

From Cap to Career

By Monica Nelson

A serious case of senioritis seems to have overtaken the 12th grade class, but it has not stopped them from filling their summer breaks with impressive pursuits to prepare them for college.

Co-President of the class of 2025 and future University of Virginia attendee, Brent Porter is working for his third year at Camp High Harbor.

He was given the opportunity to work for eight weeks in two different leadership cabins. Porter shared his reason behind his dedication to summer camp. "I want to give back to a place that gave me so much when I was younger," Porter said.

Cosette Lane, who will attend Georgetown in the fall, has already organized three weeks of her startup camp, Camp Backyard Blast.

Cosette and her sister, Harper Jane, created this camp five years ago to dip into the business world. Cosette's experience running and growing Camp Backyard Blast has massively improved her ability to be an independent, successful business owner.

Before living on their own, many students have taken on jobs to save up for college spending.

Camille Gibson will be a hostess at J. Alexander's. While there, she is hoping to save funds before heading to the University of Pennsylvania to study Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. Gipson's choice of major was inspired by her previous summer's two week internship at the Georgia Capitol with Chris Carr, a Marist alumnus and the Attorney General of Georgia.

Some students are continuing to take on roles as interns this summer.

David Owens, for example, will intern at both 680 The Fan radio station with the Braves and at McIlhinney Sports Management. Owens is ready to pursue a career related to his love of sports. He also plans to use his experiences from Marist and his internships at Notre Dame to study Business and minor in Sport, Media, and Culture.

With such worthy goals and the talents and interests to make them a reality, we wish these graduating seniors the very best.

Easter Down Under

What does a small burrowing mammal have to do with Easter? Turn to the Religion section, where staff writer Grace McNary explains it all.

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Photo Credit: Jeanette Stewart

Students Take on Brazil

By Cosette Lane

This past spring break, a group of 17 Marist students and two teachers, Jose Gregory and Jeanette Stewart, traveled down to Brazil for the week.

During their journey through Brazil, students learned how parts of the AP African-American class applied to life. They flew down to Brazil and then took a bus to different parts of the South-American country.

Because this trip was our school's first ever to Brazil and held such a profound meaning for students who attended it, the trip is an event that should be widely known in our community.

Senior Angel Akumabor was part of the group who traveled to Brazil. "The most meaningful part of the trip was learning about the culture and seeing how our AP African-American class concepts apply to real life," she said.

The trip began in Rio, where students rode gondolas up Sugarloaf Mountain, attended Mass at Igreja Matriz De Nossa Senhora Da Glória, and saw the Christ the Redeemer Statue. While attending Mass, they got to witness the "big Catholicism culture in Brazil," said Akumabor.

After Rio, they took the bus to Salvador, where they went to the Church of the Rosary of Black People, saw a performance based on Bahian folkloric dances of African origin called Bale Folclorico Da Bahia, went to the Church of Bonfim, and enjoyed Porto da Barra Beach.

They also took a Capoeira class. "The Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art that it's also with the dance," said Akumabor.

After their Capoeira class, they went to see the Quilombo community. "The Quilombos are places where runaway slaves could escape and form commu-

nities," said Akumabor. It's really nice to see how these communities have lasted for centuries, and are still an integral part of the country," she added.

Following the Quilombo community, they went to the Order of the Lady of the Good Death, a Catholic group that blends Catholic beliefs with Afro-Brazilian culture. They participated in a samba-reggae percussion workshop.

The group of students and teachers then went to the Museu Casa Do Rio Vermelho De Jorge Amado, the former home of renowned Brazilian writers Jorge Amado and Zélia Gattai.

They concluded their trip at the Colorful Steps of Rio, and Akumabor said her biggest takeaway was "seeing how other countries are so different from America. Everyone has such different lifestyles and getting to live life in a different way was really nice to experience."

Spring Break Travels

By Clara Laskowski

As the weather got warm and term two came to an end, students packed their bags and anticipated the final bell before spring break.

This year, our school hosted three spring break trips: AP Art history traveled to London and Paris, AP African-American Studies took on Brazil, and the Holocaust class visited Europe.

Sophomore Caroline Rogers attended the Holocaust trip this spring break and reminisced on the memories made. "It was eye opening to see the places we learned about in real life; it helped put everything into perspective," Rogers shared.

