

# THE ARGO

VOL. 89—No. 4

RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1977

## Board of Trustees elects new members this month

by Doug Stahl

The Board of Trustees of Rutgers Prep, led by chairman Harold Oertell, is more active than ever. Next month it will choose a new headmaster from among three candidates. This month, the board elected members to ten of the 30 seats on the board. And last month it set up a project to expand the school.

### Board Elections

Candidates ran for ten seats on the board this month. Each member's term lasts three years, and the terms are staggered, so that ten seats are open each year. Ten seats are representatives of the Parent's Association, five are elected by alumni, and fifteen seats go to friends of the school, people in industry and in education.

These last are mainly members of the school corporation, like Mr. Oertell. They are equivalent to shareholders in the school, though the corporation itself chooses its members.

The board used to be a mainly honorary body. Most work was done by an executive committee of 3 to 4 officers, usually also officers of the corporation. Now the corporation, which held its annual meeting December 15, is for the most part honorary. One of Mr. Oertell's first actions when elected as chairman of the board in 1975 was to disband the executive committee. One effect was to increase attendance at board meetings from 40-50% to 70-90%.

Another recent accomplishment was the establishment of an endowment fund. "Every independent school I can think of has an endowment fund, for expansion and development," Mr. Oertell said. "The reason we did not was probably because the executive officers in 1942, when Rutgers University decided to cut off Rutgers Prep, were too closely connected with the university as well

as the school." The fund now stands at about \$20,000, and it is hoped it will reach \$50,000.

The board just balanced the budget last year. "There's been a lot of overspending in terms of revenue." But the deficit has been brought down to \$140-150,000.

### New Headmaster

In January, the monthly board meeting will elect one of three candidates to the post of headmaster. "The Search Committee has been working continuously since February, when it was certain we would go outside the school," Mr. Oertell said. "The committee hired the Independent Educational Service in Princeton, which specializes in headmaster searches. We worked with them before—when we found Mr. Dewey for principal of the Lower School. I.E.S. screened 125 candidates. Of these they recommended twelve. The committee interviewed six, and chose three." The three candidates have been visiting Prep at various times this month.

### School Expansion

On November 15 the board approved a long-term expansion plan proposed by the Special Development Committee. It is a three-pronged plan: to move the Lower School into a new building, to be built either in the adjacent playing field or parking lot near the present building; to move the administrative offices to a wing of the present Lower School building; and to set up a headmaster's residence in the rest of that building, which started out as a mansion in 1723.

"A headmaster's residence would have a very positive effect on the atmosphere of the school. It would increase the sense of community at Prep."

Right now, the residence is the only prong of the plan that seems certain

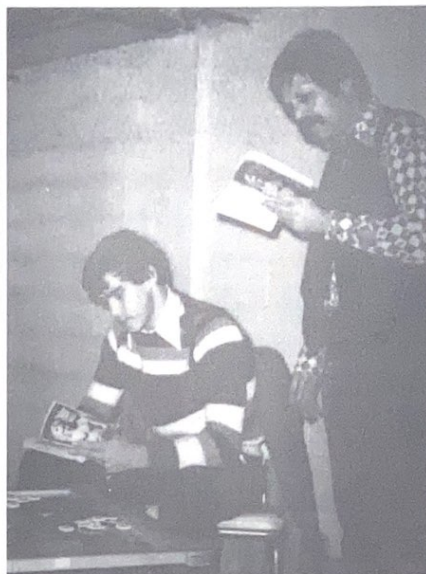
to be executed. "If we can't build a new Lower School we will build a headmaster's residence for \$50-75,000, which I am fully confident we can raise. We should know which way this will go by June or September."

Other construction proposals have been advanced, and most of them discarded. A group of businessmen, some alumni, offered to build an all-weather dome over the tennis courts. This idea was rejected because it would have allowed a constant flow of strangers on campus, as well as damaging the school's nonprofit tax status.

Alumni have offered, verbally, to give a swimming pool to the school. While the board favored the idea, it was rejected as too expensive, since maintenance would cost \$30,000 a year.

Mr. Oertell favors building an auditorium, for plays, dances, dinners, and other events. This would probably be connected with the construction of a new Lower School.

