

THE OGRA

Vol. 1, No. 2

RUTGERS PREP SCHOOL

MARCH 1990

A Call to Arms

Geoffrey Gussis

Have you ever complained about the food in the Cafeteria? Have you ever complained about the dress code? Do you want a gym study hall? If you said yes to any of these questions then the OGRA has a deal for you.

In our first issue we brought several controversial school issues to light, and we have received a tremendous response from students and faculty alike. Many people have expressed interest, but asked a simple question, "How are you going to solve the problems?" The answer is simple, by *organization*. The Editors of the OGRA are forming special committees, better known as "OGRA Task Forces" to solve our school's problems. These task forces are to be made up of anyone and everyone who expresses interest in solving a problem. This includes freshman, sophomores, juniors, seniors, and faculty.

You may be thinking to yourself - "Why doesn't Student Council solve these problems?" The answer is very simple: Student Council is bound to the school and the Administration and must follow a strict set of rules. The OGRA does not have to follow these rules. This allows us to say and do what we want, and to regulate ourselves. With this freedom, we are much better able to solve the problems of our school than Student Council is.

There will be an Ogra Task Force on dress code reform, headed by Amar Maktal (see his article on page 5 for further details). There will

be an Ogra Task Force on Gym Study Halls headed by Sandy Somers (Just keep reading down the column!), and finally an Ogra Task Force on the Cafeteria situation. If you are interested in this see me during a school day or write me a brief note and give it to any of the other Editors listed on the last page of this issue.

'A real student's newspaper'

THE OGRA...

A radical but conservative, stubborn but charming group of individuals who live on the edge.

OUT OUT, PHYS. ED.

Sandy Somers

Why do we need Gym?
According to Gym Teachers we need non-stressful physical activity. Give me a break, what kind of reason is that?

Recently at Saint Josephs High School they eliminated the Physical Education Requirement. Looking at the down-side, three gym teachers were fired and an uproar occurred. On the positive side, students are no longer forced into Gym and this gives them time to use towards more practical endeavors. This was because a vast majority of the student body participates in athletics and it follows that the administration gave it some thought and then came to their current conclusion.

Let's look at what we do in Gym, change our clothes, do some jumping jacks (during which we can't even talk) and play a game for a little while. What's the point if we get physical exercise in after school sports? I would be a lot less stressed if I had no Gym and more free time. In conclusion, we don't need gym, we

don't want gym, so why doesn't it go away?

If you are at all interested in getting a Gym study hall, tell me during a school day and you can become part of the OGRA Gym Study Hall Task Force. Quite a mouthful, but our aim is clear - to get rid of the gym requirement as soon as possible.

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The Editor's Page

A Note From the Editors

We would like to start out by formally thanking the Prep community for accepting our paper so enthusiastically. We never even dreamed that we would receive so much support from the students as well as the faculty. We were flooded with offers to write for this issue, and we have included several articles that were submitted to us. We wholeheartedly welcome submissions of any type for the Ogra. This includes short stories, poems, political statements and articles directly concerning our school.

On Anonymity

We have heard complaints by some people that we should not have kept our names a secret if we wanted to be taken seriously. We all felt that if we didn't keep our names a secret, we wouldn't have been able to establish this paper in the Prep Community. In this issue the Original Six have used their real names, and they will do so from now on. Anyone who submits an article has the choice to use a pen name or to use their real name. This is for their protection, and it will help us better represent the true sentiment of the student body. Anyone who wishes to respond to an article or write a letter to the Editors can see any of the Original Six and give them their response in written format.

Republicans?

There is a strange rumor going around that the Ogra has a Pro-Republican bias. We couldn't agree more. The plain fact is that the majority of the Editors of the Ogra agree with the platform of the Republican Party. This, however, will not prevent us from providing you with a balanced newspaper. In the first issue, we did not accept any submissions, so it is obvious that we would lean towards the right. Now that we are accepting submissions, we will allow any Pro-Democratic articles that you, the student body or faculty, can submit. In this issue we have a liberal poem on page 6. We would also like to clarify an issue. The environment is not a liberal issue, or a conservative one. It is one that everyone should be concerned with and one that should not be ignored.