Other students stayed close to home and enjoyed a break from school. Junior Claire Schepp reflected on the week off. "Staying home over spring break allowed me to catch up with my family and on sleep," Schepp shared.

Some Seniors spent their last spring break together in Jamaica. The few days consisted of laying out on the beach and swimming in the Caribbean. Senior Cosette Lane reflected on the memories made. "It was fun to connect with a large part of the grade one more time before graduation," Lane said.

As the school year comes to end, students reflect on their spring break memories and anticipate upcoming summer travels.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" Wows Audiences



Photo Credit: Contributed

By Rylie Albert

From Thursday, April 3 through Saturday, April 5, the Marist Theater Company brought to life the incredible story of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

The story unfolds with Joseph, played by the incredibly

talented Charlie Kaufman, describing his illustrative dreams to the audience. Kaufman deserves all praise for his role as Joseph, for his voice poetically embodied Joseph's dreams and callings.

Continuing the story, Joseph is rich with his dreams that depict the future of lands or those

around him. Jacob, Joseph's father, favors Joseph greatly over his other eleven sons. Jacob gifts Joseph an "amazing technicolor dreamcoat" that the other brothers envy.

The brother's deep jealousy lead the other brothers to sell Joseph into slavery. Although Joseph finds himself in a difficult situation, he uses his dreams to guide him through the darkness.

Soon he comes in contact with the Pharaoh of Egypt where he describes his dream on how to end the famine. The Pharaoh takes Joseph under his wing as his right-hand-man. Soon after, Joseph's brothers appear in Egypt begging Joseph to save them even though they don't even realize it is him.

After testing their integrity, Joseph reveals to his brothers it is him and joins his family once again.

The Marist Theater Company outdid themselves with the numerous quick changes, emotive lighting, fun music, and incredible actors who all made the story feel special.

Sound Coordinator Lilly Chill described the process of the musical as a wonderful experience to make meaningful memories and watch the fruits of their labor grow. "Seeing the show come together after all the hard work everyone puts in is really cool. I've made some really close friends through the show, and it's been so fun working with them," Chill said.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" performed by the Marist Theater Company is one show to remember.

Lacrosse and Baseball

Turn to our Sports page where staff writer Katie Nussbaum and Editor John Elrod provide a rundown of the latest lacrosse and baseball news.

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Photo Credit: Department of Natural Resources



Photo Credit: Harcourt

Fascism Fighter

How did Nobel Prize laureate Albert Camus depict fascism in Nazi-occupied France. Staff writer Jude Norden reviews an important and timely work of literature in the Opinion section.

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Easter Around the World

By Grace McNary

Easter is a global celebration with many different customs shaped by local culture, climate, and traditions.

While Christians everywhere recognize it as the resurrection of Jesus, the way people celebrate can vary significantly from one place to another.

In some regions, Easter is a quiet time when people focus on attending church, spending time with family, and engaging in personal reflection through prayer. In other areas, Easter is a lively event filled with color, music, and food. These celebrations often last several days and involve entire neighborhoods or towns.

Common symbols during Easter include eggs, flowers, lambs, and rabbits, which represent new life and fresh beginnings.

In Europe and North America, egg hunts and decorating are very popular. Children wake up to baskets of chocolates, candies, and small gifts, and gardens and parks fill with pastel-colored eggs hidden in trees and bushes.

In Australia, the Easter Bilby, a native marsupial, replaces the bunny, raising awareness for endangered animals and promoting conservation through Easter merchandise. Elsewhere, Easter traditions can be more dramatic.

In the Philippines, towns perform detailed reenactments of the Easter story that draw large crowds and mix faith with community storytelling.

People in some places light bonfires to signify winter's end, decorate trees with eggs, or join in candlelit processions into the night. Streets come alive with music, drumming, and the aromas of traditional cuisine.

Food is central to Easter celebrations, with families gathering to enjoy meals that reflect their cultural heritage, which might include sweet breads, roasted meats, spiced cakes, or simple dishes prepared after fasting.

Despite the variety in customs, Easter has a central theme of bringing people together. Around the world, the holiday brings renewal, reflection, and hope as well as excitement, joy, and celebration.

Activity Period Adoration

By John Elrod

During activity period, many students around campus find comfort and peace in the chapel as they attend weekly Eucharistic Adoration. This special service, which aims to provide a space for students to pray and silently reflect during the school day, takes place every Friday and is usually lead by Father John Ulrich.

