

Student charged; security scrutinized

Freshman charged with filing false sexual assault report

By MARGEUX LIPPMAN
Editor-in-Chief

Although allegations of rape have reverberated throughout the Marist campus over the past week, the concerns of students may be unfounded in light of recent events.

A Marist College freshman, whose name is being withheld by *The Circle*, was arrested on Tuesday, Feb. 12 by Town of Poughkeepsie Police for allegedly filing a false report that she was raped Feb. 2 on the East Campus bridge.

The student has been charged with Falsely Reporting an Incident in the 3rd degree, a Class A misdemeanor, according to a town police news release. The charge is one that can result in no more than one year in prison and/or a fine of no more than \$1,000.

John Gildard, Director of Safety and Security, said in a Feb. 12 memorandum to the Marist community that the Town of Poughkeepsie Police has concluded their investigation into last week's claims of sexual assault.

A detailed investigation by Town of Poughkeepsie Police, along with the student's confession, failed to corroborate allegations of rape, Gildard indicated.

"Through evidence gathered by the town police and the student's ultimate confession, it was determined there was no assault of any kind, nor was there any real assailant," Gildard said in his e-mail.

Director of Public Relations Tim Massie lauded cooperation efforts between town police and Marist's Office of Safety and Security for bringing the investigation to a quick end.

"We're grateful as a college that the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department and Security worked together and came up with this finding as quickly as

they did," Massie said. "Every day that this dragged on is another day that the College is being damaged."

After coming under fire for a lack of transparency over the past week, Marist is now trying to recover from damaging allegations that the College is not secure.

"Every student, faculty member and staff member that felt he or she was not safe and didn't need to feel that way is...how the institution was damaged," Massie said.

Massie also noted that the alleged false report may damage the credibility of other students who legitimately encounter sexual assault or other forms of violence on the Marist campus.

"God forbid that an event like this does happen somewhere down the line, any woman who reports a future incident - there will be a question mark as to if it actually happened," Massie said. "That's damaging to every woman on this campus."

Despite the fact that claims of rape may have been falsified, Gildard noted that this is not a time for Marist students, faculty and staff to let their guard down.

"[T]he safety and security of all members of our community are of the utmost importance," Gildard said in his memo to campus. "The College will continue to review and, when necessary, make enhancements to security procedures and safety measures such as lighting, emergency call boxes, and patrols throughout the campus."

The student charged was released on her own recognizance and will appear in Town of Poughkeepsie Court on March 4 before Judge Paul Sullivan.

John Gildard and detectives at the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department could not be directly reached for comment at press time.



JAMES REILLY / THE CIRCLE

Students cross East Campus bridge on a recent rainy day. Although recent rape allegations may be false, student concerns have yielded many changes in security measures taken regarding the bridge and its potential for criminal activity.

Allegations increase security, awareness

By ANDREW OVERTON
News Editor

Although the alleged sexual assault on campus may have never taken place, the Marist community is taking many steps to increase security and safety awareness around campus.

Marist Security has already begun to make some security changes near the East Campus bridge. Student Government is taking several initiatives to keep students safer and more aware.

Security has increased patrols until 8 a.m. near the East Campus bridge. Additionally, security will keep a car posted near the Steel Plant, Eric Zeyher, Vice President of Student Life and member of the state mandated security council, said.

Despite these security changes on East Campus, Zeyher along with others in SGA recognize that a sexual assault could have happened anywhere on campus. Consequently, security improvements are being made elsewhere

on campus.

Previously the gates by the construction site at Lower Fulton were kept unlocked, but now they are being locked every night. Lighting on campus has been an issue for many students, and now additional lighting is currently being installed in the Beck parking lot. Also, security is looking into purchasing smaller vehicles so that they can navigate the East Campus bridge and the sidewalks on campus.

In an effort to increase awareness of safety services that Marist already has, students received informational pamphlets about the Student Auxiliary Patrol, or SNAP, in their campus mailboxes.

"SNAP," the pamphlets explain, "is designed to provide the Marist Community with a safe means to travel around the campus at night...The most important responsibility of the S.N.A.P. Safewalkers is to provide walking escorts to the Marist Community in a safe and

respectful manner."

SGA has several ideas to decrease the potential for crime on campus.

"They've been pretty responsive to what we've been trying to get done," Zeyher said.

Before the last state mandated security meeting, members of SGA met to prepare a list of suggestions for security.

"We wanted to put together a list of things that we could suggest to the administration, and make sure that the students use all of the available resources that they have, aka SNAP patrols," Resident Senator Steve Townsend said.

Students should "be proactive, travel in groups, and be aware of their surroundings," said Zeyher.

The current safety situation on campus is not acceptable for some members of SGA.

"It's completely unacceptable that there are places on campus that people don't feel safe," Matt Reiman, Speaker of Student Senate, said during a student

Senate meeting where senators shared thoughts in light of the alleged rape.

Consequently, SGA is examining the best way to make the Marist community more aware of sexual assault.

"We're looking about getting a speaker to come in," Townsend said. "Last year a speaker came in...and talked about rape and self defense."

Also, SGA hopes to collaborate with athletics to host an event to raise awareness for sexual assault.

"We want to figure out a way to get a program in and have a sponsorship of a game, an awareness night," Townsend said.

Zeyher noted another program meant to raise awareness on sexual assault.

"The Midrise RSC they're actually doing a program with the *Vagina Monologues*," he said. "It's a passive program; their just basically just handing

SEE SECURITY, PAGE 3

Flu outbreak affects 290 students, but believed to have peaked

By KRISTEN DOMONELL
Staff Writer

There has been an outbreak of influenza on the Marist campus in the past few weeks. While Health Services has been busy diagnosing and treating students, administrators say there is reason to believe this flu season, which has been the worst ever at Marist, has already peaked.

According to Dr. Mary Dunne of Health Services, there have been 290 probable flu cases as of Sunday, Feb. 10.

"I say 'probable' because we stopped doing nasal swab testing after the first couple of days and after many positive tests," Dunne said.

"The test is expensive, time consuming, and we felt we were getting false negatives."

Pat Corder, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, who oversees the Health Services office, said extra staff was hired to deal with the problem. The billiards room has been used to keep students with flu symptoms in one area while they wait to be seen by a doctor.

Students who were diagnosed were treated with Tamiflu, one of the only drugs to treat the flu, and asked to stay out of classes for a minimum of five days. Students were also encouraged to go home until the flu subsided, which many did.

"At school you're in a hall by yourself and would certainly be better off home than here. I think the students wanted a family member

to take care of them and felt better by being in their own home," Corder said.

Sophomore Braedan Purcell caught the flu and took Health Services' advice to go home. Purcell said he began feeling dizzy and weak a little less than two weeks ago, and eventually experienced fever, coughing and a sore throat.

"[Health Services] asked me to go home; I got the sense that they were doing that for a lot of kids," Purcell said. "I went home for the weekend and since I didn't have classes Monday I came back that afternoon."

As far as missing classes, Corder said she has been updating

SEE FLU, PAGE 3

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SPORTS: TURNOVERS PLAGUE MEN'S BASKETBALL

After turning the ball over 18 times in a loss to MAAC rival Siena, Red Foxes look at their biggest flaw.

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FEATURES: MORGAN NEDERHOOD REFLECTS ON PAST FAILED RELATIONSHIPS

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, Morgan Nederhood looks at some of her more interesting past relationships

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Campus

Security Briefs

Champagnat pirates smuggle, maim and pillage

By TYLER THURSON
John Gildard in Training

2/5 – Public Service Announcement

During the last week, a laptop, video game controller, mini iPod, and alarm clock were stolen out of two Champagnat rooms. Both residents were MIA during the reported thievery, but luckily for the guilty, their rooms were unlocked. What has this very valuable lesson taught us? No, not to not keep expensive things in our rooms. No, not even to not be a material girl living in a material world. No, not that you can skip all your 8:00 classes because you don't have an alarm clock. Okay, stop guessing. Lock your door, or your things are probably being stolen as you read this. Seriously.

