

Welcome back Marist! Have a great semester!

THE CIRCLE

Semester preview

The student newspaper of Marist College

September 4, 1997

Class of 2001 takes Marist by storm

Quality of incoming students represents new level for institution

by MICHAEL GOOT
Editor-in-chief

Marist has been growing as an institution for several years and this year's freshmen class represents another chapter in that growth.

The class of 2001 is the most academically talented ever, according to Kent Rinehart, assistant director of admissions.

The incoming classes' average GPA is 87.5 percent and average SAT score is 1100. The majority of students are in the top one-third of their graduating class.

Rinehart said admissions can not solely take credit for recruiting this most talented class ever.

"Although the admissions office does a lot of leg work and makes a lot of contact with families, we certainly would not be as successful as we are without the help of the entire Marist community," he said.

Rinehart said better students are being attracted to Marist because the college has undergone a tremendous transformation in the past few years.

"Under Dr. Murray's leadership, the college has improved its facilities substantially," he said. "We've brought in some new, high-powered faculty."

More people seem interested in Marist. Rinehart said the college received 5064 applications this year. Of those students, only 940 were initially accepted.

"Keeping our acceptance level at the same or less than last year, we continue to be more selective in the number we're admitting," he said.

Dennis J. Murray, president

of Marist College, said, in addition to academics, the college is also looking for students who have demonstrated leadership abilities whether it be in school activities, their community or church.

"All these things tell us that these students are going to make a positive contribution to Marist," he said.

According to Rinehart, admissions was hoping to enroll 870 students. As of Aug. 27, 920 students said they were going to come to Marist, down from 940 on May 1. He also said the college may lose a few more students by the end of the first week.

Rinehart said the over-enrollment coupled with the fact that 200 more students than expected requested to live on campus, created a housing crunch. He said this may not be as bad a situation as it may initially seem.

"I hope people realize that this is a nice problem to have," he said. "Only 15 percent of colleges [nationwide] had their classes filled on May 1."

Murray also said the college is going to have to become more residential in response to students demand for on-campus housing.

Murray said in the past one-third of the student body did not have a problem with living off-campus. Because of improvements to the campus, students' desires have changed.

"More students want to live here and that's caused a problem," he said.

Murray said the college will probably be building more housing within the next five years.

Another change the freshmen can look forward is the completion of a new library in 1999. Murray said the new facility will add a centrality to the campus and make Marist a more competitive institution.

The biggest majors continue to be communications, psychology, and education. Rinehart said this year there is also a modest increase in the number of political science and biology majors.

One statistic that may be surprising is that the incoming class is 45 percent male and 55 percent female.

According to Rinehart, this is actually following the national trend. He said more females seem to be interested in the type of school Marist represents.

"A larger proportion of females are attracted to a small college atmosphere like Marist," he said.

Rinehart also said that Marist might be hindered because it does not have an engineering program, a field that typically attracts males. However, it has strong psychology and educational programs, which attract females.

Rinehart said the admissions office is working to get the ratio back to fifty-fifty. It has also been working over the last several years to increase its minority representation. This year, there are 88 students of color coming in, up from about 70 to 75 students last year.

Rinehart said the college runs a number of programs to attract students from minority groups. For example, it brings students up from New York City to view



Circle Photo/Michael Goot

GETTING SETTLED—Freshmen Charles Vitchers gets a little help moving into his room in Sheahan Hall.

the college.

Rinehart said the college would like to increase its minority representation even more, but it is facing tough competition with other colleges.

"We are trying to increase that [number] even more, but the difficulty is all colleges are trying to do this," he said.

In the future, Rinehart would like to recruit more from Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. He would also like to see the number of applications rise to 5200 or more.

If the statistics hold true to last year, of the 820 students admitted, 66 percent will stay at Marist for four years and receive a diploma. This is actually above the national graduation rate of 41 percent.

Rinehart said students seem comfortable with the atmosphere of Marist and the number of support services it offers such as the mentoring, academic advising, the counseling center and the writing center.