Mr. Oertell favors growth in general. "No institution can afford to stand still. I can't even say there will be any real growth. But in order to maintain our school as it is we have to bring about certain changes."



Larry Schulman (Pablo) and mentor.

## "Streetcar" arrives

Tennessee Williams' play, "A Streetcar Named Desire," came to Prep for four performances December 17 and 18.

Mr. Allan Pierce directed the drama in which Lucie Poirier starred. She played Blanche, a neurotic woman whose visit with her married sister Stella drives her into insanity. Dr. Richard Stephenson of the English department played Stanley Kowalski, a brutal bowler. The role was created by Marlon Brando in

1947. Marilyn Howarth was Stella, Stanley's wife.

Mitch, Steve and Pablo, buddies of Stanley, were played by Jon Strassberg, Eric Combast, and Larry Schulman. The cast was rounded out by Suzette Pawson, Sherrie Host, Fred Witham, Caroline Gernert and Howard Lipoff. Mr. Steven Lewandowski built the set and Chris Combast and Anne Pickler designed and erected the lighting.

## Rutgers Prep Little Chorus sings for "New Brunswick Tomorrow"

Forty kindergartners, first graders and second graders sang holiday songs in New Brunswick City Hall December 13. They sang at the request of "New Brunswick Tomorrow," a civic organization that is boosting the city.

The singers, billed as the "Rutgers Prep Little Chorus," was one of several groups participating in this 4-week program. Some others were the Rutgers Glee Club, The Middlesex College Choir, and the St. Peter's High School Boys Choir.

The rain forced the Chorus to perform in the hall of City Hall instead of in Kilmer Park in downtown New Brunswick.

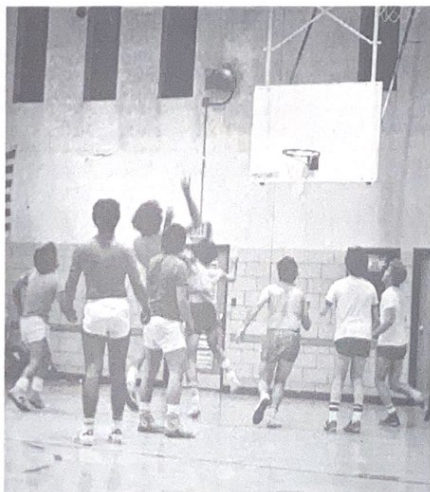
"It felt like the whole place was full of people," said Mrs. Mary Alice Johnson, the music teacher who directed the group. "We did 18 songs, starting with the school song, which I felt was appropriate." Then two Christmas songs and two Hanukkah songs, followed by a two part rendition of "Christmas is Coming."

"To have singers this young do this is really unheard of." But after the Little Chorus sang, "New Brunswick Tomorrow" asked them to come back the next week. Since school is out then, Mrs. Johnson refused. A lot of people said, "I wish WCTC had been here to record this. We heard WCTC may come to record us at school."

The program ended at 1 P.M. with two Spanish Christmas songs, "The song about the rabbits and the one about the bears," three traditional carols and "Sing It Out (Peace on Earth)" by Fred Williamson, a song that was performed for the first time anywhere by seventh graders at Prep six years ago.

"We had only two weeks to prepare for this," Mrs. Johnson said, "And only four rehearsals with the whole group together. The last one was the day of the concert. But I was very proud of them. They did really well." Thanks go to Mrs. Galperin, Mrs. Hassert, and Mrs. Hancox, teacher from her class, who "helped a great deal."

"There was the biggest Santa Claus I've ever seen in my life. He talked to the children before the concert and gave them each a balloon and a candy cane. They liked the candy cane very much."



Alumni enjoy Prep's Tuesday night "open gym."

## Applicants vie for admission to Prep

On December 10, a dozen students took the entrance examinations for Rutgers Prep. They will be notified of their acceptance or rejection this spring. More students will take the tests every six weeks from now on.

About one out of three applicants are taken, according to headmaster August Daviet. "Admissions are based on standardized test I've selected."

