

The Stanner

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Archbishop Molloy High School

February 2007

Dance team impresses at Post

By Tara Gildea

The 10-member Molloy Dance Team won two of the four awards given to distinguish excellence on Jan. 31 at the Tilles Dance Conference at the Tilles Center at C.W. Post College.

Molloy received the award for Best Ensemble and team captain Alessandra Rannazzisi was named Best Dancer. It was the first time in the conference's history that one school won both awards two years in a row.

"They had very little rehearsal time due to the Christmas Show, the winter holidays, and illness," said Dance Team moderator Ms. Elizabeth Murdocca. "However, they still managed to pull everything together and give a great performance."

Rannazzisi, a senior who has been competing since age seven, was surprised she won.

"There were a myriad of talented dancers," she said. "No matter what, there's more to dance than just doing steps. If you can do six pirouettes, it means nothing if you can't dance from the heart."

Although 16 schools participated in the event, Ms. Murdocca said the Dance Conference is not a competition in the traditional sense because there are no trophies awarded or team rankings at the end of the evening's performances.

Rather the purpose of this event is to create awareness of the power of the dance art form and to develop unity among the dancers.



Members of the Molloy Dance Team wore t-shirts bearing sexist slang terms as part of their pro-women's rights performance that earned them recognition from the judges as the Best Ensemble at the Tilles Dance Conference at C.W. Post College in Brookville, N.Y. last month. It was the second year in a row that Molloy was so honored. (Photo by Ms. Elizabeth Murdocca)

The team gave two performances, one before a team of judges who then gave them feedback, and a second performance in front of an audience.

Team members also took classes at the conference to further their individual development as dancers.

The Dance Team and Ms. Murdocca choreographed a nine-minute dance piece which began with movement to a spoken word soundtrack of quotes

The piece begins by tracing the historical and current oppression of women and culminates with women taking power for themselves and fighting back, Ms. Murdocca said.

Many audience members approached the dancers to compliment them, Ms. Murdocca said, and some stated that they were "moved to tears" by the piece.

Rannazzisi credited the rest of the team for helping her win the award and said she couldn't imagine performing without them. "They're awesome," she said.

While this marked Molloy's third appearance at the conference, it was the first time for sophomore Julie O'Lansen and frosh Alexandra Bello and Alexandra Fabiilli. They said they especially enjoyed taking the dance classes from experts in Hip Hop, Advanced Jazz, and floor bar.

Ms. Murdocca believes the C.W. Post event is very beneficial for her team.

"It provides an excellent educational opportunity for dancers. They receive coaching with Master Dance Classes. They experience the art of performance. They interact with other students from New York and Long Island high schools. They learn appreciation of the art and skill of dance."

Said Rannazzisi, "Dance is truly about having fun. If you don't love it, then it becomes a job."

from famous women's rights activists and concluded with the team dancing to the Dixie Chicks' song, "Not Ready to Make Nice."

The team's costumes, which featured t-shirts with sexist stereotypes of women printed on the front, made an ironic statement about the perception of women versus their true nature, which was revealed in the spoken word soundtrack, Ms. Murdocca said.

Step shines at auditions

By Kathryn Ornellas

The Molloy Step Teams are really stepping up their activities this year.

The Boys Step Team sent an audition video to a contest run by the radio station Hot 97 and were chosen to represent Queens in the March 16 competition where first prize is the chance to appear in a TV commercial for Roca-Wear.

Molloy's Girls Step Team, known as "The First Ladies," auditioned for a spot on the BET Network TV show "Live!," and made the cut. It will be competing live on TV at a date yet to set.

Stanners can support "The First Ladies" when the show airs by calling in to vote for the team from Molloy.

Senior Tenisha McDonald said the team's 10 best girl steppers participated in the BET audition and they are confident they will do well on live TV.

"Hopefully, there will be some special guests we can meet," McDonald said. "It will also be nice to check out some

other teams that may be potential competition [in the future]."

Junior Malika Languigne can't wait for the televised competition and believes Molloy can win.

"We auditioned well and have complicated steps," she said.

Meanwhile, the Boys Step Team is looking forward to the Hot 97 contest.

"We're lucky to have a step team with chemistry and potential," said senior Jason DelPilar. "It's exciting to perform and be recognized by people of such caliber."

But as important as that contest is, team members say said the CHSAA city championships and the Greek Alliance competitions are just as important to the team.

The Boys Step Team performed at halftime during a Molloy Varsity Boys basketball game last month in the Jack Curran Gym.



Snoozing Stanners

Have you ever suddenly awoken to find yourself staring at a blackboard, rather than your bedspread?

Although possibly embarrassing to admit, those 30 minutes of sleep regained in the classroom really can help you get through the day.

If you're like a number of Stanners, sleep commonly takes a backseat to our "more important" priorities amidst our hectic teenage schedules.

But if this all too common example of falling asleep in class can teach us anything, it's that our late night activities deprive us of the proper rest we need. As a result, nothing seems more appealing during an 8:05 a.m. class than some shut eye face down on our desks.

Sleep expert Mary Carskadon, PhD, says teens, who are among the most sleep-deprived people in society, need more than nine hours of sleep a night.

Yet if you're like most teens, you get by on an average of six to eight hours of sleep per weeknight. This consistent lack of sleep may culminate in more serious problems, which cannot be solved by simply trying to "catch up" on lost sleep over the weekend.

Lack of sleep has been shown to cause constant fatigue, poor concentration, disciplinary problems, extreme moodiness, anxiety, and depression.

Studies done by sleep experts have shown that as kids mature, they need

increasing amounts of sleep. Yet most of us get less sleep now than we did in grade school.

Seniors who have just gotten their driver's licenses should know the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that drowsiness and fatigue cause more than 100,000 traffic accidents each year – and young drivers are at the wheel in more than half of these crashes.

A 1998 survey of more than 3,000 high school students by psychologist Amy R. Wolfson, PhD, found that students who reported getting C's, D's and F's in school got about 25 minutes less sleep and went to bed about 40 minutes later than students who reported getting A's and B's.

The National Sleep Foundation recommends that teenagers keep an eye out for signs of sleep deprivation such as difficulty waking up in the morning, irritability in the afternoon, falling asleep at midday, oversleeping on weekends, difficulty remembering or concentrating, and having trouble waking up or going back to sleep.

If you're one of the many teens who are not getting enough sleep, here are some tips:

* Stay clear of caffeinated drinks six hours prior to sleeping and eliminate distracting devices such as TV's, cell phones, videogames, loud music, and computers around bedtime.



* Try to stick to a nightly routine that caters to a healthy balance between making time for homework, social or athletic activities, and sleeping.

* Establish a regular bedtime to help reinforce your biological clock to make it easier to fall asleep quickly and awake fully rested and alert.