"I have yet to see a college offer the things that Marist does," he said.

Also, financial aid is a crucial part of the equation.

"Financial aid, in many ways attracts a student to a college and may be a way to keep them once they're here," he said.

He said some colleges offer a lot of aid in the first year and then cut it back substantially.

"We do everything we can to keep the aid stable throughout the four years," he said.

Rinehart said 80 percent of students receive some form of financial aid.

Murray said his advice to the incoming freshmen would be that they learn self-discipline.

"The big problem students have making the transition to college is the newly-found independence they have," he said. "In order to succeed in college, it requires more self-discipline and the ability to organize your time much more so than high

Please see FRESHMEN, page 3...

Students complain about furniture quality in Gartland

by STEPHANIE MERCURIO
Managing Editor

Prejudice is apparent on campus.

Out of the four sections in Gartland Commons, only the D section has received new furniture to replace the ancient furniture that is present in the other three sections.

Anthony Fusari, assistant to the director of housing, as well as the resident director of Gartland and Talmadge Court, said there were financial constraints in obtaining new furniture for every section.

"Furniture is very expensive," he said. "There were also other projects Housing was dealing with other than furniture, such as replacing the plumbing in Leo."

Fusari said there was only enough money for one section.

"We could only buy the furniture for D and extra furniture for all of the build-ups we had this year," he said.

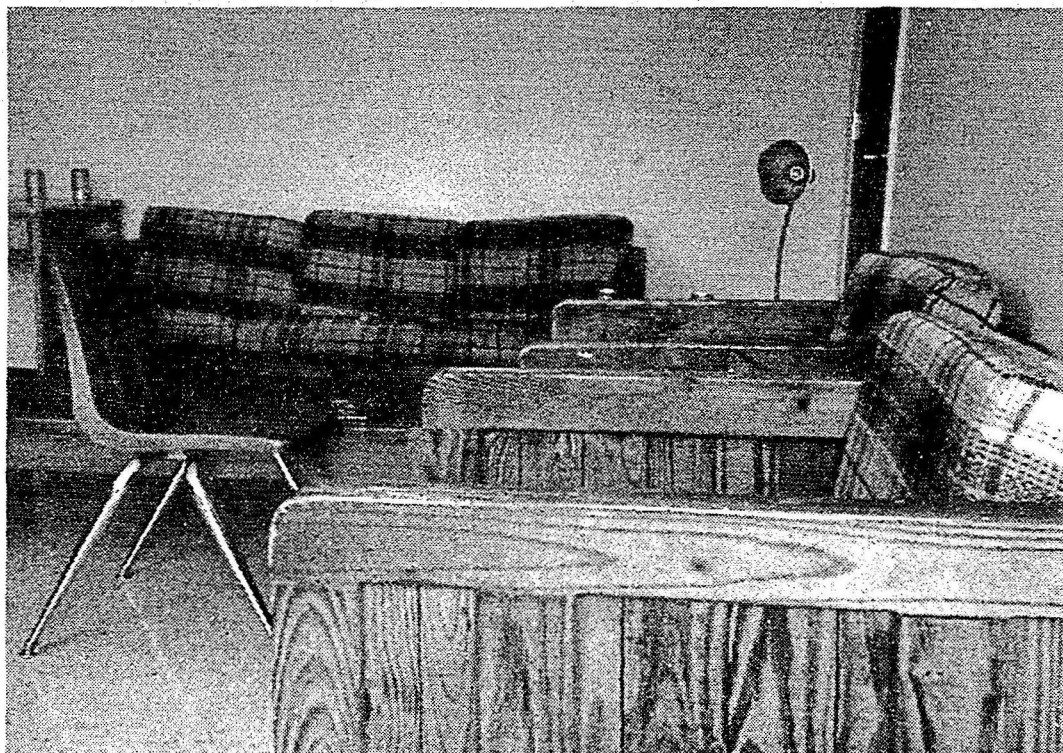
However, the offices of Tony Campilii, chief finance officer, and Dean Cox, would not release information on the exact cost of the furniture, or the housing budget for this year.

