

The Stanner

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Archbishop Molloy High School

December 2009

Band, Chorus in a Christmas mood



Seniors Mike Maddalena, Louis Lamia, and Frank Gentile, front row above, were soloists at the Junior-Senior Chorus's annual Christmas Concert. Mr. Greg Leonardo, above right, was back leading the band at the show. (Staff photos)



Mr. Leonardo returns as leader of the band

Senior soloists sing the songs of the season

By Dina Mangialino '13, Tatiana Requijo '13 and Cara Salvatore '13

Molloy's Junior-Senior Chorus sang 24 carols featuring 25 senior soloists at its annual Christmas Concert on Dec. 17 in the Jack Curran Gym.

The concert began with Ginamarie Papia singing "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," following by the full choir's rendition of "Ring on, Christmas Bells."

Thirteen more songs were sung by either individuals, duets and trios.

Despina Victory sang "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," Christina Terborg sang "O Come All Ye Faithful," Louis Lamia sang "Jingle-bell Rock," Grace Lisandrelli sang "The Christmas Song," Gloria Ventura sang "O Little Town on Bethlehem."

Ben Josen sang "Ave Maria," Michael Maddalena sang "Frosty the Snowman," Frank Gentile sang "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen," and Gabrielle Plaia sang "A Baby Changes Everything."

Jennifer Caceres and Vanessa Rodriguez performed a duet on "Blue Christmas."

The trios were Rebecca Gagliardotto, Denisa Lleshi and Camille Dwyer singing "A Time Will Come for Singing," Andrea Ilagan, Kristine Garcia and Catherine Esmilla singing "The First Noel," and Justin Ly, Alejandro Pena and Eric Treffeisen singing "Calypso Carol."

Other songs sung by the full choir with solo performances were: "I'll Be Home for Christmas" featuring Danielle Corpuz; "Night of Silence/Silent

Night," featuring Priscilla Velazquez; "Westminster Carol" featuring Sarah Kohler; and "O Holy Night," featuring Jacqueline Cosse.

A week before the concert, junior soprano Nicole Maniscalco said, "Rehearsals are going pretty well so far. [With 24 songs], we have a lot to memorize!"

Chorus Director Mr. Jim Sheehan said that one song performed by the full choir, "O Holy Night," really stood out to him during rehearsals.

Maniscalco, who looked forward to the concert because it is her first year in the Junior-Senior Chorus, also most enjoyed singing "O, Holy Night" of all the songs because all the choir members "sing in harmony."

Baritone Lamia was excited about the concert as well because rehearsals were going very well and the choir's mastery of songs took place at a rapid pace.

Lamia said the chorus's yearly performance of "Rejoice with Joyful Song" as its final number is always a memorable aspect of the show.

Lamia said, "Through the hustle and bustle of gift shopping and home decorating, people deserve some time to relax and listen to some Christmas carols. It's very satisfying to be able to help give that to them."

The chorus also performed a preview of its concert performance for students at an assembly on Dec. 16.

Mr. Sheehan hoped that everyone had a good time at the concert and that it put everyone in the Christmas spirit.

The Molloy Band's annual Christmas Concert, which was held Dec. 17 in the Jack Curran Gym, saw the return of Director Mr. Greg Leonardo, who missed last year's concert due to illness.

Mr. Leonardo said he was happy to be back preparing the band for the concert which is intended to "put the audience in the Christmas spirit."

Each piece played at the concert was new to the members of the band, as Mr. Leonardo has devised a four-year cycle of different Christmas programs so that no one has to play the same music twice during their time at Molloy.

The pieces played this year included "Christmas on Broadway," "Sleigh Ride," "Polar Express," "Many Sounds of Christmas," and "Funky Old St. Nick."

"Funky Old St. Nick" is the only piece Mr. Leonardo repeats in his four-year cycle but uses a different arrangement from year to year.

Six musicians, all but one a senior, were the featured soloists during the concert.

They were Natalie Olszewski, Louis Lamia, Camille Dwyer, Stephan

Hernandez, Susie Zheng, and sophomore Andres Caamal.

Jackie Shay, a junior flute player, was optimistic a week before the concert that the band would put on a good show.

"We can do it, but we have to work hard," she said.

Karen Zhou, another junior flute player, said rehearsals were "going fine. We still need to work on a couple of pieces, but I hope we can pull it together."

Zhou was looking forward to the concert after weeks of 7 a.m. rehearsals.

"I'll be happy to perform because we have been practicing in the morning a lot," she said. "I hope all that fatigue pays off."

The Frosh-Sophomore Chorus under the direction of Mr. Leonardo also performed in addition to the band.

Some of the pieces the chorus sang were, "Silver Bells," "Little Drummer Boy," "Snow Day," and "Sussex Carol."

Frosh and sophomores received a preview of the concert during morning assemblies on Dec. 16.

Merry Christmas
& Happy New
Year!!

Resolutions: worth the effort?

New Year's Eve is coming up. Unfortunately.

The New Year is yet another opportunity to re-evaluate our lives and notice all the things that are wrong with our family, friends, and, most unfortunately, ourselves.

Making a New Year's resolution begs the question: what is wrong with you?

If you were a Shakespearean character, what would be your tragic flaw?

What is the one thing that would cause your ultimate downfall as the tragic protagonist in your own life?

How can you change to avoid your own destruction?

It isn't easy to change.

We know that most New Year's resolutions are abandoned by the end of the month, which begs another question:

Can people really change?

There is a never ending list of literary works and films which address this topic, ranging from the ancient Greek tragedy "Oedipus" to this year's American movie "Up in the Air."

The question of whether or not a person can change has fascinated and baffled us for all of human existence.

I like to think that people can change as much as they are willing to do so.

But others argue that you can't.

The big snag is that we did not choose our genetic make-up or our childhood environment.

We live with our parents for 18 years and psychologists say that children are like sponges, absorbing everything around them.

