

# The Stanner

Vol. 49, No. 2

Archbishop Molloy High School

January 2006

## Annual Toy Drive sets record

By Cathy Bondi

The Campus Ministry's annual Christmas Toy Drive in December set a new Molloy record by donating over 1,500 toys to children who otherwise wouldn't get any for Christmas, said moderator Mr. Mike Germano.

The Toy Drive, which lasted from Nov. 30 to Dec. 19, brought in a total of 1,510 toys, 940 of which were actually donated by Stanners. The rest were purchased by Mr. Germano.

Mr. Germano said he used roughly \$400 from the money left over from last year's Toy Drive and the money raised from the three-week homeroom mission collection to buy 570 toys from Sheper, "a Costco-type toy store."

Mr. Germano was pleased with this year's total, which broke the previous record of 1,400 toys set in 2005, but he said next year the numbers will go down, and he expects only 1,350 toys will be distributed by Molloy students because there is no money left over from this year's collection to carry over

to next year.

Over \$1,800 was raised by Molloy's student body via the homeroom mission collection. Mrs. Mary Grennan's homeroom 2F contributed a school-high total of \$178, and Mr. Ed Cameron's homeroom 3G donated \$159.27, the second best homeroom total.

Mr. Germano said it is a very rewarding experience to make someone else's Christmas, Channukah, or Kwanza a happy occasion by giving him or her a gift.

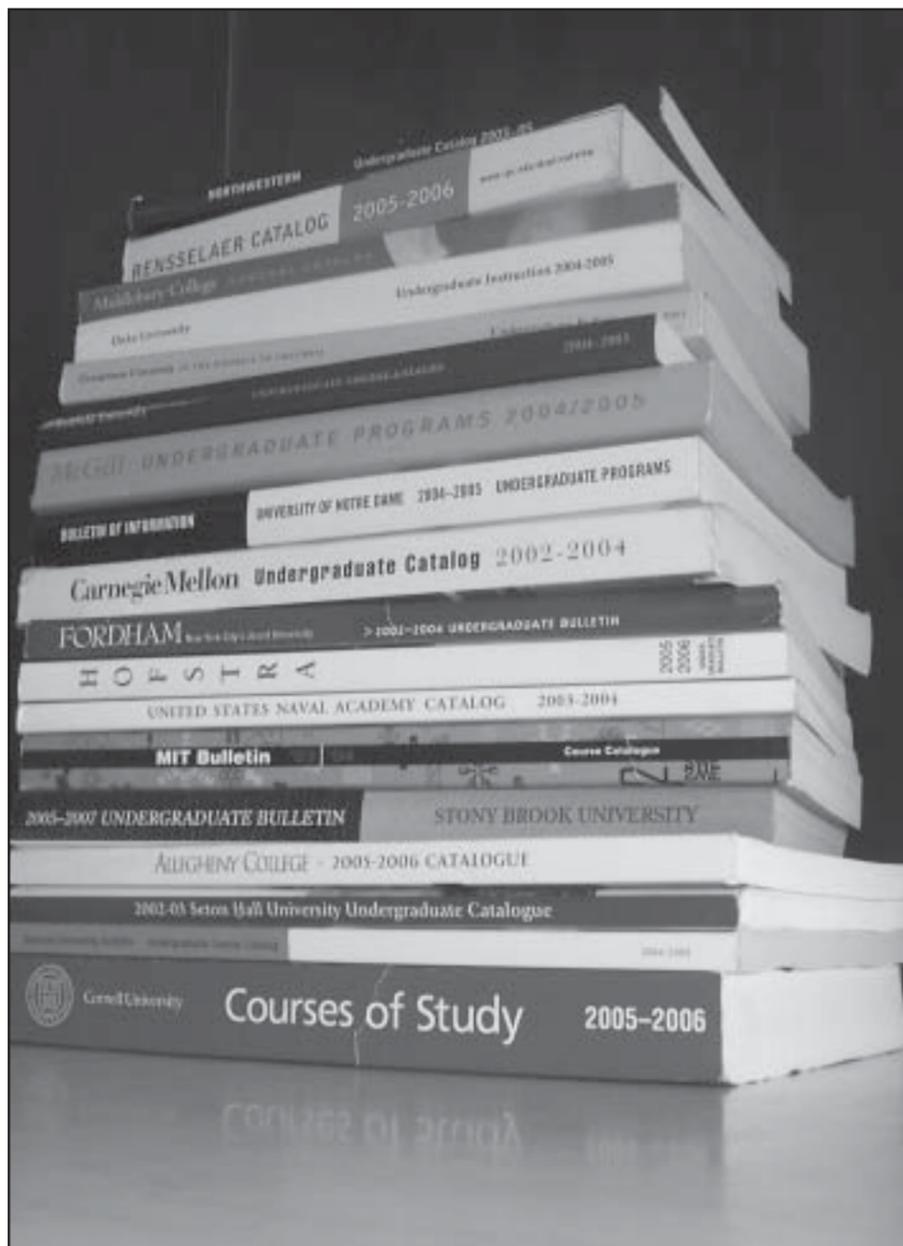
The donated and purchased toys were separated by Campus Ministry volunteers into age categories and given to Catholic Charities, the Briarwood Homeless Shelter, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Mary's Children Hospital in Brooklyn, and other charities. They were then wrapped by



Seniors Amy Choi and Joan Villacruis sort toys for the annual Christmas Toy Drive, sponsored by Campus Ministry. (Photo by Steve Montoni)

those organizations and given to the children, said Kathleen Shevlin, a senior who worked on the drive.

Each charity received two toys per child; the Briarwood Shelter children received at least three toys each.



These 18 course catalogues represent the number of schools to which one senior applied this fall, the highest total of any member of the Class of 2006. However, Mrs. Joan McCabe said that these course catalogues are going out of style as more and more Stanners shop for schools and apply online where the application fee is often waived. (Photo taken by Julie Dzurita)

## Seniors suffering application angst

By Sarah Toth

Molloy seniors have applied to more colleges this year than any other class in school history, stressing themselves out in the process, said college guidance counselor Mr. Kerry Hughes.

The college guidance office will process more than 3,000 applications this school year with the average senior applying to over eight colleges at a personal financial cost between \$240 and \$400 in application fees.

Mr. Hughes recommends seniors apply to no more than six colleges. Despite his advice, however, he feels many members of the Class of 2006 are choosing too many schools. Many seniors have applied to 10 and even 15 colleges, which he said is, "overkill." Mr. Hughes said the current seniors' tendency to "over-apply" to colleges may be a result of pressure from parents.

Some educators believe there should be a limit on the number of college applications each student is allowed to submit to the college guidance office, but Mr. Hughes is not one of them.

"I thought about it," Mr. Hughes said. "Other schools do it. [But] I don't think it's fair."

Mr. Hughes and college guidance secretary Mrs. Joan McCabe agree

that this year's seniors have become the most stressed-out class Molloy's ever had with many students crying in the college guidance office because they are unable to handle the pressure of the application process on top of the rest of the demands of senior year.