Junior Allyson Travis lives in the G section.

"I definitely do not think it is fair that only one section received new furniture," she said. "I expect that all of Gartland will have new furniture next year, however."

Fusari said that is not the case. "Personally, I hope to have a part of the E section redone next year," he said. "It is a very slow process. We need to sit down and discuss our overall strategy."

Travis said she thinks the old



Circle Photo/Michael Goot

The housing office has limited budget for furniture. Some furniture on campus is getting old and need to be replaced like the couches in Gartland Commons, section E seen here.

Freshmen move in, anxious to see if college meets their expectations

by GYNA SLOMCINSKY
Feature Editor

The class of 2001 has come on board at Marist College with great expectations.

For some, the college seemed busy with people and anticipation.

Spencer Hughes, a freshman computer science major, said he was absorbed with the commotion going on.

"When I first got onto campus, it was really big with a lot of people running around," he said.

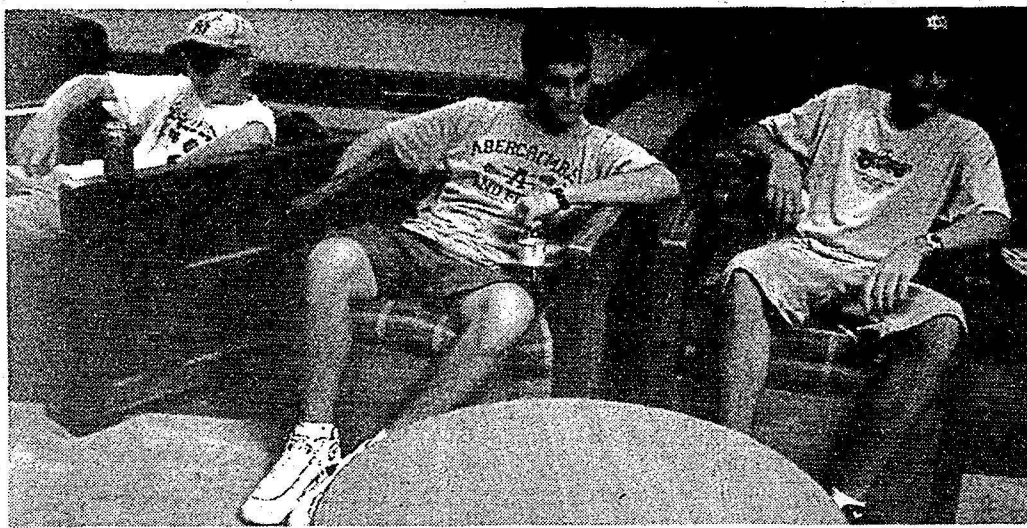
For others, parts of the college did not meet up to the expectations.

Melissa Schilling, a freshman public relations major, said Leo Hall wasn't the way she pictured.

"I thought Leo Hall would be nicer," she said. "When I visited the school, I saw Champagnat and I thought my dorm would have all the micro-waves and pool tables. I was a little disappointed."

Several of the sports teams and clubs on campus helped the freshmen move in by carrying some of their belongings.

Schilling said this was helpful. "It is good for you and your parents, especially with the



Circle Photo/Michael Goot

TAKING A BREAK—From left to right, freshmen Pat Mannetho, Joe Labieniec and Pete Moylan relax in Leo lounge after a hard day of moving in last Sunday.

heavier stuff," she said.

One of the new experiences freshmen go through is meeting their roommate(s) and friends.

For Schilling, it was a long awaited time.

"I was so anxious to meet my roommate," she said.

Hughes said that meal times were a good place to meet people.

"At dinner, you just introduce yourself and take it from there," he said.

During their first few days, the

class of 2001 attended several meetings with various deans and their own dorms about the college and the different policies. Other meetings attended included one about sexual violence and date rape.

Both Hughes and Schilling said the meetings were a good idea.

"The meetings were good because some people needed to hear what they said," Hughes said.