There are three parts to the examination: a scholastic aptitude test, a reading test, and a math test. "The aptitude test is similar to the SAT. It measures basic vocabulary and mathematical ability." It is also used as rough IQ indicator. "The reading test tests comprehension—how well a student can use information from a passage in a certain period of time." The test for applicants to the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades includes an additional vocabulary test. "We use the Stanford Math Achievement for ninth-grade applicants, which is concerned with math computation and concepts. For the other applicants we use the Co-operative Algebra Achievement."

Other factors matter. Each student must submit a writing sample. And things like poor scores and obvious disabilities tend to rule students out. "We do have a reading program, but, especially for an upperclassman, a serious learning problem is something we're really not equipped for."

Nearly 75% of the applicants apply for some sort of financial aid. "This has nothing to do with whether a student is accepted. We decide who is admitted, and the Financial Aid Committee of the Board of Trustees allocates money as it sees fit, around \$50,000."

In recent years, the number of applicants dropped off dramatically. "This was mainly due to the recession we were having," Mr. Daviet said. "A lot of parents decided private school was something they couldn't afford." This led to the establishment of the Open House program, originated in 1974 by an outside consultant, Dr. John Denker. Mr. Gene Bratek now runs the Development Office, which organizes the event.

"The Open Houses have been very successful in attracting people to Prep," said Mr. Daviet. "Other projects, such as an increase in advertising and the Scott Scholarship, have brought Prep a great deal more attention."



## Editorial

### How shall we use our funds?

For years, Rutgers Preparatory School has encouraged and, indeed, solicited, contributions, in order to flesh out its budget. Without the aid of these donations from parents, friends, and alumni, either the school's tuition costs would increase sharply, or it would be forced to do without much of the equipment it now has.

And it seems that Prep has, of late, been doing rather well in this area. Though not yet the second semester, the school is receiving two new facilities—a new student counseling center, and an alumni reception room. On the surface, perhaps a rather innocuous development. But there is a deeper problem here.

The counseling center was chosen from a list presented to Dr. and Mrs. Morton Klein, who would like it to be in memory of their daughter, Joyce. Mr. William Lamparter, Prep class of 1943, apparently decided ahead of time that he wanted to give the school an alumni reception room, and the Board of Trustees approved it.

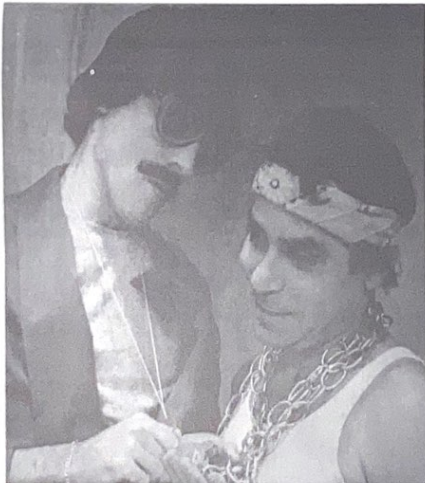
Now, the school, along with most areas of the country, is caught in an economic vice and may be in no position to turn down offers. But the administration ought to take a look at its priorities.

While the alumni reception room will be nice (at least for the alumni, trustees, and guests who will constitute its principle beneficiaries), is it really more important than, for example, new biology laboratories? Or new audiovisual equipment for the library (mention that to anyone who has used the library's battered, but at present its best, portable record player). Or a new computer? Or a new cafeteria?

These suggestions, if not all strictly academically-oriented, would at least be an unquestionable plus for the students, as well as for several or all of the teachers. Can the same be said about an alumni reception room, which is of no discernible advantage to students and of questionable aid to teachers (unless they are able to use it as another meeting room.)

Is the counseling center, though it would perhaps be of use to students (specifically seniors) and faculty (specifically the five senior advisors), really more necessary than biology laboratories? After all, each senior advisor has a room, except for Mr. Daviet, who has the Headmaster's office, and Dr. Speduto, who has his own area of the main office in the Upper School. Students and teachers will undoubtedly enjoy the use of the center once it is built, but one doesn't inject a healthy man with penicillin on the theory that if it doesn't help, it probably won't hurt either.

Obviously, the donors have their own, personal reasons for choosing the gifts they did, and it would be crass to imply ingratitude for their generosity. However, it is essential that, in the future, prospective patrons, as well as the administration, consider seriously their options, with a view to what ought to be Rutgers Preparatory School's primary objective: to provide a superior education to its students.