We inherit a lot of our behavior from our parents and then our parents determine who our family members are, where we live and where go to school.

Most likely, we will have the same fears, reactions and attributes as our parents. We'll probably look like them, too.

This, roughly translated, means: Whether we want to or not, we will end up a lot like our parents.

We have no other option but to make the best of what we're handed.

So in 2010, maybe we shouldn't bother trying to change at all.

The standard advice teenagers

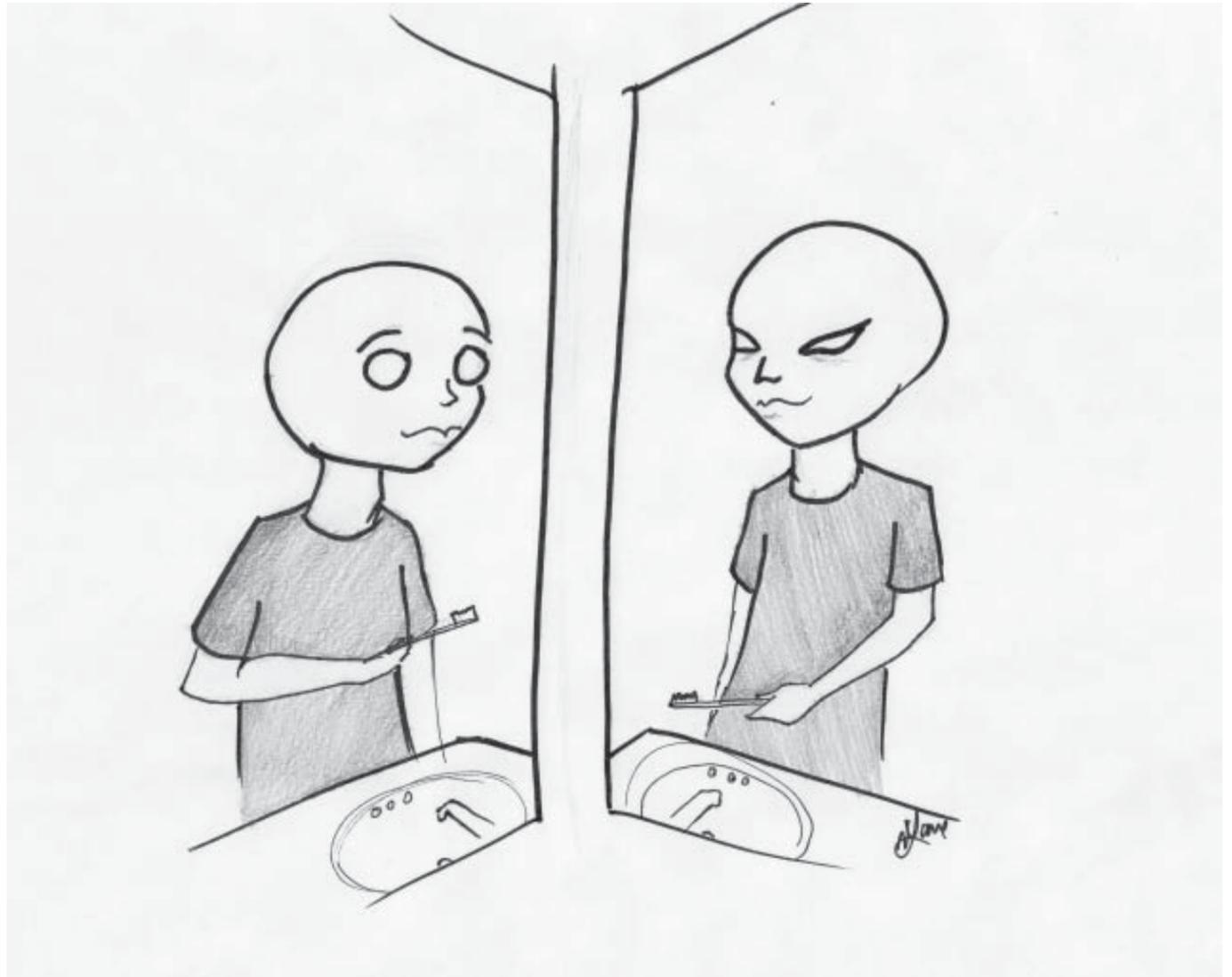


Illustration by Victoria Lane

The standard advice teenagers receive is "just be yourself." What if you've determined that your "self" is a terrible person? You might come to the conclusion that there are some things you would like to change.

receive from parents, teachers, counselors and the media is: "just be yourself."

But what does "being yourself" actually mean?

What if you don't know who you are in the first place?

Suppose you have decided that just being yourself isn't good enough?

What if you've determined that your "self" is a terrible person?

Under these circumstances, you might come to the conclusion that there are some things you would like to change about yourself.

So how do you go about it?

Do you try to change your behavior completely or just try to make small adjustments?

Sadly, there is no direct formula to make you a better person because life is not a math problem.

Even if it were, the equation would go on for a lifetime, with eight million variables, and, in the end, the numbers just wouldn't add up anyway.

People are simply too abstract. The best thing you can do if you want to change is to just try.

Envision a person you admire and attempt to emulate what you've seen them do in a situation.

But that's easier said than done.

And if you do succeed in changing the way you act and think, it's very possible that your friends won't even give you any credit. Instead, they'll accuse you of being fake.

Maybe the tragic flaw in all of us is our inability to make major changes in our lives.

Maybe we should accept the fact that if we manage to change, it won't happen like an earthquake or a tornado.

It's much smaller than that.

Sometimes any change you make is so small that only you can see it.

To you, this small change can make a world of difference in your life.

And you'll feel so good about this change that you'll think that you'll never have to go through this difficult process again.

Not until the next New Year's Eve, anyway.

— Isobel Williams '11

Letters wanted

The Stanner welcomes all letters to the editor from students, faculty, alumni and staff that respond to any of the articles published in previous issues.