"The sexual harassment meet-

ing wasn't a waste of time," Schilling said. "It is a big issue and should be shown to everyone. Sexual harassment is a problem everywhere on several campuses."

When coming to college as a freshmen people are told that they will not be babied anymore.

Hughes said this statement is not true.

"They really do not baby you, but there are people there for you," he said. "Our R.A. is al-

ways walking around and the mentor has come to talk to us telling us that the mentors and advisors are here for us."

Schilling said that there are some privileges that were taken away.

"I was not told about the curfew for freshmen," she said. "I do not like the idea that I can not have anyone from another dorm spend the night. It does not seem fair."

For several of the freshmen, the night life at Marist is also a new experience. One of the most talked about parts of the night life is the one dollar cab rides.

Hughes said this was a great idea. "You are able to get a safe ride to different places," he said. "Because it is only one dollar, more students are going to take advantage of them."

Schilling agreed with Hughes, but said there are too many students trying to leave at one time.

"I heard of the cabs before I came to Marist, but when I went to use one the other night, there were so many people waiting for the cabs," she said. "The cab drivers pile everyone in the cabs."

Campus planning cable upgrade to accommodate student channel surfers

by BEN AGOES
News Editor

Marist administrators are seeking to expand cable television service on campus in order to equalize the number of channels offered at Talmadge Court and main campus, but changes may not be seen before next semester or even Fall 1998.

On-campus students currently can surf 14 cable television channels, not including MCTV 12 and Channel 13, the instructional channel, but students living at Talmadge Court can choose from nearly 30 channels. The discrepancy is because television service at Talmadge is from an independent cable company, whereas main campus television is received from satellite and then rebroadcast.

Tim Lawton, Marist telecommunications analyst, oversees television service for the entire campus. He said he has been working on a plan to expand cable service for on-campus students since Marist bought Talmadge Court.

"When we put Talmadge in, I wanted to equalize the service between there and campus," he said. "My biggest interest is to equalize the services and give students as much for as little as possible."

Lawton said he worked closely with the student life council last May to conduct a survey on what channels students wanted and how much they would be willing to pay for expanded service.

The surveys were distributed to resident student council members and asked responders to rate 25 channels based on

preference. The top 10 channels out of 222 returned surveys were USA, E!, VH1, TBS, ESPN2, the Weather channel, Lifetime, MSG, TNT and Nickelodeon.

Lawton said new channels will be introduced in two phases. The first phase will introduce five new channels and could be as soon as next semester. It would cost between \$10 and \$12. The second phase would occur the following semester and would introduce five more channels to the roundup, but there would be no additional charge.

The 10 new channels, Lawton said, would be chosen from the top survey picks. But no new surveys are officially scheduled.

Steve Napolitani, junior, said more programming is long overdue. "I miss all the New York Yankee games during the pennant race

because a lot of their games are on MSG. I am not able to watch them because of the limited amount of channels," he said. "At home I have 76 channels and that's just basic service. I can't understand why we can't have the basic channels offered to us."

Wendy Kenerson, senior, president of the student life council, was instrumental in distributing and collecting last May's survey. She said she had mixed feelings about the effectiveness of the survey because most of those who responded were RSC members and most lived on south campus.

"I thought it was effective in deciding what students wanted," she said. "We could have done better by filling out more surveys and distributing more."

One of the biggest problems she said was that the council was given only one week to complete the survey.

Lawton said the survey was good, despite any problems.

"I think I was pleased with the response, but I understood it was limited," he said.

Napolitani said he did not receive a survey last May and was concerned whether the survey represented the majority of on-campus students.

"If you're going to conduct a survey then it should be put in all the mailboxes," he said. "Otherwise it's not a real survey. What if nobody in student life [council] likes sports, but I do, and I want MSG?"

Students can contact Tim Lawton with channels they would like to see by email: urtl@maristc.marist.edu.

Limited budget hinders furniture upgrade

...continued from page 3

furniture is disgusting.

"Our furniture now is terrible; new furniture would make the entire house look much better than it does now," she said.