Dana Coen (left) as Gottlieb and Jaime Sanchez as the attendant.  
photo by Suzanne K. Krebs

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

We are making a plea for those of us who are habitual smokers. We feel that something should be done about smoking on campus. This is not a matter to be avoided. Those faculty members who smoke, should put themselves in our shoes. Imagine going through five hours without having a cigarette. Most smokers are using the bathrooms; but even smokers have to use the facilities, and the conditions are disgusting.

Many of us have permission to smoke from our parents. We feel that seniors, who have been given permission to smoke, should be allowed to

smoke outside on the blacktop. Outside, it would not be a fire hazard nor would it cause congestion. If this privilege was instituted then restrictions in the bathrooms could be enforced more severely.

We understand that the school can not vindicate the right to smoke on campus, but Prep must face the fact that conditions in the bathrooms will remain the same until we at least are given a trial period. We have faith in the student body. We'll respect the rules and limitations set, if given this small piece of freedom.

Names Withheld by Request

## No Sweat

by Joanne Juhasz

Where do we go after death? All of us have pondered this idea and have conceived various logical explanations. Bruce Jay Friedman's conception of God as a Puerto Rican bath house attendant is perhaps as valid as any.

Is this a humorous outlook toward death or is it reality? Friedman's play "Steambath", which has recently been performed at the George Street Playhouse, gives solid reasons for this to be quite factual. However, Friedman has more to say of life than death.

The performers, though very much dead, were quite vibrant and alive while they awaited their final entrance contained a variety of people, from homosexuals to alcoholic stock brokers, all enjoying the niceties of the steambath. Their costumes consisted only of towels; the set was a simple steam room with a computer. This scene could probably be considered a borderline case for a situation-comedy, but this play is not a sit-com.

The recent production at the George Street Playhouse employed actors utilizing all their energy, charisma, and insight for their demanding roles. The dominant figure of Jamie Sanchez, who played the attendant, accurately imitates the stereotyped Puerto-Rican laborer. The most shocking part about him is that in reality he is God. All the activities of the world were controlled by him through his computer. At the sound of his voice, individual's lives were reshaped or destroyed. The groups' belief in fate is shattered when they realize that fate is merely this attendant's means of amusement.

One of the underlying enigmas of Friedman's work is that men are not fulfilling their lives, nor will they realize the meaning of life until their "day of judgement." Sanchez must be commended for his performance, which other actors in later performances may find hard to follow.

Kerry Welch, portraying a man unable to accept God and his fate, carried off his part as well as Bill Bixby had done in the television production of the same play a few years ago. His newly acquired friend and also the only main actress in the play is Nancy Tompkins. Being the

## Israeli film previewed

by David Harbour

By now most of us have read the detailed accounts of this hijacking in the newspapers and magazines, and have viewed the two productions on television involving the Entebbe hijacking. The Israeli Government, in cooperation with the Israeli Defense Forces, hostages, and family members produced a movie involving the hijacking, featuring some of the hostages and Israeli Commandos, entitled, "Operation Thunderbolt". It was shown on October 1st and 2nd in the Carlton Theater in Red Bank, New Jersey, sponsored by Temple Beth Ahm in Matawan, New Jersey.

Why is Operation Thunderbolt so different? Why did it capture and hold my interest after viewing the two television productions? Realism and behind-the-scenes viewing produced meaningful insights into the endeavors of the Israeli Government and Armed Forces. The long hours of discussions by the Prime Minister and his cabinet on the difficult decision he had to make; the relentless training of the Israeli Commandos; the heartbreak of the parents and families of the hostages as they waited, and the hostages themselves.

## getting into this "Steambath"

only female on stage, much attention is drawn toward her; the audience realized early in the show that her physical attributes did not surpass her talent.

On the other hand, the old timer, portrayed by Jack Schmidt, had his highlights in the scenes in which he fought with one piggish character, Bieberman, but his overall performance was not as convincing as expected. In future productions, as with the television production, this character can be a major asset to the play if he is portrayed realistically.

The two most controversial actors were two young homosexuals, whose attire consisted of black studded collars and black high-heeled boots. Gilbert Cole's choreography for the two suggested their attitudes and personalities through actions, leaving little for the audience's imagination.