2/7 – Campus

Well, this is normal. A cab driver picked up a Marist student at the train station, vowing to fulfill his civic duty and return the student to campus. Along the way the cab also picked up a student returning to Vassar and vowed once again to fulfill this duty. The Vassar student was dropped off first, and upon dropping off the Marist student, the cab driver attempted to charge the student the fare for swinging by Vassar on the way home. Following? Yeah, the student didn't either, and refused to pay. When the cab driver was asked to show his cab license, he refused, and the town police took a report. Although the cab driver

refused to show his license, thanks to my sense of investigative, hard-hitting, Inside Edition style reporting, I found out the name of the company. I'm never one to reveal hidden identities, but let's just say I wouldn't want to work for Tulu Taxi. Seriously, it must really suck to be Tulu Taxi. I mean, they had a thriving business, and then some little brat goes and badmouths the good name of Tulu Taxi all over a newspaper. I mean, can't Tulu Taxi sue for that or something? Tulu Tulu Tulu.

2/8 – Fulton

Well, this is creepy. Recently, students of Fulton have reported receiving mysterious, obscene phone calls at odd hours of the night, most likely not asking them to complete a short survey, but featuring more heavy breathy and ruffling of bed sheets. Damn, Tulu Taxi seriously wants that fare, don't they? Oh, like you thought it was over, Tulu.

2/8 – Champagnat

A resident director reported a first floor window being used to its fullest advantage, with four bottles of alcohol being smuggled in. It's funny, because I never would've called Champagnat a Crÿstal Palace. Funnier, however, is the fact that the cheaper the vodka, the classier the name. Really, shouldn't it be called, I don't know, "my mother's van," or someplace you'll actually be living? Does that not roll off the tongue as well?

2/9 – Off-Campus

Five off-campus students made quite a name for themselves over the weekend, at least in the logs of the Poughkeepsie police system, that is. While all five were arrested, four were for violating a city noise ordinance, while one was for felony assault. Turns out, the big man off-campus assaulted a female police officer, leaving her with what may be a broken wrist. I guess Red Jumpsuit Apparatus was right, he does feel like a man when he pushes her around, and he feels better now as she falls to the ground. Ah, it speaks rhythms, doesn't it?

2/10 – Residence Inn

And yes, the Residence Inn has finally broken into the security briefs. Come on, fire alarm! Nope? Alright, noise complaint? Better luck next time. Intoxicated female student? Bingo. You know, I always thought if I lived at the Residence Inn, I wouldn't feel like I was part of the campus. Really, they're just like us. They've gotten down to the heart of the school, which amounts to getting checked out by the ambulance before being allowed to return to their room. Aww, welcome, Residence Inn, welcome.

2/10 – Champagnat

Once again, Champagnat, still kicking. Or at least punching. An altercation broke out between two groups, with one member punching another. Security promptly broke the fight

up, and while taking ID cards, a small bag of marijuana fell out of a student's pocket. So, a helpful before-you-leave-the-room checklist. Wallet? Check. Cell phone? Check. Gum, for that fresh clean feeling? Check. ID Card? Got it. Small bag of marijuana? Check. And it fell out of your pocket while getting your ID card? Was it on your keychain? Was it serving as a gentle reminder to blaze up that night, just in case you happened to forget?

2/10 – McCann

And, we end on a sad note. Well, not I'll-never-let-go-Jack style sad (loving the late 90's references, aren't you?), but just sad for the state of our country. Like how Heidi Montag ever got a recording contract. Or how you can come all the way to college, through 12 grades and everything, and still not be able to function a microwave. Especially when it's just popcorn. There is a button on the microwave, specially for popcorn. I might design a new microwave, with its own specialized button, except this one will say "dumbass." When pushed, the microwave door will swing open suddenly and knock you directly in the face, as clearly you'll be leaning down to check out the cool radioactive functions. Look for it in stores around 2016. If you make it that far, that is.

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News

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008

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Prominent journalist returns to Marist Alumna will speak about her investigative career

By STEPHANIE ESPINA
Staff Writer

Marist College alumna Mary Beth Pfeiffer will be delivering a lecture on campus next week, where she will speak of the extensive research and findings that have helped her become the nationally distinguished and celebrated journalist she is today.

Pfeiffer's research has appeared in publications like the *Boston Globe*, *New York Times Magazine*, *Miami Herald*, *Village Voice*, *Hartford Courant*, *USA Weekend Magazine* and *Des Moines Register*. A New York City native, Pfeiffer launched her career in journalism in 1976. She has been recognized by various organizations, including the National Headliner Awards, National Council on Crime and Delinquency, New York State Associated Press Association, and National Mental Health Association.

Pfeiffer, renowned for her investigative journalism with over twenty years of experience in the field, gained recognition for her work and exposition of the unfortunate realities of prison life.

"Many of the criminals killing themselves were ill with serious mental illnesses. They were being punished even more by being deprived of human companionship," Pfeiffer said. "People think of persons who are mentally ill, especially criminals, to fit a [certain] stereotype."

Intrigued by the relationship between mental illness and criminalization, she focused on the struggle of mentally ill inmates in New York, the related trend of psychological breakdowns in prisons and highlighted extreme cases that led to suicidal behavior.

Pfeiffer's work was published as an ongoing series for the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, where she served as a staff writer. During her time there, she eventually became the newspaper's chief investigative writer and editor. Prior to her research on this issue, she had gained a reputation for uncovering political corruption and investigated racial and family related issues in the area. Throughout her career, Pfeiffer has exhibited the underlying foundation of journalistic ethics: exposing what is true and what is important.

Her well known book, "Crazy In America: The Hidden tragedy of our Criminalized Mentally Ill," has received positive reviews. Dr Joel A. Dvoskin, one of America's leading forensic psychologists from the American Psychology-Law News, said, "Great teachers are almost always great story-tellers, and with this book, Mary Beth Pfeiffer cements her credentials as both."

Pfeiffer's decision to write the book stemmed from a previous story she had written in 2004 about a 21-year-old woman suf-



FROM CRAZYINAMERICA.COM

Marist alumna Mary Beth Pfeiffer, an accomplished journalist known for her investigative work, will be speaking at Marist on Wednesday, February 20 at 8 p.m. in Fontaine Hall.

fering from mental illness who was kept in solitary confinement.

Through her dedication and passion for the subject, she has been working towards a change. "I may have written my book, but there is still a long way to go to solving this problem. There is still a need to awaken society to this issue," she said. Pfeiffer will deliver her lecture and read from her work at the Henry Hudson Room, located in Fontaine Hall, on Wednesday evening, February 20 at 8 p.m.

From Page One Security concerns yield change, programs

out cards." These cards will be Valentine's Day themed and will encourage consensual sex and the power of "no."

Student government is printing small cards with off-campus transportation information to be given out at basketball games and other campus events.

"On the back of [the cards] you'll see there's all the numbers for campus security, Town of Poughkeepsie Police, Poughkeepsie City Police, all the cab companies that Marist allows," Townsend said.

One of the best ways to reduce the risk of being assaulted on campus is for students to take steps in order to stay safe.

"I want people to know that they can take preventive measures to reduce that risk," Zeyher said.

"I would definitely say traveling in groups is probably the biggest thing. To just really be aware of your surroundings," Zeyher said. "If it's 3:30 in the morning don't go walking alone across campus; you wouldn't be doing it in the City of Poughkeepsie, you really shouldn't be doing it anywhere."

Townsend and Zeyher were confident that SGA is doing their best to maintain a safe campus.

"In total this is our campus; we want to be safe on it," Zeyher said.

From Page One Flu outbreak believed to be past peak

Advising Services frequently, and teachers are expected to be lenient with sick students forced to miss classes. So far, there has not been a problem with this.

"I was given a sheet of paper saying I had to miss classes, but my teachers didn't really need to see it," Purcell said. "It wasn't an issue."

Due to the widespread outbreak, the Health Services office has been busy and waiting periods have been high.

"They had a lot of people there so it was pretty understandable, but I was waiting for at least 45 minutes," Purcell said.