Junior James Murphy claims he averages six to seven hours of sleep per night, but wishes he could get more. Murphy admits to having fallen asleep at least twice a week in school, due to "tiredness and lack of interest in class."

Other Stanners say procrastinating on

doing their homework and being distracted by the computer are often what keeps them from getting the sleep they need.

But instead of sleeping in class, stop yourself from becoming another teenage sleep deprivation statistic. Turn off your computer, TiVo that late night TV show, give yourself ample time for homework.

After all, isn't your big, cozy bed a more luxurious place for catching Z's than a cramped, rigid metal school desk?

— Vanessa Meyerhoefer

Why rush to post Honor Roll?

At the conclusion of each marking period, the first thing on many students' minds is finding out whether or not they and their friends made the Principal's List or the Honors or Honors With Distinction lists.

It seems the Molloy Administration is well aware that everyone is just waiting for the lists to go up as it often posts them before some students have received their report cards.

But the rush to get the lists up in the display case opposite the General Office makes it seem that alacrity is more important than accuracy.

Students may want to see the lists as soon as possible, but if the lists aren't 100% accurate, are they really worth seeing so soon?

The lists are sometimes not accurate because of errors made by teachers in recording their class grades.

It is not unusual for students to discover a teacher made a mistake in recording their grades into the school's computer system. For example, a teacher could type in "85" for a student

when he or she meant to type "95."

Such an innocent mistake could lower a student's vertical average enough to where that student is unfairly left off the Principal's List or the Honor Rolls.

Teachers always submit grade changes when these mistakes are discovered but the posted lists are rarely changed to reflect these corrections.

According to Ms. Eleanor Donoghue, who records the grade changes submitted to the General Office, the number of grade changes each marking period vary from none to as many as 50. So theoretically, 10 to 20 students could be incorrectly left off the Honor Rolls and Principal's List due to clerical errors.

Ms. Donoghue said she does not begin to make grade changes until four or five days after report cards have been sent out to give students who still receive their report cards by mail time to check them.

So why doesn't the administration wait a week before posting the Honor Rolls and Principal's List to insure their 100%

accuracy? What would we lose by waiting an extra week?

Assistant Principals for Academics Sister Elizabeth Bickar and Mr. Edward Jennings agreed that the reason the Principal's List and Honor Rolls go up as soon as possible is due to pressure from students eager to see the results. They say teachers try to be as accurate as possible when inputting grades but, of course, mistakes are made.

Take one of my classes for example. A roster error mixed up the grades of about 20 students and, of course, those mistakes were later corrected. But at least four students in that class claim their names were left off the Honor Rolls because of that error.

While Honor Roll and Principal's List

status never appears on a student's transcript, some students do care deeply about seeing their names on the lists.

Mr. Jennings said he might consider delaying the posting of the lists if errors were found to keep the names of many deserving students off the lists.

But as long as the students caught up in Molloy's competitive academic atmosphere continue to call for an early posting of the lists, the current policy is likely to remain in effect.

It is appealing to see the lists immediately, but not if they contain inaccuracies. After all, it could be your name that's missing when the lists are posted the next marking period.

— Louis Lamia

Corrections:

The Stanner aims for the highest level of accuracy in its stories. If you notice an error or have any concerns send an email to Mr. Charley McKenna at thestanner@molloyhs.org.

Please note the following corrections

to errors made in Vol. 50 No. 5:

In the story about the Molloy Pipe and Drum Corps' performance at the Christmas Dance Concert, the title of one of the songs it played was incorrect. The song was "Scotland, the Brave."

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Senior spends summer in S. America

By Monica Gavilanes

For the past three summers, Molloy senior Helen Kim has volunteered to go to Bolivia for two to three weeks as part of a medical team that checked the eye sight of poor children and adults in order to prescribe the correct eye glasses for those South American people.

Kim, who goes on the trips with fellow members of The Grace Korean Presbyterian Church, also helped distribute antibiotics and vitamins in the medical team's pharmaceutical group. In her most recent trip last summer, Kim took on the role of group leader for the "Youth Reach to Bolivian Children" team.

As team leader, she was responsible for organizing activities for the children, such as games, sing-a-longs, and bible studies.

Kim said, "I really wanted to go help the people and keep that mission my daily purpose without any distractions like malls, hanging out with my friends, etc. Not many people, let alone young adults, participate in these missions and I wanted to break that barrier and show

people that it's great to go out and help."

Spanish teacher Mr. Luis Santos found out about Kim's volunteer work during a casual conversation with his former student as Kim was a student of his in junior year. He was very interested in learning more about her work in Bolivia and asked her to bring in pictures of her trip for his class.

Mr. Santos said, "Many times we hear how self-centered our youth is today. Well, here is a prime example of just the opposite. Helen and her fellow church members gave up a substantial part of their summer to help others."

Kim gave up her time for others without any intention of getting something in return. The fact that she had to pay for part of her expenses on these trips with money out of her own pocket did not stop her from volunteering three years in a row.

She said her best memory as a volunteer in Bolivia was, "as I finished my time at the eye check-up clinic, some of the patients waited outside the room to thank me with hugs, kisses, and



Senior Helen Kim poses with a Bolivian boy during her summer volunteer work in South America. (Photo courtesy of Helen Kim.)

small gifts that were hand-made out of clay.

"Although these gifts seemed small, I took it with the biggest appreciation. This is what drove me more to help out the Bolivians with more fervor and dedication," she said.

Mr. Santos said Kim's story should be a great inspiration to others.

"The world is not only about iPods and iTunes," Mr. Santos said. "There are many serious issues which we as Americans read about but have no sense of reality about."

Dancing with Wojciechowski

By Sara Conlon and Jacqueline Cosse

Ballroom dancing has recently become very popular in America with the show "Dancing with the Stars" inspiring people to take lessons.

However, Molloy sophomore Oskar Wojciechowski has been participating in ballroom dancing for over five years and won a national competition last August.

Many Stanners learned of Wojciechowski's talent at last December's Christmas Dance show.

"Performing at the Christmas dance show was cool," Wojciechowski said. "At competitions, they don't know you. Here, everyone knows who you are and all your friends are there. They get to see what you devote your life to."

At school, his fellow students expressed their surprise at having seen him in the show. "They didn't expect me to be a dancer," he said.

Wojciechowski started taking lessons when he was just 10-years-old. His father "forced him," Wojciechowski said, and at first he didn't like it at all.

But after dancing for a while, he

began to enjoy it. Soon ballroom dancing became something to which he devoted much of his time.

"I practice every day, except Sunday, for three hours a day," said Wojciechowski. "I've been in hundreds of competitions - regionals, states, and nationals."

Wojciechowski said he is much better at standard ballroom dancing than Latin dancing but does both.

His favorite thing about being a high-level ballroom dancer, Wojciechowski said, is "the traveling aspect, getting to go to Switzerland, Germany, Italy, and England. I'm only 15 and I've been to more places than some people have been in their whole lifetimes."