Though homosexuality is a sensitive subject, the audience merely reacted with laughter in this production.

Gottlieb, being the most colorful character on stage, is God's right hand man. Dana Coen, who portrayed Gottlieb, gave a stunning performance, even though he was hindered with roller skates and dark glasses. Other performers tackling this part may not find the acting half as strenuous as his vehicles of transportation.

If one can accept God to be like a mural on the Sistine Chapel, or a Buddha on a pedestal, why not accept him as a Puerto Rican steambath attendant?

Editor's note: The Piscataway Circle Players and The Community Theatre in Edison both have tentative plans to present this play in the near future.



Tandy (Kerry Welch) and Meredit (Nancy Tompkins) in a scene from "Steambath."  
photo by Suzanne K. Krebs

No actor could capture, as these true life participants have done, the emotions experienced by these people during this time.

After the picture was over, Colonel Shalom Anton, Military Attache from the Israeli Embassy, gave a brief speech about the production of this

movie and concluded his talk with the following statement: "Should anything of this nature happen again, Israel would not hesitate to take the steps needed to insure justice".

Operation Thunderbolt will be released to movie theaters throughout the country next year.

## THE ARGO

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## Academic Advisory Committee: What is it and what is its job?

by Kenny Freundlich

The Academic Advisory Committee is an important part of the policy-making machinery at Rutgers Prep, yet little is known by the general student body of its work. Made up of parents, faculty, members of the administration, and students, the Academic Advisory Committee has played an important role in providing input on which the administration plans its courses of action.

Its origins go back to 1958, when Rutgers Preparatory School separated from Rutgers, the State University. In the general reorganization of the Prep school at that time, it was decided that an Academic Advisory Committee, under the direction of an independent Board of Trustees, was of paramount importance to the school. According to Assistant Headmaster Dr. Frank V. Speduto, this was a "mark of transition from a department of a large university to an independent school."

The committee's formal authority directs it to recommend and report policies that serve to strengthen the school to the Board of Trustees. In practice, it has been used as a supplement to the Board in setting day-to-day policy. Its other duties are to help disseminate information to all areas of the school and, as Dr. Speduto phrased it, "to deal with little problems before they develop into big ones."

The Board of Trustees selects the chairperson and three members of the committee. The two student members are elected each year by the School Council. The principals of the Upper School, Middle School, and Lower School have seats on the committee, as does the Headmaster. The faculty members from each branch of

the school are elected for two-year terms at faculty meetings. The Parents Association also has two representatives at each meeting.

At the last meeting of the committee on November 7, two important matters were discussed: the new School Philosophy was approved by the committee, and sent on to the Board of Trustees, which gave its final approval. It states that Rutgers Prep is "dedicated to the attainment of academic excellence and the development of moral character" by "offering a superior education to qualified students regardless of race, color, creed or place of origin."

The school calendar proposed a school year similar to this year's, with 179 school days. In past years, the calendar has only provided for 170-172 days. Because the Academic Advisory Committee provided the forum necessary to air feedback on this issue, the calendar was revised back to its traditional length.

One important function the committee will be responsible for in the future is preparing for the evaluation of Rutgers Prep in 1980 by the Middle States Association. The Academic Advisory Committee will serve as the steering committee for the self-evaluatory section of the appraisal, as it did in 1970 for the last evaluation.

As an advisory panel and a sounding board for new ideas, the Academic Advisory Committee provides a valuable service to the school. By involving all of the members of the school community in policy decisions, it has fostered a climate of better relations in the school.



"Elementary, my dear Tevye"—Doug Stahl explains to Chris Combest.

## BIOS exposes math conspiracy

There's a myth in American education that deserves to be exposed. This issue, BIOS investigates the case of the Practical Math Problem.

Case A: "Mrs. Mowles purchased 3 new outfits this month. She plans on buying three times as many outfits each month as in the preceding month for a total of one year. How many outfits will she own?"

The above problem was taken from an actual Algebra II textbook. It assumes that there exists a lady who has no clothes to her name, but yet plans to buy 797,160 outfits in one year's time. Where is she planning to store them? Why this fixation on the number three? If she can afford to buy close to 800,000 outfits, why doesn't she buy one really nice one instead? Besides all these obvious flaws, the problem asks the wrong question. It should be asking, "In what month will Mr. Mowles file for divorce and go bankrupt?"

