

# THE ARGO

Vol. 101, No. 2

RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

MARCH, 1990

## Model Congress

Sonali Lakhani and Raguini Narotam

From December 15-19 a group of nineteen students went to Washington D.C. for the seventh year of Princeton Model Congress. Prep has been attending Model Congress for many years, but it was particularly competitive this year.

Some of the kids had already been to PMC last year; however, many of the people were new members of the program. The members were: Dan Karen, Vaishali Patel, Ron Lahiri, Karen Robinovitz, James Talbot, Eytan Moked, Sandy Somers, Joe Locandro, Adam Lore, Garvin Jesdanun, Robert Chwatko, Amar Makhal, Geoffrey Gussis, Sri Tangirala, Shivam Mallick, Alpa Patel, Naledi Khabo, Sonali Lakhani, and Raguini Narotam. Mr. and Mrs.

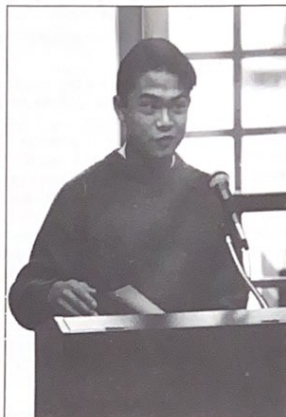
Richard Karman chaperoned, and they brought their son along. Or, at least, we thought it was their son—we only saw him twice (on the train ride there and back).

Meetings took place throughout the day with breaks for lunch and dinner,

and the delegates from RPS soon found out they had a lot to learn. The kids from other schools seemed to have been preparing for months, and many of our first-timers were very surprised. One of the biggest things they learned was that preparation in advance is necessary.

Twenty-three schools attended PMC from all over the country. The RPS delegation was relatively small compared to the other schools. Nevertheless, we came out with two award winners: Dan Karen and Romaneer (as his committee head preferred to call him) Lahiri. Dan won a gavel, the highest award possible given to one member in each committee.

Overall, PMC proved to be a learning—but fun—experience. Having gone this year will help many of the participants to present themselves more effectively next year. So, for all of you thinking of doing it next year—go for it!!! It's a great experience.



Robert John Fidelino takes command during morning assembly as President

## Student Council Election Results

Adam Lore

The Rutgers Prep student body elected new officers for Student Council. They went

to the voting booth knowing full well the importance of their decisions, as Council is the primary tool for the students' voice to be heard.

Running for the office of Treasurer were Chris Davis and Andrew Rafalaf. The race for Secretary was be-

tween Liz Chin and Scott Mory. Robert Chwatko and Raguini Narotam ran for

Vice-president while Robert Fidelino ran against Shivam Mallick for the Presidency.

A week of campaigning culminated at the debates. At these debates it became clear what the primary aims of the candidates were when they obtained their position.

Robert Chwatko pledged that he would listen patiently to the ideas and problems of the students. Robert Fidelino gave a brief demonstration to express his views that school should be a place where a student can have fun as well as learn.

When the smoke cleared, Andrew Rafalaf, Liz Chin, Raguini Narotam, and Robert Fidelino emerged victorious. They have the insurmountable and unenviable task of filling the void left by the departing Council members. The new officers will have to keep up the standard of excellence the past ones have behind. The elected officers are optimistic that they will be able to fill the empty shoes and promise to do their jobs to the best of their abilities.

Recently in Student Council, because of the three week absence of Robert John Fidelino, Raguini Narotam has taken over the duties of the Presidency. The main task that she had to complete was the allocation of money for the multitude of clubs found at Prep. She has also to find a skilled and responsible person to fill the position of archivist. Sonali Lakhani was selected to fulfill the position of archivist. The transition of power has been smooth and the Prep Community can look forward to a healthy year with many fun-filled activities planned by Student Council.

Remember:  
The Student Council  
Is Your Council

Get Involved!