Send your letters to the editor to The Stanner via email at: thestanner@molloyhs.org.

The Stanner reserves all rights to edit all letters to conform to space capacity and paper policy. Thank you for your involvement and we look forward to your input.

Corrections

The Stanner aims for the highest level of accuracy in its stories. If you noticed an error or have a concern about a story in this issue, please send an email to the moderator, Mr. Charley McKenna, at: thestanner@molloyhs.org.

The following were errors in the November issue of The Stanner:

The name of the fifth prize winner at the Halloween Dance costume contest was incorrect. Sophomore Amaury Narvaez won for his gingerbread man costume. The name of the Halloween Dance DJ, Matt Lavanco, was misspelled.

The Stanner

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Stanners support Coat & Toy Drives

By Sameera Kassim '13 and Manpreet Sachdev '13

Molloy's Campus Ministry, which sponsors the Coat and Toy Drives and Operation Christmas Child during the holiday season, had great success in its November Coat Drive and hopes to do as well this month with toys.

Campus Ministry Director Mr. Mike Germano said the homeroom mission collection for the Coat Drive was, "a great start to our year's mission collection. We brought in close to \$2,100 and donated 424 coats."

The top four fund-raising homerooms were 3B (\$270), 2C (\$202.63), 4C (\$117), and 3H (\$87.12).

On the negative side, five homerooms, 2D, 2H 2J, 1L and 3C, contributed nothing to the Coat Drive.

Mr. Germano would like to remind students that the top two fundraising homerooms at the end of all of Campus Ministry's mission collections throughout the year will get free movie

tickets as a reward.

Campus Ministry had high hopes that its Toy Drive, which began Dec. 2 and ended Dec. 14, would be just as successful despite being just six days long, three days shorter than the Coat Drive, because of the school holidays on Dec. 7-8.

Mr. Germano optimistically stated that, "God created the world in six days, so we should be able to reach our goals in six days."

Mr. Germano said he hoped that each homeroom would be generous enough to raise between at least \$34 and \$70, which could be accomplished if every person donated a dollar or two.

The goal for the Toy Drive homeroom collection was around \$2,000 to \$3,500 in order to pay for the toys that Campus Ministry purchased in bulk on Dec. 3.

Campus Ministry also asked students to volunteer as individuals to go out and buy an unwrapped, age-appropriate toy



Every year the toys pile up during the Molloy Toy Drive. (File photo)

for either a boy or girl and drop it off at the Campus Ministry office by Dec. 16.

Campus Ministry leader, Daniel Edward, a senior who has worked on this drive for the past four years, said that he gets a good feeling giving needy kids something to enjoy for Christmas and was excited to buy and deliver the toys.

Operation Christmas Child, which asks students to make up Christmas gift boxes during November that are sent to needy children overseas, saw 57

boxes donated, which was eight fewer than last year and 53 fewer than in 2007.

"I wasn't as pleased [this year] with the effort put forth by the Molloy students," said Mr. Germano, "but I understand it may have been because there might have been some confusion [about how to get involved in the project] and because of our current [bad] economic situation."

Stanners, who one year donated 140 boxes, have been involved in Operation Christmas Child, run by Samaritan's Purse at Crystal Church in Flushing, since 2003.

Most students who participated in this year's Operation Christmas Child project had done so in years past; however, there were a few newcomers, said Mr. Germano, who added that Campus Ministry hopes that next year's donations will increase.



Respecting Old Glory

National Honor Society members Ray Kober and David Otano, left, using expertise acquired as Boy Scouts, have taken over the job of raising and lowering the flag each day. (Photo by Ben Josen)

What do Stanners want from Santa?

By Natalie Kurzya '11 and Julianne Broderick '11

With Christmas right around the corner, Stanners have shared what gifts are included in their letters to Santa this year.

Senior Grace Lisandrelli wants to see "The Beatles Rockband" under her Christmas tree while frosh Marjorie Coello doesn't want a video game but the real thing — a red drum set — in order to play music.

Electronics are always popular on gift-lists.

Junior Jennifer DeMaria has a new iPod on her list to St. Nick while another junior, Juan Gomez, would like a new cell phone.

Frosh Hanna Ventura said she has "always wanted over-the-ear 80's headphones" and hopes Santa finally brings a pair this year. She also would like "an amp for [my] guitar and a good holiday for my family."

Mr. Christopher Dougherty wants "a

new Mac laptop and a decrease in world pollution."

Frosh Alyssa Plaia would like a Mac for Christmas and "a happy holiday for my family and friends."

Sophomore Patrick McCarthy says that he doesn't usually ask for anything specific for Christmas because "I like to be surprised but if the iPhone was out for Verizon, I would definitely ask for that."

Sophomore Alex Bieber would like a new camera while classmate Timothy Frenzel wants a watch for Christmas.

Teacher Assistant Ms. Mary Braunstein hopes for "health and happiness for my family and friends and for me to spend good quality time with them."

Teachers Assistants Mr. Steven Kerrigan and Mr. Matt Rizzotti have very unique things on their wish lists.

Mr. Kerrigan wants "an autographed baseball bat from Matt Rizzotti." Mr. Rizzotti, who is a minor league baseball

