



The ARGOS

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THE NEWSPAPER OF THE RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

January, 1994

Ending the Year on a Good Note

by Erin Armstead

On Thursday, December 16, Rutgers Prep's Music Department held its annual Winter Concert at Voorhees Chapel on the Rutgers Campus. This enjoyable event required a lot of preparation even up through the morning of the concert when the participating groups gathered in the chapel to rehearse one last time. The hard work paid off.

Voorhees Chapel was an ideal place to hold the concert because the incredible acoustics allow even those in the very last

Blood Drive

by Kristine Coco

Once again, Rutgers Prep reached out to the community and was successful. On Wednesday, December 15, School Council held a blood drive for the New York Blood Center. Students over the age of 17, as well as parents and faculty, were asked to donate blood. School Council Vice-President Matt Hobbs, President Uma Ayyala, and Mrs. Maggie Lair organized the event.

The blood drive committee called all the members in the school community to donate blood if it was possible. Donors arrived all day, from two o'clock until seven, and were very cooperative. Although some students were apprehensive about giving blood, they were glad they did. One donor said, "I don't really like needles, so I was a little nervous, but it was something I wanted to do. It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be." There was a large turnout for the blood bank, 56 pints total. Parents from all parts of the community donated blood, as well as many faculty members. Most students at Prep thought it was a worthwhile event, and hoped they will return next year.

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THE NEWSPAPER OF THE RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Students Voice Concerns

by Rebecca Caldwell

The Student Council held a forum of November 16 for the students and Administration to openly discuss questions and concerns the students had pertaining to school and school policies.

The student turnout at the Forum was good. The majority of students were Seniors and the rest were a few juniors, sophomores and freshmen. Some of the major questions that were addressed at the Forum are as follows: Why is graduation on a Wednesday morning? Why are there no second bells for classes? Why can't athletes be exempt from gym? Why is SLURP necessary and what is its significance? Many other questions were on the agenda of the Forum but, due to lack of time, the questions were not discussed.

During the Forum, the Seniors and the Administration could not seem to agree on anything concerning graduation or the Prom. Everyone expressed their feelings on the matter equally, but no compromises were reached at that time.

When the other questions were addressed, it was clear that the students had strong concerns and feelings that they wanted the administration to



Amy Halpin

Mrs. Gooen answers questions as students observe.

take into consideration. "The students who spoke at the Forum had very good points and were well spoken," said attending student Amy Smith.

Everyone seemed pleased with the Forum, with the only general complaint being the

lack of time. The students and the Administration liked the idea of openly discussing the questions the students had. Overall the Forum was a successful event and the Student Council is looking forward to many more in the future.

MECA Presentation

by Nihdi Kumar

On December 7, MECA held an assembly to recognize the different holidays that took place during the winter season. Among the holidays represented were Hanukkah, Diwali, Kwanza, and Christmas. To celebrate and recognize the holidays, students organized presentations. The presentation for Hanukkah, organized by Aaron Silverstein, included Jewish folk dances by students from Solomon Schechter Day School. Diwali, organized by Nidhi Kumar, was represented through a reenactment of the Biblical story behind it.

Overall, the assembly was a success. There was tremendous involvement from the student body and the faculty. MECA's objective was to entertain while educating students, and the assembly did just that. MECA plans to arrange more assemblies like this in the future.



Provided by Mrs. Jean Meyers-Hunt

Faculty members show their vocal talent.

On Sunday December 5, the Rutgers University Chorus gathered to give their first performance of the year. Among the group were four of Rutgers Prep's teachers: Ms. Hunt and her husband, Mr. Ackerman and his wife, Mr. Szeles and Mr. Stefani. Dressed in tuxedos and full-length black skirts, the Chorus provided an excellent finale to a program of orchestral works by Dvorak and Haydn.

