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RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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Junior Tony Jones shows prospective Prepsters the Field House during the January 24th Open House. Photo by G. Israel

Trenton singers perform

by Amy Krivitzky

A cultural program recently presented at Rutgers Prep provided new looks into America's history for the school's students.

On January 26, Rutgers Prep was treated to a performance of "Yankee Doodle Fought Here", presented by the Trenton State Bicentennial singers. The choir, consisting of twenty students from Trenton State College, was conducted by Dr. Gordon Myers, a professor of music at the college.

Dr. Myers researched songs that were sung before the 1800's and combined them with dialogue to tell about New Jersey's role in the American Revolution. The program, made possible by matching grants from New Jersey Historical Committee, the State Bicentennial Commission, and Trenton State College, began in 1974 and the group plans to travel through the state until the end of the year.

Dr. Myers has also conducted programs abroad singing about America's freedom.

Prospective students view school while enjoying 2nd Open House

About 130 prospective students and their parents were guests at the second Open House held January 24. Assistant Headmaster Dr. Frank Sperduto called it "successful in every respect," mainly because "every element in the school was working together: parents, teachers, students, and friends of the school."

The Open House program is designed to bolster enrollment, which has been hurt lately by the country's economic recession. But Mr. Eugene Bratek, head of the Development Office, explained, "Immediate enrollment is not the intent. No high pressure tactics are used." Instead, the day was planned to allow participants to enjoy themselves while learning more about the school.

The next Open House is scheduled for March 13, with another one planned for the spring. Nearly 150 people attended the first Open House.

414 students were enrolled at the beginning of the school year in September. That number had risen to 426 by the week after the last Open House. This is the largest number of students Dr. Sperduto can remember ever having entered mid-year.

However, the full impact of the

program cannot be gauged until all the applications for next year have been received. So far, their number is greater than that of last year.

Starting at 11 a.m., students led tours of the campus. Dr. Sperduto observed, "Students were thoroughly and sincerely pleased with the opportunity to tell strangers about the school."

One student guide, senior Vicky Banko, said, "I really had a good time. I enjoyed showing people around and they were impressed with what they saw."

Afterwards, there was a 15-minute slide presentation of school life, followed by a question-and-answer period. Both Dr. Sperduto and Mr. Bratek agreed that the questions raised were quite pointed and sound. Questions could be answered immediately by those best qualified to answer them, since faculty, trustees, and administrators were all on hand.

So many questions were asked that lunch had to be delayed. Finally, though, everyone sat down to the buffet Mr. Lee Anderson, a math teacher, had arranged (not lasagna) in the Middle School all-purpose room. The Parents Association helped set up, brightening the room with red tablecloths and centerpieces. The Parents Association also helped by forming a telephone squad to call

Reading Day — did it succeed?

by Christopher Combest

On January 14th, the practice of a reading day was reinstated at Prep. It had not been seen here for eight years. The response, both from the faculty and from the students, was generally favorable.

News in brief

Guitar Course

A new guitar course has been introduced at Prep. Sue Giebes, a student at Douglass College, is enthusiastic about teaching the course.

The group meets every Thursday for \$2.00 per lesson. Each lesson is an hour long. Folk and classical music are played.

So far, there are eight people in the beginners class. If enough people are interested, an advanced class will be formed.

Typing Course

A new typing course has also been established. The Wrighttype Company is teaching it.

Two classes of about a dozen students each began February 10. One meets Tuesdays from 2:00 to 3:00 and the other meets Wednesdays from 12:15 to 1:15.

The seven-week series costs \$40. Students must provide their own typewriters. Classes are held in Room 301 in the Middle School.

Mr. Wexler

Mr. Stephen Wexler is taking over the teaching of two seventh grade science classes this semester.

He received a degree in oceanography from the Florida Institute of Technology. Last semester he taught at Gill St. Bernards.

Mr. Wexler is currently participating in the Fairleigh Dickinson Master of Arts in Teaching program.

Mrs. Marian Marshall, who taught these classes last semester in addition to the teaching fourth graders, is teaching only fourth graders this semester.

Reading Day is a "free" day in which the student has the option of coming to school for extra review prior to the beginning of examinations or remaining at home and preparing for Mid-Years in his own way. Many students came anyway. "It was one of my more exhausting days," said Mrs. Barbara Herzberg of the English Department. She had a continuous flow of students and thought the day very valuable for them. Mr. Barry Chamberlain estimated one-half to one-third of his mathematics students saw him, and Mr. August Daviet put his attendance figure at 40% of his chemistry students.