On Content

We have also received a number of comments on our political and environmental articles. Some students say that they are not necessary, but we couldn't disagree more. In order to have a balanced paper, articles are needed from every perspective and on a wide variety of issues. If you limit yourself to your school, you will not go very far in life. If you don't like those articles, then you don't have to read them. We have labeled the pages for your easy reference, and we hope that everyone reads all of the articles so that we don't remain ignorant to social, environmental, and political issues.

Letters to the Editor...

Dear Editors,

I am truly impressed with The Ogra. It is evident that extensive planning and effort was put forth to make the first issue a success. The Argo is lacking a true Opinion Section and I'm glad The Ogra has provided students with the opportunity to voice their opinions.

I hope that The Ogra is not one sided in the political spectrum and that your staff consists of people who share different political views that will be equally expressed. If not, The Ogra will be like The Argo in that the format will be too strict and not all sides will be represented.

Akinyi Ouma '90

Thanks for your comments!!! This paper addresses the 'Political Bias' question extensively, so don't worry about us turning into the Argo.

Dear Editors,

I would like to start out by congratulating all of you on your paper. It is nice to see that the student body is not being apathetic towards the deterioration of the standards of our school. You have stood up for your beliefs, and there is no doubt in my mind that you will succeed in all of your endeavors.

Anonymous Faculty Member

All Letters to the Editors should be given to one of the Original Six Editors as soon as possible so that they can be assured a spot in the next issue.

EARTH DAY APRIL 22

Ogra on Argo

Daniel Karen

In this document I wish to share my ideas concerning the framework of the Argo, from the problems of the current Argo system to a suggestion of another system. This analysis is intended to clear previous confusion and help make the necessary changes to run the Paper more smoothly.

Several key problems kept the Argo from functioning properly:

- 1) The new system of desktop publishing created a lot of confusion.
- 2) The lines of communication broke down.
- 3) The system of hierarchy became moot.

The three factors listed above combined to make a huge mess. The editors of the newspaper were not educated on how to use Pagemaker 3.01, nor was the faculty advisor able to operate the program. This was the first step in destroying the hierarchy. The editor-in-chiefs no longer had authority; it was the desktop publishers who had the final say and the power. The contributing writers often did not communicate well enough with their page editors. Often the writers would go directly to the advisor. These actions not only broke down the vital communication between page editor and writer but also further decreased the structure of the hierarchy. In addition the page editors are denied the initial reading of the article accepted. When the normal flow of order was removed through the destroyed hierarchy communication became nonexistent, hence the breakdown of Argo.

New Measures

Below are my suggestions concerning the positions should available, and what each position entails.

- 1) The Chief Editors must be completely fluent with the Pagemaker

program. It is necessary that they be the layout editors because any other system disrupts the order of hierarchy. With this method the editor-in-chiefs have a greater amount of control over the Paper, because they not only collect the articles from the page editors, but get to lay them out as well. This modification removes one of the convolutions from the way the Argo is organized now. In addition, the chief editors should be very familiar with the school calendar, and should try to be thinking an issue ahead. This will greatly help the photography editor.

2) The Page Editors must make all article assignments with approval from the chief editors. They then must be certain that they will have the assigned articles by the deadline. They are responsible for editing the articles for their respective pages and for making sure that the articles are transferred to the computer files.

3) The Photography Editor is an odd position. It is almost certain that this editor must be working an issue ahead of schedule. The rest of the Argo is reporting things that have happened, but the photography editor must have already had those pictures taken. He/She must either be completely aware of the school calendar and be able to anticipate stories, or have the page editors' article assignments an issue in advance. This editor must know a lot about photography. He must be able to judge what makes a good picture, how to compose a pleasing visual image, and must have apt darkroom skills.

4) The Writers must know how to write well. The page editors do not have the time to rewrite each article that is given to them, nor is there the time to have the author rewrite it. They must be responsible enough to

make sure their article gets in on time.

5) The Photographers must have their own equipment for the foreseeable future. Sports photographers must be trained to get close-up action shots with faces, backs of heads are not interesting. All photographers should be able to develop pictures and make a contact sheet for the photography editor.