According to Corder and Dunne, the staffs of Health Services and Residence Life have gone to extra measures to ensure that all students with flu symptoms receive appropriate care. An influenza hotline has been set up to triage students over the phone and students were asked during Sunday Resident Assistant check-ins to self report any symptoms they may be

experiencing so they can be touched base with daily.

Health Services reported the flu has begun to wane over the past weekend.

"I think we are starting to subside without a doubt," Corder said. "Given the fact of how busy we were and that it has been tapering off leads us to believe it has peaked."

Dunne said there have only been a few cases each day for the past few days, as opposed to many more in past weeks.

"I hope all the students who got sick at the beginning of the month are better and back in classes," Corder said.

High numbers of influenza cases have not been limited to just Marist. According to Corder, there has been a fair amount of influenza in Dutchess County and the Northeast in general. She said elementary schools and secondary schools in the area have been seeing cases of the flu as well.

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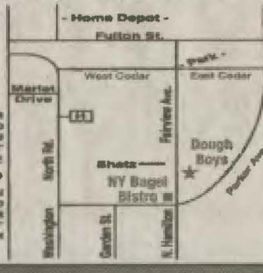
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At College Activities

ROCK 'N' ROLL

Opinion

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008

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PAGE 5

Life at the Marriot expensive for residents

By JOSEPH GENTILE
Staff Writer

In response to The Circle publishing Ms. Lavergne's gripes about "campus renovations" in last Thursday's edition, I ask, "are those needs being "tailored" for the student body, or just her?"

Existence, despite whatever the Disney Channel might feed you, isn't quite so "suite" here at the Marriot Residence Inn. Fortunately for the Department of Housing & Residential Life, the Inn is equipped to handle our current housing crunch by allocating space for resident student temporarily. However, the term "temporary," by Marist definition, has extended for the entire three years I've been a student here.

Even though Lower Fulton's construction should be completed by the beginning of the next academic year, it's already too little, too late. By admission from a Marist administrator, the brand-new housing is a band-aid on a gash that has cut Inn residents off from the advantages of being on campus.

There are benefits to staying in the Residence Inn though, as opposed to being told by the Department of Housing & Residential Life, "too bad", and getting forced into finding an affordable, nearby apartment. The amenities offered by the Inn include a daily continental breakfast, a friendly staff, and Internet accessibility at no additional cost. But, as with everything, there's always a catch.

Just being able to afford the hotel is challenging, as its \$4,245 per semester. This charge is equivalent to paying for the Fulton Townhouses. Comparatively, upperclassmen that reside in the West Cedar Townhouses or the North End Townhouses pay, respectively, \$740-\$920 less per academic year than a Residence Inn student. Yet, this isn't an issue pertaining to just upperclassmen, as transfer freshmen and sophomores are also being shunned into the Marriot.

On average, Marriot freshmen are paying \$1,910 more per academic year; an unmentioned element to the "rites of passage" philosophy emphasized on the

Web site for Housing & Residential Life. Sophomores stationed at the Marriot can anticipate paying anywhere from \$920-\$1,600 more per academic year.

In the Resident Student Handbook, page 44 clearly states that "residents are guaranteed housing during their first and second years of college." Yet, the transfer students are immediately dumped into what essentially has become a metaphor for Purgatory.

One semester ago, a sophomore friend with a brain tumor but no car, got dropped into the Marriot after returning from his medical leave of absence. Fortunately for him, a space opened up in Midrise. Still, more than 100 resident students are isolated in the Marriot, although a few remain by choice. The tragedy behind this is that if you don't own a car, you don't get to Marist unless a friend takes pity on you.

Why is it that the college offers

its basketball fans a shuttle, bus trips to the Galleria on weekends, and a proposed shuttle to the Stop & Shop in Hyde Park when they won't go the three miles out of their way to help us?

Personally, I don't appreciate paying inflated gas prices, and a shuttle would benefit my wallet.

Why is it that the college offers its basketball fans a shuttle, bus trips to the Galleria on weekends, and a proposed shuttle to the Stop & Shop in Hyde Park when they won't go the three miles out of their way to help us?

Furthermore, after my car died unexpectedly in mid-December, I had to shell out more than \$50 in cab fare to get to and from my finals. Gladly enough, I'm mobile again, but that can't be said for everybody else here.

In regards to money, it's a dispiriting fact that a Marriot resident must pay for their laundry, whereas many on-campus residents can utilize those services free of charge. On-campus residents and Marriot residents are both recognized as "resident" students, because they both pay

equivalent tuitions. Even though their housing costs are financed, Marriot residents pay, on average, \$5 per load for laundry.

Now, that \$5 might not be much to students making face plants in the Donnelly parking lot each Wednesday morning, but it adds up very quickly. With a tuition jump by more than \$4,000 in my three years here, I cannot fathom why I pay just as much, if not more, for traditional housing offered to upperclassmen and cannot freely do my laundry.

But, if you're intrepid enough to schlep your laundry onto campus, it's impossible, and understandably so, to access the laundry room in any dorm. Yet, if you're caught using the ID of a friend, just for washing your socks, you can get written up and forfeit priority points for discipline -- and end up off-campus again.

What is scariest is the disregard that certain elements in the Marriot resident staff operated with. Not only did they rely on their "I'm Living in the

Residence Inn!" group on Facebook to disseminate important information about parking, but they couldn't locate us. Last semester, according to a resident advisor just hired, officials from the Department of Housing & Residential Life could not identify which residents belonged in what suite.

Not only does this information further our feelings of alienation, but also signals a serious breach in our security. It also doesn't help that after my former roommate threatened my life twice, the Marriot resident staff told us to "hug it out," rather than extract him.

So, in conclusion, it's not Ms. Lavergne's fault that she is uninformed about the unfolding situation three miles away. However, if you're so opposed to the "junk food" being sold by our Cabaret staff, often underappreciated by the student body, don't eat it. Worried about too many freshmen next year? Then petition admissions to enroll fewer.

Be reminded, though, that Marriot residents are Marist residents, and you cannot deny us.

Super Tuesday primaries leave Democratic race too close to call

By MIKE NAPOLITANO
Staff Writer

You know how the saying goes, "There's no school like old school." This phrase applies to some very awesome things—Run DMC, Atari, Converse high-tops—but it should never apply to politics.

What happens when you recycle the same old policy over and over? You end up in a constant cycle of nothingness. When the same policies remain prevalent, all the negative effects that are generally present with any policy become amplified. When no new policy put in place to fix the old, the nation enters into a seemingly endless downward spiral.

Our country is experiencing a crisis. With the incumbency rate in the U.S. House of Representatives hovering around 90 percent, it's no wonder that very little change is implemented. It's called congressional stagnation.

Although Congress has been rather dormant as of late, legislative bodies have commonly rallied around a strong, fresh leader. This can be seen throughout American history; simply think of the most productive lawmaking times, such as Congress under Roosevelt during the Great Depression.

With that in consideration, there are great deals of people in the country that do not see things this way. Many believe that

political naivety gets the country into problems greater than the original problems at hand. Many point to Carter and his continuous optimism that, at times, bordered utopianism. I cannot possibly see how continuing this trend of stagnation can help the country right now.

America is at a crossroad now more than ever. We are coming off a very unproductive—not to mention incompetent—presidency with an equally unproductive Congress. There are threats of an economic crash, the real estate market is spinning out of control, and we still have troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. On top of that we have serious healthcare problem in the country, our dependency on foreign oil, and the immense budget deficit that the president and Congress has allowed to accrue.

The dilemma of what to do with this country has been transferred to the polls as the presidential race is finally getting under way. But with the passing of "Super Tuesday" last week we are left with the same empty feeling that we had before it. The American people really cannot decisively pin-point what they want.

There is, however, a general consensus among Republican voters that Senator John McCain of Arizona is their candidate—at least that's what the primary results have dictated. Granted, there are some conservative voters out there who have a problem with McCain running the country. Their objections, however,

may make no difference, as he already has a 500 delegate lead over his nearest competitor and only needs 500 more to secure the nomination.