Case B: "A house can be built by 30 men working 120 days. How many men should be hired to complete the house in 80 days?"

What union in America would finish a job sooner with more men on the job? If anything, the more workers, the higher the possibility of a strike, and therefore the longer the job would take. The correct answer is "To complete the house in 80 days, don't hire more workers; make a smaller house."

Case C: "An ice cream cone 5 inches high and 2 inches in diameter is leaking from a hole at the rate of 3 cubic inches per minute. At what rate is the level of ice cream falling when the height of the ice cream measures 3 inches?"

For Pete's sake, why is someone calculating the rate at which the ice cream is falling when they should be eating the ice cream? More important, how fast is the puddle of ice cream attracting ants? Does the person who's holding the ice cream cone plan to clean up this mess?

Case D: "Assume the ideal cigarette contains 9 cubic centimeters of tobacco. What should the dimensions of the cigarette be in order to use the least amount of rolling paper?"

This is a trick problem. According to the methods of calculus, this cigarette would be a circle of infinite radius, and infinitesimal height. It would be impossible to roll, light, smoke, or enjoy. Besides being totally impractical, this problem is totally irrelevant. After all, the perfect cigarette does not contain tobacco.

The above cases prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the "practical" math problem is part of a conspiracy to fool students into thinking that algebra, trigonometry, geometry, and calculus are indispensable to their adult lives. BIOS proposes a "practical" problem of its own: If the average math textbook contains 200 word problems which are of no use to anyone, what is the average IQ of its authors?

## Outing Club members canoe down Millstone's white water

by Marilyn Howarth

On Sunday, November 8, the Outing Club held its first excursion. Leaving Rutgers Prep at 11:00 A.M., they embarked on what proved to be a fun-filled experience for all. Upon arriving at their destination of Kingston, the group of fifteen adventurers rented canoes for the one mile trek down the Millstone River. Having two to three people in each canoe lowered the cost of the trip, and each member ended up paying \$3.

The ride was thrilling, especially when the group approached a stretch of small rapids. Some students who were new at the art of canoeing soon learned that experience was definitely needed when the water was not totally calm. The rapids caused two of the canoes to capsize. Perhaps the students in those two canoes reconsidered their adventurous goals while wading in the cold water of the river. The Outing Club members were not left to their own devices, though, and were aided by the expertise of the club's advisors, Mr. John Hoover and Coach Al Brown.

At Rocky Hill the canoers left the Millstone and proceeded back to Kingston on the Delaware-Raritan Canal. This was not an easy task however, since the canoes had to be carried across the towpath which

separates the canal from the river. The journeyers arrived back at Rutgers Prep at 3:30 P.M.

The Outing Club has made some exciting plans for future trips and hopes

that they can be as successful. The possibilities include cross-country skiing, rubber-rafting, back-packing, biking, and an overnight camping trip in the spring.



Quarterback Mark Gilette leaps to avoid being sacked by Mr. John Hoover.

## Faculty, 14, Seniors 6... God was on their side



Mr. David Mazza concentrates on approaching ball; Brian Beckerman and Kenny Schriber concentrate on Mr. Mazza; and Mr. James Parsons exits stage left. photo by A. Wiley



Push comes to shove as Mark Sherman and Mr. Stephen Lewandowski battle it out in the trenches. photo by A. Wiley



## Varsity cagers prime for fun and run season

The boy's basketball team of Rutgers Prep has always been one of the most successful teams not only at Prep, but also, in Somerset County as well as the Independent School League. Last year the team posted a mediocre 13 win 14 loss record; however, there are a few new players this year along with many returning from last year, who might help the team to earn a better season.

"We are looking forward to a very exciting season this winter," states Coach O'Connell. "This should be a fine team to watch."

Starting at point guard for this third year is Captain John O'Connell. John has shown that he might be the best passing guard Coach O'Connell has had in his twenty-six years of coaching. Juniors Matt Lytwyn and Don Ballai look like they have the inside track on the starting assignment at the two forward spots.