"I was surprised at the turnout," he said. But he too, thought the day beneficial, and he said his students "did work and did learn."

In 1968 or '69, Prep had initiated a reading day in which everyone, students and faculty, stayed home. Those who were here while it was underway felt that it was a worthwhile policy. Why, then, was it discontinued?

The problem was time. The administration was concerned about maintaining a solid, 175-day school year. Due to an upsurge in Monday holidays, among other things, the schedule tightened and eventually the day off could not be afforded and was dropped.

Last year, though, the idea was resurrected at a Forum and was discussed. After formulating some concrete notions, it was presented to the Academic Committee where it was also debated.

Finally, it reached the faculty via

Assistant Headmaster Dr. Frank V. Sperduto. According to Mr. Daviet, opinion was split on the issue. Much of the discussion centered upon organization (who should see whom and when). Ultimately, no one actively opposed it and Reading Day was reestablished. And once again, it seemed to work.

"A positive and beneficial day" was Dr. Sperduto's terming of it, and the students appeared to agree.

"It helped more than a regular day," said junior Bruce Baldinger, who was one of those who came that day.

Sophomore Phil Kosnett, who stayed at home January 14, thought the day was "far more useful than class review," and former School Council President Janet Borris believed the general student reaction was indeed "favorable."

Therefore, it appears that Reading Day will be continued, but, perhaps, not unchanged. Many of the faculty believe that more of the students should be required to attend. Mr. Peter Hordijk of the History Department feels that it ought to be more of a "remedial" rather than a "reading" day, and that it should center upon special help for those who need it.

He reasoned that if the day were to include the good as well as the poor students, the result would be attendance as usual, the day would be just another review day, and "reading day would have little meaning." Others, however, thought that the fact that almost everyone there wanted to be there was a key factor in Reading Day's success.



Great stuff gang-HA! Senior Howard Maltz ponders his Pre-Calculus exam. See story page 3. Photo by J. Berkowitz

Lower Schoolers take trips and help needy; fifth and sixth graders share creative projects

by Cindy Berkowitz

The fifth and sixth grades have inaugurated a program in which, during a special period once a week, each student works on a project. Every eight to ten weeks, a "sharing day" assembly is held to let each student share with his classmates the results of his project.

"These are projects that are supposed to be student choices rather than teacher choices," said sixth grade teacher Mrs. Barbara Beacham.

The purpose of the projects is to give students a chance to do something aside from the normal course of study. Some of the topics that students chose were anatomy, bas-

ketball, drums, superstition, and computers. Two students were assistants to first grade teachers.

There have been four sharing day assemblies so far. Some of the things done during these assemblies were a play and a show of artwork.

The third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades saw the opera "Hansel and Gretel" at the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center in December. Before seeing the opera, students read its libretto and saw a film strip of it. They also followed its musical score while hearing its recording.

The Lower School continued its tradition of collecting for the needy at Thanksgiving time and collecting for UNICEF. One hundred eighty

eight dollars and one cent was collected for UNICEF.

The second grade recently put on a presentation of song and dance about people from around the world. Six Vietnamese children were special guests. Following the presentation was a luncheon of foreign foods cooked by parents.

The Lower School is thinking of the possibility of beginning a cub scout pack. Although the pack wouldn't be under school control, it would meet on school grounds. Many students are enthusiastic about the idea.

For several years the Lower School had brownie and girl scout troops, but they disbanded a couple of years ago.