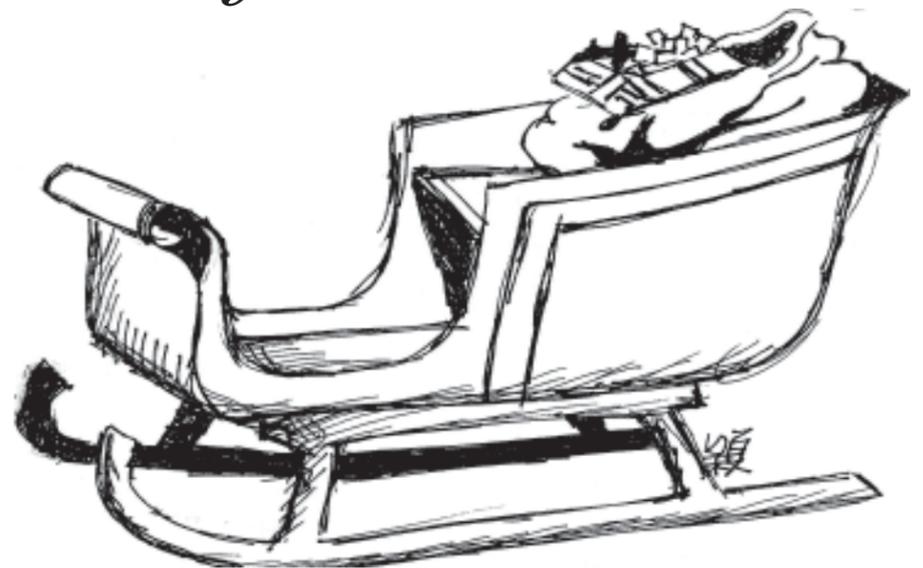


Illustration by Adrienne Zhou '12

player, said he would like to see "a combat boot, worn in action, signed by Marine sergeant first-class Steve Kerrigan," under his tree.

Ms. Kelly Early is wishing for "snow" this Christmas.

Mr. Michael Harrison hopes for "the war to end in Iraq, so troops can come home."

Junior Christina Jarosch said, "I might as well wish for a car since I'm sixteen."

Senior Jackie Cosse said she just "wants the college applications process to be over."

Above all, Stanners agreed that they would like health and happiness for friends and family during this much-awaited Christmas season.

1st Open Mic show attracts a crowd

By Kirsten E. Paulson '13

Molloy's first Open Mic show of the year, which was held after school on Dec. 1 at 4 p.m. in the Cafeteria, featured 11 student performers and attracted an audience of almost 100 people.

The 90-minute show was held in the Cafeteria instead of its usual home in the Theater because the Theater was occupied for The Stanner Players' production of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."

The 11 students who performed in the show were: frosh Jessica Chen and Kirsty Vista, juniors Ray Anthony Gejon, Katherine Pangilinan, and Kanad Ghosh, and seniors Eric Treffeisen, Joe Pinckney, and Peter Kramer, who all sang; senior Matt Garcia, who recited poetry; and juniors Mavrick James and Carolyn Jativa, who danced.

"I was very pleased [with the show]," said Mr. Frank Gambino, the organizer of the show and only faculty member to perform. "I was impressed that the freshmen were able to perform so well in front of so many people. I was also impressed with Ray Anthony Gejon. He has a sort of mellow, Latin jazz thing

going on."

The show was also enjoyable for the students who performed.

"It was really fun," said Chen, who sang the songs "Fearless" and "White Horse," both by Taylor Swift.

Chen said she was probably going to perform again at another Open Mic show but for the Talent Show, she and Vista are planning to perform a duet.

The performers said they enjoyed watching each others' acts and were surprised and interested by Mr. Gambino's performance of his own songs.

Mr. Gambino said an individual student generally has to perform at an Open Mic show to be considered for a spot on the bill for Molloy's annual Talent Show in the spring.

However, exceptions to this rule are granted for group acts, such as the Dance Team, the Step Team, or for someone with a lot of talent.

The Talent Show, which has been a regular Molloy event for six years, will be held on the night of Friday, March 19 in the Jack Curran Gym.

There will be two more Open Mic shows in the Theater on Monday, Jan. 25 and Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Battle of the Bands to replace Rock Aid with twelve student bands

By Nicholas Capitelli '13 and Lexi D'Attili '13

The Battle of the Bands, which is tentatively scheduled for late March or early April in the Jack Curran Gym, will replace Rock Aid this year as the showcase for bands featuring Molloy students.

In the past, bands performed at the Battle of the Bands to earn a spot in the lineup of the annual Rock Aid show.

"Even though, Rock Aid [featuring just student bands] hasn't played since 2007, it doesn't mean that it won't ever happen again," said Mr. Glenn DaGrossa. "As of now though, there isn't a Rock Aid performance."

Mr. DaGrossa is organizing the Battle of the Bands with the help of two juniors, Guitar Ensemble President Danielle Catinella and Vice President Jonathan Becker.

Catinella said, "We don't know the exact ticket prices yet. It will be about \$2. The profits are all going to charity, but we are unsure which charity it will be."

Twelve bands have signed up to do battle.

The bands participating in this event are all putting a lot of time and effort into polishing their performances.

Frosh Daniel Marino of the band Super Quiet-Pac, said he is looking forward to the show.

His band, which has been together

for about a year, is influenced by grunge/rock bands like Nirvana and Led Zeppelin.