The Democrats, on the other hand, are having hard time deciding who they want at the helm of their ship. As of Monday, Feb. 11 only 27 delegates stood between Senator Clinton and Senator Obama. Although Senator Obama won more states than Senator Clinton, she still was awarded more delegates.

And even with more primaries coming up it is highly unlikely that we will see the two clear cut candidates until after the National Conventions. The media outlets are learning from their year 2000 mistake and leaving this one at, "Too close to call."

The rift in the Democratic Party is, in my opinion, directly related to the dilemma mentioned earlier: whether or not to stick to the same old recycled policies or to move on with a new leader.

I want a fresh face in the White House, someone whose ambitions are so high that they will undoubtedly work tirelessly to get something done. I want a new Social Security system, not someone who can already cash in their Social Security checks.

The bottom line here is that the country is in a rut and is going nowhere fast. So why not try out the "new school" in 2008? I know I will be.



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Letters without these requirements will not be published. Letters can be dropped off at The Circle office or submitted through the 'Letter Submission' link on MaristCircle.com

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THE CIRCLE Features

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Column about nothing: Mommy and Me at BCBG

By ASHLEY POSIMATO
Staff Writer

As the weekend was approaching, I was in need of what I would consider a well-deserved form of relaxation. Luckily, a suitable cure for the academic-induced stress I was experiencing was only a train ride away. A lunch date in Manhattan with my mom would allow me to supersede my current state of anxiety with revitalized, educational ambition. Well, at least that is what I used as an excuse to coerce my mother to join me. Obviously compliant, (she loves trips to the city as much as I do) we agreed to meet on 46th Street on Sunday for a pre-Super Bowl, ladies only brunch!

In order to convene at noon, I took the 9:33 express to Grand Central, a mere four blocks from the restaurant, which meant I had 45 minutes to do whatever I wanted. As I quickly ran down my list of "45-minute-long activity" options, I was repeatedly interrupted by my evil consumer twin.

"Go shopping, Ashley, just browse if your time is limited. You know you want to." I resisted temptation. "Your favorite store BCBG is only three blocks away. And in case you were wondering, it's the largest one in the world."

Having my favorite store so easily accessible immediately evoked instinctual excitement. As a result of therapeutic practice, I was able to suppress my urge. Had my relentless shoulder devil neglected to remind me that it was the largest one in existence, I may have been able to control my impulsive behavior. However, I was made well aware of this not so minor detail which proved to be pivotal in my decision-making process.

You can guess that I reluctantly (or maybe not so much) surrendered and made my way to what I see as the greatest store in the world.

As I entered the store, I was greeted by the most beautiful sales associates.

The woman representative was draped entirely in BCBG attire. She was obviously advertising the business casual selection. Her mahogany pencil skirt was accompanied by a white chiffon top and

accented with a barely-there, pink but subtle, patent-leather belt. She was a picture of perfection.

The male clerk, who stood with her, was dressed equally impeccably, and wore a smile that almost made me forget what the purpose of my visit was. It was all too overwhelming. The size of the store, the different available lines including runway, swimsuit, ready-to-wear, and evening, not to mention the flawlessness of every visible staff member, was all too much to take in. I was completely mesmerized and in a state of utter amazement when my phone rang.

Although initially annoyed by the interruption, I grew thankful as it forced my return to some form of task-oriented reality. It was my mother, updating me on her present location, and telling me that she would be arriving at the restaurant in approximately thirty minutes.

Accustomed to ignoring the insignificant details she never fails to include, I almost made the detrimental error of mindlessly hanging up. But wait, did she say thirty minutes?

This meant my seven minutes in heaven was literally going to feel like seven minutes. In the opposition of limited time, I "Tasmanian Deviled" around the three-floor store and headed to the Promised Land.

With all intentions of being helpful, the fitting room attendee informed, "You can take the first six in, the rest must remain on the rack outside the dressing room, and you can trade-off once you start eliminating."

She obviously had no idea who she was speaking to. Eliminating? When it comes to clothes, and I say this completely inclusively, be it bathing suits or ballroom gowns, elimination is absent from my vocabulary. The dressing room is my sanctuary; it is where I am able to escape reality and participate in various forms of exploratory reinvention. Elimination would mean a conclusive decision, and at the onset of my identity montage, that may as well be a death sentence.

Mom was on her way to the restaurant? It did not

even cross my mind.

I took the allotted first six items: one pair of pants, two shirts, a dress, and a bathing suit (since separates are inconveniently counted as individual items) into the dressing room, pulled the heavy velvet curtain shut, and began what would qualify as a complete fashion show. Lacking the lights, cameras, critics, and celebrity-comprised audience, it would seem as if "fashion show" would be an inaccurate label of what was about to take place; however, the necessary elements were present: one five foot tall mode with a six foot imagination.

I arranged my outfits in order of appearance and decided it fitting that Swimwear would open the show. I paraded around in a beautifully embroidered bikini. Of course, somehow in the complete twister I had just finished around the store, I managed to grab an appropriately coordinated sheer wrap. This piece of cloth proved to be incredibly transformable as I moved it from a waist-wrap, to a summer shawl, and finally a tribal headdress. Each pose was equally entertaining as I transported myself from the Jersey Shore to the African Jungle. With the drums sounding in my head (or was it the clock ticking on my wrist?), it was time to progress. My choice from the Ready-to-Wear selection would follow as previously planned.

I grabbed the high-waist, wide-leg pants that were just showcased in BCBG's Spring 2008 Fashion Show. I paired them with a button-up, slim fit short sleeve, finished with a navy blue wide-brimmed hat, and once again I started down the runway.

With each break in my stride, I changed the position of the hat, including removing it completely from my head multiple times and waving it obnoxiously from side to side. Having way too much fun than I should have been, considering I was shopping completely independently, I now imagined myself as a part of some wealthy form of recreation. What do rich people do for fun? Sail! I was now sailing. In the pants that reached my belly button, I was mingling with millionaires on an above-

the-sea adventure. I felt the wind in my hair and heard the singing of the birds.

Wait, that was not the sound of birds, but it was in fact singing. Or I was just in denial and the singing was actually ringing. And it was my phone! I forgot all about my mom!

I do not know if my heart or mind was racing faster as I answered my mother's call. As she began what would appear to be her statement of arrival, I knew I had to think quickly. Why was I running late? And even more importantly, how can I buy some time and extend my experience? I had not even gotten to the final half of the show, and it is simply unethical to leave out Runway and Evening wear.

The dreaded words were practically entering the phone when I cut her off with my sudden surge of brilliance. Referring to my knowledge of my mother, and our extremely similar interests, I knew exactly how to address the situation.

"Mom, you will never guess where I am. You see, I was on my way to the restaurant when I saw the most beautiful gown in the window display at the BCBG on 38th and 5th. Remember you said you wanted something bright but simple for Kristy's wedding? Well, I swear this dress is perfect. It practically reached through the glass and pulled me in. I have been waiting this entire time for you to call so I could tell you the exciting news. You can thank me later- just get here soon because I'm suffering from boredom."

She answered with the highly predictable "Really? Wow, just stay put. I will be right there." Regardless if she believed me or not, it was an excuse to shop, and for us, any excuse is viable.

Problem solved. I was left now only with the simple task of locating the dress I had just described before I could continue my catwalk. I returned to the beautiful people downstairs to help me find my mother's size. Because if I know my mother, which I do, she would arrive armed with AMEX, and ready to do damage!

So was a day in Manhattan to de-stress with my mom successful? Strike a pose... Absolutely!

Hookups and Breakups: The Bright Side of Being Single

By MORGAN NEDERHOOD
Staff Writer

As a hopeless romantic who's chronically single, Valentine's Day is usually a 24-hour marathon of depression and self-pity.

Instead of feeling sorry for myself this year, I thought it would be nice to look back and remember all those relationships that didn't quite work out.

All in all I'd have a couple of laughs at myself too.

Obviously, I'm not talking about that someone who broke your heart or left you for your best friend. No one wants to remember crap like that.

I'm talking about those relationships (or lack thereof) that are so ludicrous, you can't help but look back on them and laugh.