Performing "Beethoven's Choral Fantasy", the voices of the Chorus joined with the University Orchestra to fill the hall with the magnificent harmonies and melodic strains similar to "Beethoven's Ninth Symphony". Singing entirely in German, the orchestra, soloists and the chorus itself demonstrated their talent and

Civil Disobedience?

by Anthony Accardi

Student dissatisfaction with SLURP has finally produced a tangible result. After three years of turbulent existence, SLURP has been discontinued until a joint Council-faculty committee makes a decision as to what, if anything, will replace SLURP.

This decision came from a faculty vote at an Upper School Faculty meeting before Christmas vacation. Apparently, issues dealing with a high school reading program fall under the jurisdiction of the Upper School Faculty, where anyone who teaches a class in the Upper School contributes one vote. The general feeling at the meeting was that the goal of SLURP, to encourage leisurely reading, was good. However, SLURP has become very problematic primarily because of difficulties

with the school schedule. So, the faculty decided to allow the students to express their opinions and, seeing the School Council as the primary voice of the student body, deferred the question of what to do to a joint Council-faculty committee.

I find what happened at that meeting a lot less interesting than why it happened. At the beginning of this school year, the faculty decided to continue SLURP. SLURP was not on the agenda for this past meeting until Mr. Karman put it there in response to the students' concerns. Upset with the administration's treatment of the "Senior SLURP-out", a term Mrs. Herzberg uses to describe when a large portion of the Senior Class sat in their lounge during SLURP, a spokesperson asked

Mr. Karman to bring the issue up at the next faculty meeting.

The day of the meeting, a memo stating the Student Body's views on SLURP was put in each faculty member's mailbox. The memo focused on two diagnosed problems of SLURP: the fact that some students are always excused from SLURP which turns it into more of a punishment than a learning experience, and that 45 minutes once or twice a month is not enough time to maintain interest in anything of real literary value. The essential point is that for SLURP to work, more time must be put into the program at the expense of clubs and classes, and is not what Prep's focus should be.

Which had a greater effect, the illegal SLURP-out or the perfectly legitimate written form of student protest? There was no

debate by either the faculty or the administration concerning the *appropriateness* of the memo. Many agree with Mrs. Herzberg who claimed that it was good and showed some thought. But how *effective* is such a memo? Written proposals concerning SLURP have been sent to the administration since the program's beginning, but none have changed the faculty's feelings from that of almost unanimous support. (Mr. Karman's assessment in November) to almost complete recognition of many of SLURP's problems. And never before have the students been assigned such an important role in deciding SLURP's fate.

It seems that the SLURP-out set everything in motion. Although it presented no rational reasons for SLURP's ineffectiveness, it got attention. Mr. Karman admitted that "you listen to that kind of thing." Mrs. Herzberg claimed that "it just annoyed people; it demonstrated a misunderstanding of real civil disobedience." It seems that annoyance certainly draws attention. It's difficult to predict what the outcome would be if the SLURP-out hadn't taken place. I agree with Mr. Karman who "could see it going a number of ways," but I can't envision a result resembling what has been decided.

Whatever the reason, the students have been heard. The SLURP Committee formed by Council has had its first meeting. Maybe now a reasonable replacement can be created.

Community Service

by Kristine Coco

Community Service is a prerequisite for graduation from Rutgers Prep. At least ten hours is required for a passing grade in Community Service for each school year. Although some people think it is an unfair request, it is necessary. Is forty hours of time sprawled over four years too much to ask?

Students attending Rutgers Prep are very fortunate. Whether we want to admit it or not, we are privileged to come here every day. While many of us have school related activities to keep us busy, some of us dedicate free time to community service in addition to everything else. Whether it is helping a hospital or a homeless shelter, these people should be applauded.

All Upper School students at Prep should be willing to help

those less fortunate. Many of the activities the Community Service Board offers us are interesting and fun. Last year there was Tour de Cure which will be happening again. This year there has been a Beach Cleanup, a Blood Drive, and Wheelchair Basketball. All participants enjoyed themselves, but realized it was not as easy as it looked.

Find a service that interests you, and help with something you believe in. You can work with children, homeless, the disabled, or the environment. The Community Service Board offers a range of activities; if none of those interest you, then find one that does. Do not do community service to fill a graduation credit, do it for yourself and for those you can help.