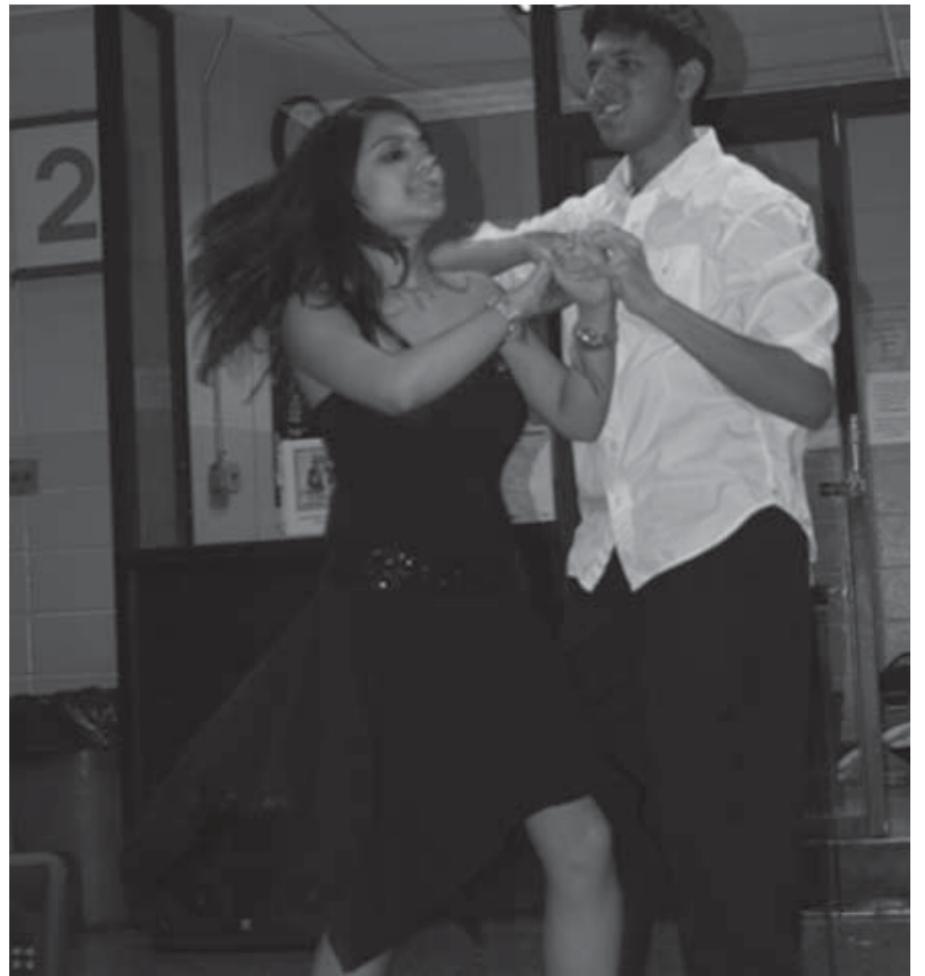
His band practices every week the three or four songs it will be playing at the show.

Last year, due to having only one student band able to perform, Mr. DaGrossa's own band, Lazarus, and two other professional bands played a Rock Aid show but Lazarus will not perform at the Battle of the Bands.

"After the Battle of the Bands ends, Lazarus will have a public rehearsal," Mr. DaGrossa said. "Everyone is welcome to stay and watch afterwards."

Here are the bands and the Stanners in each:

- * Chandler (Christian Chandler, Mike Harrington, Brian Gribbon, Ryan Cevallos)
- * Ritual (Matthew Marvill, Joe Dionisi)
- * I Can Scare a Dinosaur (Amaury Narvaez)
- * Reset the Sky (Ray Lumokso)
- * Forgetting Tomorrow (Stephen Scelfo, Adam McCloskey, Adam Roman)
- * Bullzeye (John Anthony DiMaria)
- * Zoned Out! (Norman Coleman, Anthony Dolengewicz, Nick Yurisak, Matthew Swinder, Nick Cama)
- * Doktor Sleepless (Thomas Verautis)
- * Children of the Healing Tree (Christopher Vasile)
- * The Departed (James Kelly, John Dreyhaupt, Joe Loyer, Jesse Goim)
- * Red Infinity (Christian Bautista, Brian Sheehan)
- * ODHG (Nicholas Anton, Robert Mielczarek, John Anthony DiMaria)



Juniors Mavrick James and Carolyn Jativa dance while Kanad Ghosh sang at the first of three Open Mic shows. (Photos by Ben Joson)



Stanner Players succeed again with funny Forum

By Camille Dwyer '10

The Stanner Players yet again gave their audience a phenomenal performance in their production of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."

The musical comedy began with the Roman slave Pseudolus, played by senior Gaby Plaia, explaining that she will gain her freedom by helping Hero, played by sophomore Patrick McCarthy, fall in love.

Through crazy antics which provoke many laughs along the way, Hero wins the affection of Philia (senior Erin Brady) and Pseudolus gains her freedom.

Every actor shined but Plaia's voice was the strongest of all.

Senior Kyle Doherty, who played Hysterium, was probably the funniest actor in the cast.

His humming in the song "I'm Calm," which sounded like an apprehensive horse, cracked up the audience.

The timing of comic facial expressions was perfect and his "lovely" attire of a mop, blue dress, and gaggle of geese ring was brilliantly funny.

Brady was great as the "dumb blonde" who captures Hero's heart.

She got laughs from her blank smile at the audience, the way she shuffled across the stage and gesticulated her fingers to figure out what comes between the numbers three and five.

The chemistry between Brady and McCarthy as they first gazed into each other's eyes made them a cute couple.

Senior David Kane, as Senex, and frosh Hanna Ventura, as his wife Domina, were excellent together as an

Continued on page 5

Christmas Liturgy will differ from Thanksgiving

By Joe DiRico '11

The annual Molloy Christmas Liturgy, which will be held in the Jack Curran Gym at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 23, promises to be much different from last month's Thanksgiving Liturgy, said Campus Ministry Director Mr. Mike Germano.

The Thanksgiving Liturgy on Nov. 25 was a success with an estimated 500 students and 200 alumni in attendance.

Although there was a decrease in the number of alumni this year, Mr. Germano explained it wasn't because alums didn't want to come back but because they couldn't, either because they were caught up in work or college classes."

The Thanksgiving Liturgy featured four alumni who stood at the podium and presented their memories of their Molloy experience.

Two Molloy faculty members, Mr. James Sheldon, Class of 1988, and Mr. Brian Kelly, Class of 1994 spoke of the importance of friends and faculty at Molloy.

Alumni Zachary Gitto, Class of 2008, and Ashley Colletti, Class of 2005, spoke to the congregation about the ups and downs of high school life and the importance of Esopus in many Stanners' lives.

Junior Andrew Bruder, who attends all Molloy liturgies, said, "I really enjoyed Mr. Sheldon's speech because

I, too, have friends at Molloy whom I would like to stay close to for years to come."

The Thanksgiving Liturgy was led by another Molloy alum, Father Frank Shannon, Class of '76, who will also lead the Christmas Liturgy.