It is very important that the lines of communication stay solid. The writers report to the page editors, the page editors report to the chief editors, the photographers report to the photography editor, the photography editor reports to the chief editor, and the chief editor meets with the advisor. If this order is not strictly adhered to the careful system of communications will begin to breakdown as it did this year.

The Argo is primarily a student publication. The students would therefore like to have greater autonomy. The advisor should be there to advise and guide, not domineer. The main reason the students ask for this is because the greater the interference from the advisor, the more confused communication becomes. The advisor when necessary should speak to the chief editors and thoroughly inspect the final document. When the advisor speaks to anyone but the chief editors it helps to undermine communication because someone has been skipped along the line and has missed some piece of information. Again, to stress my analysis, it is only through maintaining the strict lines of communication outlined here that the Argo can be successful as I see it.

 Look for More Blurb from
Dan Karen

When will these dog days end?

Akinyi Ouma

Our headmaster, Mr. Ted Lingenheld introduced something totally new to Prep. That's right, he brought his dog to school. Sure, she's a cute dog who often steals the show in morning assembly, but animals are inappropriate in a school environment. I am not the only person who feels this way. About two months ago he urinated on the carpet next to the senior lounge. The dog makes frequent visits to the cafeteria where

Abigail eats the food that has fallen on the floor. It is unpleasant to see, especially in our environment.

Perhaps we should all bring our pets to school. Spot would love to sit through your math class. Better yet, bring that frog of yours who complains about not having enough space to hop. I hope you see my point. This is a plea to Mr. Lingenheld, leave your dog at home!

of the administration and that is why we want to get rid of the dog. It would make us feel better about our school. Mr. Lingenheld brings his dog to Prep, as if the school was his house. Why can't everyone bring their pets: dogs, cats, birds, snakes, hamsters, and so on, to school if he can? We can have a nice pet gathering, a social event similar to the Burger Blast, and the animals can just take over Prep, like they did in The Animal Farm. They might do a better job.

NO DOG ALLOWED

Indira Gandhi

I know that we are a dog-loving society and this is a dog-eat-dog world, but that does not mean we want dogs everywhere, particularly at Prep. While others may oppose having a dog at school, they cannot voice their opposition, since the dog is a favorite of the head-master of our school and it is not likely that he would take their opinions kindly.

What is wrong with having a dog at school? First of all, it does not improve the learning environment at Prep or any school. Since we are a supposedly "Prep" school, we might as well have a "Prep" environment. The dog doesn't destroy the building and it doesn't bark, but it isn't that great of a mascot and it's not that great looking either. Besides that, it is always disturbing Ms. Gooen at morning assembly when she is saying her all-important announcements.

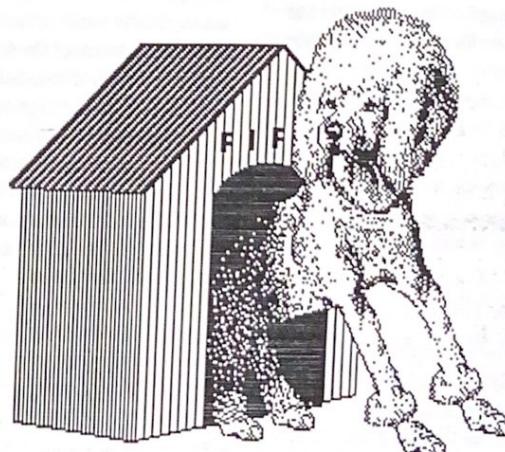
The dog does not improve the "sanitary" environment at Prep either. The food at the cafeteria is bad enough. We do not need a dog

roaming around under our tables, by our legs, where it licks cafeteria mush. I don't understand why it likes the food, but maybe it's not fed well enough.

Above all, the presence of the dog is against the high-minded principles of the students. Perhaps the dog represents to us the hypocrisy (continued in third column)

EDITORS NOTE

Please look at Page 8 for another article concerning the dog that was written by Garvin Jesdanun. He is featured in this issue of the OGRA as our Guest Editor of the Month, a new series in our paper.



Abigail at an undisclosed school event?

Dress Code?