Many people don't consider ballroom dancing to be an athletic event, but Wojciechowski said it is important to remember that a lot of mental and physical preparation goes into it.

Wojciechowski plans to continue his competitive dancing career into college and as an adult.

"I've worked so hard," he said. "There's no point in quitting."

Junior Prom set for May 12 in Jack Curran Gym

By Isabelle Parzygnat

The annual Archbishop Molloy Junior Prom will be held Saturday May 12 from 7-11 p.m. in the Jack Curran Gym with dinner served in the cafeteria.

The cost of the tickets will be in the \$60 range depending on the cost of decorations. As of now, the theme is still undecided, but some possibilities being considered by the Student Activities Committee [SAC] are "Under the Sea," "Black & White," "Las Vegas," and "Summer Nights."

SAC Moderator Mr. Ken Auer said the Junior Prom committee is working very hard to make this year's prom a night to remember and as successful as last year's Junior Prom was.

The Junior Prom will start with a "cocktail hour" featuring non-alcoholic beverages and hors d'oeuvres followed by a three course meal.

The DJ for the dance will be senior John Tenico, a.k.a. "DJ Johnny Cuz."



Sophomore Oskar Wojciechowski, decked out in his tuxedo, shows off his fancy footwork while performing at a ballroom dancing competition last year. (Photo courtesy of Oskar Wojciechowski)

Mr. Lembo denies detention increase

By Dana Giuntini and Claudia Goncalves

Several times in recent weeks, Room 123, where Molloy students serve disciplinary detention, has been filled to capacity, causing some students to serve their time in Room 219 where late detention usually is served.

As a result, many Stanners have come to believe that this overcrowding in Room 123 has been caused by T.A.'s cracking down too harshly on the slightest of rules infractions by students.

But Mr. James Lembo, assistant principal for students, said that is not the case.

In fact, Mr. Lembo said detention rates have been gradually decreasing from the days when Molloy was an all-boys school and detention punishments are "not as severe" as in the past.

"There used to be two rooms full," Mr. Lembo said. "Now only about

every two weeks do we have to use room 219 (for disciplinary detention)."

Mr. Lembo and Mr. Ken Auer, administrative assistant for students, said the biggest disciplinary offenses are cell phone use and dress code violations.

Some students, such as junior Cristina Penin, are resentful of the harsh enforcement of the dress code rules and the fact that her unintentionally untucked blouse received the same punishment as an intentionally rolled skirt.

"My shirt was partially untucked," Penin said. "I mean, does the school have nothing more important to do than be checking for partially untucked shirts?"

However, Mr. Lembo said of untucked shirts, "a little bit out is a little too much."

Stanners also complain about the school rule which forbids them from

bringing iPods or other MP3 players to school.

Mr. Lembo claims the rule is in place to prevent students from being mugged for their iPods as they go home from school, which has happened to a few Stanners in the past who broken the rule and brought iPods to school.

This month's extremely cold weather has brought complaints from girls who wear white long-sleeve t-shirts under their short-sleeve uniform shirts. They claim that they are being punished for trying to stay warm.

But Mr. Auer states that students shouldn't be surprised when they are punished for any dress code violation. "It's all in the handbook," he said.

Yet students continue to complain that the uniform rules aren't being enforced uniformly. They claim some students seem to get warnings for dress

code violations while others get detention.

"It's ridiculous the amount of unnecessary detentions," said sophomore Andres Gallo. "And it seems to vary from person to person."

Another complaint concerns the ban on public displays of affection [PDA].

What constitutes PDA? Students kissing is obviously an offense but what about a hug?

Mr. Lembo said that if the school wants to have a professional environment, it has to eliminate all forms of PDA. Yet he says, "We try to make enforcement as reasonable as possible."

Mr. Lembo argues that by cracking down on the little offenses, Molloy builds a business-like atmosphere. And he feels the system is working.

"Overall, the students here are wonderful," Mr. Lembo said.

Frosh, sophs to select classes

By Jonathan Mangar

Molloy juniors submitted on Feb. 2 their choices for their class schedules for their final year at Molloy and next month frosh and sophomores will receive course selection catalogues at an assembly and then have to choose which courses they will take in the 2007-2008 school year.

While the choices are few for most frosh, this year's sophomores will be faced with a wide variety of courses to choose from for junior year.

For example, they will have to choose between English 11, English 11 Honors, or AP English Literature, between Advanced Algebra/Trig, or Advanced Algebra/Pre-Calculus Honors (with a 1.07 curve), between U.S. History, U.S. History Honors, AP U.S. History and between Earth Science or Physics Honors.

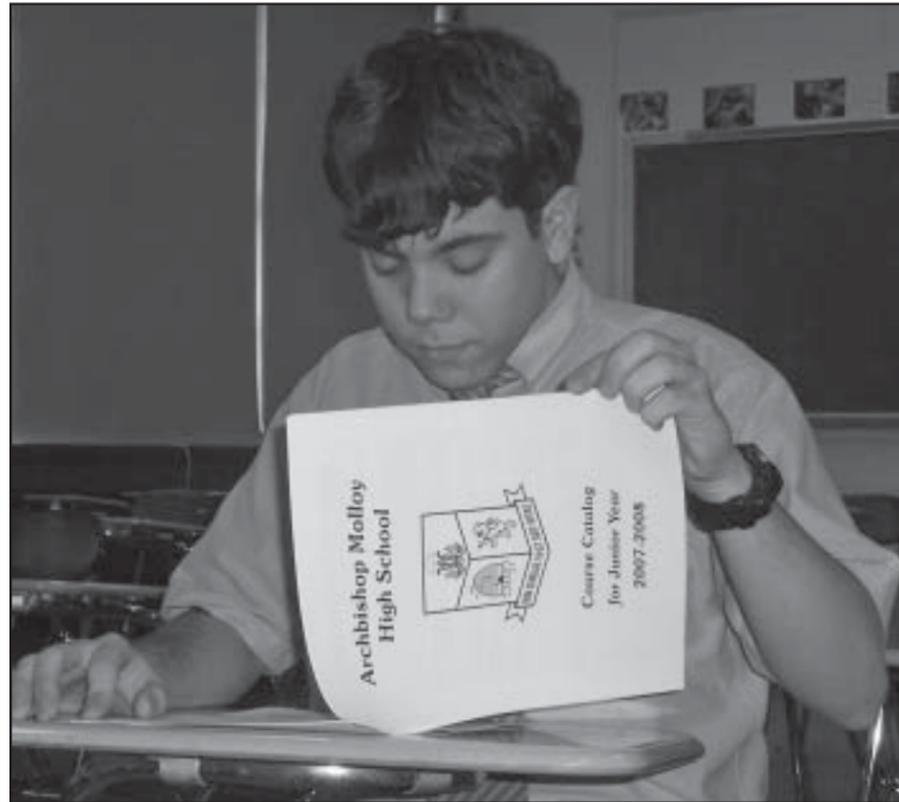
Sister Elizabeth Bickar, Molloy's assistant principal for academics who oversees students' academic scheduling, had this advice for students struggling to decide what classes to request for next year.