The Christmas mass will be very different from the Thanksgiving Liturgy and will not feature alumni.

Mr. Germano and the students on the Liturgy Committee started the preliminary planning for the Christmas Liturgy during the first week of December.

Mr. Germano said he is relying on the committee to come up with a powerful skit that will send a meaningful message to the students.

Mr. Germano said he is "always

pleased" with the turnouts for the masses and hopes students will keep coming.

He said for Christmas his committee will "do everything we can to try to impact the students and plant seeds to try to get Molloy students to take what they've seen at the masses, and incorporate it into their own churches and communities."



Pumpkins decorate the altar for Molloy's annual Thanksgiving liturgy. (Staff Photos)



A Funny Thing Happened...in the Molloy Theater

Continued from page 4

unloving couple.

Ventura's bossy manner and screams made the relationship seem real and Kane's delivery of the dirty jokes in his quest for a love potion got great laughs.

The supporting roles also were played nicely.

Junior Joey McGowan was wonderful as the conceited Roman captain, Miles Gloriosus.

Sophomore Timothy Frenzel was extremely funny as Lycus, the owner of courtesans, when he danced to the song "The House of Marcus Lycus."

Sophomore Chris Guevara, playing the decrepit and disorientated old man Erronius, made the audience laugh when he screamed "another time around!"

The courtesan who most stood out, thanks to her sultry dancing, was sophomore Tiffany McCue as

Tintinabula.

The other courtesans (Marjorie Coello, Rodelynn Orange, Jackie

Cosse, Nicole Maniscalco, and Alyssa Plaia) were also very good.

The Proteans (Grace Lisandrelli, Julianne Broderick, Joseph Estevez, and Aaron Gallagher) were the hardest working actors in the show playing many different minor roles.

The best two numbers were "Everybody Ought to Have a Maid" sung by Plaia, Kane, Doherty and Frenzel and "Lovely," sung by Plaia and Doherty.

The unconventional casting of Plaia in the male role of Pseudolus caused confusion as some actors referred to Pseudolus as "him" while others said "her."

But this was a minor fault in a musical that should not have been missed.



Gabrielle Plaia, center, and cast in rehearsal. (Photo by Ben Josen)

Girls dominate Principal's List again

By David Kane '10

Molloy's junior class, with 33 students, produced the most qualifiers for the first marking period's Principal's List as a total of 93 Stanners earned the honor.

After the juniors, frosh produced the second highest number with 26, followed by the sophomores (20) and seniors (14).

As they do annually, girls once again dominated the list, as the 58 girls who qualified represented 62% of the total.

To make the Principal's List, students must have a 99 or higher weighted overall average.

Junior T.J. Darcy achieved his goal by earning a spot on a list.

"It's always a goal to do as well as possible," said Darcy, who does so by making "sure to stay on top of all my work."

Assistant Principal for Academics Sister Elizabeth Bickar has a theory as to why seniors seem to have the fewest students on the list every year.

"There is a tendency, perhaps unconscious, once college applications are mailed, to take academics a bit easier," she said. "I might be wrong, but I would suspect that there are seniors who, when they were freshmen, sophomores or juniors, spent two hours per night on homework but no longer do so."

Although seniors might find it in their best interest to put their best foot forward with high first semester 12th grade marks in a last attempt to appeal to potential colleges, Sister Elizabeth isn't sure how much seniors are hurting themselves by not working as hard as

they did in the past.

"I think that it might be easier for college admissions personnel to look at students' grades in grades nine through 11 than to wade through a myriad of varied senior electives which differ considerably from school to school," she said.

While seniors had the lowest number of students on the list, they were the only class to have more boys than girls qualify.

Girls dominated the lists of the lower grades with girls making up 77 percent of the frosh, 80 percent of the sophomores, and 58 percent of the juniors who qualified.

Sister Elizabeth joked, "I suspect that you won't believe me if I tell you that the feminine gender is just smarter."

But for seniors, girls represented only 21 percent of a list of 11 boys and three girls.

Sister Elizabeth's theory is that because girls tend to develop faster emotionally and mentally in early adolescence, it may take a few years for boys to catch up.

The senior boys seem to have done just that.

The 93 students who made Principal's List last quarter represent about "six percent of the student body," Sister Elizabeth said.

"I tend to think that this is an appropriate number. If a considerably larger number of students were on the Principal's List, the school might be accused of grade inflation.

"We need to recall that our school is academically selective in its admissions. The students who are accepted at

Molloy are those who were among the highest achievers in their elementary schools. In general, our student body is comprised of well-motivated students who work hard," Sister Elizabeth said.

Senior Brent McDonnell, who has made every Principal's List since he arrived at Molloy, is modest about this feat.

"I've never felt like I've worked for the grades that got me onto Principal's List because I know there are a lot of fellow students that are working a lot harder than me and maybe just don't make the cut," he said. "I think people like that are the ones who should have their names up in a sort of elite group, not me."

Junior Karen Zhou said it takes her a lot of effort to make the list, "because I don't usually feel intellectually stimulated [by her classes] so it takes a lot to gather the energy to work and study."

Senior Louis Lamia has made every effort to eschew the senioritis that may well have felled his fellow classmates.

"Senioritis is tempting, but I'm going to keep trying to make the Principal's List every marking period," he said.

Darcy said, "I guess it would be nice to make the list each quarter, though, honestly, the best goal to set is just to do as well as you can."

The following students qualified for the Principal's List for the first marking period:

Frosh: Roberto Bertolini; Patricia Bober; Stephanie Bonanno; Andrew Briguet; Alejandra Castano; Ashwini Chawla; Chelsea Corinaldi, Isabella Cortes; Gisella Dionio, Graziella

Ferrara; Carolyn Gallagher; Andrea Garcia; Calvin Garcia; Maria Grbic; Joseph Ingrassia; Greer Kann; Annmarie Kosiewska; Julian Leston; Dina Mangialino; Shibin Mathews; Soumya Misra; Monish Pahilajani; Tatiana Requiño; Cara Salvatore; Rashanna Seymour; Jillian Spataro.