Senior Diana Eusse, who has applied to eight colleges, said, "Applying to colleges has been a lot of hard work and stress. Some people get worried about all the paperwork, but the guidance office was easy going and very patient."

Mr. Hughes and Mrs. McCabe worked on applications throughout the Christmas break and into January but have no complaints.

"The students make my job easier," said Mr. Hughes. "Ninety-nine percent of them are very, very pleasant."

While this year's senior class as a whole has set a new record for college applications, the individual record of 27 applications, set last year by a member of the Class of 2005, is still safe. Mr. Hughes said the most applications submitted by a member of the Class of 2006 was 18.

Senior Victoria Chan, who applied to 16 colleges, said she did so because, "I have no idea where I want to go."

# Is Physics *really* necessary?

The sheer mention of the word “physics” is likely to send tremors through the very core of most science-challenged juniors.

Concepts such as net force, normal force, applied force, frictional force, gravity, force DUE to gravity, not to mention 90 different formulas, are just a few aspects that make Physics the most difficult entry level science course Molloy offers.

Let’s face it, when the same letters can mean two different things depending on the formulas they are used in, or perhaps the phase of the moon, we’re talking about a difficult course!

Statistics prove this.

Of the 66,075 juniors enrolled in New York City public schools in 2003, only 11,143 opted to take Physics (17%). Of these, only 65% scored a passing grade of over a 55 on the regents exam, while barely 47% scored between a 65 and 100, according to the New York State Education Dept. website.

Now compare that to the results from Earth Science Regents. Of the 34,075 students who took that exam in 2003, 73% scored a 55 or better.

But what about more recent test scores?

While the New York State Board of Regents has published the Earth Science, Chemistry, and Living Environment statistics for 2004, the 2004 Physics Regents grades have been (once again) contested on their fairness and remain unreleased.

Physics Honors is a required class for anyone who took the Earth Science Regents in eighth grade. For the motivated or exceptional math and science students, this requirement is merely a thorn in their side, not one that seriously hinders their educational experience.

However, for the slightly less adept science students, this is a punishment for challenging themselves in eighth grade by taking Earth Science. Instead of being able to attain moderate to high grades by taking Earth Science junior year, the most influential year grade-wise that colleges use when evaluating applications, these students have their transcripts tarnished by a mediocre Physics grade.

Why are Stanners who challenged themselves academically as eighth graders being punished? Why isn’t there

a science option for those juniors besides Physics?

Assistant Principal Sister Elizabeth Bickar agreed that as the number of juniors falling into this category increases, a new plan needs to be developed.

However, there are some scheduling difficulties that pertain to this issue. The only science classes that these juniors could opt into would be senior-elective half year classes, and at this point the only two are Anatomy and Physiology and Environmental Science. The juniors would have to take both to satisfy the state science requirement.

While Sister Elizabeth is “amenable to adjusting the scheduling,” she will only do so if it benefits more people than it inconveniences.

“I set up schedules for the greatest good for the greatest number of people,” Sister Elizabeth said.

So *The Stanner* advocates that frosh and sophomores who have taken the Earth Science Regents talk to Sister Elizabeth about changing this policy.

Why shouldn’t juniors be allowed to take senior elective science classes? While mixed year classes aren’t common at Molloy, they aren’t

unheard of. Language classes often have students from different grades, and there are a select group of students who are accelerated in math, science, and history and so take classes with students in grades above their own.

But not everyone favors the idea that juniors should be able to evade Physics.

Mr. Michael DeMarco, a self proclaimed “biology man” and chairperson of the science department, feels that Physics is good for juniors to take because the skills such as logical thinking needed to solve physics problems, “can be applied to all fields.”

Mr. DeMarco said, at the risk of being considered “old school,” that challenging students by requiring them to take Physics was not necessarily bad. After being exposed to the subject in high school, Mr. DeMarco said, “in college, students can opt out of [taking] Physics.”

*The Stanner*, however, endorses a plan of more diverse science scheduling options for juniors so those students who took Earth Science in eighth grade are not penalized for their initiative.

-Kim Seiler

## How to cope with crowded hallways

Molloy senior Rosemary Taveras has been circulating a petition this month for Stanners to sign that asks the administration to take steps to put an end to the school’s crowded hallways, especially on the third floor.

Her goal is to collect as many as 300 signatures on the petition, which Taveras hopes will help convince the administration to take action.

“I’ve collected about 150 so far, but I don’t want to go to the Administration unless I can get at least half my [senior] class to sign it,” she said.

Taveras was motivated to start her petition drive because, “the crowds are impossible to get through, and they cause people to be late,” said Taveras.

Some suggestions on how to solve the problem are:

\*Enforce a system where all students keep to the right as they are walking down the hall to improve traffic flow.

\*Enforce a prohibition on students opening their lockers during the classroom changeovers at 9 a.m., 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to reduce congestion.

\*Instruct teachers to leave classroom doors open so students can go into the room as soon as they arrive rather than having to crowd around the door while waiting for the teacher to arrive and, in so doing, clogging the hallways.

Assistant Principal Mr. James Lembo said, “In a perfect world, all three ideas have merit. Some things you can not legislate. Instead, you must rely on the public’s sense of cooperation, fairness and politeness. Here at Molloy, we rely on the good will of our students

as well as rules and regulations.

“My suggestion is that students should stay to the right whenever practicable and go directly to their destinations. Stopping in the hallways slows down the flow of traffic. I think that if students cooperate and make an effort in this regard, it should help alleviate the traffic problem. My experience has always been that when asked, Molloy students generally rise to the occasion.”

Mr. Lembo said there already exists an “unwritten rule” about students not going to their lockers between classes but feels it is “too strong an absolute” to forbid someone from going to his or her locker because special circumstances may warrant that student doing so.

Taveras believe the best solution would be to allow the classroom doors to remain unlocked because she believes congestion in the halls, “is mostly because classroom doors are not being left open, and students have to wait in front of their classroom for the teacher to come.”

But Mr. Lembo said that, “for safety reasons, no classroom can be left unattended. Therefore, teachers can not leave a classroom [door] open unless they are there to supervise.”

English teacher Ms. Mary Ann Safrey, a teacher with 25 years experience, shares some of Taveras’s some concerns about the hallways. She considers it a safety issue because overcrowded hallways could result in students getting hurt.

Ms. Safrey said the crowded hallways not only cause students to be late but

prevent teachers from getting from class to class to open the door.

“The crowded hallways affect everyone in the school, and a solution would be in everyone’s benefit,” said Ms. Safrey. “Other schools have successfully used the single file system [where students keep to the right side when walking down the hall].”

Safrey supports Taveras’s petition effort. “My students have complained a number of times about the crowded hallways, and I like to tell them, ‘If you don’t like something in your environment, ask yourself what you can do about it,’” said Ms. Safrey.