Activity period weekly adoration is unique to the Marist community and different from

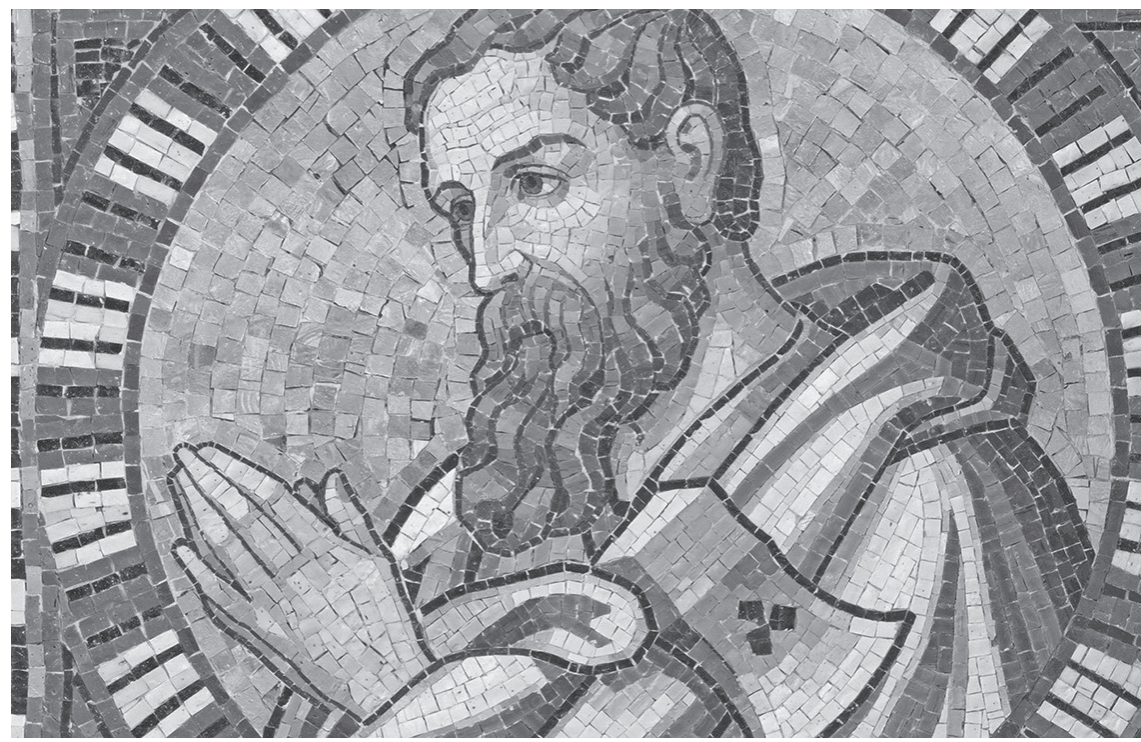


Photo Credit: Contributed

Saint Matthias: The Figure of Readiness for Growth

By Emma Schramm

Everybody knows the story of Jesus' passion and resurrection on Easter Sunday, but what happened after his ascension and blessing on Pentecost is often less known.

The apostles were down one, as Judas Iscariot committed suicide after the weight of his betrayal became too heavy for him. While they could have continued their ministry with eleven members, twelve is one of several special holy numbers, which was not lost on Peter, one of the three apostles Jesus trusted the most (the other two being James the Greater and John the Evangelist).

Having gathered 120 of Jesus's disciples in the Upper Room, Peter proposed adding a new apostle to the roster.

The position only had a few requirements: the new apostle must have been a disciple from Jesus's baptism in the Jordan all the way up to his resurrection. The new apostle could not

have abandoned Him when he was condemned to die. But how could the living apostles decide who to choose when their own placement in had been made by God himself?

Once it had been narrowed down to two men, Matthias and a man named Joseph called Barsabbas, the apostles cast lots, hoping God's will would shine through the winner. In the end, St. Matthias was chosen to be the newest of the twelve.

Unfortunately, not much is known about his life or ministry. It is thought that he mainly spread Christianity in Cappadocia and resided on the coast of the Caspian Sea, but another story suggests he stayed in Judea and was stoned and then beheaded.