Results of SAT Questionnaire For Seniors *

| 1. How many times did you take the SAT test? ** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------|
| | 2.5% | 56 % | 34 % | 2.5 % |
| 2. Did you study in any way for the SAT test? | Yes | No | | |
| | 39 % | 61 % | | |
| 3. If the answer to number 2 is 'yes', how did you study? | Preparation Course | Individual Review | Preparation course & Individual review | |
| | 18 % | 41 % | 41 % | |
| 4. Do you feel that studying for the SAT is a helpful method for improving one's scores? | Yes | No | Undecided | |
| | 49 % | 44 % | 7 % | |
| 5a. For those who studied, what was the greatest difference in combined Verbal and Math scores from one time to next? | Down 10-40 pts. | Up 10-40 pts. | Up 50-80 pts. | Up over 80 pts. |
| | 0 % | 25 % | 37.5 % | 37.5 % |
| b. For those who studied, what was the greatest difference in combined Verbal and Math scores from one time to next? | Down 10-40 pts. | Up 10-40 pts. | Up 50-80 pts. | Up over 80 pts. |
| | 9 % | 26 % | 16 % | 39 % |
| 6. What does the SAT test? | Scholastic Aptitude | Aptitude plus Achievement | Neither Aptitude nor Achievement | It tests nothing |
| | 11 % | 48 % | 31.5 % | 9.5 % |

* This questionnaire represents 41 responses out of 51 seniors, which is 83.9% of the total class.

** The percentages in this row do not add up to 100% because one student reported not having taken the SAT test.

ETS' opinion

Officials advocate SAT validity

by Ieva Miesnieks

There are many misconceptions concerning the Scholastic Aptitude Tests and their true purposes. In an interview with Mr. John Smith from the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, much was revealed on the subject of SAT tests and the role of Educational Testing Service in the preparation, administration, and evaluation of these tests.

ETS is an educational measurement and research organization that designs and administers aptitude and achievement tests for students and adults. The organization is a non-profit corporation.

ETS is not synonymous with the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB). The two organizations participate in a contractual situation in which ETS prepares all the tests which reflect the guidelines that CEEB establishes.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test is one of the tests that ETS designs and administers. According to ETS, this test is a measure of developed verbal and mathematical reasoning and abilities. Being a uniform measure for all students, the SAT acts as a "democratizing agent", cutting across differences in conditions particular to students in different schools throughout the country.

ETS emphasizes the limitations of this type of test. Like all types of measurements, the test scores are not completely accurate or perfect predictors. The test does not measure motivation, creativity, leadership qualities, or involvement in extra-curricular activities. Therefore, ETS stresses that the SAT, considered by itself, is not an accurate evaluation of a student. In fact, ETS believes that the high school record is more indicative than test scores alone, in most cases.

A few controversial subjects concerning the SAT have recently been introduced. One is the question of the validity of this test based on its limitations, particularly the recent evolution of preparation courses. ETS acknowledges the limitations and warns that the "test is useful to the extent that it is applied with understanding and discretion and with an intelligent appreciation of both its values and its limitations."

In their booklet *About the SAT*, ETS answers the question "Should I study for the SAT?" with the following explanation: "Since verbal and mathematical skills are developed over years of study and practice, you probably cannot improve your scores on the SAT significantly by being coached or drilled for a brief period of time before you take the test." ETS believes that studying the directions for the sample questions they provide as well as answering these questions is adequate preparation.

Another controversial subject is that concerning the sharp decline of SAT scores. Both Verbal and Mathematical score averages have declined each year since 1962-63, when they were 478 and 502 respectively. In 1974-75, the average scores were 434 and 472, indicating the sharpest yearly decline ever. The SAT Verbal and SAT Mathematical score averages fell 10 and 8 points, respectively, below their 1973-74 levels. It has been found that the averages did not decline due to an overall drop in scores for all test-takers, but rather as a result of more lower scores and fewer higher ones.

At present, there is no substantial evidence to attribute the score decline to any single cause or any

particular set of causes. Therefore, a College Board Advisory Panel on Score Decline has been appointed jointly by CEEB and ETS. Aware that society and education today may affect the SAT scores, the Panel will look specifically in the following areas: the qualities of the test itself, the nature of the population taking the test, factors bearing on the nature of secondary education, and factors bearing on conditions of society during the past decade.

The Panel emphasized from the start that "to single out the schools as being responsible for the decline is unwarranted, unfair, and scientifically unfounded." However, factors being considered include the decline in reading and writing abilities and the possible cut down on the number of contact hours, including "after hours", between teacher and student. Nevertheless, the Panel stresses that "the SAT was not designed to measure the general quality of American education, and attempts to use the SAT scores in that way are misleading."

Further findings by the Panel will hopefully explain the causes of the score decline and perhaps shed some light on recent changes in society and their effects on the student population.