Most people don't have such hilarity, but sadly, I have them in abundance.

So, here are a few of my ridiculous situations for your entertainment. Maybe after reading some of these stories, being single on Valentine's Day won't be so bad (or maybe you'll realize why it's no surprise that I'm always single.)

James Damon and I were an item in second and third grade, he just never knew it. Only a few houses down the block and around the corner, he was definitely a convenient love interest.

James' freckles matched mine and his hair was the same brown as my own, so I was convinced that we'd be a picturesque couple; like a Norman Rockwell painting or something.

I know what you're thinking, and yes, I really did give this too much thought to this for a second-grader.

One day, James and I were playing in my front yard when I decided our relationship needed to be taken to the next level. Ever the go-getter (or totally delusional,) I leaned in for a kiss.

I realized it had been a bad idea when James leaned back, a look of pure terror in his eyes, and punched me in the face.

One of my teeth was somewhere in the grass at my feet, but I couldn't get over the shock of the situation.

In hindsight, I should've realized that as I watched James Damon run down the street to the safety of his home, that this had all been a sign. I should've realized that my love life had peaked in the first grade when boys didn't have enough sense to punch you in the face:

I wouldn't actually realize I was cursed (or just plain awk-

ward as hell) until Milo Cruz came into my life a few years later.

Okay, let's fast forward to the fifth grade. Milo and I were an item and had been since we met in Ms. Moran's fourth grade class.

After physical ramifications of the James fiasco, I was pretty skittish about kissing any boyfriends, should they turn out to have no idea we were ever going out. Things like that can scar a girl.

However, Milo was different from James, and we had already worked our way up to winks in the hallway. He even gave me Chuck E. Cheese tokens and some of those polished stones.

Yeah, Milo really knew how to spoil a lady.

The end of fifth grade rolled around, and I wanted to show Milo my appreciation for all his gifts that year.

So, I made him cookies.

On the last day of the year, I carried around an entire batch of chocolate chip cookies from class to class.

Three o'clock finally came, and I found myself searching for Milo on the bus platform.

I found him, we chatted, and I totally chickened out. I didn't give him the cookies.

Instead, I sat on the bus with a plate of cookies mocking me from my lap. Stupid cookies.

Despite all my dysfunctions, I was still too proud to come home hanging my head in shame with a full plate of cookies in my hands.

I had come to a difficult decision, but a necessary one.

Slowly unwrapping the plate from its cellophane jacket, I took out one of the cookies, sighed, and ate it.

As I polished off all sixteen cookies, I realized I had been defeated. The cookies had won, and I left the bus a battered, broken girl.

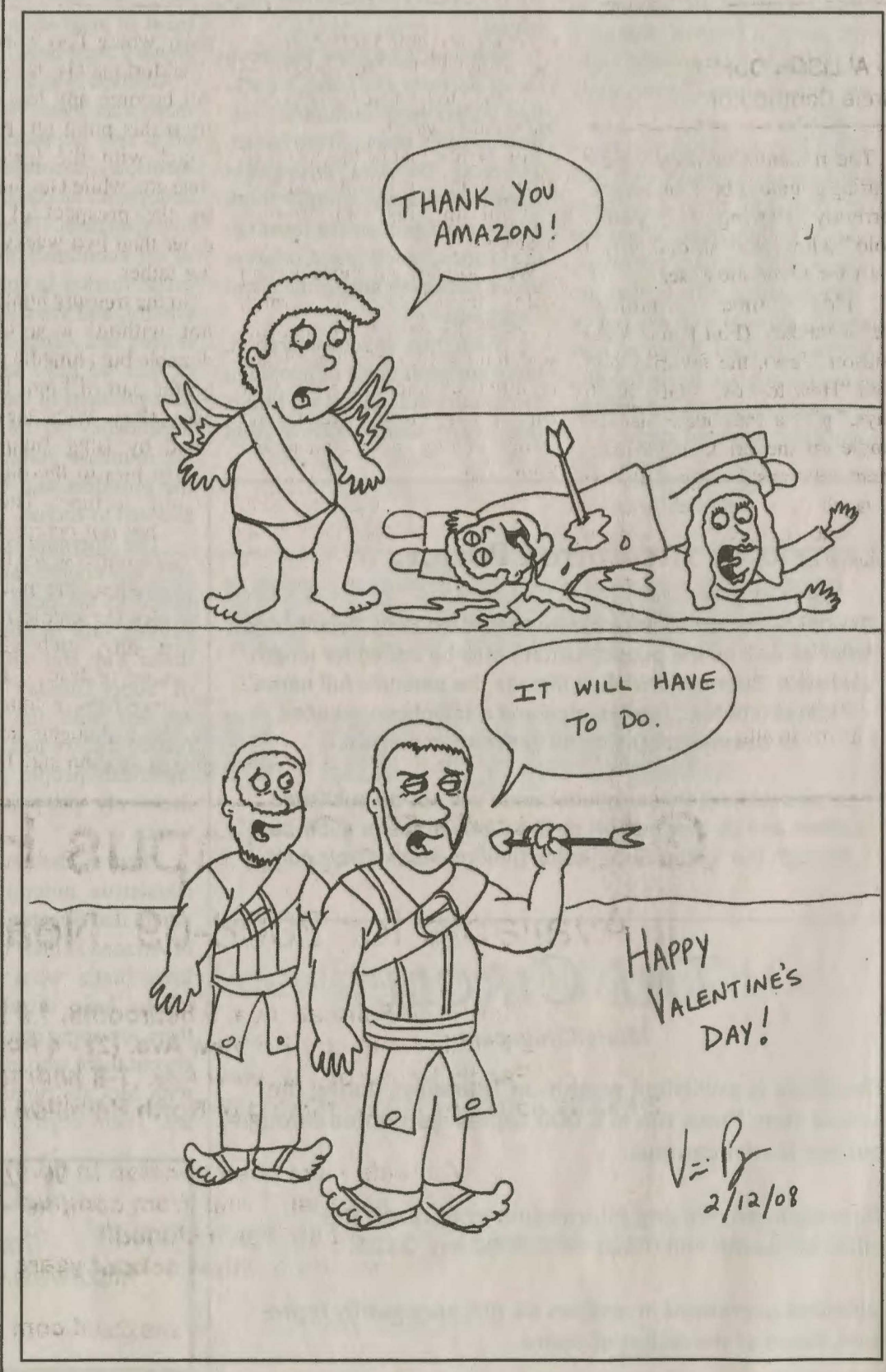
I also realized a relationship isn't going to work out if you can't even work up the courage to bake him cookies. Needless to say, that relationship didn't last through June.

In all, my relationships have become no less dramatic or disastrous, but at least they make for fun stories.

So when we single people are wallowing in self-pity, let's just think of all those stories like mine. You'll want to crawl in a hole and die at the time, but you can later look back on them and realize that maybe relationships aren't always the perfection we imagine.

Just think: being single is always better than being punched in the face. Trust me.

cartoon corner
By VINNIE PAGANO



Five upcoming bands to perform in battle at Marist

By KAIT SMITH
Opinion Editor

Guitar Hero tournaments won't be the only musical battles happening on campus this weekend.

WMAR and MCTV have joined to coordinate a battle of the bands to be held this Saturday in the Nelly Goletti theatre at 7 p.m.

Sophomores Andrew Cleary, Secretary of WMAR, and Pat Ahern, WMAR DJ, were the primary coordinators of the event. Ahern said they began discussing the show in November when they both learned that previous attempts at this event had failed.

"I didn't even know that there was a battle of the bands last year," said Ahern. "I think that was part of the problem—nobody knew it was happening."

Freshmen Katie Warren and Kate McGann became heavily involved in planning the event and designed the fliers being used to promote the show.

"It is going to be a great way to expose the Marist community to a couple of great upcoming bands," said Warren.

In order to apply, bands had fill out a written application and send in a demo of at least three original songs. A listening party was held

in late January to determine which of the 16 submissions would make it to the main stage for the battle. Only three of the bands that applied were Marist bands. Of those three, only one will play in the competition.