Christine Constantinou said she loves the new furniture in her house.

"The furniture is great, very comfortable and nice colors," she said. "I think we were very lucky to receive the furniture, but I also think everyone else should get it, too."

Constantinou said there were some problems with the furniture.

"In a way, the dressers and beds are too big for the rooms," she said. "Overall, it is really nice, though."

Junior Megan O'Donnell also lives in the G section.

"I do not understand why they have it and we do not," she said. "Our furniture is falling apart; my drawer always gets

stuck, and our couch is disgusting."

Travis said she does not understand the financial situation.

"We pay the same amount as the other students in Gartland," she said. "We should all have the same furniture."

O'Donnell said she did not think it was fair.

"I just do not know why we do not all have the same furniture," she said.

Fusari said he was personally interested in organizing a group of students to tackle the furniture problem.

"I would like students to help contribute to an overall strategy in dealing with the furniture, as well as judge the overall satisfaction and recommend a plan to take with next year's furniture," he said.

Fusari said students should contact him if they are interested in discussing the furniture situation.



Circle Photo/Michael Goot

FINALLY DONE—The exterior of James J. McCann Recreation Center Annex seen here to the right is completed. The \$2 million expansion will have a new weight room, an aerobics studio and additional locker space for athletes. Work on the interior has been delayed to the unusually humid weather hindering the pouring of concrete.

Editorial

A Word to the Freshmen: Spend Your Time Wisely

Welcome class of 2001. You will be the first class to graduate in the third millennium. (The new millennium does not start until 2001 because there was no year 0 in the calendar.) You represent Marist's most academically talented-class ever. Best wishes for a prosperous and successful school year. As new freshmen, it will take you a while to get adjusted to the new surroundings. If you came from a small family like I did, with me being the only child, it may be difficult for you to get used to having to live in a dorm with other students, whose priorities and wants may not exactly match your own. Whether it be waiting in line to take a shower, or having to put up with someone blaring music so loud that the walls are shaking, these are things that are going to take time to get used to. You are also going to be faced with rising expecta-

tions. Professors will demand more than perhaps your high school teachers. You will get away with less. You are entering into adulthood, and you have to prove that you are worthy of the title. Perhaps the biggest challenge will be facing yourself. There are not always going to be people to tell you what to do. You are going to have to make your own choices and be responsible for the consequences. Many college students choose to consume large quantities of alcohol. Not the mention the fact that many are breaking the law, this activity is also consuming large quantities of time. Time is a very precious commodity. Make the most of it. Don't waste it with this kind of gluttonous activity. Don't be one of the drunken students. Don't follow the crowd. Do what you think is right. You don't need to use alcohol to have fun. Find other things to do. Be creative.

Marist offers 60 clubs and organizations and clubs, sports, and other activities such as movie nights, comedy clubs, coffee houses, socials, and lectures. These activities can be much more rewarding than indulging in alcohol. If you want to form true friendships, you have to get to know a person's inner thoughts and feelings. You can't do that being drunk. Remember, your primary purpose here is to receive an education. Don't jeopardize your academic success. Freshmen sometimes get caught up in the heat of the moment. Then, they realize too late that their grades are slipping. Stay level-headed. And finally, if you are having a problem talk to one of the people that is here working for you, an RD, and RA, a mentor, academic adviser, coach, the counseling center. They're here to help.