Seniors tell viewpoints on SAT controversies

by Ieva Miesnieks

On January 30, 1976, 41 seniors filled out the questionnaire (left) on Scholastic Aptitude Tests. The results reveal statistics concerning the controversy over the effectiveness of studying for the SAT as well as senior attitudes towards this test. In analyzing this type of questionnaire, it is essential to remember that this survey represents seniors from Rutgers Preparatory School only. It does not indicate any nationwide attitudes towards the SAT test; it merely provides an account of Prep students' ideas and interpretations of the SAT and its purpose.

The majority of the seniors (90%) took the test two or three times. This indicates that students feel that there is an advantage to taking the test more than once and that a more accurate score is obtained by taking the test several times.

Most of the questions dealt with preparation for the test. Although only 39% studied for the test, nearly half the seniors feel that studying for the SAT is a helpful method for improving one's scores. This group is thus in disagreement with ETS' stand that studying will not improve one's scores significantly.

At first glance at the results of question 5b, it appears that ETS' view is proven correct by the 39% of students who did not study but still improved their scores over 80 points, and the difference in percentage of these people vs. those that did not study represents only one student (1 student=2.5% of seniors who filled out the questionnaire). Moreover, a total of 75% of those who studied

went up 50 points or more, while only 55% of those who did not study went up the same amount. The only students whose scores decreased were those that did not study. This implies that one's scores are more likely to decrease if no studying is done.

Regardless of the comparisons between those who studied and those who did not, it is evident that significant changes in scores did take place as the test was taken over again. This in turn raises the question of the validity of the test particularly regarding the possible advantages for a student who takes the test a number of times as compared to the student who takes it only once.

This is only one example which raises questions in the minds of the students. Apparently, the seniors have varied opinions on exactly what the SAT tests. While only 11% agreed with ETS in saying it measures scholastic aptitude, a much larger percentage (48%) felt it measures scholastic aptitude plus achievement. Still others indicated that it measures neither of the aforementioned, some saying that it tests a student's memorization ability, nerves, or achievement only. Interestingly enough, most 10% of the students feel the SAT "tests nothing", and this is a strong indication of some of Prep seniors' attitudes.

Perhaps this indicates either a need for a re-evaluation of the true purpose of the SAT by its designers, or else a need for informing the students of the proposed goals of the test and how its construction allows these goals to be attained.

Two advisors discuss SAT's

The answers to the question of the possibility or practicality of studying for the SAT's have led to much dispute among students who have already taken the examination.

Senior advisors Mr. August Daviet and Mrs. Helene Spratford, however, both concur that intense last minute studying for SAT's is useless. They both agree that the best preparation for SAT's is reading, although another important factor is the speech employed by the members of one's family. Mrs. Spratford also observes that the study of foreign languages, particularly that of Latin, French, Spanish, and German may assist the student in recognizing roots of English words.

Both advisors also think that the SAT's are only accurate in their

measure of intelligence in a general sense. Mrs. Spratford thinks that the SAT's, as "one yardstick, must be accompanied by other yardsticks." She feels that SAT's alone mean next to nothing but should be considered along with a student's scholastic achievement and participation in extracurricular activities.

Mr. Daviet and Mrs. Spratford are in favor of the reinstatement of a writing sample on the SAT's. They believe that such a sample reflects a valuable measure of verbal ability. They admit, however, that evaluations of these samples are very difficult due to the large number of students taking the examination and the ability of judging such samples objectively.

Bios: Montana vs. New Joisey

Hello campers, and welcome back to BIOS. I, personally, am Robert Murray, and I am just back from the wilds of unpolluted, spacious, wonderful Montana. Andy Bud, the other half, is still here and together we're the Brothers Karamazov whose only pleasure is to entertain you guys with environmental jokes while at the same time helping you all to learn something about ecology.

Upon my immediate return from the "Great American West" I was immediately assaulted by the full force of the obnoxious odors which hang heavy in the eastern skies. Therefore, with the cooperation of Mr. Golden, I should like to compare Montana to New Joisey. If you read really carefully you may get the idea that it is possible to live a better, cleaner, safer life somewhere west of the Bronx. So, all seriousness aside, here's how things shape up.

There are more people in Middlesex County than in the entire state of Montana. There are fewer towns in

Montana but not fewer cows. There is often to be heard some foolish eastern snob saying that all of the nation's wealth lies somewhere between the Goethals Bridge and Wall Street; not so. A sizeable amount of the nation's beef comes from Montana.