Editorial Note:

The Editor's SLURP article was written with information provided by school officials. The reality of the situation is that SLURP will continue until a Council Committee presents an acceptable alternative. The Editors realized this misinformation on the day of publication. The Editors acknowledge their naivete in believing progress was being made and intend to keep the student body abreast of any updates in the situation.

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Roving Reporter

by Tara Auciello

What is your opinion of Community Service at Prep?

"Ten hours is a fine requirement. I think it is a good starting point and a lot of kids do more than that. We go way over that ten hour requirement because the Executive Board makes the students aware of many worthwhile activities. Any student that doesn't fulfill the ten hours should be penalized."

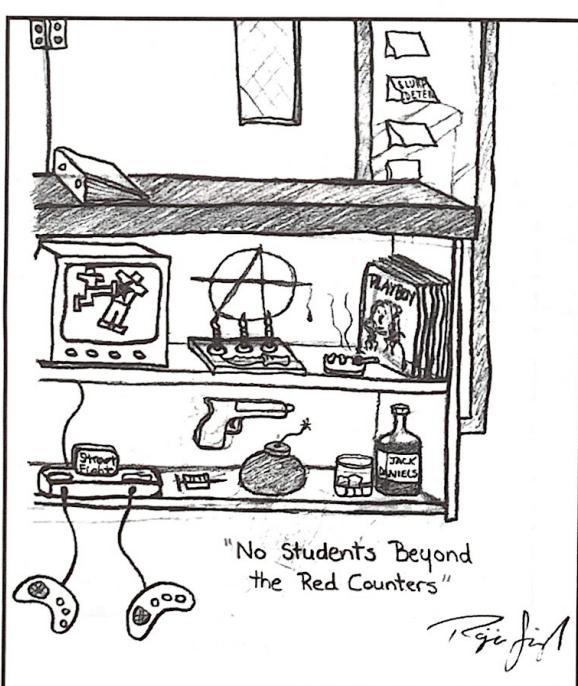
-Hiam Boraie '95

"It should be required. Last year I was a freshman so I went with my Peer Leadership group to help the homeless. As the year went on I learned a lot about myself through the experience. I also went on a beach cleanup in the spring and had no problem doing my hours. The ten hour guideline should stand."

-Gerard Joe '96

"I think it is a good idea. I don't think it should be required because it defeats the purpose. People should do it because it is self-gratifying not because it is required. My experiences were good and I liked the beach clean up. It was so fun that I almost forgot I was doing community service."

-Dave Papa '96



Rutgers Prep Sends Delegation to Congress

by Matt Scherb

When the 19 Rutgers Preparatory School students emerged from the bus at 6:30 P.M. on a Sunday evening, all could agree that the 1993 Princeton Model Congress had been a wonderful experience. The program, held at the Hyatt Regency in Washington DC, from December ninth through the twelfth, gave high school students from across the nation the opportunity to try their hand at politics.

The majority of the students that participated in the Princeton Model Congress were divided among 30 committees which were subordinate to one of six full legislative bodies (three Houses and three Senates). In their respective committees, students debated bills and resolutions pertinent to their committee's jurisdiction. They then proceeded to vote on each measure. The legislation that passed committee was then sent up to the appropriate House or Senate. Once again, the measure was debated and voted upon. Finally, if passed, the measure was sent to the President and his Cabinet who could either sign it into law or veto it. During the conference delegates were expected to adhere to parliamentary procedure and display the high level of decorum shown by real Congressmen.

Besides the Congress, there were special programs made available to a select number of students. Rutgers Preparatory School was

fortunate to have a student in many of the programs offered: Uma Ayyala was a Justice on the Model Supreme Court, Anthony Accardi was Secretary of Defense on the Model Cabinet, and Tara Auciello was a member of the Press Corps.