They Came, They Went, They Conquered

by **TIM MANSON**
Opinion Editor

Okay here it is: if you build it, they will come. Seriously. If you build it they will come. After waiting in a line of cars four miles long, I stepped out of my car at the entrance to The Great Went. I turned around to see the line of cars at the end of "Field of Dreams" put to shame. We were told by the gate attendant that the line had just recently surpassed ten miles. This was the beginning and the end of my summer. Most people in the past who were in my position (which is writing a column every week about themselves) have written this particular article about what they did with their summer. I too had planned to follow this ordinary, unoriginal route until I saw Phish at Loring Air Force Base in Limestone, Maine. Don't get me wrong, I had a great summer. I lived on Martha's Vineyard, had a cool job, blah, blah, blah. But the moment I got to Phish I knew that it would be the subject of this column. The problem, though, is trying to describe it. During the third set of the first day my friends and I were about fifty feet from Phish when they threw on four or five huge spotlights over the crowd. See, now here's the problem. How can I describe to you what I felt as I looked back to see at least 200,000 kids dancing in pure ecstasy. (Not on pure ecstasy, although quite a few of them might have been, just ecstatic.) This was the problem all weekend because everything was just so impressive. My friends and I have had at least 10 to 15 people ask each of us how the show was and the responses have never been much more than "unbelievable," or "incredible," or an occasional "amazing." So what I've decided it comes down to is this: we couldn't just sit there and explain every little detail of everything that was good at the show because it would take two hours. Just as I can't sit here and explain everything because it would be much longer than any of you would care to read. But obviously I'm going to try to give you some highlights. (Cocky writers always think they can describe the indescribable.) The first day we were there (after a night of sleeping in the car because of the torrential downpours) we set up our tents and met our neighbor Tom who had been on vacation from his company for the last 12 days. Tom followed Phish and ate mushrooms every day of his vacation from what I think was a very good job. The funny thing was, though, that he looked nothing like a person with a job, or even like someone with any prospects of getting his next meal. So we looked a little deeper and realized he was probably telling the

truth because of his very expensive backpack and accessories and camping gear. I know it doesn't sound like much of a reason to believe him, but he was pretty believable so we trusted he was telling the truth. The point I'm trying to make was that Tom was a Phishhead, but he had a real job, but it didn't matter. Walking down the main strip where some of the nicest people I've ever met were selling grilled cheeses and clothing and of course the necessary "used for tobacco only" pipes and bongos, there was more diversity than one could imagine. You'd literally go from hearing four guys freestyle rap and beat box to the Grateful Dead to Nine Inch Nails all in a matter of about a 20 second walk. And there were no problems. Not one fight, not one misunderstanding, not one violent occurrence in two days of 200,000 people packed in to one small area. There's got to be something said for that. But that's the way it was and always is at these shows. It's like there's this special aura about the shows that makes everything better than it would be normally. (And it wasn't the drugs, not that I took any.) I'll give you one last attempted description at the perfection that was this show before I finish the column. Just close your eyes and try to imagine Maine on the border of Canada in the middle of nowhere. No big city lights so there were stars smeared all over the sky. Full moon. (Not that it looked like a full moon, but might not have been, but definitely a full moon. I checked.) Second day, last set of a two day six set show: You're in the middle of the crowd, 100 feet from the stage and just as Trey looks up at the end of one of the lines to "Prince Caspian," a shooting star roars perfectly over the stage. This is not fiction ladies and gentlemen, it is perfection. My friends and I checked with others after the star was gone and everyone we asked said they saw it too. So there you have it, my effort to describe a show that you really had to be at to know what I'm saying. But I think I did a good job for the space allotted to me. (Cocky writers always think they did a good job.) And I just want to say to all the people reading this who really wanted to go but couldn't for one reason or another that I'm not trying to rub it in, I was just trying to tell everyone the way it Went. **Read the Circle every Thursday!** ...starting in two weeks



Circle Art/Sue Goodwin

Freshmen will leave their mark on Marist

...continued from page 1 school." Murray also said the quality of students attending Marist continues to be very good. "I'm very proud of the type of students we have," he said. "Most of the faculty tell me those dedicated to their work and here to learn." Anthony Vercelli, a freshman from New Hampshire, said he was attracted to the surroundings. "I really liked the campus," he said. "The program seemed really strong too." Tim Sorensen said he chose Marist because he was offered a music scholarship and the location of the campus. "It's far enough away from home where I can get away, but close enough where I can go home for the weekend," he said.

The Circle Wants You!