The only real disadvantage to Montana for those who are indigenous to the East is that out there you can't see what you're breathing. Children and other living things do not grow up looking like something out of an Italian science fiction movie. Snow is white, flaky, and is fun to frolic in. In New Jersey it falls, melts, and is noticed only for the fact that it fouls up traffic for three days. There is room to live in Montana. The only time you hear about room in N.J. is when it comes time to redoing the living room.

Hopefully this has not come off as an advertisement for reasonably priced ranchettes complete with water rights and street access. It was

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Editor-in-Chief — Elizabeth Pickar
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 Photographers — John Streu, Janet Berkowitz, Glen Israel, Julian Ratych
 Advisor — Mr. Bratek

Hungarian girl studies at Prep

by Janet Borrus

Klara Fuzer is probably the only Prep student taking just two courses. Why does she have this special privilege? Klara, now nineteen, is from Hungary. She is visiting the United States for six months, attending English and United States History classes at Prep in order to better her ability to speak our language.

Klara's home is the Hungarian capital of Budapest, but this year she is living in New Brunswick under the guardianship of her uncle Julian Fuzer, a Catholic clergyman.

In Hungary, as in most European nations, many people speak more than one language fluently. English and German, Klara told me, are the two most popular foreign languages in her country. Because her friends in New Brunswick tend to converse with her in Hungarian, Klara feels that being at Prep, an environment in which she is surrounded by English-speaking people and must speak only English herself, is the best way for her to become fluent. As Klara's proficiency in English increases, her curriculum will be expanded to four or five courses.

Klara took English during secondary school. Her favorite subject, however, is biology. She hopes to enter the Medical University of Budapest in 1977 and eventually receive her degree in science.

Klara finds no great difference between her Hungarian friends and the Americans she meets at Prep. As she sees it, most of us came from Europe originally and many Americans she knows, whether of Irish, Italian, or Russian descent, speak the language of their ancestors and often adhere to the old European customs.



The atmosphere in Baldwin Hall during exam period is like waiting to have teeth pulled at the dentist's office. The most nervewracking minutes come right before the exam, when students have to listen to last minute instructions.

Photos by J. Berkowitz

Senior-faculty bowling game

Bowling balls fly; pins don't fall

by a senior (naturally)

Spread across eight alleys at Carlier Bowling Lanes an obviously amateur group of faculty members tested their limited talents against the virile seniors. To those distinguished (and extinguished) teachers and administrators who participated in this rip-roaring event Saturday night, January 31, this reporter would like to apologize for the derogatory critique of their bowling skills, but accurate reporting is a trademark of The Argo.

All kidding aside, the faculty showed a lot of spirit and semi-decent form as they pulled off a decent score, using a mixture of ballet steps and football moves. The outstanding individual score throughout the night was Mr. Darrell's 199 in the first game. Unfortunately, in the following game his score dropped to a 95. Who can explain such a phenomenon? Perhaps lifting 16 pound bowling balls is too much of a strain on the biceps. When asked how he felt about Debbie Dudas' three spares in a row, Mr. Darrell replied, "Sit on it!"

Mr. Anderson, supposedly the faculty's secret weapon, asked in a frustrated tone, "Why do all the pins have to be in the corner?" And how was Dr. Heinlein enjoying himself? "You should have asked me the last frame when I got a spare!" he replied. Mr. Hordijk won the Presidential Physical Fitness Award for bowling his own weight 79!

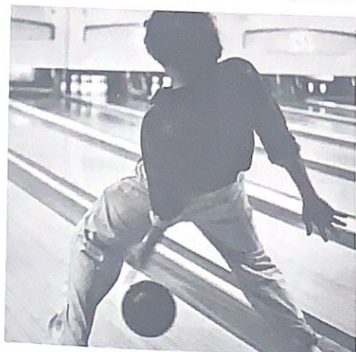
The seniors, of course, gave a bedazzling perform-

ance with such hilarious routines as Russell Best's bowling between his legs. Actually, Russell's technique proved to be quite successful; he first made seven points on one throw. He was awarded the Chinese Amazement Award. Russell, who bowled a 135 on the first game eloquently said, "This place is going bananas!" Many of the students' scores were analogous to their chemistry exam grades (and that ain't sayin' much!). Peter Weprinsky exclaimed, "I'm gonna strike out just like I did last night."