*The Stanner* wishes Taveras luck with her petition drive and hopes that

### Corrections

*The Stanner* aims for the highest level of accuracy in its stories. If you notice an error, send an email to *The Stanner* at: [thestanner@molloyhs.org](mailto:thestanner@molloyhs.org)

Please note the following corrections to errors made in Vol. 49 No. 1:

In the article “Rock aid picks four,” the name of Ponies for Strangers band

### Letters to the Editor

*The Stanner* welcomes all letters to the editor that respond to any of the articles published in previous issues. In a short letter, voice your concerns, comments, or opinions. Send your letters to *The Stanner* at [thestanner@molloyhs.org](mailto:thestanner@molloyhs.org). *The Stanner* reserves the right to edit all letters to conform to space capacity and paper policy. Thank you for your involvement.

by gathering signatures she will heighten awareness about this problem and, perhaps, as Mr. Lembo suggests, the students will take it upon themselves to improve the safety conditions in the halls between classes.

- Dana Porretta

member Lana Belasic was misspelled.

In the photo of cross country runner Camille Ricciardi, the caption incorrectly stated she was the only Stanner to qualify for the state meet. Junior Dan Edwards of the Boys Varsity also qualified.

## The Stanner

Volume 49, Number 2

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# Infield renovations scheduled

By Joel Miele

Renovations to the Archbishop Molloy baseball infield are scheduled to begin in late June after the 2006 baseball season comes to a close, said Athletic Director Mr. Mike McCleary. Stanner center fielder Frank Pizzo said the field is due for a sprucing up.

"In the past, the field's been in good condition, but right now it isn't up to our standards and it affects our play," Pizzo said.

Mr. McCleary, who has been

Molloy's athletic director for the past eight years, said the school would like to make further improvements to the field in years to come, such as adding enclosed cement dugouts, an improved scoreboard, and a press box.

"Money is a big issue," said Mr. McCleary.

Installing an artificial turf field this summer had been considered by the administration when discussing how best to renovate the field but such a

move, "isn't financially prudent," according to Mr. McCleary. Artificial turf would cost between \$500,000 to \$1 million to install, and the artificial turf field must be replaced every 15 years. A normal clay infield will cost \$20,000 a year to install so is cheaper to use over the same 15-year period.

Mr. McCleary, who is responsible for scheduling games and making uniform and equipment purchases, among other duties, said each year the school puts a

little money aside from its budget to fund one major capital project, such as renovating the baseball infield.

Mr. McCleary said that with help from the student body and alumni, perhaps more money can be raised for other improvements to the school's athletic facilities.

"The school is always looking for ways to use the Walk-a-thon money," he said.



The baseball field, currently characterized by bright orange mesh fencing and a rather large puddle where the pitcher's mound used to be, is scheduled for renovations this coming June. (Staff Photo)

# Christmas show scintillating success

By Jennifer McCabe

The second annual Christmas dance show, held Dec. 19 in the Jack Curran Gym, featured performances by Molloy's Dance Club and Team, the Spanish, French and the Indian Clubs and the Boys and Girls Step Squads, which highlighted the diversity of the groups that took part.

After a successful show before a near-capacity paying audience of parents, family and friends, the clubs put on an abbreviated version of the show free to Molloy students after school on Dec. 21 and drew another near capacity crowd in the gym.

"I was pleased with the performance," said Ms. Liz Murdocca, Moderator of the Dance Team and Club.

Step Squad Moderator, Mrs. Anne Lonergan, said her steppers, "were excellent in the show, and I am especially proud of my girl steppers who worked so hard this year."

The Indian Club's Stephanie Jairam, a senior, performed a habitual dance

from early Indian culture.

The Spanish Club performed traditional Spanish dances including Salsa and Meringue, and Moderator Ms. Natasha Garcia said the dancers, "did extremely well. They worked extremely hard and it showed. I am very proud of them."

Captain Gabrielle Kulesza led the Dance Team of Justine Bello, Brittany Bieber, Angela Falco, Jennifer Locascio, Marissa Nostramo, Alessandra Rannazzisi, Stephanie Riccardi, Gabriella Scalzo, Christina Scelfo, and Alyssa Tallini, in the night's final performance, dancing to "Carol of the Bells."

The Dance Club performed to six Christmas songs:

"Funky Christmas": Alyssa Brusca; Venus Chao, Valentina DiGangi; Michelle Eichorst; Kimberly Falco; James Hounsell; Lauren Kalma; Stephanie Kotnik; Kerry McDonald; Dorothy Sawicki; Garbriella Scalzo; Cassandra Schneller; Kimberley Seonane; Elizabeth Shelley; Daniela Vidas.

"Santa Baby": Elizabeth Abikaram; Michelle De Silva; Natalia Dudek; Prescilla

Dhuman; Nicole Forte; Sylwia Mackiewicz; Jennifer Morrisey; Sandra Olech; Monika Prokop; and Kasia Topczewska.

"Please Come Home": Cathy Bondi, Felicia Benincasa; Michele Benincasa; Kathleen Ciarletta; Jackie Ehrhardt; Melissa Gangi; Emilie Rosano; Jillian Ruggiere; Mary Kate Schwerdt; Dawn Wursthorn.

"Christmas Wish": Justine Bello; Jeanette Bocklage; Francesca Cecala; Danielle Delgrosso; Angela Falco; Andrea Kausch; Christine Lewis; Jennifer Locascio; Elyssa Noblesala; Maryann Osorio.

"Christmas Party": Alexandra Arena; Ndome Essoka; Dara Krausankas; Janice Isidro; Ann Jaworek; Alexandra Landivar; Nadina Latchman; Daphne Liu; Regine Marquez; Katherine Mendez; Katrinne Moriano; Geraldine Paul; Nicole Ramirez; Trisha Sobha; Cathy Zhu.

Other groups performing at the show were:

Pipe Band: Kevin Carberry; Heather Ditroia; Brittany Dombrowski; Kevin R. Doyle; Michael Korczynski; Brian Logar; Patricia Logar; Kathleen Madden; John Maguire; Joseph O'Connor; Laura Sawyer; Rachel Wagner; Zullay Yepes.

Spanish Club: Marcos Baez; Katherine Becerra; Francesca Cecala; Stephen Echeverri; Sasha Espinal; Ramon Fana; Monica Ferreira; Jennifer Jimenez; Christina Perez; Paulina Rios; Pricilla Rivas; Ricardo Rivera; Alex Rodriguez; Tahelis Sanchez; Natalie Sarmiento; Rosemary Taveras.

Indian Club: Stephanie Jairam

The Zespol: Mark Giernicki; John Saladino; Adam User; Tim Viani

French Club: Michael Acoba; Cassandre Kernizan; Bianca Neptune; Mary Perez; Andrew Siconolfi; Stephen Silva; Andrew Tirados; Angela Tso; Tora Watson; Mary Catherine Wen.

Girls' Step Team: Kimberly Bernard; Janelle Boya, Cailin Chang; Kristina Dawes; Kenya Desiste; Arianna Dussie; Ndome Essoka; Sabrina Fluerantin; Janice Isodoro; Tosin Jaloso; Alexandra Jean-Joseph; Kisha Laurent; Daphne Liu; Tenisha McDonald; Bianca Neptune; Geraldine Paul; Mary Perez; Sheina Theodore; Jasmine Williams; Brandi Wilson.