Sophomores: Andreea Arama; Agnieszka Czaja; Alexandra DiDonato; Alyssa Dolan; Stephen Eng, Claudia Fernandes; Melissa Fesler; Thalia Guzman; Melissa Jo Hernandez; Jennifer Hwu; Christina John; Kathleen Loftus; Simranjit Mangat; Marilena Orfanos; Joanne Raptis; Sergio Rodriguez; Niles Uy; Samantha Walker; Alexandra Woods; Adrienne Zhou.

Juniors: Arleen Aguasvivas; Jaclyn Castoro; Dylan Cepeda; Timothy James Darcy; Lauren DeMarco; Amanda Dhaneshwar; Marc Emos; Melissa Evelyn; Gina Galizia; Amanda Gonzalez; Lance Hipolito, Daniel Holowiak; Christina Jarosch; Navdep Kaur; Sundeep Kaur; Malvina Klusek; Judy Li; David Lozada; Christina Lucci; Kyle Mele; Carolina Ortiz; Steven Paciga; Sanat Patel; Dhandevi Persand; Mary Rooney; Jacqueline Shay; Michal Skowronski; Nancy Strbik; Robert Thomas; Christopher Vasile; Justin Vega; Nader Yamout; Karen Zhou.

Seniors: Paul Bakoyiannis; Michael Carraher; Catherine Esmilla; Frank Gentile; Christopher Hwu; Augustin Joseph; Louis Lamia; Carla Marian; Jeffy Mathew; Brent McDonnell; Stephanie Ochoa; Joseph Pinckney; Nicholas Scala; Suresh Yhap.



Indian Club's henna party

Molloy's Indian Club sponsored a party in the Library on Nov. 24 where students got henna tattoos. Sophomore Leanna Carroll, far left, has a henna tattoo put on her palm by junior Rosey Basant. Junior Nadia Majeed, above, applies the henna to the palm of frosh Amber Chia. Frosh Ashwini Chawla and Chia, left, show off their tattoos. (Photos by Derek Sokolowski)

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree



Senior Jackie Cosse was among the many Stanners who volunteered to decorate the Christmas Tree in the Cafeteria after school earlier this month. (Photo by Ben Joson)

First Casual Day comes out of the blue (and white)

By Katherine Sommers '10

To the surprise of most of the Molloy student body, Student Council sponsored the year's first Casual Day on Thursday Nov. 19.

Students were asked to wear blue and white, which was appropriate because this Casual Day seemed to come completely out of the blue.

So why was Nov. 19 selected?

Student Council President Benedict Joson agreed that "it was completely random."

Joson explained that Student Council originally wanted the first Casual Day for Halloween.

"I went to Mr. Auer during Halloween week and he said that I had come too late, and that next time I should bring some dates in advance," said Joson, a senior. "So I came back at a later time, we went over some of the dates I had picked, and we eventually decided on Nov. 19."

Ms. Kathy Loughran, moderator of the Student Council, said the first Casual Day of the school year was a success because nearly everyone wore something white or blue and some even wore both to show their school spirit!

Ms. Loughran said that while Student Council is not ready to announce when the next Casual Day will be scheduled, she said there will definitely be more dress down days to come.

The Student Council elections were held last month and joining Joson as

officers were junior Derek Sokolowski (Vice President), sophomore Jennifer Hwu (Secretary), and frosh Derrick Adam (Treasurer).

Joson is pleased with the progress the officers are showing. "I can't make any judgments yet," he said, "but from my limited knowledge, they will do very well."

Both Ms. Loughran and Joson praised new principal, Bro. Thomas Schady, after working with him for a couple of months.

"He is open to a lot of new ideas, and is very supportive," said Joson.

Joson, who is president of both the Student Council and the National Honor Society in addition to being Editor-in-Chief of the Blue & White Yearbook, is extremely involved in the school.

He says that he wants the Student Council to be more involved in service activities this year and this is his primary goal for now.

"We also have a lot of ideas coming in," he said. "They just need to be organized."

Ms. Loughran says that the Council makes itself available to any club that needs it to help out.

The Student Council meets every Wednesday and Friday in Room 221.

Students wishing to bring forward any of their ideas for improving the school can give their ideas to Ms. Loughran or their homeroom representative.

The Student Council also holds frequent "open forum" meetings where students can personally discuss their ideas and any new topics with Student Council members.

Students interested in attending an open forum meeting should listen to the school announcements for the next date.

Get fit with new AM club

By Vasiliki Gliangias '12

If you're looking to become a more fit and healthy person while having fun at the same time, Moderator Ms. Dorothy DeNoto says the Health & Fitness Club is for you.

With health care issues such as childhood obesity in the news, Americans' lack of physical fitness and their unhealthy lifestyles are a major concern in the country today.

The same is true at Molloy.

"We're blessed to have a school where athletics is prominent," said Ms. DeNoto. "We have a lot of sports for the good athlete, but not much for the non-athlete. There are many Stanners who appear to be fit and healthy, but many who could use some help."

Ms. DeNoto said her idea for the club began a few years ago when her mother and brother both suffered heart attacks, which inspired her to dedicate herself to losing weight and living a more healthy lifestyle.

Her lifestyle change was so successful, she wanted to share what

she learned with others.

"I had a desire for a club that combined physical fitness and nutrition awareness," she said, "because many people don't know much about the different aspects of these fields."

So far 32 students have joined the club, which is a pretty good start, Ms. DeNoto said.

Club members meet every Wednesday at 7:15 a.m. in the Library to work out together but they often meet informally in the afternoons to talk about health issues.

"Fitness in the morning, health in the afternoon," said junior Mavrick James, the club's president.

At the club's first meeting, each member took a fitness personality quiz to determine how healthy a lifestyle each was living.