Matthias is represented with an axe due to his martyrdom, and he is patron of alcoholics, carpenters, tailors, smallpox, Montana, Great Falls-Billings, Trier, hope, and perseverance. Perhaps Matthias' most distinguishing traits are his modesty,

his willingness to answer the call, and his readiness to grow through the challenges he faced.

While St. Matthias's life is uncertain, his presence in Biblical tradition is highly symbolic for the seasons of Lent and Easter. Lent is an opportunity to do away with the hurt and damage of the past year, a time to recon with and to forgive ourselves and others. It leads to Easter, the ultimate season of redemption, forgiveness, and growth.

In many ways, Matthias' ministry parallels the spirit and key objectives of Lent and the Easter Season.

While Judas allowed himself to be caught up in temptation and sin, he paved the way for Matthias, a good and righteous man, to be inducted into apostolic lore.

As you step into the new beginnings of Easter, make sure to remember St. Matthias's willingness to forgive and spread the Gospel.

Retreats Build Welcoming Leaders

Peer Leader Retreat and GLC Summit prepare to welcome newcomers



Photo Credit: Maureen Pasteris

By Anna Herrero

During Terms 2 and 3, the Peer Leader Program hosted its annual GLC Summit and Peer Leader Retreat. These retreats kick off preparations to welcome incoming students.

Faculty members Katherine Carroll, Maureen Pasteris, and Kyle McCaffery moderate the

program, which aims to combat the difficult transition into a new school by building a welcoming community for new students.

Grade Level Coordinators (GLCs) are responsible for leading peer groups and running meetings. As former peer leaders, they understand the mis-

sion of the program, bringing experience and enthusiasm to their roles.

GLC Sophia Valdez shared that the retreat helped her reconnect with that mission. "GLC Summit helped me discover my strengths as a leader alongside my peers," Valdez said.

Pasteris especially values the intentional conversations about leadership sparked at Summit. "My favorite part of the Summit is watching all of the GLCs make new friendships with each other and find their team energy," Pasteris said.

While Peer Leaders may begin unsure of themselves, Pasteris observes that "by the time they finish as a GLC, they are confident in their abilities and how they want to lead beyond Marist."

At the Peer Leader Retreat, Pasteris hoped students connected deeply with the pro-

Going Without During Lent

By Rex Nassah

Lent is a season of reflection and sacrifice in order to deepen one's relationship with God. Some choose to give up physical items while others focus on habits.

Many Marist students have used Lent to give up things they believe will be challenging for them. Often times, these things distract them from their faith.

Student John Elrod, a junior, took a different approach this year. "I gave up procrastination and putting important things off that could be done now," Elrod said. "It was hard at first, but I noticed I felt more in control and less stressed," he added.

For sophomore Ellyce Charles, the challenge was physical. "Only drinking water for 40 days was a mental challenge for me, but I'm glad I did it," Charles said. "It helped me realize how much I relied on sugary drinks and made me feel physically healthier," she added.

Other students gave up social media, junk food, or video games. A few students even focused on doing more acts of kindness instead of giving something up.

Whether it was a big or small change, many students said the experience helped them grow in discipline and faith. Junior Charlie Kaufman believed "he felt a sense of renewal."

In our community, Lent remains a special time where students take personal steps toward self-improvement, faith, and reflection, one sacrifice at a time.

a regular Mass. It is not necessarily a service, as there is no sermon or communion. "Adoration is more of an opportunity for students to pray and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation," said Fr. John Ulrich.

Last year, Fr. John was asked to provide a time for adoration during activity period in order to give students a chance to have a reflective time in an otherwise busy day.

Every Friday, Fr. John takes the Blessed Sacrament out of the tabernacle and places it on the altar. Because activity peri-



Photo Credit: Brian Collier

od is typically a busy time, students are free to come and go as they please and enjoy the peace of the chapel. There is no pressure for how much or how little time students spend with the Blessed Sacrament.

Fr. John stressed the importance of a spiritual break during the day. "The quiet of the chapel soothes people," he said. "Some people can pray the rosary, while others can quietly reflect."

Quiet, peaceful music is also played throughout activity period to encourage the right mind-

set and spiritual openness.

Junior Thomas Mastella shared his thoughts on adoration. "It gives us a chance to talk to Fr. John and to access a quiet space for prayer," he said. "It is easy to just show up and pray at any point of the activity period," Mastella added.