Boys' Step Team: Richard Cadena; John Cruz; Alvin Dimalanta; Patrick Dinko; Elvin Ramos; Bryan Rodriguez; Kevin Santarina; Kelton Snagg.

# Say, Wen our first semifinalist

By Andrea Morscher

Junior Mary Catherine Wen was the first Molloy student to ever qualify as a semifinalist in the national Siemens-Westinghouse Science Competition last fall for her project on cell growth and proliferation on rubbery polymers.

Wen did all her research for her project at the SUNY-Stony Brook Department of Material Science Garcia MRSEC lab with her partner, Great Neck South High School senior Hilana Lewkowicz-Shpuntoff last summer.

Her project, one of 300 chosen as nationwide semifinalists, concentrated on altering the mechanical and chemical properties of flexible polymers using nano particles to enhance their biological compatibility for future use in medical science in muscle implants, pacemakers and biocoatings because currently none of these three can support cell growth.

Molloy science teacher Ms. Mary Mallia said she was not surprised when Wen was named a semifinalist because, after looking over Wen's project and reviewing her application to the competition last fall, Ms. Mallia had

been very impressed with the quality of her work.

For their application to the prestigious competition, Wen and her partner prepared a 20-page research paper based on their research obtained during 19-hour work days throughout the summer and early fall under three mentors from Stony Brook's Center for Material Research and Engineering, Miriam Rafailovich, Dr. Nadine Pernodet, and Lourdes Collazo, and two graduate students, Avtar Singh of Cornell University and Eric Petersen of Harvard University.

The Siemens-Westinghouse competition attracts the cream of the crop of high school science students and opens up for them numerous opportunities for scholarships and college grants, said Ms. Mallia, who is Wen's physics teacher.

Wen said she intends to compete next year in the both Siemens-Westinghouse competition and the Intel Science Competition, the nation's most prestigious high school science contest, which is only open to seniors.



Mary Catherine Wen's work with polymers earned her semifinalist recognition in the Siemens-Westinghouse Science Competition. (Photo by Julia Dzurita)

## Briarwood Shelter's Christmas party

By Sasha Espinal

Molloy's Briarwood Shelter volunteer tutors held their annual Christmas party Dec. 20 at the homeless shelter when Stanners gave the children living there toys that were bought for them as part of Molloy's annual Toy Drive.

"Thanks to all of the students' cooperation and hardwork, these kids had a happy Christmas and many reasons to smile," said Stephanie Jairam, a senior who has been a Shelter volunteer for over two years and helped distribute three toys to each child.

Mr. Mike Germano, the tutoring program's moderator, said 99 student volunteers work various days once a week after school from 3 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. The volunteers are mentors to the children at the Shelter. The tutors play games

with them and help them with their grade school class work.

"They are like big brothers and sisters to the children," said Mr. Germano. "The volunteers show they care for the kids."

To be involved in the program, a volunteer has to be loyal and sacrifice his or her time for the kids.

"There are always more and more volunteers, which shows how some people are really dedicated to helping those who need it," said Jairam. "I think it is a really good experience because it is so grounding. [The kids at the shelter] are down to earth even though they have so many problems. They're optimistic and there's a lot to learn from them."

## Film Society offers off-beat movies

By Angela Cerbone

The Stanner Film Society, which screens movies at least once a month after school in the Archbishop Molloy High School theater, has so far viewed "A Hard Day's Night," the 1964 movie which introduced the U.S. to the Beatles, and "Mad Hot Ballroom," the 2005 documentary about children in New York elementary schools who learn ballroom dancing and compete in a city-wide competition.

Mr. Ted McGuinness, the Society's moderator, said the club, "will be showing other contemporary titles" which are chosen by consensus among members with suggestions always welcomed.

Sarah Tansey, who along with Caitie Clark and Daniel Dicino are the club officers, said future film choices will be "slightly off the beaten path."

The Stanner Film Society was founded two years ago by two 2005 Molloy graduates, Al Rosin and Chris Massi, in order to provide students with an opportunity to view both classic films and movies made by club members.

Film Society members also attend movies outside of school, often in conjunction with the Science Fiction Club headed by Mr. Christopher X. Dougherty.

Later in the school year the Film Society plans to present: "Bride and Prejudice," an adaptation of Jane Austen's classic novel using Indian characters to give the story a "Bollywood" twist; "The Triplets of Bellville," a French-made animated feature film about a woman who, along with the Bellville triplets, an aging song and dance group, attempts to save her kidnapped grandson. The Film Society also will screen some Disney Classics later this year.

The dates and times of these films have yet to be determined.

There's no entrance fee for the screenings and Mr. McGuinness said anybody is welcome to join in the fun of entering new worlds, meeting interesting characters, and seeing exotic places via the movies.

"It is important for kids to see movies," said Mr. McGuinness.

## Subways strike; Stanners do not

Despite the two-day New York City Transit Strike, which forced all Stanners who usually come to school via bus and subway to find alternative transportation, attendance on the final two days of school before the Christmas vacation at Archbishop Molloy High School decreased only four percent on Dec. 20 and two percent on Dec. 21, said Mrs. Rose Pomarico, who oversees the school's attendance records in the general office.

The first day of the strike, which featured a late start schedule where classes began at 9:05 a.m. instead of the usual 8:05, only 123 of the 1,561-member Molloy student body were absent, which is just under eight percent of the student body.

On the second day of the strike, Dec. 21, which was a half day with only the Christmas liturgy and three class periods on the schedule, the number

of absent students decreased to 87, just under six percent, as more Stanners were able to figure out a way to get to school without mass transit.

The number of students absent on an average winter school day at Molloy is between 60 and 80 students, said Mrs. Pomarico, which works out to about four percent of the student body.

Overall, Mrs. Pomarico said, attendance this winter is better than it was last year.

Principal Bro. Roy George said the high level of attendance for the final two days of school before Christmas vacation despite the transit strike speaks well for Molloy.

"Attendance of 92 and 93 percent on those days was wonderful," said Bro. Roy. "And some people had very difficult times getting here. Compared to the city [public] schools, it was fantastic."

# French Club Christmas soiree

By Amy Varughese, Christina Chiu, and Kristen Cadacio

Several of Molloy's ethnic and cultural clubs joined together on Dec. 7 to put a Christmas tree in the school library and make multi-cultural ornaments during the French Club's second annual Christmas party, said moderator Ms. Dorothy DeNoto.

Ms. DeNoto came up with the idea of having all the school's clubs take part in a holiday event last year when she took over as French Club moderator.

The tree, decorated by the Asian, Indian, Italian, Irish, and Eastern European clubs, represents diversity and unity of all the cultures in school, she said.

In addition to the ornaments made last year, the clubs created new ornaments to decorate the tree, which came down on Jan. 3, the day Stanners returned from Christmas vacation.

Alice Vo, a senior and member of the Asian Club who attended the event for the second time, made a red lantern for the tree. She said she loves the event because, "it brings together cultures and helps us to become one. People learn to accept each other."