Amar Maktal

I am disgusted. Mish is appalled. Mike is irate. Recently we all came to school wearing walking shorts, all in perfectly good taste. Our only dress code violation was the shorts. We were detained from our classes: Why? We don't exactly know. We were told to obtain pants, and were forced to call our parents. Only after our manual labor detail, Mish so generously offered to return home and get us proper dress. But what is proper? I, as well as many others, consider the English to be proper, and it is more than acceptable to wear walking shorts, frankly, it's expected.

In the meantime, Mike and I set out on a mission. We asked many students and teachers about our attire. Most teachers and students said we looked charming, and saw nothing wrong with our choice of dress. Of course there was your occasional super right wing conformist, but they were either with Council, or were born sometime last century. However one teacher suggested that we start a petition, protest the school, and demand our inalienable rights. We then made a list of all the others who violated the dress code. We noted many with sneakers (who weren't kept from class), and many girls who were wearing shorts. But they weren't really wearing shorts, NO, they were wearing "split skirts." As far as I am concerned, if there is a crotch on the skirt, they should be called shorts. Mrs.X (not mentioning any names) even recognized some as shorts, but because they looked like skirts, they were acceptable. If there are such things as "split skirts" or "kulats", then there are such things as "cropped trousers". All of these violators were let free, even those wearing black denim; and if they were caught, they still would be allowed to go to class. Since the females can sport a little leg now and then, I feel that the men should be allowed to do

the same. Why are things like this appropriate for the female gender and not the male? Why is the administration more lenient on the female dress code?

The purpose, as what was explained to me in the past, of the dress code is to show a good image of the school to outsiders. To show that we look better than those in public school who dress in jeans and T-shirts. If that is the case, then I see nothing wrong with wearing walking shorts to school. I feel that our school should set its policy straight. In essence, the policy now states that walking shorts are inappropriate for men but OK for women. Often times, the skirts that women wear are significantly higher than our shorts. Who has the right to decide whether girls are wearing shorts or "split skirts?" I wonder. I feel the female dress code is loosening, while the iron grip on the male dress code is tightening. In the Handbook it is stated, "The School will determine what is appropriate dress", and if we (the students) are not the School, then what the hell are we?

If you want dress code reform, and think you can put some commitment in, join the Ogra Task Force for Dress Code Reform. I will head this committee and we will get to the bottom of things as soon as possible. We can no longer wait around, it is time to act. See me in school to join this committee.



Be it known that the Editors of the Ogra are dissatisfied with the present state of affairs regarding:

1. Gym Study Halls
2. The Cafeteria Situation
3. The Dress Code

Because of this dissatisfaction, we have established Ogra Task Forces on each of these topics to once and for all solve the problems. These are no easy tasks - they will require broad support and hard work from the student body. For this reason, we are looking for students and faculty who are willing and ready to 'get their hands dirty.' If you are interested in any or all of these committees, or if you just have ideas for us, please contact Geoffrey Gussis, Amar Maktal, or Sandy Somers.

We realize that the tasks ahead of us are formidable. We also realize that they are achievable. If we are unified, it is possible to solve these problems and still give credit where it is due. We can no longer wait for other school organizations to do these jobs.

The time for action is upon us.

Hang the Dress Code!!!



Untitled

Alpa Patel

milly and the pups do their tricks
and bush
hugs his lovely granddaughter,
"oh, isn't she adorable?"
oh yes,

bush gets his votes

they take the perfect picture
and bush
stands beside a hundred and one flags
and wraps himself in one,

while he sings
"america the beautiful"
and decries
flag burning,
and says that
the duke is not a patriot
because he supports the Constitution.

bush gets his votes

he cries,
"read my lips, NO TAXES"

of course,
he is going to be
an education president,
an environment president,
a war-on-drugs president,
a strong-on-defense president and
a kindler and gentler president

and he won't raise taxes.

bush says that
the boston harbor
is the way it is
because the duke
became governor
and messed it all up,

and he gets his votes.

he tells us how
willy horton is
gonna come after us
and kill us
if we vote for the duke,
who will set
all criminals free,

does he get your vote?