"We expanded the search for good music to the entire region in order to have a higher quality of bands to choose from," said Warren.

Cleary also said that part of the reason for not limiting the battle to Marist bands was due to the poor turnout of last year's battle of the bands effort.

"We hope that the higher quality of music being featured this year will attract a higher number of people," said Cleary.

Of the 16 submissions, five were chosen to compete.

"I believe we have really hit it with these five," said Warren.

Some Call Me the Poet is the only Marist band in the battle. On their MySpace page they describe themselves as "Pop/Rock/Powerpop," and say they have a sound similar to bands like Jimmy Eat World, The Starting Line and Brand New.

"Their passion is undeniable," said McGann. "At the battle, each band will be given a half hour to perform."

Mike Horn and the Method come to the battle

from New York City and describe their music as Alternative Rock.

"They are basically all over the board when it comes to the music they play," said Ahern. "Each song has a different sound to it."

Paging Grace also comes from New York City. Their single "Leave" is currently playing on radio stations across the country and will soon be featured on MTV's hit reality series "The Hills."

"Their sound is similar to the music that is popular at Marist," said Cleary.

Belikos comes to the Marist battle from Ann Arbor, Mich., bringing with them a sound that is similar to the Gym Class Heroes. Their sound is described as hip-hop flavor fused with funk and "slap-happy" bass.

"They are sure to make people want to get up and dance," said McGann.

The Downrights come from Cranford, New Jersey and have a Punk/Rockabilly sound.

The band's MySpace page describes them as a unique and exciting brand of pure rock.

"I have been rocking out to them on my iPod for weeks," said Warren. "At the battle, each band will be given a half hour to perform."

This includes the time it

takes to set up their equipment.

According to Warren, the order of the bands will be randomly drawn from a hat in order to encourage people to attend the entire show. Once every band has performed, the winner will be determined by a panel of judges.

Karen Michel, the faculty advisor for Marist Radio, Bob Dustin of College Activities, and Dylan Wise, the Music Director for WMAR are the three judges who will determine the winner this Saturday.

The winning band will receive 30 percent of the night's profits and an opportunity to open for a national act at the Chance Theatre in Poughkeepsie. Second place receives 20 percent of the profits; third place receives 10 percent.

Poughkeepsie's WRRV DJs Simon and Shmonty will host the event. WRRV is sponsoring the battle and has run a 60 second advertisement on its station promoting the show.

Tickets for the event cost \$5 and will be sold in the Champagnat Breezeway this Thursday through Saturday beginning at 1 p.m. The battle will be held in the Nelly Goletti theatre this Saturday. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the show is expected to last until 10 p.m.



Fergie's performance wear - a pleather, belly-bearing top - was overshadowed by a gorgeous yellow Calvin Klein dress that she wore on the red carpet.

Bright colors, metallics grace Grammy red carpet

By COURTNEY SAVOIA
Staff Writer

The Grammys: A time for music, unforgettable performances and of course fashion. Each year, this star-studded event requires intense preparation from celebrities and choosing the perfect outfit is just one of the essentials.

As one of the more formal events, the Grammys seem to require a more sophisticated and polished look. Most female celebrities choose long or short couture dresses and the men opt for designer suits.

Many celebrities sported the bright color trend that is in for spring. Fergie wore a beautiful Calvin Klein strapless dress in a pale yellow color. She paired it with a metallic gold clutch and stunning silver heels.

Other singers such as Alicia Keys, Rihanna and Nelly Furtado wore deep colors like royal blue and purple to add a pop of color to their ensembles. Alicia Keys chose a gorgeous Armani halter dress in a violet shade. Her make-up and jewelry perfectly complemented her dress with darker lips and ornate silver earrings. With darker colors, going for more dramatic make-up is important to complete the overall look.

Nelly Furtado dazzled in a long, strapless Arthur Mendonca gown that was form-fitting. She wore her hair up to keep the entire focus on her dress and wore pretty gold jewelry to bring out the royal blue color in her dress.

Rihanna selected a short dress that reflected a bright color motif as well. The bright sapphire definitely made a statement and was worn with strappy silver heels.

Beyonce chose a variation on the bright color trend and wore a sky blue strapless gown. It was fuller on the bottom and had an eye-catching, silver design on the top. Her choice set her apart from the others.

I liked that these celebrities followed the spring trends because even though they are simple, bright colors really do

call attention to a look, without being too much. That little bit of color makes one stand out and reflects the simple and classy style so many of us try to wear.

Other popular Grammy fashions were long, floral dresses as worn by Carrie Underwood. This is another popular spring trend which can look too busy in certain styles. In Carrie's case, I feel it worked beautifully because it contained bright colors with a bit of classic black and white mixed in.

Kelis kept the metallic gold trend going strong, wearing a pair of gold pants with a black tank and jacket. Many would think that wearing gold pants would be a fashion risk, but when worn with black, looks very sophisticated.

The women were not the only stars walking the red carpet this past Sunday night. The men also looked dapper in their designer suits. Jay-Z went for a classic look with a black tuxedo worn with a white dress shirt, which is always in style.

Other male stars tried some new things. Chris Brown was a bit more daring wearing red dress pants and a white and red jacket. His choice definitely added variety and I give him credit for following the bright color trend by incorporating red into his outfit, instead of just the usual black.

Other male celebrities such as Akon, Tim McGraw and Kanye West chose all-black outfits that were tasteful. Akon added a fur coat to his suit while Kanye sparkled with an eye-catching design on his jacket. Seal decided to wear an all white ensemble, which added a little bit of flavor to the other male options.

Each year, we are affected by Grammy fashion in one way or another. There is always the super elegant styles, the "what were they thinking styles," and, of course, the dresses that will go down in history. (J.Lo, anyone?) One thing is for sure: Grammy fashion is the best way to learn what the trends are and help us figure out how to wear them in the coming spring and summer seasons.

Predictable romantic comedy in 'Fool's Gold'

By ALLISON DUFFY
Circle Contributor

The romantic comedy's most alluring couple is back on screen, currently starring in "Fool's Gold," a love story shrouded by a quest for adventure at sea.

This time Matthew McConaughey (Finn) and Kate Hudson (Tess), the favorite item from "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days," play a passionate married couple on the brink of divorce. Their relationship can only be salvaged by a high stakes treasure hunt off the coast of the Bahamas.

McConaughey plays an overzealous, unemployed fortune-hunter longing to uncover the Queen's Dowry, a Spanish treasure lost at sea. Hudson counters as his intelligent, soon to be

ex-wife, an ambitious Chicago native who desires something more than to be a stewardess on a billionaire's yacht.

Finn thinks that he has lost it all after sinking his dilapidated boat and missing his own divorce hearing.

With no shirt, no shoes and no wife, he schemes to scratch together the cash to finance his search for gold. Unfortunately, he is already indebted to rapper Bigg Bunny (Kevin Hart), who wants nothing more than to see Finn dead.

Hearing that billionaire Nigel Honeycutt (Donald Sutherland) is on his yacht just off shore, Finn sets out for the water. Conveniently, Finn is brought on board after an astonishing leap into the air to catch a hat belonging to Nigel's socialite daughter, Gemma (Alexis Dziena). Not surprisingly, this is the same

yacht where Tess works.

Unfortunately, the movie does not become any less predictable from this point on. Finn entices Nigel with the history of the treasure, while Gemma is thrilled by the prospect of something other than two weeks alone with her father.

So the treasure hunt begins, but not without a series of predictable but comedic misfortunes on the part of Finn. His nemesis Moe (Ray Winstone) has been hired by Bigg Bunny and has beaten him to the purported site of the fortune. The suspense rises, but not before Tess begins to show remorse for the divorce.

Throughout the movie, Gemma provides the comic relief as the token, ditzzy rich girl. Several times we're lead to believe that she may have a thing for Finn, but those thoughts are soon dismissed as Finn and Tess revel in

their shared passion for discovery.