"Those students who are more interested in academics than free time should choose AP courses," said Sister Elizabeth, who added that highly-motivated students who value learning more than just getting high grades should choose AP classes.

"The biggest mistake students make before choosing courses is not talking to those students who have already taken those classes," she said.

Mr. Edward Jennings, assistant principal for academics, emphasized that students should know that some departments have prerequisites, such as having a 92 or 93 average, that students must meet in order to apply for honors or AP classes.

Both assistant principals agree that highly selective colleges, such as those in the Ivy League, like to see AP courses



Sophomore Andre Amorim studies the Junior Course catalogue. (Photo by Fernando Ortiz)

listed on applicants' transcripts, but impressing top schools should not be the only motive for a student selecting higher-level courses.

Mr. James Sheehan, chairperson of the English Department, said that the Honors and AP English classes require a lot more reading and writing. He recommends that those who have a strong love for literature and language take the advanced courses.

Mr. Sheehan said there are no prerequisite grades for those students applying English 11 Honors or AP English Literature. Admission to those classes is competitive, however, and granted to the students who apply with the highest grades.

Mathematics Department Chairperson Ms. Jeanne Longerano said there is a sharp contrast between the regular-level Advanced Algebra/Trig course and the "AP-curved" Honors class, Advanced Algebra/Pre-Calculus.

"The Pre-Calculus course is more difficult," she said. "It usually takes three to four days to do a chapter, so the self-sufficient type would do best in that class."

The Pre-Calculus students take the Math B Regents in January of junior year, and are eligible to skip Intro to Calculus and go straight to AP Calculus or Calculus I in senior year.

There is no admission test this year for Advanced Algebra/Pre-Calculus, Ms. Longerano said. Admission is based upon grades and a teacher's recommendation.

Mr. Michael Harrison, chairperson of the Social Studies Department, said a great deal more work is done in Social Studies AP classes than regular or honors classes.

He said that the AP classes require two to three times more reading than regular or honors classes, and that AP classes emphasize written work much

more than the regular and honors classes do.

No frosh or sophomores will have to struggle to decide which level of language class to take next year because they will automatically advance to the next level of the language they are presently studying.

Mrs. Maureen Schneider, chairperson of the Foreign Languages Department, said the lack of French, Italian, and Spanish honors classes, "is an issue very dear to my heart. I have pushed for years to have an honors track, but I am always told that there's not enough classrooms or space in the schedule for honors language classes."

Mr. Michael DeMarco, head of the Science Department, said that for juniors, Physics Honors and Earth Science courses are both challenging.

He recommends that students interested in geology or the environment take Earth Science, while those who prefer mathematics should choose Physics Honors. There is no regular Physics class as all Physics students get the 1.05 weight put on their averages.

An option being offered by the Science Department is that students who take Earth Science in junior year may take Physics as a one-credit, full-year course in senior year. Both courses require Regents exams upon completion.

Senior Diana Trent, who took AP U.S. History and AP Literature as a junior, said that harder courses take some getting used to, but the hard work pays off.

"There's more reading and studying than anything," said Trent. "Study hard and put in st much effort as you can. Don't stress out too much. If you don't get that 4 or 5 [on the AP test], you're not a bad person. Hopefully, you were challenged and maybe you learned something about yourself."

February College Night focuses on financial aid

By Mirela Mohan and Faith Conlon

Molloy's College Night for juniors was held Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. and featured a speech from Bro. David Van Hollebeke, the former Director of Admissions at Manhattan College, that guided Stanners and their parents through the complex process of applying for college financial aid.

Bro. David, now a math professor at Manhattan College, was followed by Molloy College Guidance Counselor Mr. Kerry Hughes.

Mr. Hughes reviewed the materials in a folder given to the juniors and their parents, which included the tuition prices of many schools popular in the past with Stanners, a list of schools to which the present senior class has applied, a book listing most of the nation's colleges, and a college planning guide written by Mr. Hughes himself.

This week's event was different from last fall's College Night, which featured representatives from over 85 schools

and was open to both seniors and juniors, in that it focused exclusively on the college admissions process.

Mr. Hughes recommended that all juniors and their parents attend the event because many topics concerning the students' futures will be discussed.

"On average," said Mr. Hughes, "about 80% of Molloy juniors attend."

Nima Vyas and Jennifer O'Neil both planned to attend College Night for juniors.

O'Neil said, "the price of tuition and the location of the college," will greatly affect her decisions about where to apply.

Mr. Hughes hoped juniors would "pay close attention" to what was said at college night and read carefully the materials they received because the event could greatly affect many students' decisions about where to attend college.

Bad timing for Sr. Prom

By Joseph Dujmovic

Wednesday May 16 is a very busy day on the Archbishop Molloy school calendar as both the Senior Prom and the AP Composition exam are scheduled for that day.

As a result, about 50 seniors will have to spend the morning of their prom taking a test rather than making prom preparations.

May 16th is also the day two other Queens Catholic high schools, Holy Cross and The Mary Louis Academy, will hold their senior proms.

As a result, any seniors who are dating seniors at either of those two schools will have to choose which prom to attend that night.

This leaves many seniors to wonder, "Why were all of these things scheduled for the same day?"

Moderator Mr. Ken Auer of the Student Activities Committee [SAC], which organizes the Senior Prom, said the night of May 16 was chosen for Molloy's Senior Prom, "to keep costs low for students. Because it is a weeknight, the price of the catering hall is lower."

But why did SAC schedule the prom on the same day as an AP exam?

"The AP Composition exam is the smallest AP exam," said Mr. Auer, "with the fewest students taking the test."

So why did SAC schedule the prom the same day as two other Catholic high schools' proms?

"At the time of scheduling, we had no idea that two area high schools scheduled their proms for the same day," Mr. Auer said.

SAC Senior Prom Committee member Laura Ruocco knows some students will be taking the AP test the morning of the prom. "I feel bad for the girls," she said, "but the exam should be done by noon, giving girls plenty of time to get ready."

With Molloy, Holy Cross and Mary Louis all having their proms on the same day, many Stanners worry about the availability of limos and tuxedos with so many students trying to rent them for that night.

"I hope it's not a problem," said Mr. Auer.

Said SAC Senior Prom Committee member Christine McGrory, "Seniors knew of the date of the prom in September when they were given copies of the school calendar. If you wait to the last minute to do everything, then I think you may run into a problem."

