

Soundings

"Men for Others, Delivering News to Others"



October 2013 Issue

Letter to the Reader

Dear Reader,

The object of this publication is to update, inform, and opine on all things Fairfield Prep. In this issue, we especially hope you check out our lively discourses on mixers, Halloween, and the Shelton vs. Prep football game—in addition to the hard-hitting news! Enjoy.

Thanks,

Editor-in-Chief Jack O’Connell ‘14 and Editor-in-Chief
Tim Kiernan ‘14

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Campus Life

Fairfield Prep Bomb Squad at DEFCON 1

Tim Kiernan '14

The classroom environment at Fairfield Prep can seem rigorous and unforgiving. Every now and then, however, when the fall rolls around and teams break into mid-season stride, an experienced teacher will deviate from his/her otherwise relentless lesson plan to pass down stories of legendary Prep athletes. Students' imaginations flutter at the thought of one day joining those immortal greats in the annals of Fairfield Prep history.

Held to an equally legendary standard is the Bomb Squad. Returning alumni and current coaches often swap stories about the grandiosity of the gargantuan mob of students rabid with school spirit. Prep folklore tells tales of when the Bomb Squad could be heard echoing through three feet of cement by teams still in the locker rooms, rousing the Jesuits on to victory. This timeless Prep tradition has been carried out with pride for decades now, but now it looks to be in jeopardy.

After posting an unprecedented attendance at the football game against St. Joe's, the Bomb Squad has been sparse in attendance to say the least. To make matters worse, the senior class has yet to declare a symbolic leader for this year's Squad. Technically, no leader is necessary; however, for efficiency's sake, sometime before the first few games a senior is usually declared or tacitly understood to be the leader by the student body. While attendance was great at the Prep v. St Joe's football game, events since then have received almost no attention at all. With several home varsity soccer and football games garnering almost no crowd at all, the Bomb Squad needs more participation! Both teams are playing exceptionally well—the soccer team having already qualified for the state tournament and the football team sporting a 4-1 record. Hopefully, as the season

progresses and the playoffs approach, the Bomb Squad will show up to impose their dominant presence.

As far as delegating a leader of the Squad goes, that problem seems to remain unsolved. The St. Joe's game provided an ideal opportunity to take advantage of the great influence of the Bomb Squad; however, the upperclassmen didn't rise to the occasion. Bernardo Moreno, senior and avid Prep sports fan, said, "The spirit and camaraderie were definitely there, but the execution and leadership seemed off." When asked to expand on his opinion, Bernardo cited occasions when chants were not effectively communicated to lowerclassmen and students on the outskirts of the student section, resulting in inaudible cheers and confused Bomb Squad participants. Communication within the Squad is key in big game situations.

In order to generate the maximum effect the Bomb Squad can have on a team or game, we must establish an effective line of communication among the students. The most efficient way to do this is to decide on a predetermined leader who we can look to for chants and other forms of support for our team. The legend of the Bomb Squad is sacred and, as students at Fairfield Prep, it is our responsibility to keep this enduring tradition alive. With every touchdown, goal, hit, or basket, our cheers must be felt by alumni across the world.



Campus Life

Scholarly Brothers: A Look at the NHS Mass

Paul Cashman '15

One day a year our Prep brothers come together to celebrate their academic achievement. Among the busy schedules, sports, work, clubs, music, and family, these boys earned their ranks in the academic Hall of Fame. Rows and rows of strong young men, dressed in blazers, heads held high as they listen intently to Fr. Ryan's Homily—it is an amazing experience! Personally, this celebration opened my eyes to the hard work that is so prevalent in the classrooms at Prep. The teachers work hard to get their students to the pinnacle of their academic success. As they march down the aisle, the students project a proud countenance that reflects the work they have put into the mind's cultivation.

The young men who received book awards illustrated accomplishments in academics, service, athletics, extracurricular activities, and faith. I witnessed proud parents passing through the doors of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, and siblings hoping to follow their footsteps trailing behind them. The NHS Mass defines Prep and its finest aspects. All the boys who walked forward to receive their awards should be proud of their work. Keep up the hard work boys, and Go Prep!