The Model Supreme Court program culminated in a fictional hearing that focused on the legitimacy of the death penalty. For the first two days of the conference, the Justices of the Model Supreme Court were familiarized with precedent-setting cases. They also learned about the Court itself, and how to base arguments upon the Constitution rather than personal conviction. Using this knowledge, the Justices were required to write an opinion for the mock trial. The court decided by a slim 5-4 vote that the death penalty was illegal.

The executive branch of the government was represented by a Model Cabinet headed by a President who had been elected at the onset of the conference. Together, they formulated policies which would guide them through their four-day term. The Cabinet responded to mock crisis situations, including the proliferation of nuclear tipped SCUD missiles in North Korea, violent rebellions in Egypt, AIDS activist riots, and the threat of GATT negotiations falling apart due to France's withdrawal. Solutions to these problems were arrived at through various mock conferences with for-

mer ambassadors, underhanded CIA operations, and overt military action. During the last night of the program, all the Cabinet members were awakened at 2:00 in the morning to handle an emergency situation. Finally, the Cabinet advised the President on actions he should take concerning pending legislation, and occasionally testified before Congress to support the President's decisions.

The Press Corps was responsible for the production of a daily newspaper, *PMC Times*. The participating students gathered information by visiting Congressional sessions, interviewing, and holding press conferences with the Model Cabinet and Model Supreme Court. Each night, the students completed the array of tasks necessary for distribution: writing the articles, designing layout, and printing.

Mrs. Wacker, the faculty advisor, commented, "For a club that barely meets [to prepare for the conference], I was pleased that about one-third of our students won awards. They were in competition with students who had a class every day specifically for Model Congress. The awards represent the hard work done by individuals."



Uma Ayyala sits on the Model Supreme Court.

Amy Halpin

Indeed, quite a few students were award winners. Alana Karen won the gavel award for outstanding delegate in her committee. Anne Ackerman not only won an honorable mention in her committee, but in her full house as well. There were several other honorable mention winners: Anthony Accardi (Model Cabinet), Tara Auciello (Press Corps), Dean Barber (Blue Senate Env. & Public Works), and Paul Constantinides (Blue House Ways & Means). Two delegates from Rutgers Prep succeeded in passing their legislation through the Model Congress: Anne Ackerman and Dean Barber.

Although the long weekend was packed with structured activities, students did have free time as well. Many students made a trek to Georgetown, while others visited many of the historical sites in the Washington DC area.

Possibly the only drawback to the experience was the lack of clean tap water for two of the four days. The Washington DC Metropolitan area's water supply had become contaminated with Coli bacteria, making the water dangerous to drink. Luckily, the hotel provided the participants with a seemingly unlimited supply of bottled water.

Peer Leadership Day

by Violette Renard

On Wednesday, November 10, the Peer Leaders attended the Urban-Suburban Peer Group Connection Conference, 1993-1994. It was sponsored by the Princeton Center for Leadership and was held at the Princeton University Campus and McCarter Theater. At 8:30 a.m. Rutgers Prep's Peer Leaders met with other leadership programs from 48 other schools to learn about other programs and the problems that they were faced with.

All the workshops and activities related to the theme: "Living in a Multicultural Society: We Can Get Along!" The group was welcomed by Sharon Rose Powell, the conference coordinator, and then divided into groups of about ten people. In these informal groups, all the students were able to talk face-to-face and work together on issues of common concern.

After their meetings, the students experienced the power and passion of "Twilight: Los Angeles,

1992", Anna Deavere Smith's nationally acclaimed performance about the L.A. Riots. The students were able to hear the opinions about the riots from some people who experienced the disaster on a firsthand basis. Some important characters that were portrayed were Angela King who is Rodney King's Aunt, Reginald Denny, and Maria, one of the jurors in the trial. Other memorable characters were some store owners whose shops were looted and destroyed, and a pregnant woman who was shot, but both her and her baby survived because the bullet only struck the infant's elbow.

After the performance, there was a post-show discussion led by the director, Emily Mann. This discussion was to encourage the students to find creative new ways to "get along" and to teach the lesson of "Twilight" to their peers.