Committee members are confident that the prom, which will be held at Beckwith Pointe in New Rochelle,



Mr. Glenn DaGrossa gets physical with senior Pete Stamm at the annual Faculty- Senior football game. The faculty continued their winning streak by soundly defeating the seven seniors that played in the game. (Photo by Fernando Ortiz)

Three casual days are scheduled for coming weeks

By Melanie Dostis

Valentine's Day brings with it red hearts, images of Cupid, cards, flowers, chocolates, and, of course, smiles and hugs.

But this week it also brought Stanners their first official "Casual Day," of the year thanks to the efforts of Molloy's Student Council.

"Casual Day" is the new term the Molloy administration is using for what had previously been called "Dress Down Day."

With the new name comes new expectations of the way students are expected to dress.

Student Council Moderator Ms. Kathy Loughran said the name change occurred because Molloy is a school that prepares its students for the type of work environment they are likely to encounter in their future careers.

She went on to say that students should think of it as being similar to

"Casual Fridays" that employers allow at some business offices.

Until this week, Molloy had only one day where Stanners were allowed to go to class out of uniform, the Walk-a-thon reward day last fall when students were allowed to wear Molloy t-shirts and jeans as thanks for their fund-raising efforts for the school.

"Casual Day" was originally intended to be on Valentine's Day itself but the administration wanted students to be in uniform that day for pictures taken for a brochure that will be given to new students. So it was moved to Thursday, Feb. 15.

Student Council President Joe Dujmovic, a senior, encouraged students to wear red that day.

He also hoped all Stanners would dress appropriately since dress down days are not given often by the Administration and any improper

clothing could affect the possibility of having more such days in the near future. Dujmovic hoped to get the administration to allow students to dress casually for all five days of the school's Spirit Week from March 19-23, but he said the administration refused to do so.

"I took what I could get," said Dujmovic, who was able to negotiate two casual days for Spirit Week and one for Valentine's Day.

"Molloy students deserve it," he said. Ms. Loughran said the Molloy administration is reluctant to allow Student Council to sponsor more "Casual Days" because it fears students will disobey the dress down day rules.

Ms. Loughran, like Dujmovic, said that if the administration's fears were confirmed on the school's first official "Casual Day" on Feb. 15, then the two dress down days scheduled for Spirit Week will be cancelled.

N.Y., from 7 p.m. to midnight, is sure to be a success. Tickets for the \$125.00 per person event will be sold after the February vacation.

"The students taking the course are generally responsible individuals who take school seriously," said Megan Boyle.

Andrea Devas said she doesn't expect the scheduling conflict to hurt her class's grades on the test. "There is only so much you can study and we've done a lot of practice in class," she said. "Plus almost everyone wants the college credit [they receive by scoring well on the test]."

Dujmovic said only a small number of Stanners tend to break the dress code rules on dress down days and so he believes Molloy students should enjoy the same amount of dress down days as students in other Catholic schools receive.

In the past, Stanners were charged \$1 for the privilege of dressing down with the money going to a charity chosen by Principal Bro. Roy George.

If any fees are collected for this year's dress down days, Ms. Loughran said it's possible the money would go to help cover the expenses of the Molloy students going on the summer trip to Lourdes.

Ms. Loughran, Dujmovic, and the rest of the Student Council remain hopeful that they will be able to have at least two more "Casual Days" during Spirit Week but that will depend on the behavior of Stanners at the first one.

AM Right to Life Club goes to D.C.

By Samantha Diliberti

Thirteen members of Archbishop Molloy's Right to Life Club said they chose to march in the 36th Annual March for Life procession in Washington, D.C. last month to represent their Christian values by protesting the Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion.

Joining a group sponsored by St. John's University, the Molloy club members were able to attend the march by paying just \$5 a person, which got them bus transportation to and from the march, snacks, and a MetroCard.

The busses left St. John's at 5:30 a.m. and did not return until 11:30 p.m.

Junior Jennifer LoCascio said traveling the long distance to participate in the march was "definitely" worth it.

Marching from the Washington, D.C. Mall to the Supreme Court building, the Stanners joined over 100,000 other protesters in the cold snowy weather, holding signs bearing, "Justice for all, born and pre-born."

The Stanners also met up with students from six other Marist schools, three from Miami, two from Chicago, and one from New York State.

LoCascio described the scene as "chaotic" but overall it was a "good experience."



Molloy's Right to Life Club shows its school spirit while protesting against legalized abortion with 100,000 others in Washington D.C. last month. (Photo courtesy of the Right to Life Club)

Her most vivid memory of the march was a man she saw holding a sign saying, "Abortion has increased because woman can wear skirts in church."

She found the sign offensive because "it seemed to blame women for abortion."

Junior Justin Bonilla said he attended the Pro-Life March "for the experience."

He saw a group of women holding signs declaring they had had abortions but were marching to prevent other women from doing the same thing.

"I learned about abortion, was able

to develop my own opinion, and made friends in the process," said Bonilla.

Both students said they were inspired by the passionate protesters surrounding them and hope that through the march they inspired others to join the Pro-Life movement.

3 pairs of siblings on Principal's List

Eighty-three Stanners earned a spot on the Principal's List last month for achieving a 99 or better vertical average on their second marking period report cards.

Girls once again dominated the List with 51 names. Twenty-two of the 32 juniors on the List were girls.

Girls were less dominant in the other grade levels as just nine of 17 frosh, nine of 17 sophomores, and 11 of 17 seniors on the List were females.

To qualify for the Principal's List, students must have a 99 or better vertical average for the marking period.

High grades run in the families of several Stanners.

The Montoni brothers, sophomore Bobby and senior Steven, along with the Kochupurackal sisters, junior Jenny and senior Tina, made the List as did sophomore siblings Cristina and Mario DiRe.

The following students made the Principal's List for the second marking period:

Frosh: Gina-maria Arena; Paul Bakoyiannis; Michael Carraher; Katrina Colletti; Daniel Cosgrove; Monica Dluzniewski; Camille Dwyer; Teresa Marie

Governale; Christopher Hwu; Diana Jaramillo; Peter Kramer; Carla Marian; Brent McDonnell; Ryan Mosca; Michael Pagan; Grace Perrotta; Shakti Ramsamooj.

Sophomores: Nicholas Chan; Sigrid DeGuzman; Valentina DiGangi; Angela Dumlao; Michelle Eichorst; Jenna Goldbach; Julianne Keyes; Christopher Kosiewska; Stephanie Kotnik; Paul Kozlowski; Kristen Lasak; Bobby Montoni; Peter Mulligan; Charles Paszkowski; Peter Plaza; Dorota Sawicki; Daniel Waters.