Six Feet Further From The Sun

I want to be
In a fatal car crash
Found D.O.T.S.
(Dead On The Spot)
In my Kansei engineered car
Comfortably laid to rest
And sealed within the metal body
Pre-packaged for my burial
Placed in a plastic garbage bag
So I don't biodegrade
Off to start my permanent vacation
Six-feet under the Earth
Because the world is a complicated
place
Choked, cramped, and crippled
Society tarnishes civilization
And every paradox is true
Contradictions run rampant
From every evil under the sun
When I am dead, you see
All that will separate you from me
Is six feet of truth from
A world of deceit

I want to die
In a fatal car crash

Nerak Nad

POETRY!!!

The Ogra is happy to print any
original literature. All submissions
should be directed to Dan Karen.



*There she stands in All
Her Beauty*

*A man with a perfumed bow tie
Steps out of a perfumed station wagon
And struts into his perfumed office.
He sits down at his perfumed desk
And maybe mulls over a few perfumed
letters
That he emblazons with his perfumed
signature.
Everything smells so nice
In his happy little home,
And the happy little man
With his happy little dog
Only frowns when someone threatens
To poison his utopia
With the truth.*

*So hello, truth.
Bring in the truth!
Wave it high and wide.
And just because we may mess up your
Happy little utopia with a bit of ourselves,
(ourselves, the real people, the real menaces,
your children.)
Say hello, Mr. Happy.*

We dirtbags are here to stay.

zNeBR

Florio Ups Taxes

Joe Locandro

Well, populace of New Jersey, don't say you weren't warned. Again and again during the past gubernatorial race, one of the candidates refused to rule out raising taxes. The other candidate, though, firmly stood against raising taxes to pay off New Jersey's huge deficit. Instead, this candidate, Republican James Courter (R-12th), advocated cutbacks in some of the state's various programs. However, New Jersey elected the other candidate - Jim Florio - and as he stepped into the statehouse, so did his commitment to spend more New Jersey dollars.

As you may know, last week Governor Florio raised the state's sales tax from 6% to 7%, and also upped income taxes as well. New Jerseyans that were surprised by his actions really shouldn't be, unless they did not follow the past race. Florio couldn't promise people he wouldn't raise taxes, but supporters got out the word that Florio meant no taxes. Oh. Anyway, at least we know what to expect for the next few years.

On another New Jersey political front, the race for the 12th District congressional seat has really heated

up in the last few weeks with an announcement by incumbent James Courter (yes, the same one mentioned in this article). In a move unknown to all but his family and closest advisors, Courter announced that he will not be running for re-election. In a seat that he has held for six terms, Courter has had a distinguished career in Washington. As a member of both the House Armed Services Committee, and the Select Committee on Aging, Courter has built a formidable reputation as being tough on crime, and is recognized as a strong advocate of the policies of both the Reagan and Bush administration.

However, citing personal reasons (including the need to spend time with his family), Courter has decided to take some time off from politics. A position in the Bush administration may be in his future.



WE WANT YOU!!!

The Ogra Editors are looking for people to write political and environmental articles for the next issue. If you are at all interested please see any of the Editors listed on the back page.

HULL OR HELL?

Adam Lore

Over the past year, there have been many chemical spills in our waterways. We all know about the terrible Exxon Valdez oil spill, but the general consensus is that such disasters cannot occur in the New York area. But did you know that 1,000,000 gallons of petroleum products have spilled into the New York and New Jersey waterways over the past three years?

As of February 23, 1990, there have already been 110 spills in this area this year. That is more than one spill a day. These spills have added up to 575,000 gallons of waste in our waters in less than two months. The Exxon pipeline that ruptured and spewed oil into the Arthur Kill alone was responsible for 571,000.

The problem has so much that industry officials lack the time to hold each company responsible for

removing their toxic chemicals from the water. They only have time to inspect the larger accidents. Since the smaller spills don't get cleaned up, they become more dangerous than the larger spills.

The problem must be addressed by legislatures on the local, federal, and international levels. It should become law that all tankers have a double-reinforced hull to prevent these leaks from occurring. The cost to the companies is irrelevant when the safety of our planet is hanging in the balance. Write to your Congressman and urge him to support the bill currently pending in Congress. This bill would require a double-reinforced hull on all vessels that transport toxic chemicals. This issue is too important to be ignored.