The Christmas Party, which Ms. DeNoto said is a "new Molloy tradition that is going to stay," was just one of several events hosted by the French Club this school year.

Ms. DeNoto said she is, "super pleased and amazed at the school spirit," as the number of French club members has grown to 114. The club has nine officers.

The club put together a Halloween "Live Dancing Costume Party" and helped raise money to assist a family devastated by Hurricane Katrina by charging admission to see the movie "Waterboy" in French.

The Multi-Cultural Tree Trimming Party is something Ms. DeNoto is especially proud of because it is "beautiful, moving, and demonstrated that we are all one family."

Bianca Neptune, a junior and the club's Vice President, said, "We have the most enthusiastic members that are involved in everything we do!"

Mary Perez, a junior and secretary of the club, said she is "pleased with all the things we've already done this year!"



Senior Julian Vaina and junior Kevin Doyle, of the Molloy Band's clarinet section, play for underclassmen during the annual Christmas Concert assembly in December in the Jack Curran Gym. (Photo by Fernando Ortiz)

## Molloy's holiday liturgies

### Thanksgiving

By Faith Conlon and Danielle Pascullo

The Thanksgiving Liturgy in the Jack Curran Gym, which drew hundreds of students and alumni November 23, featured a theme emphasizing the importance of family and giving.

Ms. Mary Pat Gannon, along with Mr. Mike Germano, Mr. Lou Barbera and a committee of 16 to 20 students are the creative "angels" behind Molloy's spiritual liturgies.

Senior Guy Mongelli enjoys being on the committee, "because we get to make subjects that may seem boring very interesting and fun. Sometimes we don't always agree, but we always come up with a consensus decision."

Sophomore Megan Sattler added, "The committee is able to teach the Molloy students not just about Scriptures but something more to live by."

Many details are involved in putting together such an event, Ms. Gannon explained. Arrangements must be made to seat the current Molloy students and the nearly 300 alumni who returned for the Thanksgiving Liturgy.

"We also use art to express our ideas," said Sattler.

Decorations of bright banners displaying the words "Peace" and "Thanks" in different languages were displayed. Ms. Gannon hopes to teach the importance of family and giving to all who attend via the reading called "Poor Widow's Mite."

The Liturgy Committee hopes to teach students that liturgy comes in many forms, said Mr. Germano, who

finds it very fulfilling to be able to share such liturgies with the students.

Ms. Gannon hoped all the students leave the liturgies with a sense of community, family, and, ultimately, thanksgiving.

Said Sattler, "Students who join the committee will get more out of it than just going to another religion class. They will learn the meaning of our faith and help us become better Christians."

### Christmas

By Dana Grossman

The Liturgy Committee designed a Christmas liturgy with a theme that urged Stanners to try to be Christ-like figures to others at a Mass in the Jack Curran Gym Dec. 21, when Christmas was celebrated by the Molloy community despite the New York City Transit strike.

Mr. Mike Germano wanted the Mass to be a "prayerful but enjoyable way to start the Christmas season."

A smaller crowd attended the Christmas liturgy in comparison to the Thanksgiving mass, which had an enormous alumni presence, because the transit strike kept away most alumni.

For the Christmas liturgy, the gym was decorated with royal blue banners and silver stars.

Twenty-four students on the committee met eight times to plan the liturgy.

"We find it fun even though it's hard work," said senior Mike Korczynski, a member of the Liturgy Committee.

## Copious quantities of candy canes consumed to benefit cystic fibrosis research

By Andrew Baker

Molloy's Student Activities Committee [SAC] held a one-week candy cane drive in December which raised over \$2,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

SAC Moderator Mr. Ken Auer said student organizers hoped to raise at least \$500 but were very pleased to raise four times that amount for the Community Outreach Resources Program for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation based in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. Auer got the idea for the drive when he received a letter from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation with a list of possible fund-raising activities.

Senior SAC members Brittany Bell, Emily O'Kane, and Clare Ollquist then

helped develop the idea that students could buy a Christmas card and candy cane for \$1 to send to a classmate.

The cards, which were designed by O'Kane, and the candy canes were delivered to students during homeroom on Dec. 20 after all the cards had been collected, properly addressed, and sorted the previous day.

SAC members were very pleased with the outcome after all their hard work and hope the candy cane drive will become an annual event.

"I never thought that we could do so much good just by selling candy canes," said Bell, who added SAC is planning another fund raising event this year because of this one's great success.

## SADD sponsors red ribbon campaign

By Jexter Bonus

The Archbishop Molloy High School chapter of Students Against Drunk Driving [SAAD] gave out red ribbons to senior homerooms before Christmas to spread the message to not drink and drive during the holiday season, said Ms. Jeanne Longerano, the club's moderator.

Ms. Longerano, who first learned about the red ribbon campaign after it was done by the Mothers Against Drunk Driving organization, said the ribbons are designed to be tied to a car's rear view mirror.

She hopes the message will spread to family and friends of seniors to create awareness of the problem and prevent the accidents caused by drinking and driving.

SADD member Priyangi Jayasuriya, a senior, said that teenage drinking and driving is a serious problem and the ribbons will be effective in preventing Stanners from drunk driving.

In addition, SADD provided approximately 1,500 red ribbons that were distributed to parents during parent-teacher conferences in November.

# Sci-Oly team prepares for City meet

By Kevin McAuley

Can you build a paper airplane that can actually fly for more than ten seconds? How about a working remote controlled robot that can pick up CDs and pop balloons?

Most people would have to answer “no” to these questions, but not the members of Molloy’s Science Olympiad Team.

The Science Olympiad team consists of 15 members: seniors Victoria Chan, Guy Mongelli, Julia Schramm, Neeti Sharma, Arthur Parzygnat, and Ryan Cammarata; juniors Victor Lipnicki, Mary Wen, Stanley Saji, Tina Kochupurackal, Catherine Zhu, and Steven Montoni; sophomores Katarina Duzdevich and Michael Camardella, and freshman Anthony Cagliano.

These team members compete against 30 other teams from schools all over the city in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, genetics, and engineering. At the competitions, the team members have to perform tasks such as identifying rocks and minerals from memory, building a rubber-band propeller powered plane, and building a remote controlled robot.

Mongelli described the competition’s events by saying, “It’s not classroom science; it’s practical science, science on a higher level, but more interesting.”