## Ski Club Finishes On High

Ron Lahiri

As the weather gets warmer, many skiers are having to come to grips with the sad reality that the ski season for this year is over. But the Rutgers Prep Ski Club can by no means be disappointed with its activity this year.

The Club had both its high points and its low points, but Mrs. Lair and Seth Rosenbaum will surely agree that the year has been a success.

The ski club unfortunately had a negative experience when they went to Killington in February, in which they were evicted from the hotel. The students had been burning sheets, jumping off balconies, and watching pornographic movies. Due to the excessive damage to the rooms and the hallway carpet-

ing, the manager of the hotel decided that it was in their best interest to end the Prep vacation. So the disappointed skiers came home, their heads hung low, and obviously embarrassed by their destructive behavior at Killington.

This, however, was not the end of the Ski Club's career, by any means. An even larger excursion was made to Innsbruck, Austria for a week over Spring vacation. The group of thirty students was accompanied by Mrs. Lair, Ms. Snook, and even boss-man himself, Ted Lingenheld. Several Prep parents, as well as a few Prep graduates were also on the trip.

So the troupe of sixty-four altogether set out for Austria, knowing that they would have

to redeem the reputation of the Ski Club by their appropriate behavior. (The presence of the headmaster also set quite a tone for the group and encouraged students to act appropriately in the spirit of dear old Rutgers Prep.)

The trip consisted of daily skiing at the five areas that surround Innsbruck, excursions to the Stubai Glacier, excursions to Ischgl (a ski area that connects Austria to Switzerland), bobsledding runs at night, and the exciting nightlife of the City Pub and American Disco. However due to the unfortunate preponderance of an annoying little curfew, many students felt somewhat restricted to fully take in the nightlife of

Innsbruck.

The Austria trip was a success. The Headmaster seems very proud of the students that went, as their behavior truly represented the Rutgers Prep ideals that he tries so hard to teach us. The February trip to Killington, however, was a failure. The outrageous behavior of the students who attended not only embarrassed the school, but put a black mark on the reputation of the Rutgers Prep Ski Club. But as Melissa Rosenbaum, a student who went to Killington, says, "Even though the hotel was trashed, the skiing was great."

## Earth Day: 1990

April 22 will mark the 20th Anniversary of the first Earth Day. Under the leadership of Mr. David Mazza, the Prep Community will celebrate it on Friday, April 20th.





# Community Service: Mandatory Volunteerism

Daniel Karen

The following editorial is a series of arguments and observations concerning the Community Service Program at Rutgers Prep voiced through the interviews of numerous students.

No one believes Community Service is a bad thing. Community Service is a great idea, so is Communism, in theory. Many, however, did not believe the program is fair to the majority of the students, or that the intended program goals are being satisfied. Most reacted as though their tea was being taxed. The single greatest objection to the program the concept of "enforced volunteerism." Some object simply because they do not believe in enforcing voluntary action. It is not an act of charity or of giving if one is being forced to do it. Doesn't that in itself ruin the original intent of the program? Others are insulted

because they feel their morality and ethics are being brought into question. They, in turn, question the authority of the school to institute such a requirement.

The decision to initiate a Community Service Program was one which affected only the student body. Why was this not something the Student Council had a part in? Isn't that what the Student Council are supposed to be here for, or do they just do Burger Blasts? If Council does not have the authority to affect decisions which concern the whole student body - then shouldn't they? However, this raises another issue entirely; can the Student Council, the student's representative body, represent the student's needs effectively?

Many of the interviewed felt as though the Community Service requirement was a punishment. They did not

believe they should be made to feel guilty for not having the urge to give. One student said, "It is more of a calling, I believe, to give charity."

When I did my Community Service it was not an act of giving and what is it, if it is not to give." Many resented the school donating their time without their consent. "I know ten hours is not a lot, but it just does not seem right for school to tell me what to do with my free time," said another student. Of course, all the school is trying to do is to plant the seed of being charitable and generous in its students. I ask you - is that not the responsibility of the home and family?