When the Seniors returned to school, they talked about the im-

Dancing Spaniards Teach Culture

by Archana Kasangra and Sudipta Mallik

On December 1, approximately ninety students and four faculty members from Spanish classes of the Upper and Middle Schools went on a field trip to see vast Hispanic dances. The entertainment was provided by the Alejandra Dondines Dancers of the Americas at the Union Count Arts Center in Rahway. The repertoire of the dancers was an authentic panorama of the music and dance of the South and the Caribbean. This colorful concert of song and dance was a magical journey through the exotic countries of Latin America.

Alejandra Dondines, leader of the troupe and internationally recognized dancer and choreographer, has performed to critical acclaim in Argentina, Mexico, Peru, and the United States. She has represented her country in performances throughout Central and South

America and has received a Gold-Medal in Mexico for her superb work.

One of the interesting aspects of the Dondines Dancers' Concert was the dramatic way in which the troupe reminded the students that Spanish culture has given much value to these areas, and how it was superimposed on a rich and colorful heritage which continues to contribute to contemporary life even today.

The Alejandra Dondines' performance was a treat for the eyes as well as the ears. Performers were costumed in the brilliantly colored traditional outfits of the regions. The first part of the program, which started at 10:30, took the viewers through the music and dances of countries like Bolivia, Peru, and Northern Argentina. The second part transported us to the Caribbe-

an with a magnificent presentation of the "merengue", then continued the tour towards Columbia and Argentina, where they were given a performance of the traditional Latin American "tango".

The third and final section of the program was arguably the most impressive. In this part, the audience witnessed the lightning fast use of balls on cords called *boleadoras*. The intricate footwork of these performers, along with their adeptness in twirling the *boleadoras* was spectacular.

The performance of the Alejandra Dondines Dancers of the Americas was presented brilliantly in this unique production of the National Theater of the Performing Arts, Ltd. Students and faculty combined admit that it was a performance well done.

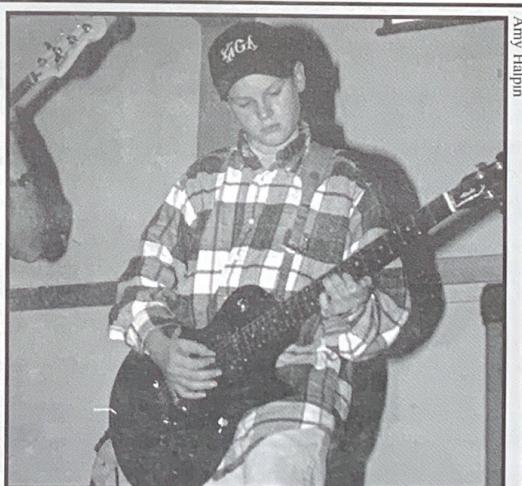
Council Corner

by Uma Ayyala

Before the holidays, Student Council had been doing a variety of activities to help those less fortunate in our community. At the end of November, Council held its annual can drive in order to provide for the food banks growing need of provisions during the hectic Thanksgiving period. All of the cans went to the Franklin Food Bank.

Council has also just finished the toy drive, organized by Ria Rasalan and Violette Renard, with great success. Students brought in toys and clothing that were either requested as wishes by children seventeen years old and younger, or by purchasing presents on their own. All the toys went to the Division of Youth and Family Services where they were distributed accordingly.

In addition to these recent events, School Council had a Blood Drive for the New York Blood Bank (see news page for details). Matt Hobbs was the chief organizer of the event. Many parents and seniors decided to participate in this meaningful contribution and came to help out in whatever way they could.



Chris Pink, of Paradox, lets loose at the Battle of the Bands in Baldwin Hall late in '93. The Battle was a success, drawing crowds from the area.

Amy Halpin

Volleyball Spiking Opponents

by Maureen Benitz

This year's Volleyball team is off to a good start. Their first two games were against Lacordaire and St. Elizabeth. Both games were carried to three matches, yet the Lady Argonauts were able to beat each of them soundly. The squad is led by senior co-captains Violette Renard and Gina Trainer. The other varsity positions are held by senior Anne Ackerman, middle hitter and blocker, junior Nicole Wasson, a powerful server and critical unit in serve-receive and sophomore Caroline Chang, the team's setter. The sixth varsity position is shared by Ria Rasalan and Aliya Walker.