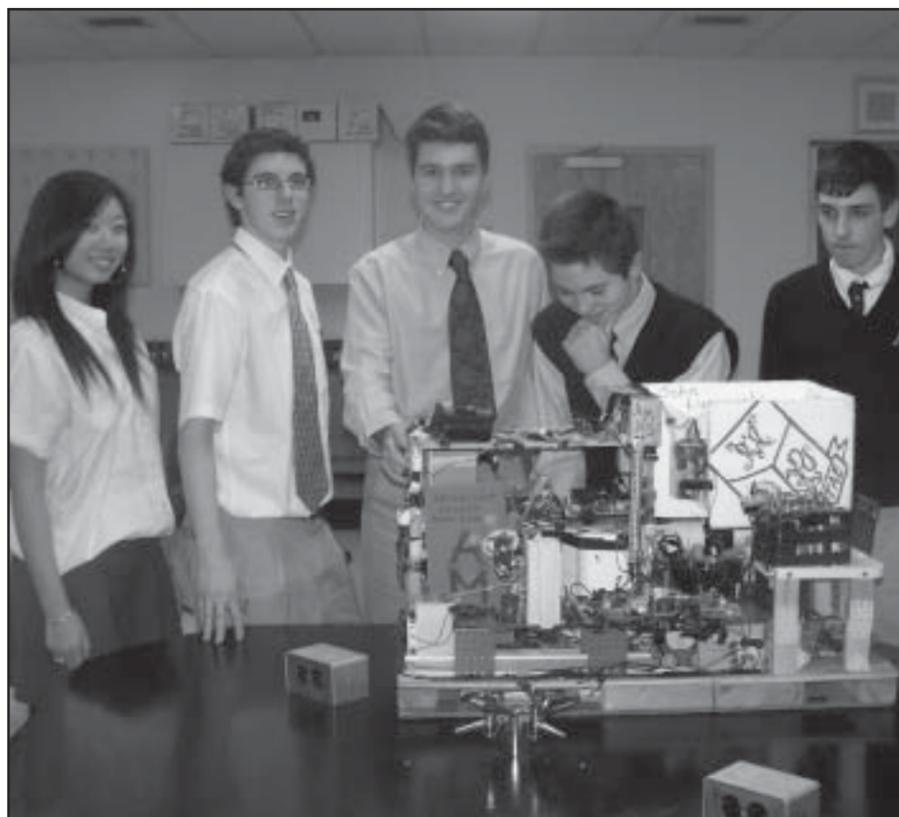
The city competition will be held in February. If Molloy places first, second, or third in the city competition, the team advances to the State competition in March at West Point.

The Science Olympiad Team practices every day, and it shows; over the last 19 years, the team has qualified for the State Competition 16 times, with five gold medals, seven silver medals, and four bronze medals.

Last year, Molloy placed second in the city to earn the right to compete in the State competition against the top teams from the state’s 50 different counties.

The team members do not only do well in their respective fields but also have a lot of fun competing. “It’s not every day you get to work with chemicals that can eat through your skin,” said Sharma.

Science Olympiad Team Moderator Mr. Mike DeMarco said that his goal for this year is the same as every year: “To make States.”



Five members of Molloy’s Science Olympiad Team, moderated by Mr. Mike DeMarco and Mr. Jason Mallia, study a Rube Goldberg machine, designed last year by junior Victor Lipnicki, to prepare for this year’s city-wide competition in February. From left: junior Cathy Zhu; senior Guy Mongelli; Lipnicki; freshman Anthony Cagliano; and sophomore Mike Camardella. (Photo by Fernando Ortiz)

# Sci-Fi & Anime keep growing

By Caroline Kilianski

The Archbishop Molloy Science Fiction & Fantasy Club along with the Anime Club are among on the most popular clubs in the school, said Moderator Mr. Chris Dougherty, with “over 150 members in these clubs, including alumni.”

Both clubs are planning many outings this year.

The Sci-Fi Club saw the movie “Serenity” in September, “Harry Potter” in November, and “Narnia” and “King Kong” in December. It plans to see “X-Men,” have a couple of parties, and play laser tag in the Times Square area in the coming months.

Meanwhile, the Anime Club is planning a trip to the Anime Boston ’06 Convention in the spring, screenings of Japanese animated films at school, and trips to Manhattan to visit an Anime store and eat lunch at a Japanese restaurant, said Mr. Dougherty. So far, the Anime Club has viewed 25 episodes of an Anime series called “Fullmetal Alchemist.”

“We have a great time and we get into many movies on opening day,” said senior Anthony Pagano, President of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Club, whose other officers include Vice President, Ryan Harrington, a junior, Treasurer Joe Marvilli, a senior, and Secretary Matt Linkus, a senior.

The Anime Club’s officers are all seniors: President Dana Grossman, Vice President Mark Lorthe, Secretary Mary Ann Zenteno and Treasurer Mike Korczynski.

Last year the Anime Club went to the Anime Boston ’05 Convention on a weekend long extravaganza, said Mr. Dougherty, while the Science Fiction & Fantasy Club showed the six “Star Wars” movies in order in addition to bringing over 125 members to the premiere of Star Wars III last May.

“Membership is up,” said Mr. Dougherty, “and kids seem to have a lot of fun!”

## Crossword

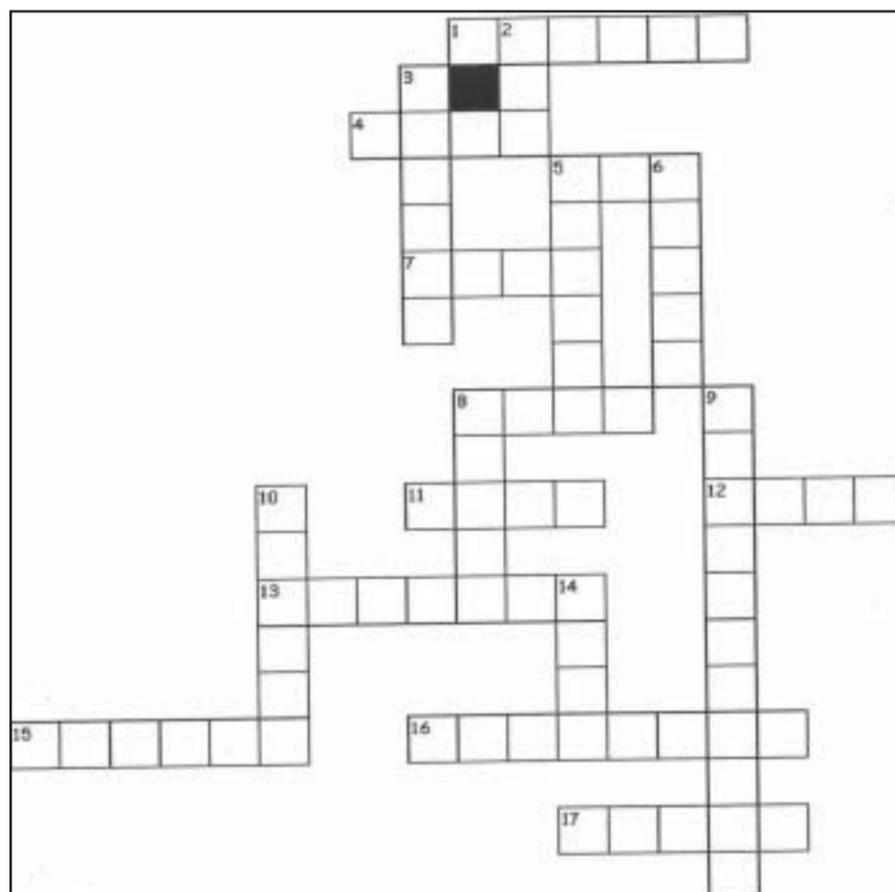
by Angela Cerbone

### Down

2. Stanner boys’ favorite fragrance
3. Order of priests and brothers
4. Use this on Scantron
6. Color of student Walk-a-thon shirt
8. To walk like Mr. Smith advises
9. Eye doctor
10. Stanners prefer an upper one
14. Can’t pierce this at Molloy