All the while yearning to win back his wife, Finn avoids death multiple times by Bigg Bunny's entourage, an underwater explosion, and a fall from a cliff. Somehow, he manages to escape with only scrapes and bruises just in time to save Tess after she has been abducted. In a final test of strength, Finn climbs into a plane while in the air, kills the pilot, flies and lands the plane. Of course in the end, he gets both the treasure and the girl.

If you're setting out to see an action film, prepare to be disappointed. The actual treasure hunt sequence is overshadowed in some scenes by the romance between Tess and Finn, but romantic comedy lovers are sure to enjoy the bikini-clad and shirtless combination of Hudson and McConaughey.

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Steven

From Page 6

The writer's strike is over, now what?

By ELIZABETH HOGAN
Circle Contributor

Since Nov. 5, 2007, the Writers Guild of America (WGA) has been picketing outside of studios demanding more pay for DVD sales among other issues. Without any writers, networks panicked and packed their schedules with reruns and reality television. The strike even turned the normally glamorous Golden Globes into nothing more than a televised press conference announcing the winners, and threatened to do the same to the Academy Awards.

Honestly, it felt as if the strike would never end. During a CNBC interview on Thursday night, Michael Eisner, former chief of Disney, announced to the world that the writer's strike was over.

While the WGA said this wasn't true, Eisner's comments caused a lot of speculation. All eyes were on a Saturday meeting in which the WGA would decide whether or not to accept a deal. Even though official voting was delayed, the WGA was reportedly very happy with what they were offered, and it's now safe to say that after three months of picketing the strike is over and new TV episodes can be made again. But what loyal TV viewers are asking is 'When will I be able to watch my favorite TV shows?'

Show runners plan to waste no time putting top rated shows back on the air, and began work on Monday in order to prepare

for production of these shows. However, viewers will have to wait a while to watch scripted shows because of the time it takes to produce a single episode. April seems to be the earliest time to expect new episodes for most shows. By May sweeps, networks will want to have all their strongest shows on the air.

"24" (Fox): Fans of Jack Bauer have been having a hard time getting their 24 fix, which usually starts its season in January. Because the producers wanted to air the seventh season straight through, they decided not to air any episodes due to the writer's strike. Unfortunately, it seems as if there will be no new episodes until January 2009.

"Friday Night Lights" (NBC): The critically acclaimed, but ratings-challenged show will not air any more episodes of its second season, and has not been confirmed to return in the fall yet.

"Gossip Girl" (CW): This show is a top priority for the struggling CW network, so expect five to seven new episodes to air starting around April or May.

"Grey's Anatomy" (ABC): It's pretty safe to say that the messy love lives of Seattle Grace's surgeons will be back by May sweeps. Like Gossip Girl, expect five to seven more episodes to complete the season.

"Heroes" (NBC): Because production for Heroes is complicated and expensive, producers will not make any more episodes for the second season. But there's no doubt the show will return in the fall.

"Lost" (ABC): There are six

episodes left that were made before the strike. Whether or not ABC will decide to produce any more episodes of the show's fourth season is still undecided.

"The Office" (NBC): Luckily, half-hour sitcoms take the shortest time to produce, so the employees of Dunder Mifflin should return to TV screens by April.

"Pushing Daisies" (ABC): Like most freshman series, there will not be anymore new episodes this season. However, the show has been confirmed to return in the fall.

There are still a lot of question marks on many shows because networks had to rearrange schedules so much in order to accommodate the writer's strike. Now, they're faced with the task of changing schedules around again. There should be more confirmations about which shows are returning and how many episodes will be produced in the coming days. One of the best sources for this information can be found on the TV Guide website, which has a list that is updated hourly.

But after such long hiatuses, have people lost interest in some of their favorite shows? We'll have to wait and see if the consequences of the last strike repeat themselves. After the last major writers strike in 1988, that lasted 22 weeks, TV lost 10 percent of its viewers, and never fully recovered. While no one can say what effect this writer's strike will have on TV ratings, viewers will be able to take full advantage of new episodes as soon as possible.

Female leads shine in 'Cashmere Mafia' and 'Lipstick Jungle'



The cast of the new show 'Cashmere Mafia' poses for a promotional shot.

By KELLY LAUTURNER
Staff Writer

It's good to live the high life, isn't it? Two new television shows follow the lives of powerful female executives in New York City. ABC's "Cashmere Mafia" follows four women who have been best friends since business school and support each other on their trials and tribulations of dating, marriage, raising children and balancing a high-powered career. NBC's "Lipstick Jungle" has a similar idea, following three powerful females facing problems in the bedroom and the boardroom. Despite both shows having similar plotlines, they each hold a different niche and both have the potential to be successful.

"Cashmere Mafia," which debuted Jan. 6 introduced audiences to the mafia, part "Sex and the City" girly banter, part "Big Shots" corporate drama. It is produced by Darren Starr of SATC fame, so it would likely appeal to anyone who is a fan of the show. I honestly like the show. The characters are engaging and representative of real women. Their problems are not just fluff.

First there is Mia Mason, played by Lucy Liu ("Charlie's Angels"), who in the first episode is put up against her fiancé for the job as head publisher of a magazine. Mia wins the promotion, but loses her guy in the process, as he breaks off the engagement, leaving Mia alone at the top and forced to date a man her mother sets her up with.

Mia's friend Zoe Burden,

played by Frances O'Connor ("AI: Artificial Intelligence") is an executive at an investment banking firm. At work, she repeatedly gets involved in her boss' various affairs with a woman under her while trying to do her job. She spends her nights juggling her two children and her husband Julian, an architect who constantly has to pick up the slack at home.

Juliet Draper (Miranda Otto, "Lord of the Rings") is the CEO of a large hotel chain, making sure her family is always regarded as flawless. Her personal life has fallen into dismay after her discovery of her husband having an affair with a close friend. Her rebellious teenage daughter also threatens to ruin their perfect family image.

Rounding out the fab four is Caitlin Dowd (Bonnie Somerville, "The O.C."). Caitlin, the senior vice-president of a cosmetics company is struggling with her sexuality, being interested in both men and women, which threatens to ruin her reputation.

The Feb. 7 debut of "Lipstick Jungle" sets up audiences to meet three women at the height of their careers, but the pitfalls of their social lives. This show is based on a book written by Candace Bushnell, the writer of "Sex and the City." Although there has only been one episode so far, I see potential in the show.

In the first episode we are introduced to three of the most powerful women in New York, Wendy Healy, Victory Ford and Nico Reilly. Brooke Shields ("Suddenly Susan") stars as Wendy, a bigwig film company

executive that fights tooth and nail to get big name stars in her movies. At home, her marriage with husband Shane is falling apart as he realizes her career always seems to get in the way of their relationship with each other and their children.

Wendy's friend Victory Ford (Lindsay Price, "Pepper Dennis"), a successful fashion designer, has her worst show ever, which is seen by half of America. Victory suddenly finds herself the object of affection of a bold, but arrogant billionaire, Joe Bennet, when every one has lost faith in her. As much as Victory dislikes Joe, she begins to feel an attraction for him.

Nico Reilly (Kim Raver, "24"), Editor of "Bonfire Magazine," prepares for her magazine's web launch, with little support or enthusiasm from her husband Charles, a history professor. Their marriage is missing a spark and Nico turns to a younger guy she meets at the party for comfort. Meanwhile she makes sure her boss is not leaving her out of important magazine decisions.

So yes, both of these shows tackle similar issues. They both come from production teams with similar backgrounds, but they are not the same show. They both have potential to hook in audiences. They have similar plotlines and settings, but they offer different insights into the lives of the upper-class and powerful women of New York. So check out ABC's "Cashmere Mafia" Wednesday nights at 10 p.m. and NBC's "Lipstick Jungle" Thursdays at 10p.m. and decide for yourself which one you like. You may even enjoy both of them.

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Health

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Valentine's Day: Cupid, friend or foe?

By CHRISTINE SAVOIA
Circle Staff

It's that time of year when love and romance or feelings of loneliness and intense hatred of the Hallmark industry are all strangely as plentiful as bad food in the Marist cafeteria. February 14th is meant to be a day of tender appreciation for long-standing couples as well as an opportunity for budding relationships to fully bloom. On the other hand, there is the group of people who would love nothing more than to shoot Cupid down with his own arrow and do away with the entire holiday itself.