Matt averaged twenty-four points a game last year as a sophomore and he seems destined to reach the coveted 1000 point career plateau this season. Don played a great deal of time at the number two guard spot last season, but he has been moved to the forward spot because of his offensive

quickness and his scoring ability.

Six foot, 4 inch sophomore Jefferson Hunt, who started at center as a freshman last year, has become a little stronger and should offer more rebounding and scoring this year. The number two guard spot should find 6'3" junior Jim Becker as the starter. Coach O'Connell calls Jim "an excellent shooter and a fine all round player". He, also, states that "Becker can be a college prospect if his quickness improves".

The "sixth starter", as the coach puts it, is senior Art Wilmot. "Art can play center, forward, or the number two guard — he is an excellent athlete and will see a lot of playing time". Senior A. O. Smith is the seventh man on the squad. He can also play guard and forward. Seniors Marc Gillette and Larry Lerner and juniors Pete Lisiecki and Marty Mason fill out the squad.

"Our Boston Celtic type of fast breaking offense is fun to play and watch and will put many points on the board. If we can improve our pressure and quickness on defense and our rebounding, we can win twenty games this season," states O'Connell.



Marc Gillette (right) attempts to block a shot in a basketball scrimmage against Immaculata. photo by A. Wiley

## Fall season of achievement ushers in winter calendar

The success of Prep's fall sports season cannot go unrecognized, however it is very difficult to sum up in a few words the accomplishments of four varsity teams, none of which had losing seasons, and their respective junior varsity counterparts.

To begin with, the girl's varsity tennis team accomplished something which has not been done at Prep in over fifty years; they finished their season undefeated. In addition, this spotless record of twelve wins and no losses was highlighted by undefeated seasons achieved by all three singles players.

Ellen Sandies, the team captain, continued her winning streak at first singles by finishing with a 25-0 record over a two year period. Both Arlene Ungelerleider and Chris Bettex also finished their seasons undefeated at second and third singles respectively.

Coach Barry Chamberlain was very proud of his team's record and felt they had a "superb season," which was complemented by the strong showings of the singles positions.

The varsity soccer team finished their season with an admirable 7 win, 4 loss, 4 tie record. In the last six games of the year, Prep recorded five victories and one defeat; the lone loss coming at the hands of Montclair-Kimberly in the semi-final round of the state tournament.

After their first full year as a varsity team facing only varsity competition, the girl's gymnastics team compiled a very respectable 7 win, 4 loss record. The winning record was even more satisfying because at the beginning of the season there was barely a full team due to injuries.

Tara O'Connell had a successful fall season as she placed first in all but one dual meet in the floor exercise event. Tara and everyone else on the team should be returning next year as no one is graduating, therefore, the teams of the near future should be even better than this year's team.

Despite injuries and other extenuating circumstances the cross country team legged out a very respectable 6 win, 6 loss season. The season on a whole has to be considered successful, however it could have been even better since the top three runners, John O'Connell, Marc Gillette, and captain Kevin Kane, ran together in only one meet. John O'Connell added personal success to his record as he placed second in the Prep School State Tournament.

The accomplishments achieved in the '77 fall sports season leave much to be matched by the teams in upcoming Prep sports seasons.



Believe it or not, that's a basketball Art Wilmot is shooting in a scrimmage against Immaculata. Looking on are Matt Lytwyn and Jeff Hunt. photo by A. Wiley

## Wrestlers depend on quality not quantity

Last year Coach Joseph Frezza led the Wrestling Team to a very respectable 8 win, 7 loss record and a tie for second place in the Independent School State Tournament. However, that was last year and this year is a different story. The '77-78 Varsity Wrestling Team will have to overcome many obstacles in order to better last year's team's performance.

Because Coach Frezza has left Prep for another school, Mr. Al Brown will take over as Head Wrestling Coach. Even though the season has just gotten underway, Coach Brown insists that he is "psyched up" and he assures the wrestlers that they will be in

shape to wrestle.

A strong point in favor of this year's team is the return of everyone from last year except for Ed James and Herb Hirsch, who both graduated. Returning this year are Fred Dameron, Ben Angione, Kevin Scialappa (fourth in last year's state tournament), Alex Wiley (runner-up in state tourney), Ed Pahler and Tom Lee (both took third place honors in the states) and Glen and Dave Yurcisin (both placed first in the state tournament). This seems like a good foundation for a good team but in addition to these only three other wrestlers showed up in the first week of practice. This means that even if all eleven wrestlers compete, Prep would still be forfeiting one bout.