Another observations by the interviewed students included the opinion that the Community Service bulletin board was lacking. Another was what was described as the "half-way push." This

was an attempt to say that the school was giving the the students twice the responsibility and work. They not only had to do the Community Service, but they were responsible for getting themselves on to a project. Some of the students think the school should take a greater responsibility and should organize the students into small groups to do an assigned project together.

Another concern came from the non-drivers, who make up the majority of the student body. Their complaint was two-fold. The first was just that it is often difficult to get rides to and from places. "But that's no big deal, really," said one student, "the big problem is that my choices and opportunities are severely limited to places I can get to easily."

If the main intention of the Program is to incite the

individual's will to give, I believe this had previously been accomplished. The students of Rutgers Prep donate so much of their free time to benefit the community in which they live and spend the majority of their time, the Prep community. Why is this not sufficient as Community Service? Are activities such as participating on athletic teams, reporting for the Argos, writing for the Excelsior, acting in the drama productions, and countless other activities not services to a community? Do these things not require the commitment of both time and dedication? Is this not what the Community Service Program is trying to accomplish?

Let the Forum convene.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or if you would like to write for the Argo, please contact Mrs. Yen or Ron Lahiri.

Have any school concerns? Argo wants to hear them. Write us a letter.

It's everybody's the people at Argo just told me I had to hand something in today, so I've t... in a frantic rush against time to figure out what exactly I'm going to do! How about...  
STUFF FOR METHOD IN THE CAPSULE  
by Kevin Johnson



## Letter to the Editors...

Ted Lingenheld

Dear Ron:

I am writing in response to your column in the most recent Argo regarding the Spanish exchange visit this past September.

Since reading your views on the program I have also received a letter from the director of the Spanish school outlining in further detail concerns and disappointments which his students brought back following their stay with us. I have had extensive discussions with Mrs. Hagin (and also with Ms. Mansfield as it relates to our forthcoming French exchange) and we all agree that the Rutgers Prep community needs to refocus on several aspects of these

programs.

The administration, faculty, student body and parents of hosting families must work more collaboratively in developing a plan during the stay of our guests which makes them feel welcome and valued from arrival to departure. Many of your observations were on target and will serve as a catalyst in allowing all of us who support the exchange programs to work more effectively in this regard.

Our exchange program, now in its eighth year, has had a significant impact on language study at Rutgers Prep and on the lives of students who have participated in a program. It seems

as if we have inadvertently allowed ourselves to deviate from the formula which has left good feelings all around during most of our exchange experiences. Working together I hope we can get back on track in supporting both of our exchanges so that the relationships between Rutgers Prep and its sister schools in France and Spain can flourish and be sustained for many years to come.

My role will be a more active and visible one, and we will work together as a community to address the involvement of other members in making student participation in our exchange program a happy and memorable experience.

## Wild, Wild West

Alpa Patel

Since the days of our childhood, we have always been fascinated by guns. We played 'Cops and Robbers', 'Cowboys and Indians' and pointed our water guns at our older brothers and sisters. Playing guns was fun.

However, they are no longer child's play, but the real world. The bloody drug wars in the streets give a new meaning to the phrase 'Wild West'.

While many lives are being taken, Congress and the President are wrangling over the issue of whether to protect the public or secure "the right to bear arms." Ironically, when the authors of the Constitution granted "the right to bear arms," it

was meant as a means of protection; instead, it has become a cause of destruction.

Although many still think of a gun as a means of protection from lurking killers, most deaths are caused by the accidents involving guns and by killers who should not have been able to obtain a gun in the first place. That's why Congress and the President, if they have enough guts, must join together to protect the general public, by controlling the use of guns.

Gun control is not anti-gun; it is pro-life. It only limits distribution of certain types of guns, as well as strictly overseeing the buying and selling of guns. Thus, gun control will not hinder "the right to bear arms" for people who are justified in their possession and the use of guns.