But still there was a definite feeling of optimism among this poor group of youngsters who bravely challenged the faculty, even without having practiced. This could be seen in Mike Smalley's determined statement, "We're gonna blow 'em off the map!" Some of the high scores for the seniors were Mike Ballai's 181, and Jay Goldbaum's 186. Low scores were Ieva Miesnieks' 61 and Laron Wolicki's 55.

Just a word of advice from our esteemed Mr. Hyman. "For future senior-faculty bowling games, I would like to suggest that they turn down the lights so there's no reflection off of Beronio's head." (And you thought we wouldn't make a crack about that, Mr. Beronio!)

It's hard to say who won because the seniors outnumbered the faculty. The faculty's high scores were higher than ours and our lowest scores were lower than theirs. But who cares?



Don't knock it 'till you've tried it.



Bet 'ya didn't know the old guy had it in him!
Photos by J. Berkowitz

Skiers survive frostbite, -65° and Chuck 'n Wayne

by Julianna Ratych

At 7:00 on Thursday morning, January 22nd, a busload of expectant Preppers pulled out of Rutgers Prep. The students, accompanied by Mr. Gaggini, Mrs. Saunders, and two ski instructors, Wayne and Chuck, were bound for four days of skiing in Massachusetts and Vermont.

After five hours of driving, the bus stopped at Catamount, a ski resort in Upstate New York, and the twenty-one skiers were let loose. The beginners were given ski instructions, which ended abruptly

when Wendy Krivitsky's finger developed frostbite. At 4:00, the bus headed for the Holiday Inn and apres-ski fun. The evening was spent getting better acquainted with the instructors; they were both friendly, interesting and concerned, and by Sunday, everyone had become very close.

The next morning they found out there would be no skiing that day. The windchill factor of the previous night had been -65°, and the bus was frozen. Although they were a little disappointed at first, the resourceful youngsters soon found things to do. A few went to town to roller-skate, others slid down the 10 ft. hill next to the motel on breakfast trays, and a couple of nerds even went down on skis. That night they put the heated pool to use, and practically bought out the neighborhood pizzeria.

On Saturday, the skiers headed toward Mt. Snow. Vermont proved to be beautiful, and the skiing fantastic, although the lifts presented somewhat of a problem. A few people fell off. Marilyn Howarth actually caught her scarf in a lift.

Sunday was spent at Catamount, and the icy snow conditions sent poles, skis and an occasional boot flying through the air. The temperature was 9°, a heat wave compared to previous days. Leaving was sad, for the coming week held nothing but work. But the skiers were grateful to the chaperones and instructors, who had made the trip memorable and had brought everyone closer together.

Social Security causes scandal

Is social security really secure?

Not for senior Janet Lynn Berkowitz who recently discovered that another Janet Lynn Berkowitz, living in Pittsburgh, Pa., has the same social security number. Not only that, but they were both born on the seventh day of a month in 1958 and have the same intended college major. The only difference is that the other one, or to Janet "the impostor", has dark hair.

Janet discovered the error when she received a call from the assistant admissions officer at Georgetown University. It seems that both girls applied to that school and the computers there were fouled up by the identical social security numbers. After calling four other Berkowitz's in Pittsburgh, Janet finally reached her "twin" only to discover two more schools to which they both applied.

They both worked over the summer and all their social security benefits went into the same account. Had they never applied to Georgetown, (where they file applicants by social security number) this would have continued until retirement. The only solution, Janet said, would be "to beat her down to the social security office as soon as I turn 65!"



Kenneth Gray, as Dracula, and Rosaly Randolph, as Mina, perform in the George Street Playhouse production of Ted Tiller's *Count Dracula*. For more about the show, see Art to Heart.

Art to Heart

The thrills and suspense in the performance of Ted Tiller's *Count Dracula* at the George Street Playhouse would most definitely be enjoyed by both young and old.

Complete with bats, capes, and fog, the production is an impressive dramatization of the Gothic novel by Bram Stoker. The presentation is very effective on account of the melodramatic nature of the play itself combined with the forceful and energetic involvement of the actors.

The George Street Playhouse is definitely worth recognizing. It is a professional theatre that will advance and strengthen proportionally as its name is spread and its merits are recognized.

Count Dracula will be performed Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights through February 14, with midnight performances of the 7th, 13th, and 14th. Future productions will include Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* and Brecht's *Three Penny Opera*.