Politics

The Government Shutdown in CT

Austin Cantwell '14

It seems as though you can't go online or read a newspaper without hearing about the federal government shutdown. Connecticut is not immune to the effects of this rarity.

The most notable damage is as close to Fairfield Prep as Bridgeport. Association for Bridgeport Community Development (ABCD) is a federal Head Start program. Head Start is federally funded and provides preschool readiness programs, meals and learning programs for low-income families. ABCD is one of the certified agencies where Fairfield Prep students can complete their mandatory Junior/Senior community service. 7,000 Head Start students in six states were affected by this shutdown. Due to a loss of funding, some ABCD agencies have had to shut their door to these kids and their families. One of these was the agency in Bridgeport. The future looked grim, until a philanthropic couple donated \$10 million to reopen all ABCD's that had been shut down. Fortunately, this means the Bridgeport ABCD can reopen, but it will take some time to get it all situated. People should soon see young students back in the classroom and Prep students back to being able to volunteer.

Another part of Connecticut that has been hurt by the shutdown is the Naval Submarine base and National Guard Base in Groton, CT. At the base, 750 workers were forced to stop working and go home. This coincides with a cut of National Guard and Federal Security Guards all over the country. Also, the U.S. Attorney's office in New Haven has furloughed 40 members of its staff. Sikorsky, a government contractor in Shelton, announced it would have to lay off nearly 2,000 workers if the shutdown continued. Luckily, Sikorsky followed Chuck Hagel's

lead, and found a way to continue work as normal with no layoffs. This came in the wake of Hagel recalling most Pentagon workers.

This shutdown affects retired citizens and veterans alike in Connecticut. 200,000 veteran benefit employees nationwide have been sent home, including 100 that process claims in Connecticut. When Connecticut veterans went to the VA Claims Processing Center in Newington, there was no one there to help them. A set of veteran checks are set to be sent out November 1, but if the shutdown is still going on, these will never be sent. Studies estimate that 22,000 Connecticut residents depend on these checks.

Clearly, this government shutdown hurts many. Neither Republicans nor Democrats will admit wrong and cave in. This shutdown could last a while, but for the sake of United States citizens all over, we pray it ends soon.



(Image credit: <http://netrightdaily.com/>)

Sports

Prep Football—Looking More and More Promising

Brent Kaiserman '14

Although Fairfield Prep football fans continue to look back on the heartbreaking, last second loss against St. Joseph's High School, the Jesuits have moved on and are now looking towards the future. This season could be a historic one for Prep, as they look to put Fairfield Prep football back on the map and compete with the likes of programs such as Xavier and Daniel Hand. This season is the first in a while that Prep has put out a team that has potential for the CIAC State Playoff greatness.

The Jesuits, led by captains Tony Fox, Nick Crowle, Anthony Johnson and Andrew Ostrosky, have already knocked off heated rival Notre Dame of West Haven this season. With a commanding win over Shelton this Friday, Prep could have its students thinking playoffs for the first time in quite a few years.

The Shelton game was a pretty sight. Colton Smith and John DelliSanti ran rampantly over the Gaels' defense. Colton Smith carried the ball 15 times for 218 yards and 4 touchdowns. DelliSanti had 116 total yards and 2 total touchdowns. The team will move on to play reigning state champs Daniel Hand in a battle between two SCC powerhouses.



Sports

Prep Soccer

Liam O'Reilly '14

With a record of 7-4-3 (w-l-t), the Fairfield Prep Jesuits are entering the SCC tournament and State Tournament with a very positive mindset. The Jesuits have very high expectations to live up to after last year's season when they finished with a record of 13-2-1. They were the Southern Connecticut Conference champions and made it all the way to the State Championship game against Norwalk High School. Despite the absence of talent, leadership and scoring roles that the senior players brought to the table last year, being 7th in the SCC and qualifying for the State Tournament is not bad at all.