# Spirit Day : 1990

Vaishali Patel

Spirit Day began several years ago as a remembrance of the burning of the upper school. Designed to uplift class spirit by creating a competition amongst the classes, Spirit Day was a success. As one junior said, "Because of Spirit Day, I feel closer to the rest of the kids in my class. Working together to make the banner and participate in the activities we planned during the week made me feel glad to be a part of the junior class."

This year the freshmen picked their theme as fantasyland, using various cartoon characters such as the Smurfs, the Simpsons and the Muppets to show their class spirit. Although the skits were creatively done, unfortunately they were not heard clearly and some complained that the skits were too long. The sophomores used the Love Boat as their theme, also counting similar problems.

The juniors based their

theme upon the fire itself and prepared various "skits" during the week after



Scott Johnson accepts Award

assembly was over. They crowned a Guido King and Queen, and also a Fire God and Goddess that the juniors

paid homage to. Because of their show of spirit during the week, their original bulletin board and well planned presentation, the juniors won Spirit Day.

The seniors, coming in second, decided to set a different course this year by not selecting a particular theme, but rather just to present themselves. As the slogan on the bulletin board said, "Come together with the seniors." As with the other classes, the song the seniors sang, a rendition of "Come Together," was plagued by the lack of a functioning sound system. The words of the song were "awesome" as one senior put it; however, no one could hear the words.

With the exception of a shoddy sound system, Spirit Day fulfilled its purpose in raising class spirit.

# Wandering with Wacker

Ronobir Lahiri

"Okay. The first rule is that I always win. When we play government, I am always the dictator. When we have mock trials, I am always the judge. If you do the work, you'll get a good grade and I win. If you don't do the work, you'll fail and I'll still win. To survive in my class you must remember that I always win."

If this opening speech sounds all too familiar then it can only mean one thing: the Wack is back! One of the most significant changes at Rutgers Prep for the second semester has been the return of history teacher-world traveler, Arlene Wacker. She spent the first semester on sabbatical, travelling through

China, Singapore, Thailand, India, and Turkey.

Mrs. Wacker's trip began the second week of September, when she and her husband left for Hawaii, a week-long stop that was "on the way" to China. She made a brief stop in Hong Kong, then really began her trip with a tour group she met in Shanghai. The Chinese airline called "Dragon Air" providing the transportation within the country. Mrs. Wacker sailed down the 1000 year old Grand Canal, which connects Beijing to the South, and was able to compare Chinese education to the American system. She was particularly impressed with the Children's

Palaces, schools devoted fully to the study of the performing arts, and commented that "tremendous gains have been made in Chinese education."

Mrs. Wacker spent some time in Nanjing, visiting the famous mausoleum of Sun Yat Sen, touring Beijing's Forbidden City, and even had the opportunity to be in Tiananmen Square on the fortieth anniversary of the revolution of the Communist Party.

After observing the terra cotta warriors of Xian, sailing up the Yangtze, and observing the unique landscapes of Guilin, Mrs. Wacker went to Singapore. She was pleasantly surprised by the

# Student Council Exchange

Alex Wojtenko

On Tuesday, January 30, 1990, the School Council hosted their first School Council Idea Exchange Day. The eight schools that attended the idea exchange were Princeton Day School, Pennington, Morristown-Beard, Gill St. Bernard, Wardlaw-Hartridge, Kent Place, Newark Academy, and Franklin High School.

The day began at noon with a luncheon in the library. After the students and advisors had had the opportunity to mingle over lunch, they were divided into four small discussion groups. The topics of the groups included activities, fund raisers, school spirit and participation, and student government. The day ended

with a general session in which the ideas discussed in the small groups were shared with everyone.

All of the participating schools were enthusiastic about sharing their ideas, and Prep Council members were able to gain new insight into different ways of raising school spirit and getting students to participate in school activities. Several of the schools expressed an interest in co-sponsoring activities in order to get more schools working together for a common goal. All in all, the day seemed to be a great success and the School Council hopes to make this an annual part of their calendar.