The Circle is having its first meeting of the year for old and new staff members. We are particularly looking for:

Staff Writers: (News, Focus, Feature, Sports)	Graphic Artists
Web Page Editor	Photographers
Distribution Manager	Opinion writers
Ad Sellers	Pollers

Come to our meeting on:
Wednesday, September 10
9:30 p.m. in Donnelly 237 (Lecture Hall)

Questions? Call Michael Goot at ext. 4134.

Sports at Marist, From A to Z

by **STEVE MANCZYK**
Sports Editor

A is for Allen. Tailback J.J. Allen heads into his junior season at Marist hoping to improve on his team-leading 10 TDs last fall.

B is for basketball. 'Nuff said.

C is for Cameron, Matt. The rookie coach injected the men's lacrosse team with a new enthusiasm last spring, despite losing several heartbreakers.

D is Deckaj, Paul. Pronounced "Dutch-guy." He needs only ten yards to become Marist's all-time leading kick returner.

E is for ECAC. Our swimmers and divers are always among the top finishers at this conference's highly competitive final meet.

F is for Facelift. The James J. McCann Recreation Center received a \$3 million facelift, which will benefit the entire student body.

G is for Golf. We don't have a golf team here. (Huh?) But there are several decent courses in the area for all y'all.

H is for Hatton, Bobby Joe. The poor man's Allen Iverson enters his junior season at point guard for the men's basketball team.

I is for Intramurals. Find yourself some ringers and get out there on the court, you lazy sloth. And remember—defense wins championships.

J is for Jean-Marie Lesko. The men's basketball team isn't the only McCann resident with a high-scoring guard. Lesko can light it up from downtown.

K is for Kelly, Phil. Coach Kelly has been tutoring female runners at Marist for as long as anyone can remember.

L is for Leonidoff Field. It's where the football action happens every Saturday. Don't worry, you can't miss it.

M is for MAAC. Marist has bid adieu to the NEC, and joined up with the likes of Manhattan and Siena in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

N is for NEC. See above.

O is for "Oh my!" This is what Dick Enberg may have said if he had witnessed Manny Otero's school record eight three-pointers in one game last year.

P is for Parady, Jim. The Head Coach of the football team since 1992, Parady boasts a 20-10 record over the last three years.

Q is for Quality. The softball team, after only six years, has turned in some quality results, despite competing against national powers like Princeton.

R is for Red Foxes. This area once had a large Reynard population (little red foxes); someone decided "Red Foxes" sounded sportier than "Reynards."

S is for Smits, Rik. The most famous Marist alumnus, and a center for the Indiana Pacers. Sometimes he comes back to visit and sign autographs.

T is for Two Years. The length of time it took Head Baseball Coach John Szeftc to take his team to the NCAA East Regional Tournament.

U is for Unsung. Marist's crew program is often overlooked, but Red Fox rowers have thrived outside the spotlight.

V is for Varsity. The women's lacrosse team just completed a successful first season as a Division I Varsity sport.

W is for Warzecha, Brian. This junior hockey player is a scoring machine; his team tends to rout the opposition by scores of 13-1 or 15-3.

X is for X-Ray Machine. The trainer's room at Marist has almost everything *but* an X-Ray Machine.

Y is for Yoga. Yes, you can take Yoga as a one-credit class here.

Z is for Zoinks. Go ahead. *You* think of something for Z.

Marist baseball gets first taste of the big time at College World Series

by **STEVE MANCZYK**
Sports Editor

Just call them the Colorado Rockies.

The Marist College baseball program, much like Denver's major league expansion team, has enjoyed a remarkable measure of success without suffering through the lengthy growing pains that the average "expansion team" endures.

In 1989, baseball was non-existent at Marist. Literally. In only its seventh year, Red Fox baseball has developed into a solid force in the Northeast, and perhaps, the country.

Even more impressive are the accomplishments of the squad's manager, John Szeftc, who, in his second season at the helm, led the Red Foxes to the NCAA Eastern Regional Tournament last spring (well after the average Marist student had checked out for the summer).

The Red Foxes finished their regular season schedule last year with a 26-16 overall record, and headed into the Northeast Conference tournament as the top seed in the field. The road to the College World Series began there.