To date the Volleyball team is 6-6. The girls played in the Rutgers Prep hosted Volleyball Tournament where their play was not as they had expected or hoped. "Our first match against the two teams was successful. We really showed cohesiveness and unity. However, in our second match, we just fell apart. That's what killed us," says co-captain Gina Trainer. Although they did not fare as well as they liked, they still put up a good fight. Violette Renard was named to the All-Tournament Team, and Gina Trainer was nominated for the honor.

Coach Heidi Kearnan feels the team is progressing. She believes that if the team can win 2 or 3 more games before the holiday break then they will be in good

shape. They participated in the MoBeard Christmas Tournament on December 11, where again they played with a great deal of effort. The team beat Montclair-Kimberly and MoBeard, but lost in the finals after a close game against Kent Place. Named to the all-tournament teams were Caroline Chang and Violette Renard.

The Junior Varsity team has a 1-2 record but their coach, Denise Goldman, is proud of their efforts. They are a young team consisting of sophomores Bhanu Yeramilli and Joyce Reyes, and freshmen Alison Albino, Christina Danile,

Nicole Finner, Lauren Peters, and Susan Slim.

Even though the team is progressing nicely, there are some areas that need improvement. One thing the team has to work on is serving. The team has a high percentage of serving mistakes which hinders their performance. The other area where the team needs improvement is with ball control.

Kearnan believes that in the State Tournament, Prep's toughest competition will be Princeton Day School. Working on beating that team will be a key to success.



Violette Renard sets the ball for a spike.

State Champs Hungry to Repeat

by John Kansfield

The Prep boys' Wrestling team this year is comprised of many returning team members as well as a few young newcomers. The varsity team this year is led by veteran captains Steven Lenard and Bill Bocra. Both stress that although the team is strong, the defense of the state title will be

tough. Members of the team who will be playing a vital role in defending the state title are returning seniors Dan Cantor and Matt Hobbs. Both Dan and Matt were on the championship team last year and will contribute greatly. Also returning this year to wrestle for Prep will be juniors Gregg Costello, Adam Simnett, Rohin Singh, and Scott Skorupsky all of whom will be crucial to the success of the team. This year's young guns are sophomores Dave Papa and freshmen Craig Feinberg, Henri Renard, and Herb Robberts. The team expects to do well although the competition will be tough.

Over Winter Break Bill Bocra won first place in Somerset County and in the Hillsborough Tournament, as well as winning best wrestler in the same tournament. Steven Lenard took fourth in the county; Dave Papa also placed fourth in the county and additionally placed third at Hillsborough.

Prep Captures Holiday Tournament Crown

by Mark Nastus

The 1993-1994 Prep swim team has a new look to it. After losing important seniors, the swim team is facing the most difficult task a team could face, a year of rebuilding. However, with seniors like Greg Forney and Joanne Miller, along with juniors Ryan Neely, Kavita Patel, Sara Papa, and Philip Kennard, the team is halfway there. Sophomores Corrie Graham and Sid Singh have improved a great deal over the summer and a new addition to the team, Julie Rockoff, will provide depth for the team. The biggest surprise is the large amount of freshmen who went out for the team. This year and several years to come are looking good for the Prep swim team and their 2-1 record with wins against Madison and Hun are just a beginning of the great season they will have.

Team Records:

Girls Basketball	7-3
Boys Basketball	5-5
Swim Team	2-1
Volleyball	8-7
Wrestling (as of 1/10/94)	3-2

junior off-guard Tara Auciello. Prep successfully crushed Pingry and Bocra was named MVP of the contest.