# Blood Drive

Robbie Samuels

On Friday December 1, 1989, Rutgers Prep held its annual blood drive in Baldwin Hall. This year's drive was not as successful as in past years because of a low turn

out by the senior class. Only five seniors participated in the drive, much less than the usual number that came out to support the blood drive. As usual Mrs. Lair organized the blood drive, as she has been doing for many years.

"beautiful, clean, organized, and pleasurable" country, which was much different from what she had expected.

She spent some time in Thailand, with former Rutgers Prep principal, Mike Levinson, (who is currently the principal of the International School in Thailand), before moving on to India. In India, she toured almost the entire country, visiting key cities such as Bombay, Mysore, Bangalore, Madras, Agra, Calcutta, and New Delhi. She was particularly impressed by the temples of Southern India and had the exciting opportunity to be in the capital, New Delhi, one week before the national election.

She visited Turkey's Istanbul, spent five days in London, and finally returned home on December 1, after an almost three-month-long trip. Mrs. Wacker feels that the trip was very informative for her, and that a first hand view at these countries is a wonderful way to increase one's understanding. Although she did not say so, she seems to have some pleasure in being back at Rutgers Prep. When asked if she was glad to be back, she simply smiled. In summation of how much she enjoyed her vacation, Mrs. Wacker stated, "I would go again tomorrow, if I could."

Ron Lahiri and Kirsten Driver, two of the seniors who participated, both found the experience meaningful and worthwhile. "I decided that since I am old enough now to donate blood, I might as well take the opportunity to give something that will mean a lot to another person," said Kirsten. After giving blood the participants were treated to cocoa and cookies along with the singing and joking of Joe Davis. The seniors said that giving blood was no big deal and did not hurt at all.

As well as students, there were also some teachers who participated in the drive. For Mrs. Yen, it was her second year giving blood. "I gave it last year and I thought that there was a special need for people to give blood, because of fewer volunteers," she said. She also felt that giving blood was no big deal and painless.

All in all the blood drive was not a great success, but every drop counts. Hopefully next year will be more successful with a bigger turnout.



The Empress Dowager's Marble Boat Substitutes for Chinese Navy

Look  
For  
More Argo  
Coming  
Soon!



## Wrestlers' Regroup

Joe Locandro

The RPS wrestling team, entering the "home stretch" of its season, is readying itself for several important tournaments which could make-or break its season. At 5-5, Coach Bob Dougherty and assistant coach Bob Marotto are pleased but are looking for the team to rise to the occasion and place well in the upcoming tournaments.

This year's team is blessed with a good balance of veterans and rookies, and leadership is provided by the tri-captains, seniors Josh Greenstein and Emile LeMoigne, and junior Scott Goldberg. The captains, along with Coaches Dougherty and Marotto, have made "concrete goals" for the team: winning the conference and state tournaments. These goals seemed more attainable in the beginning of the

season, when the team jumped off to a fast start. However, the team has run across troubled times as of late, which Dougherty attributes to the team's "injuries, sicknesses, and inexperience." But he feels that the team can pull together to get past these difficulties and thus seriously challenge Dwight-Englewood (the squad to beat, according to Dougherty) for the divisional titles.

There are several big meets drawing near, including the Hun Tournament as well as the conference and state meets. This year's state tournament is being held here at Prep on Feb. 16-17, and the team is hoping for a large home crowd turnout. Dougherty feels that the team has recommitted itself, is regaining confidence, and is on its way to victory.



Scott Goldberg: Another Pin on the way to becoming National Champion

## Girls' B-Ball

Connie Conaway

After a rough start, the girls basketball team pulled together and had a strong finish, including a two game winning streak towards the end of the season. Although a lot of the games were canceled due to bad weather, the girls had many highlights, such as beating Saddle River Day and Columbia Prep by more than 30 points. Led by

Senior captains Nicole Chelel, Jen Gussis, and Krista Stella, the Argonauts made it to the quarter-finals, beating Pennington twice, before being eliminated by Hun. The girls, along with Mrs. Klinger, put a lot of hard work and effort into this season, and even though their final record was 7-9, it was a good year for everyone.