NO BIAS HERE

After the first issue of the Ogra was published, we received a lot of flak for having a Republican bias. While we do admit to this bias, we will never reject any article from the Democratic point of view. On the 6th page, Alpa Patel's poem is very liberal. We will accept any piece of writing regardless of its view. If you feel we have too many Pro-Republican articles, then write a few Democratic articles and submit them. We also will accept anarchistic, communistic, socialistic, and other politically-oriented articles for publication.

Guest Editor of the Month: Garvin Jesdanun

In Defense of the Dog

The presence of Abigail in this school, needless to say, has gotten on everyone's nerves, including mine. This is rightfully so, because a dog does not belong in this environment. No matter how pleasant dog hairs in the cafeteria food may seem to you, a dog does not fit into this school. We have all heard each other's complaints about the dog and it seems to be the general consensus that she must go.

However, criticism about Abigail has gotten to the point where we no longer care about the issue itself. We now criticize Abigail because she is an easy target for jokes, not because of the fact that a dog in the school

creates unsanitary conditions. Abigail has been made a scampersheep and the butt of too many jokes.

Mr. Backe, our former principal back in the lower school, had a dog or two himself. (Well, not himself, he probably bought the dog somewhere.) It was not uncommon for his dog, Bennington, to scamper around school grounds piddling in front of the Elm Farm. However, we never complained about Bennington because we all loved him. Why don't we accept the dog now? In those five years, have we become coldhearted and unwilling to care (and share) about our fellow mammals?

The dog also brings new opportunities for us. By bringing in animals, the administration has set a precedent. It will not be long before animals in school become commonplace. Soon goldfish and snakes will roam the halls of this school. We will be creating a happy, although smelly, zoolike environment. Supposing the administration refuses to allow this, they will ultimately see the hypocrisy of the headmaster's actions and restrict the dog from school grounds sooner or later. Either way, the student body will be satisfied.

Travesty of Democracy

In kindergarten, we were all taught to drink our milk. In first grade, we were taught to share. In second grade, we were taught not to fight. With every passing year of our life, we were taught some moral lesson; that something is Right or something is Wrong. In fifth grade, they taught us about Democracy and how one day it will be supreme in the world.

We are now in high school and our educators are still telling us that Democracy is Good. To show this, they give us the power to vote like adult citizens, believing they have done well in their role as educators. However, they are wrong in their beliefs, because the power to vote is useless in this school. This is because the power to vote is limited to electing class and student council officers.

The election of these people itself is a travesty. Not only do the majority of the people decide who to vote for before speeches are made, the debates are poorly run.

First of all, each candidate makes the same speech. They all say how responsible they are and how seriously they will take the job. Then, someone in the audience asks them questions only to see how the candidate will answer. Are we really interested in listening to "How many council meetings have you attended?" More likely, we are really interested in watching how the candidate will squirm and evade the question. On top of that, you are not even allowed to sing at student council debates!

Once the candidates reach office, our voting power vanishes. The candidates whom we have elected to office have no power to do anything,

and therefore cannot effectively represent us. The representatives and officers can now only discuss what to do and occasionally vote on a dress down day, but our major grievances remain unanswered. We can bring up the topic of the gym study hall, yet we can not bring it back.