Vicky Banko digs volleyball over net in the girls' victory over Newark Academy. Photo by G. Israel.

Wrestlers are better than 9-4 record shows

Midway through its season, the varsity wrestling team has compiled a 9-4 record. Of these four losses, only one has come at the hands of a New Jersey team, Lawrenceville, a perennial powerhouse. While the team's record may seem meager when compared to those of the past few seasons, Coach Buddy Frezza is pleased with the performance of the team: "We have had some great individual performances. As far as losses go, in every one we went into the meet forfeiting at least 12 points. In losses such as the one to Lawrenceville, in which Prep grapplers were downed by only five points, the role the forfeits played is obvious."

The great performances Coach Frezza referred to are best exemplified by Prep's two undefeated wrestlers Dave Yurcisin and Alex Wiley. Alex, a freshman seeing his first year of varsity action, has amassed a 7-0 record in dual meets. His only losses came early in the season in tournament play, including the New Brunswick Christmas tournament in which he took third.

Sophomore Dave Yurcisin hasn't lost a match, compiling a 14-0 record while pinning 10 of his opponents. Dave placed first in the Christmas tournament. Coach Frezza has only one worry with Dave: "He hasn't even really been challenged so far. In a situation like this it is easy for a wrestler to let up." But Coach Frezza has complete confidence in Dave's ability to maintain his peak of performance and continue the outstanding job he has done so far.

Senior co-captain Paul Grippo also took first in the Christmas tournament. After opening the season with an upset loss against Gill-St. Bernards Paul has gone on to defeat all of his opponents with the exception of one tie. For the second season in a row, Paul is wrestling in a weight class two up from the previous year, against wrestlers who usually have the edge in strength. This fact makes Paul's performance even more impressive.

Other wrestlers who have wrestled well include sophomore Ed Pahler, junior Ed James, and seniors Jay Goldbaum, and co-captain Joe Yurcisin. Jay has equalled the excellent job he did last year. The team has depended on the performances of Pahler and James, both of whom have similar problems to Paul Grippo in regard to weight class jumping. Paul Daviet is much improved over last year, despite injuries. Joe Yurcisin has often wrestled while injured as he did against Englewood to save the victory for the team. Coach Frezza feels the team is

"performing exactly as I expected it to in the beginning of the season. We are a strong tournament team. Because of a few weak weight classes the team's performance in dual meets is not representative of the quality of most of our wrestlers." He has high hopes for the remainder of the season and the State tournament.



Undeclared 101 pounder, David Yurcisin, gains control of Newmann Prep opponent. David scored his tenth pin of the year in 3:12 minutes to lead Rutgers Prep to a 42-22 victory. Photo by J. Streu

Girl athletes show increasing spirit as season progresses

When speaking of the girls' basketball team, Coach Tina Leone stressed the determination and team spirit felt by all members of the team. As Coach Leone phrased it, "Everybody's putting out one hundred per cent in every game."

She is also pleased with the girls' performance as a whole. In their games, the team's defense has been especially strong, keeping the scoring of the other teams low. Although the offense of the team is weak, Mary Valenti is high scorer with more than 85 points. "The girls have been giving up too much height to the other teams," says Coach Leone. She is working with the girls during their limited practice time to try to strengthen and improve their offense.

The team will have some tough games in the remainder of the season and are looking for more home crowd enthusiasm to cheer them on.

Mrs. Leone expects the nucleus of the team to be strong next year with only senior Debbie Dudas, co-captain with Mary Valenti, leaving the team. She is also hoping to have more girls come out for the team next year.

The girls' volleyball team also shows much enthusiasm and team spirit. Led by captain Ieva Miesnieks, the girls work hard on the court and don't give up.

Coach Leone is very impressed with the J.V. squad this year. Mrs. Leone stated, "The skill level of the 7th and 8th grade girls is not too far below that of many J.V. squads of other schools composed of 9th, 10th, and 11th graders."

She foresees a good team next year and is looking forward to seeing "these younger girls adequately filling in the spaces left by graduating seniors."