In the boys bracket, St. Mary's Hall had may as well not shown up, as a fired up group blasted the team 86-45. More important in the victory was the team's ability to balance the scoring ledger. Mike Maccia had a team high of 25, while Jamie Jiminez had 17 points and nine rebounds, Nastus contributed 10 points and six assists and

Boys Basketball Faces Tough Schedule

by Mark Nastus

The boys' basketball team anxiously awaited the start of this new season. Looking to get off to a fast start, they did so in fine fashion with an early victory over Solomon Schechter. However, the team was defeated in its next two contests and had Coach Dick O'Connell pulling out the rest of his hair.

The initial victory came in a 57-46 home opener. The team came out flat yet struggled and held off Schechter. O'Connell said later, "That team always gives us a tough time, but it's good to get a win over them."

Next up was a tough Admiral Farragut. Farragut featured a revamped line-up that included post graduates. Prep was wrapped-up by their aggressive press and found themselves down big by half-time. Prep dropped the game 90-47 but used the game as a learning experi-

ence. The game was especially difficult because the starting five played the straight 32 minutes with no substitutions.

Looking to regain winning form, Prep knew that PDS would be a tough match-up. Prep rallied for a half-time lead at 28-25. However, hampered by center Jaime Jiminez's foul-out, the team could only muster 16 points in the second-half. The team dropped the game 55-44, staying close until the final minutes. The loss was distracting because the team's record dropped to 1-2 and PDS was a league opponent.

Mike Maccia has emerged as the team's scorer with 18, 17, and 15 points in games, respectively. He leads the team with 50 points. Flanking Maccia have been Scott Sienkiewicz, and Jiminez.

Girls Tip-off Hoops

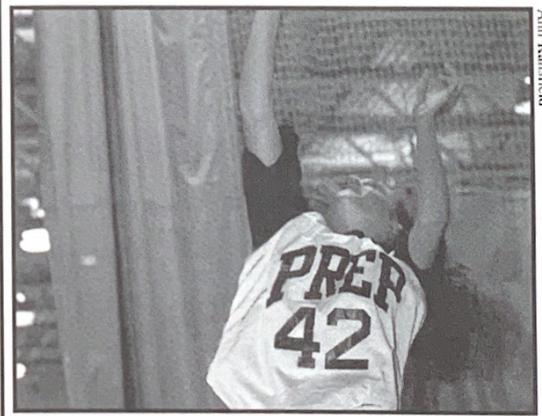
by Mike Maccia

The Varsity Girls' Basketball team has officially begun their 93-94 campaign. After their first three games, their record is 2-1. Hopefully this is a sign of a promising season for these ambitious girls.

They started off their season in the Gill St. Bernards Tip-Off Tournament. In the opening game against Solebury, they won convincingly 36 to 26. The team played a sound first game and looked forward to the finals the next day. Unfortunately, they lost in the final to a tough Gill St. Bernards team.

On Tuesday, November 6, they opened their regular season hosting

Solomon Schechter at home. Prep broke out to an incredible 27-0 run in the first quarter. They went on to beat Solomon Schechter 51 to 21. The team is lead by senior Captain Gia Bocra, juniors Tara Auciello, Diana Liscinski, Erin Armstead, and Andowah Newton, and freshmen Catie Somers, Daniella Metzger, Maureen Benitz, Elizabeth Alexander, Heather Driver, Nicole Fiumedredo, Julie Grossman and Ann Cohen. Hopefully with strong leadership from some of the older girls, the team will have a successful season.



Prep on the offensive.

Sienkiewicz threw in 12 points. Chris Harris, a freshman center, saw his first varsity action and tallied 8 points.

The victory marked the initial win for Prep in the Holiday Tournament after the team had dropped both games last season. Now, hungry for the title, the team saw Pingry as the ensuing opponent. Pingry had dropped Newark Academy in the first round contest, Prep slowly disposed of Pingry, but nevertheless sealed the crown with a 13 point win, 52-39. The

team maintained a balanced attack. Sienkiewicz was high man with 20 points, Maccia chipped in 15 and Jiminez, Nastus, and Jay Brown combined for 17. The team was named as "Co-MVPs" for their outstanding team effort, which resulted in their 1st H.T.

**Support
Prep
Athletics!**