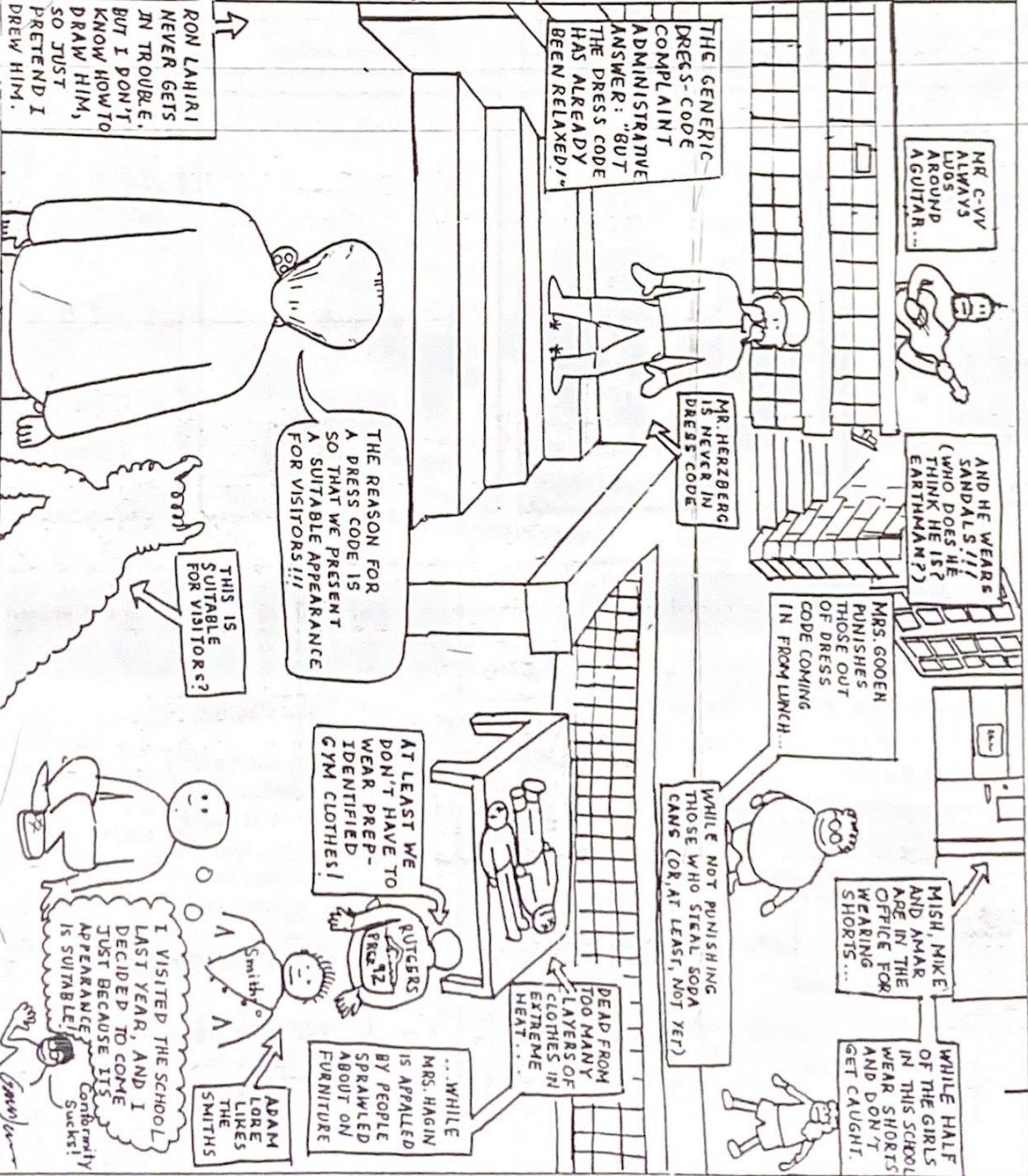
Why doesn't the administration give us a say in important things that affect all of us, like the restoration of the gym study hall or the decision to hire a new cafeteria service? The decision to do these things is not in the hands of the students, but rather in those of the administration. When the power to vote is able to be used directly for more relevant topics in our lives, then our educators will have succeeded in teaching us that Democracy is Good.

Garvin was recently asked by a Russian to turn over all of his money, but by using his extraordinary strength, he was able to repel not only the mugger but all of the Soviet Red Guard.