Juniors: Olivia Antosiewicz; Melissa Bhikam; Melissa Buchan; Melissa Chien; Kristen DeBono; Cristina DiRe; Mario DiRe; Diane Fernandes; Patrick Flahive; Laura Fontanills; Zachary Gitto; Pawanjeet

Kaur; Keun Woo Kim; Jenny Kochupurackal; Marcella Kocolatos; Lyana Labrada; Eric Lee; Daphne Liu; Dorina Lleshi; Stephen Maniscalco; Kevin Rhodes; Katherine Rodriguez; Brianne Rosa; Megan Sattler; Michael Schemitsch; Ahana Sen; Jadwiga Stec; Michelle Vasquez; Sebastian Velez; Christian Ventura; Melissa Wolf; Zullay Yepes.

Seniors: Roby Abraham; Megan Boyle; Umer Hassan, Tina Kochupurackal; Stephen Kostel; Sylwia Mackiewicz; Steven Montoni; Kelly Newton; Michael O'Connor; Erika Rogawski; Gennarina Santorelli; Priam Saywack; Brittany Schieler; Kim Seiler; Patricia Sun; Justin Thottam; Diana Trent.

Mock Trial hopes to advance to the second round

By Emily Tansey

Molloy's Mock Trial Team will compete in the first round of the Statewide Mock Trial Competition sponsored by the Law Youth & Citizenship Program of New York State Bar Association on March 1 and 5 at the Supreme Court building on Queens Boulevard, said club moderator Mr. Lou Barbera.

Molloy begins the statewide, 110-school knockout tournament open to public, private and parochial high schools in the New York City competition. The city champion advances to face the winners from other tournaments around the state for the final rounds in Albany.

Molloy will argue a case involving an alleged cyber stalker in the first round of the competition, which is conducted

in a court room setting with controlled time limits for the attorneys speaking. A judge who presides over the trial determines the winner.

Junior Sean Pinckney said this year's case is interesting with well-developed evidence and attorney's arguments that can go in many directions.

Pinckney's role on the team as a defense lawyer is to directly examine a crucial defense witness and cross-examine a prosecution witness. Pinckney joined mock trial because his father is a lawyer and he wishes to practice law himself as a career one day.

"Mock Trial provides good experience and preparation for college, and I've enjoyed getting to know the kids on the team better," said Pinckney.

Molloy's prosecution attorneys for

the first round match are seniors Tora Watson, Peter Stamm, and Joe DeRiso.

The defense attorneys, include Pinckney and seniors Kim Seiler and John Cacharani.

The defense will face the Magnet School for Law & Government, and the prosecution will face the Lexington School for the Deaf in their first round matches.

Witnesses for the case include seniors Adam User, Mike Borek, and Priam Saywack, juniors Pat Flahive and Connie Tsang, and sophomore Tara Gildea.

Mr. Barbera said most members of the team are returning from last year's team whose defense and prosecution teams were eliminated in their first round matches. Mr. Barbera also said that a

good crop of new people joined the team this year.

Both Pinckney and Mr. Barbera agreed that the team's goal this year is to advance past the first round.

Because most of Molloy's participants were in last year's Mock Trial competition, the team feels more prepared this season and is able to start preparing for their trial at a more advanced stage.

Last year's experience taught the team to prepare even more before this year's opening round and to never underestimate an opposing school based on its academic reputation as the team did last year.

"This year's team is very talented," said Mr. Barbera. "There's no reason we shouldn't beat other schools."

One team gets sneakers, everyone else gets squat

By Patrick Sheehan

Archbishop Molloy's Boys Varsity basketball team acquired a Nike sponsorship before the start of the 2006-2007 season which provided each player with two pairs of sneakers, a travel bag, and a traveling suit, said Coach Mr. Jack Curran.

Nike replaces New Balance as the Varsity Boys team's sponsor.

"Nike was once our sponsor around the 1980's for four or five years due to the big name players we had like [former NBA guard] Kenny Anderson but then Nike later dropped off," said Mr. Curran.

New Balance's recent sponsorship didn't work out as well as the one with Nike had and that led Mr. Curran to ask Nike once again to sponsor his team.

"The players are excited about the new sponsorship," said senior guard Dennis O'Grady. "It gives us a feeling of recognition for our hard work as a team. But shoes and shirts won't help

us win games. That's a task we take on by ourselves."

Many of the current Boys Varsity players agreed that this sponsorship plays a big role in the types of sneakers and other products they will buy for themselves in the future, admitting that they will lean toward buying Nike products.

However, the Boys Varsity Basketball team is the only Molloy athletic team currently being sponsored by a shoe company, while athletes on other sports teams such as girls basketball, track, baseball, or swimming must fend for themselves.

"All in all the boys basketball team deserves this new Nike sponsorship," said Girls Varsity Swimming co-captain Dana Blond, a senior. "But it doesn't make sense that one team should get more benefits over another since we all work equally hard and put in as much time and effort into our sport as the basketball team does."



As part of the Nike sponsorship agreement, all players on the Boys Varsity basketball team wear matching sneakers, uniforms and warm-ups. (Photo by Fernando Ortiz)

AM takes 2 Brooklyn-Queens track & field titles

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Pole vault: 1. Dylan Dombrowski, 14-0 feet; 2. Matt Letellier 13-0; 3. Rob Mastronardi, 10-6.

Long jump: 1. Jarenn Stewart, 20-7.5; 2. Robert Nappi, 19-9; 4. Tom Lynch, 18-9; 5. Zach Kramer, 17-11.

Triple jump: 1. Robert Nappi, 42-5; 2. Matt Flynn, 41-11.5; 3. Dylan Dombrowski, 41-8.5; 5. Rob Mastronardi, 37-5.5.

Shot put: 1. Brian Lavelle, 48-1.75; 2. Steve Intrabartola, 46-11; 3. Chris Radman 44-1.75. Molloy Frosh Boys Brooklyn-Queens Sectional Championships Results

55 meter high hurdles: 1. Sean Collins, 9:41.

1,000 meter run: 4. Eric Johnson, 3:27.2.

1,600 meter run: 2. Devin Chowske, 5:22.12.

3,200 meter run: 3. Ernie D'Ambrose, 12:59.24.

800 meter relay: 3. Molloy (Joseph Pinckney, George Halkias, Peter Kramer, Sean Rodriguez) 1:55.50.

1,600 meter relay: 1. Molloy (Kevin

Ginter, Eric Johnson, Sean Collins, Devin Chowske) 4:05.50; 4. Molloy (Michael Carraher, Brandon Benincasa, Kyle Doherty, Jorge Morales) 4:59.29; 5. Molloy (Valmiki Amarjit, Nick D'Angelo, Nick Neocleous, Nick Gliagias) 5:22.46

3,200 meter relay: 2. Molloy (Nick D'Angelo, Jorge Morales, Nick Neocleous, Nick Gliagias) 13:01.99

Pole vault: 1. Michael Fill, 7-feet-3.