### Across

1. Acting “wizard” Michael
4. Walk in ankle-high water
5. Dissected in bio lab
7. Happening before long
8. What cafeteria cashier operates
11. A clever \_\_\_\_
12. One type is multiple choice
13. Cafeteria food choice
15. Found over bathroom sink
16. Done in cafeteria before school
17. T.A. Fishbowl (2 words)



## Word Jumble

By Jenna Gilligan

Unscramble the following letters to find the secret word:

o m g t e y e r :

\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

o u m s l a n i r j :

\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

r a l b e g a :

\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

i t s o r h y s u :

\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

a c l l u c s u :

\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

e h c i m y o s t u r :

\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

The “[...]”ed letters, when arranged correctly spell out this issue’s SECRET WORD:

\_\_\_\_\_

# The boys B ballin' again

By Erik Estrada

The Boys Varsity B Basketball team was added to the sports sponsored by the Athletic Department this winter for the first time in over 20 years because of the overwhelming amount of players willing to represent Molloy on the basketball court, said Coach Mr. Steve Borhi.

"This team is full of gym rats who work hard and play with all their heart for the team," said Mr. Borhi.

The players on the team, who will play over 20 games this year, show their devotion to the game by practicing from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. after the rest of Molloy's basketball teams have finished.

The team started the season with a 5-2 record. Its two losses were by only a total of five points.

Senior point guard and team captain Marco Srichareon said that he expects the team to play hard every game and that reaching the city championship is not only a dream, but can become a reality if the team works hard enough.

Other key players on the team's 15-man roster are junior co-captain Sean Loftus, senior Thomas Varga, and junior Thomas Daley.

"All have a great desire to play for Molloy," said Mr. Borhi.

## Frosh basketball needs consistency

By Andrew Lontos

Molloy's Boys Freshmen Basketball team, after starting the season 2-1 and reaching the finals of the annual preseason IAABO Tournament, has high expectations for the season ahead, said Coach Mr. Chris DeSarno, but must battle inconsistency to succeed.

The Stanners have the same goal they have every year: to win the city championship.

Center Jin Hong said the team has enough talent to win the championship; however, the team has been inconsistent thus far, opening the season with a 30-point victory over Bishop Loughlin but then losing to Bishop Ford by 30 points as well. Mr. DeSarno, while agreeing that the team can reach its goal, believes this can be attributed to freshmen not quickly adapting to the challenges of playing three to four games a week while balancing their schoolwork with basketball.

Molloy had a subpar record of 12-10 last year, but Mr. DeSarno hopes to improve this season with a talented lineup that includes the 6-foot-6 Hong, sharpshooting guard Ryan Dillon, and the athletic forward Lebrandon Smith. Mr. DeSarno said there will be no easy games in CHSAA league play because it is arguably the toughest league in the country and that St. Raymond's, Christ the King, and Rice will present Molloy with its toughest challenges.



Senior forwards Lisa Iannotto and Cathy Aguirre will be traveling down South in February. (Photo by Fernando Ortiz)

## Anyone for Arlington?

By Brook DiMarco

The Girls Varsity Basketball team will take a five-hour bus trip to Arlington, Va., Feb. 18 to play Bishop O'Connell High School, one of the best Catholic teams in Virginia, said Coach Mr. Marty Towey.

Senior forward Catherine Aguirre doesn't know much about Bishop O'Connell. "To tell you the truth, I've never heard about them," she said. "I don't know how we're going to do, but I think as long as you put someone on the court, we'll play them."

Mr. Towey said, "I think we have an equal shot at winning the game."

The Stanners started strong this season, winning their first three games with senior guard Katie Pastina averaging 11.6 points per game and junior center Angelina Waterman

averaging double figures in both points and rebounds, said Mr. Towey.

Aguirre said she expects the team to have a good season, which means finishing in second place behind Christ the King, which is currently ranked fifth in the nation, because both Mr. Towey and Aguirre agree that the Royals will be tough to beat.

Although Mr. Towey is pleased with the team's progress so far, he is only "cautiously optimistic" about the season because there are, "a bunch of new people on the team," such as sophomore Kerri White and juniors Irene Rynasewycz, Christine Harnischfeger, and Stephanie Peralta, so he wants to take it, "one game at a time."

## JV bowlers win BQ championship

By Thomas Byllaardt

The Molloy Junior Varsity Bowling team, after defeating St. Francis Prep in the CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens championship Dec. 19, advanced to the City Championship playoffs, which will take place on Jan. 17 at the 34th Street Bowl in Jackson Heights. The team will open against the second place team from the Manhattan-Bronx championship playoffs.

The team is confident it will advance to the championships on Jan. 19. "We are the strongest team out there, proven by our past performances," said junior Andrew Kathriner.

Coach Vinny Leonardo predicts that the second place JV team in Brooklyn-Queens, St. Francis Prep, "is going to give us a run for our money. We just have to come out of the gate fast and put them down early."

The JV bowlers went undefeated during regular season match play with a 19-0 record led by freshman Kristian Alleyne, whose 182 average ranked

third in the league. Team captain Marlon Nepomuceno, a junior, averaged 177, followed by Kathriner at 174.

Kathriner had the team and league high single-game score of 279, while Nepomuceno had the team's second highest game of 256.

The JV had its biggest win of the regular season in its first match of the season against McClancy when the Stanners rolled a team score of 1,001. No other JV team in the league shot over a 1,000 this season. Freshmen Joseph Moore and Alleyne led the way in that match with games of 236 and 228, respectively.

Among the freshmen on the team, Moore had the second best regular season average at 175, followed by Jonathan Menna (172), Vincent Balisky (171), Nick Galli (164), and Justin Gratta (158).

Juniors George Torres and Henry Enriquez had an average of 180 and 174, respectively.

# Stanners aim for another city title

By Kevin Quinn

The Archbishop Molloy Boys Varsity Indoor Track and Field Team is hoping to repeat last year's success in the Brooklyn/Queens CHSAA championships this winter because all but one of its top runners and field performers have returned for another title run, said Head Coach Bro. Bob Andrews.

"Distance runner Keith Florenza is the only real scorer we lost," said Bro. Bob, "so I expect us to repeat as Brooklyn/Queens champions and improve our performance at the City Championships."

Despite his optimism, Bro. Bob said there are teams to worry about at the Brooklyn/Queens meet. "St. Francis Prep is always strong, and McClancy and Bishop Ford have talent, but they can not compete with us in the field events," said Bro. Bob.

Seniors Matt Megerdichian and Darius Sileikis, who specialize in shot put and 25-pound weight throw, "are two of the top throwers in the City, and junior Dylan Dombrowski is a force in the pole vault," said Bro. Bob, adding this strength in the field events, "is something other teams don't have."