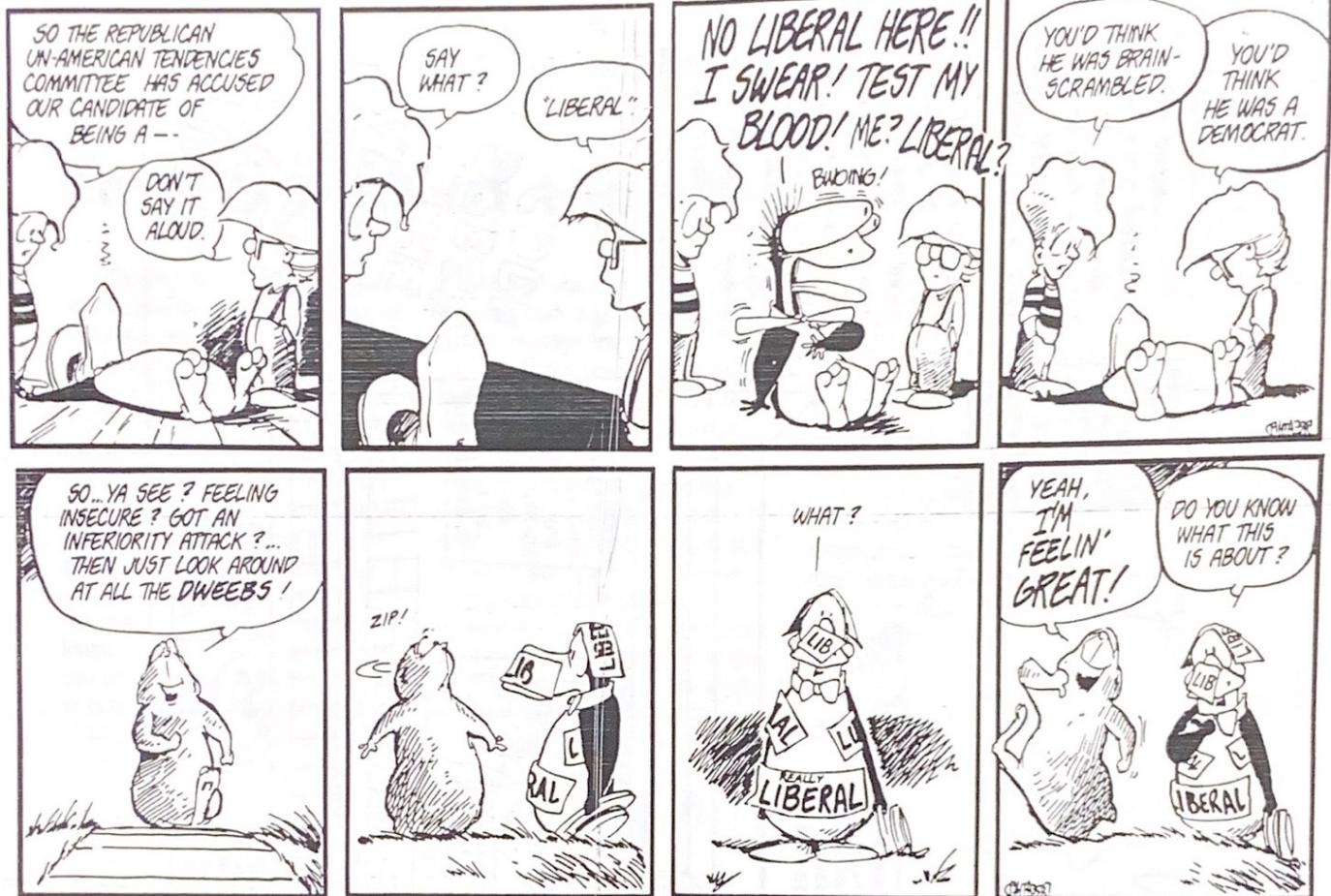
STUFF I'VE NOTICED ABOUT THE DRESS DRESS CODE

By Garvin Jesdanun

What is this obsession
that the school has with
the way students dress?
Is this some poor imitation
of a Catholic school where
everyone wears plaid?
Just exactly why does
Joe Davis wear a pencil
on his ear? I don't
know; I just Notice.



HUMOR & WIT



NOTE

Yes, more ultra-conservative comics that you will send us letters about. Stop complaining - Submit your own!!!

Complaint Department

(Please Elaborate)

THE OGRA

The Original Six

Dan Karen
Geoffrey Gussis
Amar Maktal
Joe Locandro
Sandy Somers
Adam Lore

March Contributors

Akinyi Ouma
Indira Gandhi
zNzBR
Alpa Patel

Guest Editor: Garvin Jesdanun

Special Thanks To Josef Stalin and Ovid