For those interested in attending adoration, they should plan on coming to the chapel on Fridays.

Historic LAX Season

By Katie Nussbaum

What a year for lacrosse!

The varsity boys lacrosse team has been dominating with one of the program's best seasons yet. They currently have a 12-3 record and rank 8th in the state so far. The varsity girls lacrosse team has also had an incredibly impressive season, facing many tough opponents and overcoming unexpected injuries.

Both the girls and boys teams are currently second in their region. As their seasons approach its close, let's recognize some of their biggest accomplishments.

Led by Coach Sean Dever and captains Paige Calhoun, Caitlin Mohrman, Cathrine Chandler, and Cameron Murray, the girls are coming off a 10-point win in a region game, which qualified them for the playoffs.

Their first playoff game is against Holy Innocents. When asked about highlights of the season, senior Paige Calhoun said her favorite moment was the "hard-fought victory in the very first game of the season, with an overtime win and a score of 12-11."

The boys lacrosse team, led by head coach Zach Bazemore, captain Mason Firestone, defensive captain Pierson Foy, and offensive captain Banks Bartelt, has also had a remarkable season.

Their largest loss margin were only 2 points against the fourth and fifth-best teams in the state. One of their most notable games was their 6-4 win over Blessed Trinity, who ranks tenth in the state. The varsity boys have an upcoming at-home game against St. Pius to determine who will win the region.

Both teams' strong bonds and leadership skills have been key to their successes, showing just how much dedication and teamwork can achieve. The energy at each game has been unmatched, with the War Eagle spirit and Marist Fam present.

Best of luck to lacrosse in their playoff run!

Distance Makes History

By Camille Gipson

One Mile. All out. Three hundred thirty-two competitors, 22 heats. Times ranging anywhere from 8 minutes to 3:59.79, to be exact.

On April 28, the Marist Mile brought together some of the fastest distance runners in the country for a night of pure speed, grit, and track magic. Hosted on our campus, this inaugural invitational featured top-tier athletes from across the state—all racing the mile, and only the mile.

Coach J. Clark Rivers, along-



Photo Credit: Contributed

TACO 'BOUT TRADITION

Touchdown Taco elevates school spirit to new heights, firing up the student section at every extracurricular event

By Kate Owens

Four years ago, a group of senior boys thought it would be funny to place a taco piñata on a stick and bring it to a football game. Thus began the tradition of the Touchdown Taco.

The taco has come to represent our school spirit and supportive community.

Each year, a new set of senior boys take pride in bringing energy and excitement to the student body. They show up with the Taco in the student section at many extracurricular events, whether it is a senior night, a rival basketball game, or a robotics competition.

This year, seniors Alex Morana, Tanner Postell, Patrick Roche, and Josh Stephenson took on the responsibility of preserving the Taco's legacy. They did not disappoint.

Postell shared his take on becoming a member of the Taco crew. "I joined the Touchdown

Taco because I really looked up to the guys who were a part of it last year," Postell said. "I loved how much support they showed at all of the Marist events, and they always seemed to have a great time while doing it," he added.

The Touchdown Taco is so much more than a taco piñata on a stick. It has played a part in many lasting memories for student-athletes this school year.

Waving the taco high in the air, starting crowd-favorite chants, and blasting music, the Taco group never fails to fire up the student section and electrify the night.

In anticipation of Friday night football games, the Touchdown Taco posts funny photos and "Almost Friday" captions to build excitement. At the center of the student section, the Taco crew is an essential part of the unforgettable atmosphere in Hughes Spalding Stadium.

To highlight another one of

the Taco's memorable turnouts this past fall, the crew headed all the way to Cartersville to cheer on the cross country team at their annual Wingfoot meet.

Not only did the Touchdown Taco and crew run all around the course, cheering loudly for each runner, but they also coordinated a white-out theme to hype up the student fans.

Postell commented on the electric atmosphere of the meet. "At the end, it felt like a concert where we were cheering for our team's success while they were on stage being recognized," Postell said.

Our school is famous for its deep well of student spirit, but the Touchdown Taco is a tradition like no other.

Post-Season Baseball Run

By John Elrod

Our school's baseball program has shown its strength and resilience repeatedly as it enters the playoff season.

The War Eagles have won ten straight games with a record of 25 wins and only 4 losses and are ranked third in the 4A division heading into their first playoff game against Benedictine on April 23.