Like most other sports, in wrestling good practice creates good performance in competition. However, most of the wrestlers on the team have been practicing together for the past six years and after drilling and

wrestling with the same people for so long, they begin to know one another's moves and it becomes hard to work out. It also adds more pressure to each wrestler.

According to senior Ed Pahler, "The team may not have such a great dual meet record because of forfeits, but we have the ability to be right up there in the standings as a tournament team."

Despite all the hardships that the team must overcome, they are looking forward to the season. In addition, they are looking ahead to the Bound Brook Quadrangular Meet, the Somerset County Christmas Tournament, and the State and National Tournaments. Also, Prep is conducting its own Quadrangular meet with Gill-St. Bernards, Morristown-Beard, and Montclair Academy, and it will also be the sight of the State Tournament as it was in 1975 and 1976.

## Girls run overtime to gain on success

There are very few girls competing in sports at Prep compared to the large number of girls in other schools. Therefore, in order to permit some girls to compete on both the volleyball and basketball teams, practices and games are not scheduled on conflicting days.

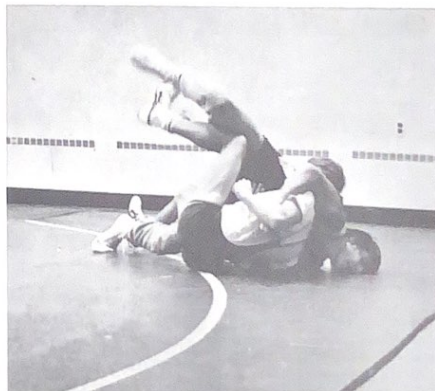
The girl's varsity volleyball team is coached by Mrs. Arlene Coppolino and according to her "this year's team will have to rely heavily on underclassmen."

Since six of seven starting girls on last year's team have graduated, there are many spaces on this year's team that must be filled. Coach Coppolino, said that some "eager to learn freshmen might be able to fill these gaps."

Last year the girls had a very respectable season and they were runner-up in the Independent School State Tournament. They were defeated in the finals of the states by a tough, undefeated (twelve wins and no losses) team from Collegiate, but, it took the opposition three games to beat Prep. After that performance by the '76-77 team, this year's girls are enthusiastic and will attempt to better last year's record.

Doug O'Laughlin, a new face at Prep, will coach the girl's varsity basketball team. Although the season has not yet gotten underway, the team will have a look to the underclassmen for their support. Coach O'Laughlin's work will be cut out for him if the team is going to better last year's record.

Last year the team was coached to its best season ever by Coach Andy Landrit who was coaching while on pregnancy leave from her regular job. However, several of last year's seniors have graduated and therefore many starting spots have been opened. The underclassmen and the seniors on this year's team will have to pull together and work hard during pre-season if they are going to improve on last year's record under Coach O'Laughlin.



Dave and Glen Yurcisin demonstrate the "pretzel" move during a recent wrestling practice. photo by A. Wiley

## Determined swimmers strive for goals

The only co-ed sport at Prep is swimming and the group of people who make up the team are eager to begin the season. Coach Robert Fenstermaker and his team are quite enthusiastic about the season and the chance at being better than last year.

One bright spot is that there are eleven returning members on this year's team and most of these eleven swimmers have more than one year of experience. In addition, there were more girls and more people all told out for the team than ever before.

The seniors on this year's squad are Ken Schindler, Paul Brown, Doug Stahl, Kevin Kane and co-captains Jeff Rutter and Jon Strassberg. It will be up to these upperclassmen to lead the other swimmers while striving for

success. One of the main goals of the season will be to better last year's four win and seven loss season.

Coach Fenstermaker insisted, "We are going to be better and stronger in all areas."

In addition, co-captain Jon Strassberg stated, "We are definitely going to be strong in freestyle; but with a little practice, we can also do well in the other events. We lost a lot of good swimmers since last year, but I think we can manage a respectable 500 season."

If everyone on the team works hard to improve on weak areas and the team lives up to its expectations, the season will be successful for the swimmers.