The club also is planning several field trips. One will be to see "Bodies...The Exhibition" at the South Street Seaport in Manhattan and another will be to eat in a restaurant whose menu is designed

for healthy living.

Guest speakers will also visit the club.

The club's vice president, junior Rachana Parekh, said the goal of the club is, "to raise awareness about the importance of health and fitness. Now is the perfect age to become aware."

Sophomore Natalie Look said she joined the club because she wanted to take better care of her health.

"I like that we can learn to be healthy and have fun at the same time," she said.

One of the club's goals is to teach its members how to eat better.

"I think that many Stanners are fit," Look said, "but they could learn more about good nutrition."

Since joining the club, Look said she tries to make better choices about the types of food she eats.

The Health and Fitness Club is looking to make a difference in the everyday lives of Stanners, Ms. DeNoto said, and students are welcome to come to its meetings at any time during the year.

Merry Christmas



Illustration by
Adrienne Zhou '12

Frosh basketball starts season 3-1

By Kevin Fernandes '13

Molloy's Freshmen Boys Basketball team has been sending mixed signals early in the season about its title potential.

The Stanners have dominated their opponents in victories over Holy Trinity, Chaminade, and Kellenburg Memorial but also have been blown out of the building themselves in a 28-point loss to Christ the King.

Coach Mr. Chris DeSarno is optimistic that his team will have a strong season despite the early ups and downs on its way to a 3-1 record.

"We've done some things well, but the freshmen are still adapting to the school," said Mr. DeSarno. "It's an ongoing process. We're confident we'll do well this year."

Mr. DeSarno said that the team's starting five is still "up in the air" after its first four games of the season as are who will be the first players coming off the bench.

Two players who have started off the season with a bang are point guard Isaiah Tucker and center Marco Kozul.

Kozul often has been dominant in the post due to his height and skill while the flashy Tucker has played very well this year.

Molloy opened the season by defeating Holy Trinity 70-39 at home on Nov. 28.

"We won for many reasons but mainly because of our full court press and because we were just a better team," said Tyler Bennett. "The performance was okay, but if we played a better team we would have struggled."

The Stanners then defeated Chaminade High School in the IAABO Tournament on Dec. 6 before struggling against Christ the King on Dec. 7.

The Stanners bounced back from their tough loss to King by defeating Kellenburg 56-29 at home in a game which Molloy dominated on both ends of the court.

Tucker played a good game against Kellenburg, as did Justin Brown and Darryl Carpen, whose tough defense was outstanding.

Mr. DeSarno, whose team plays a lot of man-to-man defense, said his team's style of play "adapts to the style of the opposing team" but Molloy tries to take advantage of "the height and quickness of our own team."

When asked about their goal for the season, both Mr. DeSarno and the players agreed that it is to win the CHSAA city title.



Senior Matt Catera finished 2nd in both the varsity triple jump and long jump at the CHSAA Relay Carnival on Dec. 12. (File Photo)

Stanners jump out at Relay Carnival

Junior Tonika Forrester won the girls varsity long jump with a leap of 15-foot-9.5 inches at the CHSAA Relay Carnival Dec. 12 at the Armory Track and Field Center in Manhattan.

Forrester and sophomore Tiana Salas-Ali won the varsity girls long jump relay with total distance of 30-4.

Senior Matt Catera finished second in the both the boys varsity triple jump (41-11.5) and long jump (18-7.25).

Catera and senior Kevin Ginter won

the long jump relay with a 37-1.75 total.

Other top individual performers were Dylan Foster, who finished second in the frosh boys 55-meter hurdles in 10.10 seconds, and Darren James, who finished second in the frosh boys high jump with a leap of 5-feet.

The best running relay performance was by the novice boys distance team of Brendan Fitzpatrick, Nick Merckling, Chris Mognona and Nick Tommasso, who won in 9:00.4.

Girl varsity swimmers, hoopsters are 2-0; boys are both 1-1

Molloy's Varsity Girls Basketball team is off to a 2-0 start this season thanks to great senior leadership and tremendous depth.

The Stanners defeated Bishop Loughlin 57-53 in the season opener at home on Dec. 2.

Seniors Elise Lontos and Kelly Guerriero led Molloy with 10 points each while frosh Amani Tatum and senior Kyra Aloizo each scored nine.

After jumping out to a 31-8 lead on

sophomore Kamille Ejerta's jump shot with 2:46 left in the second quarter, Molloy struggled against Loughlin's press and saw its lead dwindle to 53-50 with 16 seconds left to play in the game.

But Lontos and senior Marielle Duryea each made two free throws to clinch the victory.

Molloy then went on the road to face Holy Trinity and came away with a 53-36 victory.

The Boys Varsity Basketball team, meanwhile, is off to a 1-1 start after defeating non-league opponent Holy Trinity 70-59 in the season opener Nov. 28 in the Jack Curran Gym.

Senior Ernest Rouse scored 21 points to lead Molloy, while senior Keith Kilpatrick had 16 points and junior Chris Dorgler chipped in 11 points and 16 rebounds.

However, Molloy lost its second game of the season 56-49 to Stepinac

at home on Dec. 4.

The Girls Varsity Swimming team won its first two dual meets of the season at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, defeating St. Joseph on the Hill 90-78 on Nov. 22 and St. Edmund's 94-59 on Dec. 6.

The Boys Varsity swimmers are 1-1 after their first two meets, defeating Holy Trinity 97-93 at Chaminade's pool and then losing to St. Francis Prep 103-83 at Queens College.



Faculty wins in a laughter

Veteran left hander Mr. Ken Auer, the Assistant Principal for Students, left, was on the mound for the teachers for the annual Senior vs. Faculty softball game on the Molloy baseball diamond, which gave a laugh to senior Bobby Figliolia, right. The seniors weren't laughing at game's end, however, as the faculty once again were triumphant by a score of 12-3. The seniors will get two more chances to defeat the faculty before graduation in a football and a basketball game in the coming months. (Staff Photos)