With a 17-2 landslide victory over North Springs on April 17, Marist baseball strides into the playoffs on a hot streak.

Led by team captains and Wofford commits Noah Gerrick and Jack Euart, the War Eagles have not lost a game since March.

This success has not been without hardship. The program has had to navigate slumps and dry spells earlier in the season, losing tough games to powerful division rivals North Oconee and St. Pius X. These War Eagles, however, did not become discouraged.

Junior Colton Walker said he believed that the team's later success was inspired by these setbacks. "Our biggest achievement so far has been turning it around after the Pius loss and winning out, beating some of the best teams in the state," Walker said.

It is important for the team to move into the playoffs with confidence and focus, added Walker. "The attitude for the playoffs is confidence and trust in our preparation," he said. "We don't want to get caught up in the future or what could be."

One of Our Own Rises to the Top



Photo Credit: Vladyslav Yarosh

By Cosette Lane

The Gatorade Player of the Year award recognizes the nation's most elite high school students for their athletic excellence, academic achievement, and exemplary character.

Past winners include legends such as Candace Parker, Breanna Stewart, and Paige Bueckers,

players who went on to dominate in college, the pros, and even the Olympic stage.

This year, Kate Harpring steps into that spotlight.

On March 13, 2025, Gatorade announced junior shooting guard Kate Harpring as its 2024-2025 Georgia Girls Basketball Gatorade Player of the Year. The announcement made

Harpring only the fifth Georgia student to take home the prestigious award.

Harpring reflected on what it means to join some of the biggest names in girls basketball. "I was honored and thankful to be recognized for all the hard work I put in to get this award," Harpring said. "It reminds me of how many girls are so talented, and that I am happy to be considered one of them," she added.

On the court, Harpring led the War Eagles to a 29-3 record and a 4A state semifinal appearance averaging 32.2 points and 10.6 rebounds per game.

Harpring also has already reached 2,000 career points and 500 career rebounds with still another season of high school basketball left to play. She concluded her junior year with 2,533 points in her prep basketball career.

Beyond her impressive per-

formance on the court, Harpring's success extends further into our school and our campus community.

Harpring volunteers often with the Sandwich Project, which distributes meals to food-insecure people in our community. Such work demonstrates Harpring possesses the same level of commitment to her character and community as she does to her athletic performance.

Aware of her inspiring role, Harpring had some advice to younger athletes. "Work hard and it will pay off," Harpring shared.

Kate Harpring's story highlights that true success comes from a balance of skill, character, and relentless effort.

side Coaches Kevin Lisle and Matt McMurray, spent months conceptualizing and constructing the meet, ensuring its high caliber of competition.

The energy was absolutely unmatched as Lisle pointed out. "The best track meet that I have ever been to," Lisle said simply.

"DJ Chosen," also known as Ansley Cho, and MBC's David Owens spent the evening behind the DJ table and anchor stand. They entertained the audience and broadcasted the event to the loyal fans at home.

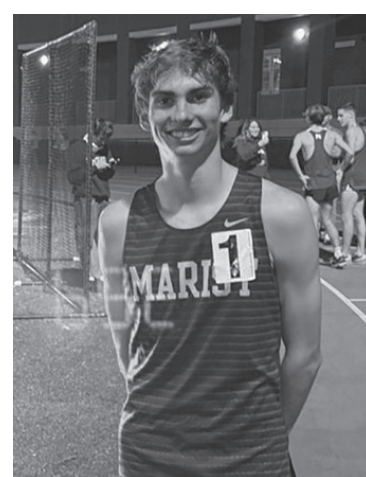


Photo Credit: Tom Reim

The most memorable moment from the night was Tommy Latham's historic sub-4 performance. Supported by hundreds of his class- and teammates, Latham joined the exclusive club of only 25 high schoolers to ever achieve this feat, clocking a time of 3:59.79.

All in all, most of the runners who competed in the meet achieved a personal best, with standout performances by Maeve Waddell, Morgan Waddell, and Andrew Stricklin, who all achieved Milesplit "Elite Performance" distinctions.

As the sun set over the track, though, it wasn't about the fast times or personal bests. The Marist Mile was about demonstrating what is so special about our school.