For the last two games of the season, the team's main focus is on finishing the season off strong with wins against Shelton High School and Xavier. Improving on all aspects of their game is essential as well so that come time for the SCC tournament and the State tournament, the Jesuits will be ready to take on any opponent that comes their way. In the words of Fairfield Prep's midfielder, Colin Lomnitzer, "If we play our game, we believe that we could win the SCC tournament and states. We're working hard to reach those goals each day. Taking it one game at a time is key. This year we've competed with a ranked team in the nation, Saint Anthony's High School in Long Island, and only lost to them by a score of 2-1. This shows that Prep soccer is on a rise and is continuing to improve each year."



Sports

Chris Alvarado Commits to Georgetown University

Paul Cashman '15

You could say senior Christian Alvarado class runs very fast. That, however, would be doing him an injustice. Chris runs his own race; winning most races thirty seconds or more ahead of the pack. Last year he made it to the national championships in cross country, indoor, and outdoor track. This year, Chris has successfully shattered course records in every race this cross-country season. After three years of utter success on Prep's Track program, he will finish his final year leading Fairfield Prep to an undefeated season and hopefully a State title. I spoke to Chris about his accolades, future plans, and the team.

Paul Cashman: What are some accomplishments you have achieved/hope to achieve throughout this cross-country season?

Chris Alvarado: "I have been All State four times, All New England three times, All Northeast, Foot Locker National Finalist, Indoor and Outdoor State and New England Champion in the 2 mile. I hope to lead our XC team to its 2nd state title in 3 years and its first New England title, and become an All American in XC, indoor, and outdoor track. Oh, and state champion in the 3K Steeplechase.

PC: You just recently decided to commit to Georgetown, what were some contributing factors to this decision?

CA: It was not easy trying to decide; to be honest I really liked all three schools (U of Virginia and U of Wisconsin). But after coming home from my last official visit at Georgetown, it was clear that I was going to be a Hoya. Georgetown has one of most prestigious names in the world academically and has an amazing business school, which is what I plan on majoring in. In terms of running it was a perfect fit

for me. I am more than confident in the coaching staff at Georgetown with their training philosophies to get me to where I want to be in running than any other program I was looking at...I could go on forever about why I choose Georgetown, but I will leave it at this, I choose Georgetown because I feel it is the best fit for me for what I want to accomplish academically and athletically and of course where I will be the happiest.

PC: Do you hope to run professionally someday?

CA: Running pro would mean that I would get paid to do the thing I love most... why the hell would I NOT want to run professionally!

PC: Most memorable cross-country experience?

CA: Ah that's a tough one, winning the Class LL championship in the snow is hands down the most memorable team experience, but Foot Locker Nationals was the best individual experience—it doesn't get much better than running XC with the 40 best runners in the country in December, in warm and sunny San Diego, California.

PC: What is your pre-race routine?

CA: Pre-Race Routine? PB&J, Water, Levels by Avicii.



Op-Ed

Mastering the Mixer

Reilly Bloom '14

As a pre-pubescent 9th grader, I considered the mixer as a source of adolescent awkwardness and a butterfly-laden stomach. Going to more and more of these events, however, I began to acclimate myself to these Prep occasions that mark my coming-of-age. With some help from friends, I'd like to impart some of my wisdom and virtuosity to Fairfield Prep's underclassmen via 5 tips.

1. When asked about what defines prowess at a mixer, Prep mixer legend Courtney Ormon responded, *"Don't be awkward, but also don't be too aggressive. Be somewhere in between."* I cannot emphasize enough the importance of finding a middle ground between being uncouth and being assertive. Be chivalrous in that you use your words, and not your body, to convey interest; be assertive in that you express what you want—the object is to “mix” or meet people!
2. Avery Willett, yet another friend of Fairfield Prep mixers, said, *"Get her digits or it means nothing."* Mixers aren't intended for 3 hours of conversation, flirtation, or intimacy. They are intended to be the beginning of blossoming relationships. Get her number if you want it! Your future wife could be roaming Brissette Gym in high heels and a neon tank top! (Just don't find her home phone number via white pages. Ask her for it. Phil Lynch '14 can attest to that.)
3. Jack O'Connell '14, dabbler in evolutionary psychology, said on mixers, *"Before a boy or girl is 'on the prowl,' he or she should have a sound understanding of where desire for the opposite sex comes from. Sometimes people don't know what they want. Therefore, it is important to read about the subconscious forces that drive attraction. The answers lie in our psyche as much as they do in our socialization."* Although

reading a scholarly text prior to going to a mixer doesn't sound like fun, sites like Cosmopolitan or Askmen may be worthwhile to peruse. These magazines all contain illuminating information about what is attractive, and perhaps more importantly, what is not!