Long jump: 2. Matt Catera, 17-2.5; 3. Luke Kuna, 16-1.5; 4. Kevin Ginter, 15-2.5.

Triple jump: 1. Sean Rodriguez, 34-0.5; 2. Luke Kuna, 33-8; 4. Peter Kramer, 30-5.5

High jump: 2. Michael Fill, 4-8; 5. Matt Catera, 4-8.

Shot put: 2. Mike Reed 40-10.5; 4. Mike Maddalena, 34-5.

Cevallos stars at boys 'B' swim meet

Freshman Ryan Cevallos won the 200 yard individual medley race and was second in the 100 yard butterfly at the CHSAA Boys B Swimming Championships Feb. 3 at Eisenhower Park.

Cevallos swam the 200 IM in 2:25.00, the 100 fly in 1:21.00 and was a member of both the fourth-place 200 yard medley and fourth-place 200 yard freestyle relay teams.

All told, Cevallos helped contribute 97 of Molloy's 194 points at the meet as the Stanners finished fifth behind champion Holy Trinity (320), Xaverian (268), St. Peter's (239.5), and St. Francis Prep (196).

1F claims IM title

Undefeated Homeroom 1F cruised to victory in the eight-team Frosh Intramural Football League, defeating Homeroom 1G in the championship game at the Manton Street Park.

Homeroom 1F, led by Captain Phil Loprete, finished the season 5-0 while 1G, led by Captain Denis O'Connor, finished 3-2.

The seven-team Sophomore-Junior Intramural Football League ended its season in controversy as Homeroom 3F was declared champion due to the fact that 3K had used players not on the 3K roster in the championship game.

Homeroom 3K had won the championship game 30-24 but 3F appealed the game saying 3K had used ringers.

Intramural Moderators Mr. Mark Lipset, Mr. Mark Verdi, Mr. Brian Kelly and Mrs. Maureen Rosenbaum unanimously recommended reversing the result and awarding 3F the title due to 3K's using non-roster players.

Homeroom 3F, led by Captain John

Maldonado, finished the season at 5-1 while Captain Joe Wick's 3K team finished 4-2 thanks to it forfeiting the championship game.

Homeroom 2K, led by Captain Muller Pierre-Louis, finished third.

Archbishop Molloy's freshman, sophomore, and junior homerooms are all actively participating in this year's intramural football.

No senior homerooms were involved in this year's football intramurals.

"I am slightly disappointed that not too many seniors take part in the intramurals," said Mr. Lipset, who added that many seniors are very busy with other activities, such as after school jobs, that prevent them from playing.

The football season took months to complete due to constant rescheduling caused by bad weather.

Mr. Lipset said he hopes to conduct a free-throw shooting contest open to all students in the near future.

Jackie Cosse contributed to this story.

Bad hops banished from minds of baseball team

By Brendan Regan

Molloy is installing a new infield for its baseball field in time for the 2007 season because the old field was in bad shape due to not having been redone in nearly 20 years, said the school's athletic director Mr. Mike McCleary.

The renovation finally got the approval of the school administration to move forward with the plan five years after it was requested, said Mr. McCleary.

"We're happy the school found some time and money to renovate the field," said head baseball coach Mr. Jack Curran, who clearly appreciated the improvements.

The re-sodding and claying of the infield, which started in late October, marks the first time serious work has been done to the field in nearly two

decades said Mr. McCleary.

"Hopefully the new field will give both junior varsity and varsity teams an edge this year," said Mr. McCleary.

Both teams lost in the City Championship game last year.

No one is happier about the new field than baseball assistant coach Mr. Ken Auer who really pushed for the infield to get redone due to the injury risks the old field posed for the fielders. "Now the Molloy infielders can play without the thought of a bad hop lurking in the back of their minds," said Mr. Auer.

Mr. McCleary said the major reason for redoing the field was that, "we want our student athletes to have every opportunity to succeed and hopefully win a championship."

Stanners take two BQ titles

Superior depth enables
varsity and frosh to win

Thanks to its superior depth on both the Varsity and Freshman levels, Molloy ran away from its competition at the Boys Brooklyn-Queens Sectional Championships Jan. 28 at the New Balance Track and Field Center at the Armory in Manhattan.

Molloy's Varsity Boys, led by meet's outstanding performer, senior hurdler Ian Fitts, scored 98 points, which was more than three times the total of second place Bishop Loughlin's 28 points. McClancy (26) was third, St. Francis Prep (24) fourth, while Bishop Ford and Nazareth tied for fifth with 11 points each.

Molloy's Freshman Boys, meanwhile, were not quite as dominant in winning their title but still won easily, scoring 69 points to second place McClancy's 37. St. Francis Prep (23), Bishop Ford (19) and Nazareth (18) rounded out the top five.

Fitts set a new meet record of 7.70 seconds in winning the 55-meter high hurdles.



No. 1 Molloy hurdles over state and school records

Molloy's 4x55-meter shuttle hurdle relay team set state and school records when it ran the fastest time in the nation this season (30.49 seconds) at the New Balance Games at the Armory in Manhattan on Jan. 20. Bro. Pat Hogan, left, said a team as good as seniors Ryan Peeters, Ian Fitts, Byron Peeters, and Dylan Dombrowski might not be seen again at Molloy in 40 years. Said Ryan Peeters, "We have good chemistry with one another and our coach keeps us focused." The team's last race of the indoor season is at the national championships in March. — Natalie Ponte

Other individual highlights for Molloy were junior Jarenn Stewart winning gold medals in both the long jump and 800-meter relay and senior Robert Nappi winning gold in the triple jump and silver in the long jump.

As usual, the Molloy Varsity Boys dominated the meet's field events, sweeping the top three spots in both the shot put and pole vault and four of the top five places in both the triple jump and long jump.

The Freshman Boys, meanwhile, were led by Michael Fill, who won a gold medal in the pole vault and a silver medal in the high jump.

Here are the Molloy Varsity Boys Brooklyn-Queens Sectional Championships Results:

55 meter high hurdles: 1. Ian Fitts, 7.70 (new meet record); 2. Ryan Peeters, 7.96; 5. Mike Woolford, 8.73.

55 meter run: 2. Akil Howard, 6.93.

600 meters: 3. Steve Bione, 1:27.26.

1,000 meter run: 4. Victor Szuper, 2:46.9;

5. Dan Quinn, 2:47.1.

1,600 meters: 2. Rory Cunnane, 4:36.61.