Megerdichian is ranked fifth in the nation in the weight throw with a toss of 65-feet-1-inch while Sileikis is ranked 14th at 59-6. Dombrowski's best vault is 14-3.

On the track, the all-junior 4x55 meter shuttle hurdle relay team of Dombrowski, Byron and Ryan Peeters, and Ian Fitts is ranked second in the nation with a time of 31.57 seconds.

Bro. Bob said that one goal this winter is to qualify a 4x800 meter relay team for the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden on Feb. 3.

Senior captain Mike Shields agrees that the Millrose Games is the ultimate goal. "It would be nice to be able to go because it is a very prestigious meet, and it would be fun to qualify."

Bro. Bob said the 4x800 relay team could consist of four of the following five runners — Shields, and juniors George Arcarola, Steve Bione, Dan Edwards, and Victor Szuper — depending on who is running fastest.

The team is confident it can both repeat as Sectional champs and qualify to run at Madison Square Garden. "We know it will be hard, but the team gets along well, and it will be fun to try to achieve our goals," said Shields.

# Tournament time

Molloy's Boys Varsity Basketball team participated in two high school basketball tournaments last month: the Hollidaysburg Tournament in Hollidaysburg, Pa. Dec. 16-18 and the Frank Spencer National Holiday Classic in Winston-Salem, N.C. Dec. 27-29.

The Stanners went 2-1 — losing in the semifinals before winning the third place game — in the eight-team Hollidaysburg Tournament.

Molloy again went 2-1 — this time reaching the finals before losing to South Laurel High School — to finish second in the eight-team Frank Spencer Tournament.

Junior Rocco Rubino was the Stanner star in North Carolina, scoring a tournament-high 23 points in Molloy's 62-41 opening round win over West Forsyth and 20 points in their 60-55 overtime semifinal victory

over Forsyth Country Day.

Senior forward Victor Rosario said he enjoyed the experience because these were his first trips out of state as a varsity player.

After returning home to New York, Molloy lost 67-51 on the road at Christ the King Jan. 6, beat Frederick Douglas Academy 53-38 at home Jan. 8 but then, with Rubino out with an injury, dropped a three-point decision to All Hallows at home Jan. 10 to fall to 7-6 overall on the season.

The Stanners entered the two December tournaments to fill out their schedule, said Coach Mr. Jack Curran, since there are only 12 CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens league games per year and the school needs to schedule 12 non-league games each year to play a full schedule.

*George Gundy contributed to this story.*



Sophomore Matt Grogan practices foul shots. (Photo by Fernando Ortiz)

# Opening loss fuels hockey win streak

By Rob Arayaes

The Molloy Varsity Hockey Team has posted a 8-3-1 record since losing its opening game of the season in November to John Burke Catholic High School of Goshen, N.Y., at the Nassau Coliseum, home of the NHL New York Islanders.

“The loss helped us,” said Coach Mr. Richard Rodgers. “You learn more from your mistakes than you would from what you do right.”

Senior forward Brendon Tracy agreed.

“We watched tapes of the game and saw what the team had to work on,” he said. “It hurt our spirit [to lose the opener], but it gave us motivation to work harder for the win in our next game.”

Senior forward Jimmy Shea and sophomore forward Charlie Gotard experienced the thrill of scoring on an NHL sized rink.

“Even though we lost [the opener], it was pretty amazing playing on the same

rink as NHL players,” said Tracy.

In return for John Burke coming to the Coliseum to face the Stanners, Molloy agreed to play a game at West Point at the end of January.

Molloy rebounded from that loss by pounding Chaminade 6-3 and then routing Msgr. Farrell 5-2.

After dropping two in a row to Iona Prep and Fordham Prep, the Stanners again came back strong, going unbeaten in their next four games and avenging that earlier loss to Iona Prep.

Mr. Rodgers said the Stanners' recent turnaround was engineered in part by the play of senior forwards Tracy, Shea, and Chris Francaviglia and senior defender Jonathan Pflug.

Shea, however, broke his upper right arm and is out of the lineup for at least a month.

“The doctor said it could take as much as eight weeks [to heal] but I'mhoping it will be only four,” he said.

“The playoffs start in four weeks, so we'll see.”

Senior goaltender Mike Osebeck has

also been strong in the nets “Of our eight wins,” said Mr. Rodgers, “he was in goal for seven of them.”

## Sports Shorts:

### Girls swimming at 3-1; chess is 1-2

The Girls Varsity Swim Team began its dual meet season with a 3-0 record before finally losing to Notre Dame 90.5-70.5 Dec. 18 to drop into a three-way tie for first place with Notre Dame and The Mary Louis Academy. Junior Dawn Wursthorn won the 100-meter butterfly in a time of 1 minute, 7 seconds and finished third in the individual medley in a time of 2:27 against Notre Dame, while junior Kelly Werner finished second in the 100-meter breaststroke.

“I was pleased with my performance, and the team is doing well overall, but we should have won [against Notre

Dame],” said Wursthorn.

— Joe Pascullo

\* \* \*

The Varsity Chess team defeated Mount St. Michael's to raise its record to 1-2. Sophomore Paulo Talion, after going 2-0 as a member of the Junior Varsity team, was promoted to Varsity and won his first match vs. the Mount to raise his personal record to 3-0.

Junior Varsity, meanwhile, is 2-1, led by undefeated sophomore Eric Lee, who has a 2-0-1 record.



Varsity swimmers Dawn Wursthorn and Mike O'Connor prepare to board the bus for swim practice. (Photo by Fernando Ortiz)

## Captain Reid leads boys swim team to victories over St. Mary's and Iona

By Lauren Calder

The Archbishop Molloy Boys Varsity swim team started its season with a 2-1 record with its upperclassmen leading the team, said Coach Mr. Dennis Wresch.

Seniors Louis Reid in the 200 and 400 yard freestyle relays, Gregory Pfeifer in the 500 freestyle, 200 individual medley, and 100 breaststroke, and junior Michael O'Conner in the 200 and 100 freestyle helped lead Molloy to victories over Iona Prep and St. Mary's and a close loss to St. Anthony's.

Although the team isn't as strong as in past years, Mr. Wresch said he still hopes to place third or fourth in the Brooklyn-Queens Championships.

Mr. Wresch looks to the meet against

St. Francis Prep on Jan. 26 as a key to a successful season and expects the meet to come down to the last event, the 400 freestyle relay.

Molloy defeated Prep last year by just 10 points as it came down to a nerve-racking and exciting final relay race, said Reid, who will swim the final 400 free relay in addition to the 50 butterfly, and 50 free against the Terriers.

Mr. Wresch named Reid captain this year due to his hard work, leadership, and determination the past three years.

“I'm very excited,” said Reid, who set personal bests of 24.1 seconds in the 50 free, 54.5 for the 100 free and 26.5 in the 50 fly. “I know throughout the whole meet our adrenaline will be pumping and we will do well.”