4. My last two tips will be personal. I think bravery is paramount. If you feel rejected, don't be discouraged. No man or boy is immune to failure!
5. Finding domestic bliss isn't exactly the point of the mixers. The main objective is for you to have fun! This can mean dancing with a girl who lights up the room or just grooving out with your guy friends! (Also, wear deodorant and an undershirt. Perspiration under the arms is sure to diminish confidence!)

Robert Ranzilla '14 Reminisces

Ahh, even as a senior I vividly remember my first Prep mixer, an exhilarating experience. Oh the nostalgia that brutally wrenches my heart when I think of it being socially acceptable for me to attend! Mayhap I blaze the trail and allow all upperclassmen to attend free from the shackles of contempt! But I digress.

To relish the time there, I invoked wisdom from many a Prep dignitary. James Ruddy, a member of the Prep student council, said "Be social, outreaching and willing to start conversations with new people. Be willing to go beyond your comfort zone." Since I am not—nor am inclined to do—one of these things, I don't have much experience here. Many of my friends, however, have forged invaluable relationships with some of the women that attend our Friday night shindigs.

Another useful nugget came from Will Clyne '14. He iterated the importance of being gentle. For many of the attendees, it's their first time at Prep—the strong male presence, although foreseen, can be intimidating! You're no longer hanging around with the boys in the locker room; you're dealing with the beautiful belles that reside in greater Fairfield County. Have fun and forge memories—it doesn't last long!

Op-Ed

What We May Have Learned from the Halloween Debacle

Will Clyne '14

After weeks of uncertainty and confusion, the Fairfield Prep administration has reached a decision on Halloween. While this proposal does finally offer an idea of what is happening, the student body is still confused about two things: how this decision was reached and how much weight our elected representatives carried throughout the decision-making process.

Halloween has been a Fairfield Prep tradition for decades and every student has been following with rapt attention what would happen to this—at times—controversial tradition. However, it became very clear very quickly that the administration was going to continue the contentious Halloween debate with limited student involvement. This immediately brought the worst fears about the dismantling of Halloween to the forefront of nearly every student's mind. A movement began among the students, beginning with a petition, and ending with our representatives telling us that, “a petition would mean nothing.” Disregarding the will of over one hundred students began to confirm what students believed would be the destruction of a treasured senior privilege. So naturally students began to flock to their elected representatives.

Elected representatives from the senior class came back from the meetings with the administration with nothing but a “we did the best we could.” The students who participated spoke to Soundings. They felt that the administration strongly pushed for the student representatives to compromise their beliefs. The elected representative also felt as if the desperate pleas of the student body were falling upon deaf ears in the administration.

Thankfully, the administration came up with a reasonable solution to this controversial subject. But the way they went about this situation was, in my opinion, detrimental to not only any future dilemma that may arise with this senior class but any other senior class as well. The lack of any real power the student government and student body hold is something that should be examined. Our elected representatives did not have some important ideas implemented into the administration's final decision. The administration's lack of receptiveness towards the views of the students is disconcerting, and the stripping away of any real authority the student government once held is worrisome to say the least. If the student government is continually stripped of power, the outcome will be a Fairfield Prep that no longer reflects the student body, but one that reflects the views of the administrators. We as a student body know that the administration has our best interests at heart, but that does not necessarily mean they are infallible?

The prevailing hope is that the administration will gradually allow some say in how special student activities operate back into the hands of student government and install a system of checks and balances that does not allow the administration to continue acting without consulting the student government, and taking their ideas seriously.

Costumes + Classroom=Outlawed



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