

## Greater Lowell Tech float a hit at parade

### GLTHS float a hit

TYNGSBORO — **Greater Lowell Technical** High School students helped make the Lowell City of Lights parade a little brighter.

For the past several years, the school has had a float made primarily by students that has been one of the highlights of the parade. **Greater Lowell Tech** students again presented an impressive display that not only helped put the finishes touches on the event, but also earned the distinction of being named Most Creative by the organizers of the parade. Joey Merrick, a senior Carpentry student from Dracut, said the float project was a terrific experience. Joey, like most of the students involved, said he worked on just about every aspect of the float.

“I did a little bit of

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**GLTHS/** From Page B4 everything, pretty much,” said Joey, who plans to attend college next fall with hopes to study Engineering. “It was definitely fun. There was a lot of creativity involved, everybody working together and trying to solve problems. At the end, it came out really good.”

Carpentry Instructor John Maslowski, the float adviser, said the project took three weeks to complete and involved several different shops, including Carpentry, Painting and Design, Plumbing, and Electrical. More than 60 students participated.

Maslowski, who came to **Greater Lowell Tech** in 2000, said the school has contributed to the parade every year since then.

This year, Maslowski came up with a theme based around a Disney castle, and the idea blossomed from there.

“We had a bridge, a Christmas tree, huge towers on the castle, and Plumbing ran some piping for a built-in fog machine and we had fog coming out of the floor,” Maslowski said. “We got a lot done. The students really took it in this year. It was a good project.”

He praised the project for bringing several shops together, and talked about the strengths of teamwork, imagination and problem-solving.

“As far as a collaboration of talent between Electrical, Plumbing, Painting and Carpentry, you won’t see those talents come out of any other project,” he said. “And when they go (to the parade) as graduates with nieces or cousins, or when they bring their own kids, they can say, ‘We built that when we were there, too.’ It’s good.”

Senior Jonel Barrasquillo of Lowell enjoyed the experience and the fact that the project took several twists and turns before completion.

“It was a big team effort,” said Jonel, who hopes to pursue a career in carpentry after high school. “We

had an idea of what we wanted, but everything kept changing day by day. The outcome was great, I liked being a part of it.”



Greater Lowell’s student-built float participated in Lowell’s recent City of Lights parade. It won the award for Most Creative Float.

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