Marist lost a game early on in the double-elimination tournament, but advanced to the final from the loser's bracket, where it faced Farleigh Dickinson. Needing to sweep a double-header in order to call themselves NEC champs, the Red Foxes took the first game, to set up a thrilling final.

Marist and FDU headed into the ninth inning of the second game tied, and, in the bottom half of the frame, the Red Foxes loaded the bases. Szeftc called for a squeeze bunt, which was executed perfectly, and brought the winning run home.

"Yeah, that was pretty exciting," said Coach Szeftc, in the understatement of the year.

Winning a major conference tournament (like the SEC or ACC) results in an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, but the newly anointed NEC champions had to pass through a play-in round before they could take their place alongside the baseball powers bidding for a shot at the national championship.

A three game series against the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference representative, Siena, would determine which of the teams would stay alive.

In the first game, the Red Foxes' ace, Mark Barron, got the nod on the mound, and suffered through perhaps the worst first inning of his career. Barron spotted Siena a 6-0 lead, but he settled down and hurled eight shutout innings after his initial difficulty. His teammates fought back for a 7-6 victory.

Marist took the nightcap 9-7 to sweep the series and take the next step towards national notoriety. That was on a Thursday. The following Monday, the team flew to Tallahassee for the East Regional.

There are eight regional tournaments in college baseball, with eight teams in each. The teams fight through a double-elimination format, and the winner of each regional bracket advances to the eight-team College World Series.

Marist's first opponent? The Florida State Seminoles, ranked third in the nation, and a perennial baseball power. The Red Foxes were now officially in the big time.

With one out in the Marist half of the ninth inning, the Seminoles were asking (much like Butch Cassidy), "Who are these guys?" Szeftc's underdogs only

trailed 4-2, and had loaded the bases against FSU.

Marist could not push across the tying runs, however, and, despite outitting Florida State, lost by that same 4-2 score. The Seminoles, having survived the first round scare, would advance to the regional final before losing to eventual champion Auburn.

The Red Foxes' next game was against Western Carolina, also first round losers. After five innings, Marist held a tenuous 3-2 lead, but the pitching collapsed en route to a disappointing 8-3 loss.

So it was two and out for the Red Foxes at the East Regional Tournament. But clearly, the experience was a positive one. The first NCAA tournament appearance by a Marist baseball club will certainly help boost visibility for the fledgling program, which should make recruiting more fruitful for the coaching staff.

Already, a high profile recruit

has signed on with the Red Foxes largely because of the post-season success. Marist stole a pitcher/catcher from the Seattle Mariner organization after he decided to attend college rather than begin a pro career out of high school. Other exciting newcomers include freshmen Kevin Whisner, Sean Lomas, Corey Borowitz, and Dean Puchalski.

The new influx of talent has a lot to live up to. The 1997 edition of Red Fox baseball lost four key seniors, three of who played pro ball this summer.

Shortstop George Santiago and outfielder Michael Speckhardt were the first ever Marist draftees selected by the New York Mets and St. Louis Cardinals, respectively.

The pitching staff took a hit also. Mark Barron signed on with the Sioux City Explorers of the independent Northern League (where players like Darryl Strawberry and Steve

Howe have played), and "unsung hero" Chris Webb and his 9-2 record were lost to graduation.

Coach Szeftc expects his incoming freshmen to pick up the slack, and he hopes to continue building the Marist baseball program as it moves into the MAAC.

"I think the MAAC is a lot like the NEC," said the coach. "With our kids coming in, I don't see why we can't have the same type of success year after year."

"It really depends on the type of players you have, and the approach they take," he continued. "If they can compete at a high level, and also believe that they can beat teams at that level, then I think you have a chance."

"I also think we had great pitching and defense last year. That's what it takes to win."

Pitching and defense? Sounds more like the Florida Marlins than the Rockies.



BLOCKERS—Varsity football practices for their first game against Georgetown Sept. 13.

Circle Photo/Michael Goo