## Swimming

Guillermo Garcia

The swim team had a great season this year. The swimmers really surprised Mr. Forney, by taking third overall in the Conference Tournament and finishing with a 6-4 record. Although our team was rebuilding its strength they still managed to do well. The team acquired many new swimmers to complement the returners. Freshman Luis Garcia and Joe Costello proved to be a great

help along with sophomores Russell Lee, Dan Baron, Janet Jenkin, Andrea Grumet, and Dan Miller. Though only a few juniors participated, Guillermo Garcia, David Fisher, and Garvin Jesdanun also proved to be a great asset. The swim team is looking forward to an exciting and successful next season, as the team will be more experienced and have more depth.

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## Boys' B-Ball Rebuilding

Dave Rosner

The Rutgers Prep Boys' Basketball team has been having an up and down season. They won their first game in the Rutgers Prep Holiday Tournament against Columbia Prep (NYC). In that game two starters were ejected and suspended for the next two games. Prep went on and lost in the finals against Newark Academy. They then traveled to Saddle River School and lost there without Junior Jason Eisenberg and sophomore point guard Paul McLaughlin. Yet after that the RPS team went on to win their next three games against Friends Seminary, Mo/Beard, and Birch Wathen. After

exams, the team traveled to New York City to play in the Friends Academy Tournament. They played Oakwood Friends School in the first round and won, scoring ninety-two points. Senior forward and captain Scott Johnson scored twenty-five points. Paul McLaughlin made nine out of thirteen three-point shots. He also scored a team, game, and career high thirty-nine points. Prep lost in the finals of that tournament to the same Friends School that they beat a few weeks before.

Captain Scott Johnson said, "We didn't play as well the second time. The team

was having trouble with shooting and scoring." Then the team went on to lose to an excellent Blair team. They then went to Wardlaw Hartridge and lost a close one there, despite a second quarter run. The team lost again at home against Neuman Prep.

In the Somerset County Tournament, the Rutgers Prep team was seeded thirteenth out of fifteen teams. They played twelfth ranked Gill/St. Bernards in the first round. They lost by one, despite a last second layup by Colin Simons. The team is looking forward to playing in the state tournament and finishing the season on a good note.

## Volleyball: Best Ever

Shivam Mallick

This year's volleyball team is off to its best start ever. With a 10-3 record, the girls' team also has the best record of any winter sports team. This season the team has worked really hard to overcome teams they had previously lost to. Some strong squads they have beaten are Newark Academy, Kent Place, and Montclair-Kimberly. What has happened to change this team from 4-12 record last season to 10-3 this season?

Commitment, communication and confidence have made the difference. The varsity line-up is primarily the same as last year's, having lost only two graduating seniors. Now, the team has been able to communicate better. They come together as

a team and really work the ball to set up offensive plays. The better communication has resulted in fewer dropped balls and better offensive plays than before.

The team is also more aggressive now. Coach Nestvogel has introduced new drills that help the players learn new skills and fine tune older ones. They don't hesitate and let the ball be misplayed any more.

Also, the squad knows what it has been like to have disappointing losses and they no longer settle for second best. Coming off a disappointing record last season, the girls are determined to prove just how good they really are. The experience from last year has helped shape the season's positive attitude.

The girls' team consists

of: seniors Megan Coakley and Fara Komito, juniors Raguini Narotam, Shivam Mallick, Naledi Khabo, Marisol Gonzalez, and Hallee Fish, sophomores, Lindsay Bensko, Gracie Alcid, Kendall White, Lauren Trainer, Madai Cruz, and Melissa Allegre and freshmen Lynne Schwartz, Gabby DeSantis, and Sharon Solomon.

The large number of underclassmen insure the positive growth of the volleyball program in the years to come. Right now, the team is preparing for its final matches and is getting ready to make an impressive finish in the State Tournament at Morris-town Beach.

Seatbelts Save Lives  
Don't Drink and Drive