Milligan and Mullins lead players through super basketball season

by Dave Yurcisin

So far this season, the Rutgers Prep basketball team has done better than expected, and it boasts a 13-1 record to prove it. It is very hard to regain good quality basketball after a long exam break, but according to Coach Dick O'Connell, the time off has shown no effect and the team is playing as well as it has all season. This was evident when Rutgers Prep beat a tough team from St. Paul's convincingly. This, however, was not the highlight of the season.

Rutgers Prep proved too tough for Lawrenceville as Prep held on to win 80-75 in the biggest game of the season. The team was the first from Rutgers Prep to ever beat a Lawrenceville team. Although Rutgers Prep allowed a lot of turnovers, the good shooting of Nate Mullins and Todd Milligan was too much for Lawrenceville to handle. In the game, Todd pumped in 30 points; Nate had a personal game high of 30 points. Tony Scialabba had 14 points and Johnny O'Connell added 9. The victory was sweet, but there are many crucial games in the future.

"The next two weeks will tell the outcome of the season," said Coach O'Connell. He was referring to games against Hun, Princeton Day, and Bridgewater Raritan West. The game against Hun won't only be tough because they are a division A school, but also because of their home court advantage. Princeton

Day, as always, will undoubtedly be a hard battle. The Bridgewater game will be a revenge match, as this is the team that has the only victory against Prep this season. The game will have radio coverage from our gym and it looks like it will be very exciting.

If Prep wins its three games before the state tournament meeting is held, Coach O'Connell will have to decide on playing in division A or division B. He feels that since Prep has already beaten the top teams in division B, why not play in division A where a championship proves the best private school in New Jersey.

Not only is Prep undefeated against private schools, the team also has the biggest difference between their points and opponents' points in Somerset County. Along with that, they have the county's leading scorer, Todd Milligan. "Todd has more talent than any kid I've had," said Coach O'Connell. He's not the only one who has noticed Todd's ability, as Todd has attracted the attention of about 180 colleges.

Nate Mullins, eleventh leading scorer in Somerset County, has

attracted the attention of about 80 schools. Coach O'Connell feels that he has been improving with each game. Because of the tremendous ability of Nate and Todd, most of Prep's opponents use a full court press which puts a lot of pressure on the two.

Tony Scialabba has eased some of this pressure with his high scoring. He is the sixth leading scorer in the county. Johnny O'Connell and Mike Ballai have been bringing the ball up court for Prep. Besides a weak game against Lawrenceville, they have been consistently reliable. Peter Weprinsky and Ken Fried are first off the bench. They have been doing a good job filling in for the starters, according to Coach O'Connell. In the game against Neuman Prep, for example, the reserves played especially well, as Bob Campbell's 9 points in only a few minutes playing time shows.

It may be hard to believe that the result of an entire season could come out of a few days, but Coach O'Connell feels that this might be the "best season ever." The next two weeks will tell.

Swim team keeps trying despite depressing season

With only four meets remaining, the swim team appears to be heading towards a year of defeats. Coach Fenstermaker believes, "It will be very hard to win these final meets. The teams we are up against have either beaten us already or are very tough."

Despite the constant deterrent of defeat, the team still strives for victory, and not a single member has lost hope. This is definitely a sign of determination. Every member still puts out one-hundred per cent. As a result of this determination, winning appears imminent for next year. The coach feels that the team will be improved next year because the swimmers will have more experience. This year's team is basically a young one. The coach already sees signs of improvement. He says, "The biggest surprise of this season has to be the development of our younger swimmers such as Jeff Rutter and Kevin Kane."

When asked about his feelings toward a one-win season, senior captain Charlie Daniel, a four-year member on the team, replied, "The swimming team has never been a winning proposition. This is due to the high caliber of teams we compete with and the lack of turnout for the Prep team. There has always been, however, a lot of devotion among the swimmers."

In the 1974-75 season, girls were allowed to join the swim team. Despite enormous responses during the first two years, at the present time, no girls are on the team. Coach



Coach Fenstermaker instructs his young swimmers through daily practices. Photo by J. Berkowitz

Fenstermaker explained this occurrence by his belief that the girls, in general, have lost interest. The coach also expressed his disappointment in saying, "It's nice to have girls around."

The swim team, however, has been encouraged by the return of Robert Murray. Robert, who seems to be one of the top swimmers, has now worked his way back into shape. Robert's return will certainly enhance the chances of the team's winning a few of its remaining meets.



Freestyler Robert Murray demonstrates his form during practice. Photo by J. Berkowitz