We put blood, sweat, and tears into everything we do on the field, court, track or classroom. We cheer each other on as we reach incredible heights, heights that nobody can reach alone.

No Oscar “Nickel Boys”

By Luke Childs

Something does not sit quite right with me knowing that Ramell Ross’ “Nickel Boys” did not win a single accolade at the recent Academy Awards. While I recognize that there were some deserving films – some spectacular ones – anyone who has seen “Nickel Boys” knows it deserved some formal recognition.

True, the winning films were worthy, but when two spectacular works go head-to-head and one falls short, it feels unjust.

Back in 1981, “Ordinary People” won over “Raging Bull,” a bittersweet close call between two heavyweights. I bring that up to reinforce my point: “Nickel Boys” is a masterpiece. Every element excels: its unique first-person perspective, masterful score, and lingering interpersonal shots.

Walking out of the small 30-seat theater where I saw it, I immediately thought of “Birdman” and “Moonlight,” films that, like “Nickel Boys,” succeed through perspective and purposeful framing.

The technical parallels between “Birdman” and “Nickel Boys” are clear. “Birdman” keeps its camera locked on Riggan Thomson, filtering everything through his experience. We don’t get objective reality; we get Riggan’s reality. “Nickel Boys” does something similar through Elwood and Turner.

That’s what I first noticed: deeply human stories told through unique visual lenses. But “Nickel Boys” is not only technique; it’s the fusion of craft and emotion that makes it unforgettable.

There’s something more, something you feel. Beyond technical links, there is that gut-level reaction, that quiet recognition. “Moonlight” and “Nickel Boys” share an essence—kindred spirits shaped from the same raw material.

Both are told through young Black men and explore identity, survival, and being seen. They don’t beg for empathy; they demand presence.

The quiet, crushing intimacy: No monologues or swelling scores; only stillness, silence, and emotion.

The beauty of broken boys: Both films show Black boys navigating brutality but never defined then only by their pain. What remains is their tenderness, belief, and connection.

The atmosphere as emotion: “Moonlight” is soaked in blues and purples; it turns pain into something dreamlike and strangely beautiful. “Nickel Boys” is more restrained: the warmth of memory, the cold light of truth, the hush of buried grief. It’s quiet but devastating.

So watch “Nickel Boys.” When the credits roll, don’t mourn its lack of awards. You and I know its worth is measured not in golden statues but in weight and in truth it tells.

Earlier Summer or Longer Breaks Between Terms?

By Ella Weber

Picture this: The sun is shining in late May, the air is humid, and most schools are already on summer break. Marist students want to enjoy the summer too, but our exams don’t end until the first days of June.

This was our reality until our schedule changed with the 2024-2025 school year. These changes, however, have forced students to answer this question: What do we value most: earlier summer or longer breaks between terms?

The general opinion among students is negative about the new schedule, and the complaints are more specific than meet the eye. Having a break between terms proved very important for students who felt exhausted after a busy exam week.

Lauren Greenhill stated her opinion. “We can’t rest and organize ourselves before a new term,” she explained. Hadley Mathers and Ava Marsh shared similar sentiments. “It’s much harder to go back to school after only a long weekend following exams,” they shared.

After this stressful exam week, students lamented the loss of schola brevis every term.



Photo Credit: Brian Collier

To the students, schola brevis has many benefits. They can meet teachers, their class, go over materials, and go over the syllabus.

Becca Jose gave her thoughts on the schedule without schola brevis. “Students’ minds are scrambled without schola brevis at the beginning of each term because it helps them ease into their new schedules and gets them organized for their classes” she stated.

Another inconvenient aspect of the new schedule is the two weeks between a new term and a break.

At the beginning of Term 2, students went to school for two

weeks; then had Thanksgiving break. Similarly, at the start of Term 3, students attended class for two weeks before leaving for spring break.

Having only two weeks of classes before a week-long break resulted in teachers having to cram whole units into those two weeks. Then, on the Thursday or Friday before break, many classes have tests and quizzes because the teachers have no other choice but to give assessments.

Caroline Spies vocalized her frustration with this development. “On that last Friday, everyone has tests because testing after break is extremely difficult. Teachers simply cannot give more time,” she declared.

These busy two weeks cause stress among the students’ schedules instead of allowing for class schedules to be more spread out.