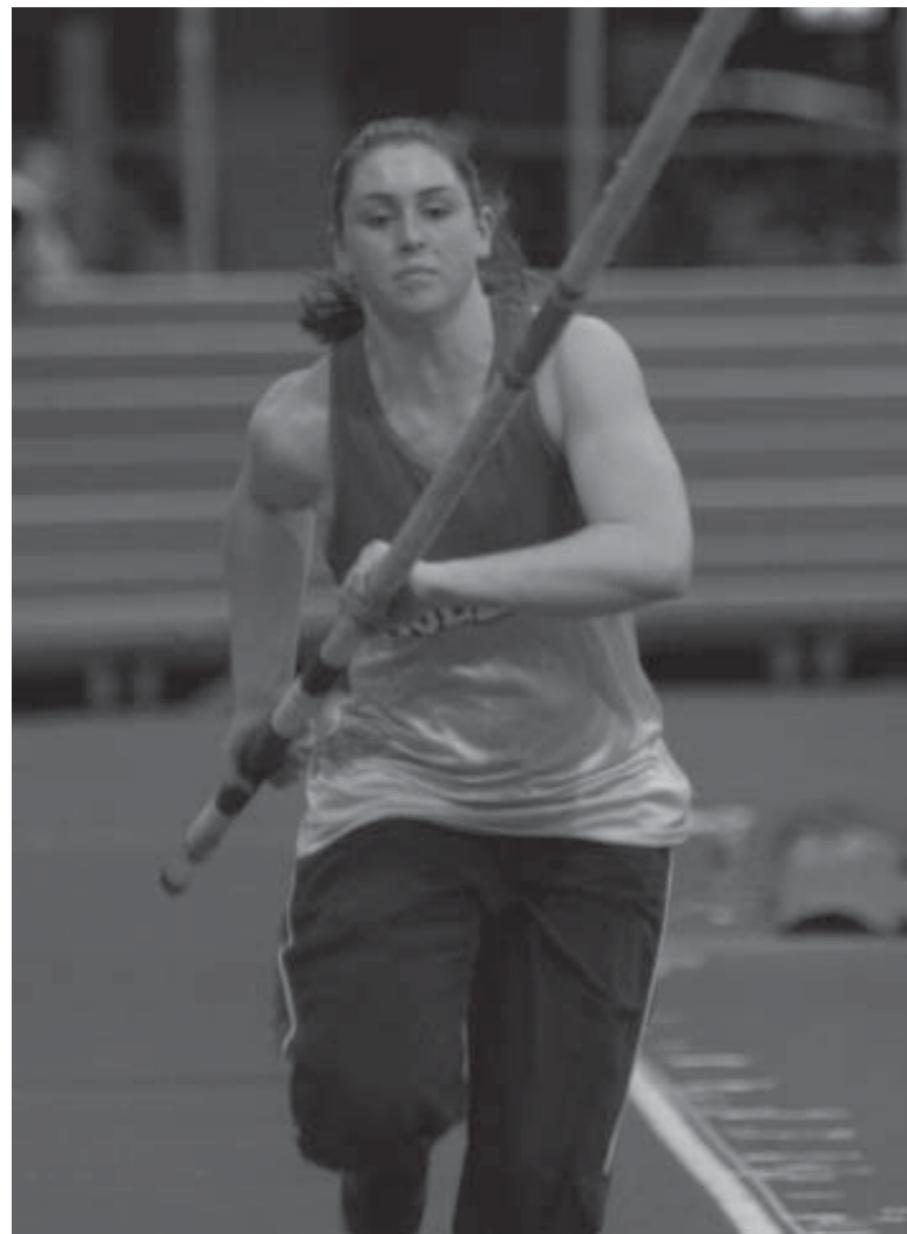
3,200 meter run: 4. Danny Edwards, 10:09.30.

800 meter relay: 1. Molloy (Ryan Peeters, Lenworth James, Akil Howard, Jarenn Stewart) 1:35.27; 3. Molloy (Mark Navarro, Tom Lynch, Robert Hines, Zach Kramer) 1:39.50.

1,600 meter relay: 2. Molloy (Matt Flynn, Victor Szuper, Robert Hines, Steve Bione) 3:37.82.

3,200 meter relay: 5. Molloy (Mike Crane, Tim Frankie, Mike Woolford, Aaron Woods) 9:01.29.

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Junior Rebecca Power finished second in both the pole vault and shot put in the Brooklyn-Queens Championships at the Armory.

Girls varsity track wins B-Q championship title

Dominating the shot put and 55 meter hurdles events and setting a new school record in the 800 meter relay, the Molloy Varsity Girls Track team won the Brooklyn Queens Championship Feb. 4 at the Armory in Manhattan by the closest margin in CHSAA history over Bishop Loughlin.

Molloy won the meet with 53 points with Loughlin second (52) and Bishop Ford third (50).

The 800 meter relay team of three juniors, Jessica Conter, Arianna Dussie, Alexandra Jean-Joseph, and a sophomore, Monica Martinez, set a school record of 1:51.9 in winning the race.

Juniors Alexandra Jean-Joseph in the triple jump, Jessica Conter in the high jump, and Beth Terranova in the pole vault were Molloy's individual gold medal winners.

Led by a pair of second place finishes by junior Rebecca Power, Molloy swept in five of the top six spots in the shot put and four of the top six places in the hurdles.

Coach Mr. A.J. Power was especially pleased with his team's performance because several of his

best athletes, such as sophomore hurdler Stephanie Halfax, missed the meet due to injuries.

Here are Molloy's results from the meet:

300 meter run: 3. Camille Ricciardi, 11:38.1; 5. Kelly Magee, 13:16.2

Pole vault: 1. Beth Terranova, 7-feet-9; 2. Brittany Dombrowski, 6-9.

300 meter dash: 5. Jessica Conter, 44.5.

1,500 meter run: 4. Christine McGrory, 5:41.9; 6. Laura Mansour, 6:09.8.

Long jump: 1. Jessica Conter, 15-1.5; 5. Anniela Vaccaro 14-5.5.

High jump: 2. Sabrina Fleurantin, 4-10; 6. Kathryn Powers, 4-4.

Triple jump: 1. Alexandra Jean-Joseph, 34-11.5; 4. Monica Martinez, 31-3.5.

55 meter hurdles: 2. Rebecca Power, 10.3; 3. Melissa Alke, 10.6; 5. Danielle Reddy, 10.9; 6. Lauren Ciuffo, 11.2.

3,200 meter relay: 4. Molloy A, 10:58.3; 5. Molloy B, 11:33.1; 6. Molloy C, 11:53.0.

1,600 meter relay: 6. Molloy A, 4:31.4.

800 meter relay: 1. Molloy (Jessica Conter, Arianna Dussie, Alexandra Jean-Joseph, Monica Martinez) 1:51.9 (new school record).

Shot put: 2. Rebecca Powers, 33-6.5; 3. Natalie Higgins, 31-6; Nicole Bonilla, 31-1.5; Adara Simonelli, 30-7; Stephanie Cavaliere, 29-3.

Freshman sprint medley relay: 1. Molloy (R. Gagliardotto, D. Kalpakidou, R. Garlan, A. Sanchez), 5:34.3.