The impression I get from reading the latest *Argo* is that a significant number of RPS students have breached their pledge of academic integrity on a number of occasions. In their defense, it has been argued that: the pressures to achieve at RPS are too intense; supervision and security are too lax; other students, and possibly faculty, who knew of the activities should not have remained silent; and similar breaches of academic integrity had occurred for years without being punished.

According to the theory of responsibility argued above, if I were to run over someone with my car while hurrying to the train station, I would bear only fractional responsibility for the accident. The remainder should be shared by the State of New Jersey (because it has issued me a driver's license), the police (because they didn't appre-

hend me before the accident occurred), most of my friends and neighbors (because they were aware that I exceeded the speed limit on occasion but they failed to take away my car keys), the commuter train line (because when I overslept I had to drive too fast to catch my commuter train), and my town council (because it was aware of numerous car accidents in prior years but still permitted driving to occur).

During the four years that I attended prep school, I did not witness or hear of a single breach of academic integrity. During my senior year there, I was one of the three prefects who comprised the honor council and were charged with supervision of the student body. No disciplinary issue was brought before us that even hinted of a breach of academic integrity.

Was this absence of crime due to some inadequacy of motive, means or opportunity? I think not. There was no lack of motive. All of us were trying to gain admission to colleges and universities with extremely selective admission policies. Every increment in our GPA meant better chance of admission.

There was no lack of means or opportunity. Because our school took the honor system seriously, there were few locked doors, and these were locked for health or safety reasons, not to prevent student access. Course exams were not monitored; in fact the student was welcome to take the exam anywhere he pleased.

So why didn't we cheat? I can't speak for the rest of my school, but the main reason I didn't cheat was that it would have been, whether it was discovered or not, an unforgivable betrayal of family, friends, classmates, teachers, myself, and the school.

So why didn't we cheat? I can't speak for the rest of my school, but the main reason I didn't cheat was that it would have been, whether it was discovered or not, an unforgivable betrayal of family, friends, classmates, teachers, myself, and the school.

school that prides itself on its sense of community, the people within it do not have the decency to admit to hitting someone's car. If fellow schoolmates treat each other this way, what can be said about the way they would treat people they did not know in such a situation?

at least discuss the accident with the person they hit.

These two accidents in our parking lot are a sad reflection on the character of some students at our school. An isolated incident is one thing, but two incidents is a disgrace. It is ironic that in a

school that prides itself on its sense of community, the people within it do not have the decency to admit to hitting someone's car. If fellow schoolmates treat each other this way, what can be said about the way they would treat people they did not know in such a situation?

The Silent Threat

by Samantha Simon

Five of the eight pages of the last issue of *The Argo* were devoted or contained references to a single jarring and controversial incident, along with pertinent issues. The majority of the contributors and the editors of *The Argo* are students. It is reasonable to assume that when a student publication focuses disproportionately on one issue it is because that topic interests, concerns, or affects the majority of the students. I did not expect every upper school student to attend the forum on November 12. Some people do not care about the issues associated with "Keys to Success," others like those who commented and contributed anonymously do not have the courage to defend and

accept responsibility for their opinions.

I did not agree with the opinions expressed in many of the articles, and am uncertain that they represent the silent majority, but I did respect the effort of students who did not allow their beliefs to go unvoiced. However, the conviction of people who will write passionately about a topic, but are unwilling to devote a couple of hours to defending their principles is questionable. I wanted to confront and endorse many of the statements made in the article, and on the editorials page, but did not have the opportunity, because most of the writers and contributors did not attend. Most of the students

who did attend were willing to remain passive observers, and allowed their opinions to be addressed, if at all, by other people. The burden of enforcing and promoting academic honesty is neither entirely, nor necessarily, the students'. It is generous to estimate that a dozen faculty members attended the forum and like the students, most of them were silent, particularly when the minimal effort of many faculty members to prevent cheating was scrutinized.

People who said changing locks is not a solution are correct; conscious indifference, arrogant denial, and apathy pose the greatest threat to security and integrity at Prep.

Letter to the Editors

by a Concerned Parent

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The Argo staff members are open to any suggestions concerning possible articles, surveys, or other features. If you are interested in contrib-

uting to *The Argo*, please contact one of the editors.

The Argo reserves the right to edit articles and letters to the editor, and refuses to print any pieces which it deems below common journalistic standards.

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