To most students, the good does not outweigh the bad when it comes to the new schedule. Everyone will surely be glad when school ends before Memorial Day, but the turbulent transitions between terms makes this benefit seem insignificant.

The Author’s Greatest Weapon

By Jude Norden

After Nazis occupied his homeland of France, Albert Camus fought fascism with his deadliest weapon: the pen.

Camus’ 1947 novel “The Plague” begins with Dr. Bernard Rieux discovering large numbers of dead rats in his hometown of Oran, Algeria. Rieux soon begins treating countless patients, all showing signs of the bubonic plague.

Mayhem ensues. Trains are shut down. Armed guards are placed at the gates, and town officials order a complete quarantine of the coastal city, all while citizens continue to die daily.

“The Plague” then explores how the people of the city react, eventually ending with a lift of the quarantine and a return to normalcy in Oran.

Readers today, of course, can draw many parallels to their own lives, given the complete shutdown of the world during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

The work is extremely dense and loaded with Camus’ absurdist philosophy. What makes this novel so beautiful, though, is its powerful allegorical message that encapsulates the decades of the 1930s and 1940s.

Camus uses the plague as a metaphor for the rise and spread of fascism: sudden, destructive, and indifferent to human life. Like fascism, the plague divides, isolates, and paralyzes entire communities with fear, just as Mussolini, Hitler, and Franco did when they seized power so aggressively.

But “The Plague” is ultimately a novel about resistance. The characters who stand out are not those who fear monger and preach how the world is ending, but those who act.

Dr. Rieux stands as a symbol of rationality and responsibility, doing his part to help the people of Oran by providing medical aid.

Camus himself participated in the French Resistance during World War II. His novel reflects his belief that, even in the face of seemingly unstoppable evil, people must resist.

As the plague fades, Rieux notes that the disease may return when the townspeople least expect it. So, too, can fascism, attacking a society when it least expects it, dividing man against man, preaching a gospel of hatred, bigotry, and arbitrary superiority.

“The Plague” serves as Camus’ constant reminder to the world that the fuel for fascism – or any ideology that preaches hate – is the silence of good people.

“Sinners” in Theaters Now



Photo Credit: Warner Bros. Pictures

By Marshall Lisenby

Sinners, Ryan Coogler’s newest release, is a wonderful breath of fresh air in a bogged down film industry. The film provides a unique and refreshing cinema experience.

The film follows twin WWI veterans Smoke and Stack (both played by Michael B. Jordan) turned Chicago mobsters after the war. The brothers return to their home in the Mississippi Delta to open a juke joint for their local Black community.

Following their journey as they secure an old sawmill and reassert their power back home, the movie begins as an intense Southern crime drama. With immense accuracy to the historical Jim Crow-era of the setting, Smoke and Stack use violence and intimidation to establish themselves, all with the goal of building a haven in which their people, burdened by sharecropping and oppression, can dance and party as one.

Sammie, the twins’ cousin, is a preacher’s boy with a desire to

pursue a life in music, guided by his guitar and adept ability for the blues. Bailing on helping at the church to leave for town to work along side his criminal cousins, Sammie’s father warns him: “If you keep dancing with the devil, one day he’s gonna follow you home.”

Coogler masterfully transforms this gritty crime film into thrilling folk horror, as he integrates ancient tales and traditions of vampires, spirits, and the taboo, staying true to the preacher father’s fearful words.

Suspense is an understatement for the thrill this movie provides. During my first watch, I found myself continually teetering on the edge of my seat, glued to the tension, gore, and unforgettable violence that begets the second half of the movie.

Returning to form, Coogler invests deeply in the establishment of each character in the plot, which he upends throughout the climax as no character finds themselves safe in the aftermath of the retribution paid

out to them at the opening night of their juke joint of lust and sin.

Not only does Coogler dive deeply into the folk history and tradition of the Mississippi Delta Black community but the film also explores the binding nature of music as it has evolved throughout human history.

Sammie may be a master of the blues, but his tunes transcend time as his work follows the path of many musicians of every style who came long before him. Music of every style is omnipresent in the film, resulting in a dynamic score that complements the suspense and intrigue of the film itself.

Sinners is a visceral and energetic film that is purely distinctive in its approach to cinematography and plot design, creating an exciting and new cinematic experience that I recommend for anyone to watch. Enjoy the journey with Smoke and Stack through the haunted Jim Crow South, populated by vampires.

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