All of this leads to the question of the true meaning of Valentine's Day. Is it a legitimate opportunity to set aside quality time with that special someone or finally pour your heart out to the girl in your class whom you've been drooling over all semester? Or is it actually a big, ridiculous scam created by the Hallmark industry to steal what

little cash we college students have?

As far as college is concerned, one can definitely see the appeal of one-time hookups. The person's hot, you guys do your thing, get a little slap on the back from your buddies, and life goes on. There's no one clamoring for your attention while you're trying to watch Monday night football or accusing you of flirting with your lab partner at Hatter's last night. It's all the benefits of a physical relationship with the freedom to do as you please and without the stress of constantly keeping your partner happy.

For these people and others who simply aren't involved in a serious relationship, Valentine's Day doesn't have to be such a drag. It's natural to feel lonely or angry if you find yourself without a date on the one day when everyone who does have one is rubbing it in your face. However, if you are one of these people with a vendetta against the holiday, make an excuse out of it. If you've got no one else to please,

then why not pamper yourself? Girls, get with your single friends and go on an all-out shopping splurge or rent a movie and pass around the goodness of Ben & Jerry's. Unfortunately I'm less experienced in the area of what most pleases guys, but my best guess would be that a day of video games, sports and wings. Although ice cream and buffalo

"If something does go wrong, Discovery Health advises taking anger out on something else, giving each person the opportunity to find a clear and rational resolution together after calming down."

sauce probably aren't the most healthy food choices, Valentine's Day is all about making the soul feel good.

If you are by chance a hopeless romantic and looking to make a move, I say go for it. If there's someone you've been thinking about getting closer to, don't be intimidated to use the holiday as an opportunity to make a move. Work up to the friend stage, focusing on the basics: exchange-

ing phone numbers and flirtations. Once you've got your foundation, going for flowers or a nice love letter is still a sweet gesture, or you can always think up something more original that you think will make your crush melt for you.

And finally we come to those of us with the titles of someone's "boyfriend" or "girlfriend". This

is where this holiday becomes really, really tricky. Yeah it's great, spending all this quality time together, and, not to mention, spending all this money we don't have on gifts we neither want nor need. Do I really need an entire box of chocolates with plenty of extra calories or a big stuffed animal that's going to take up more room on my already small bed? No, but if my boyfriend showed up on V-Day

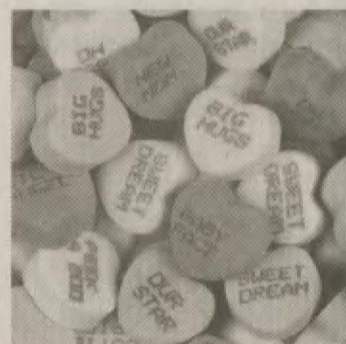
without anything in his hands and no plans to go anywhere, I'd go on a full blown rampage.

Why? Because girls in serious relationships can be influenced to view this holiday as a time for both boy and girl to make an above-and-beyond effort to reinforce their love for one another, whereas most guys tend to see this as an obligation to buy her something pretty. Of course this is only the stereotypical viewpoint and not everyone fits into these categories.

If something does go wrong, Discovery Health advises taking anger out on something else, giving each person the opportunity to find a clear and rational resolution together after calming down. If the couple wants to avoid a stressful and unnecessary fight caused by conflicting viewpoints, each needs to give a little on their end. Planning something together ahead of time may take some of the "spark" away, but it will allow both parties to agree and compromise on whatever their V-Day activities will

include, or if they will celebrate the holiday at all. This way, no one's expectations fall flat and the day can be a meaningful one if you really want it to be.

Whatever your feelings about Valentine's Day may be, realize that you can control the day and don't have to deal with the typical pressures the cheesy Kay diamond commercials try to put on us. Limit your spending and go with thoughtful, home-made gifts, go all out with giant gift baskets and fancy dinners if you can afford it, or ignore the holiday completely and enjoy your triumph over Hallmark. Just do whatever makes you and your partner (if you have one) happy, and have some fun with it.



Bummin' It Beautiful:

A slob's guide to a time-savvy beauty regimen

By BRITTANY FIORENZA
Health Editor

With fresh snow covering Marist campus I think it's safe to say we are all hoping for a snow day as an excuse to stay in bed for twenty four hours straight. Harsh February weather coupled with the intensity of school work make for putting our health on the side burner for some time. In the midst of this mayhem, it might seem more important to pull all nighters, and get all hopped up on coffee and Red Bull rather than sleep, eat healthy, and take care of yourself.

Now, I am most definitely guilty of all of these habits and more, which makes me think it would be ideal if there were more hours in the day; more time to sleep, more time to eat, just more time. I could sit here and preach about time management and how to better take care of yourself, but I've decided its better just to read about how to cheat time.

As a girl who loves her sleep more than any normal person should, I take advantage of any opportunity to throw some products in my hair at night and sleep on it (I'm not claiming to have good hair days often... but I do get to sleep more). Hats, head bands, hair wraps and bobby pins are all great hair fixes. Straightening your hair at night and sleeping on it even saves you more time in the morning.

Furthermore, rather than go all out applying make up every morning before class, I have a fool proof plan of the least amount of make-up necessary for me to look like I am put together. Quick dabs of white cover up on the inner corner of your eyes help to brighten up under eye circles. Black eyeliner along the bottom lid defines your eyes further. If you're paler than a white wall, like myself, blush will brighten your complexion. If you're a fan of tanning, or are naturally tan, well then... you're blessed because there's one less step to your morning regime. Finally, lip gloss, the staple beauty product. This minimalist beauty routine is not only easier on my

skin, but it saves me money and time. Oh, and effort. Let's be honest, little effort and success is rare, and a beautiful thing in itself.

I'm pretty OCD about many things; one being my nails. If I paint them a color, I tend to obsess over every inevitable crack and peel. I have found that clear nail polish gives your nails a nice shine and makes them look healthier without you having to worry about touching them up every other day and waiting around for your nails to dry. Smudges, farewell.

Now, I'm a slob and a half, and personally, I embrace the mess. However, it is rare that I ever leave my room without forgetting something in the mayhem. I've found that taking the staple items such as your keys, swipe card and cell phone and putting them in an obvious area where they are bound not to be swallowed up in a mound of clothes is ideal for not stressing as you rush off to class.

Speaking of rushing off to class, having a supply of convenient fruits such as clementines and bananas in your dorm allows for you to have a healthy breakfast while running out the door and across campus in a frenzy. Yogurts, Odwalla shakes and other portable snacks are great to grab and take with you on the run, not to mention they are actually a healthy alternative to other snacks.

Remember how your mother always used to tell you to put your clothes out the night before?... Yeah, it doesn't work. Personal success has been found in keeping my favorite sweater hanging on my bed post, easily accessible for when I'm frantically trying to figure out what looks best. (This works for jeans too).

As ridiculous as this may sound, it could work to make you feel more put together when everything else is crazy. Even if these don't apply to you, I'm sure there is something that you can do along these lines. The point is, there's plenty of ways to cheat time and still look good.

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Ball control vital for Foxes future success

By GREG HRINYA
Sports Co-Editor

The Red Foxes broke their three-game losing streak Sunday against Saint Peter's, but the turnover problem that has recently plagued this team continued.

After turning the ball over 18 times in Friday night's overtime loss to Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) rival Siena, Marist subsequently had nine turnovers in the first half against Saint Peter's (5-19, 2-12). The Red Foxes trailed 34-25 at the half.

The Red Foxes bounced back in the second half, surrendering the ball only five times and outscoring the Saint Peter's Peacocks 44-27 en route to a 69-61 victory. Although Marist snapped its winless streak, the team put itself in danger with early turnovers that led to a nine-point halftime deficit.

"The turnovers are bizarre to me," Marist head coach Matt Brady said following his team's overtime loss to Siena. "It's an Achilles heel with this group. I don't have an answer for it and I'll give you my e-mail address, and if you have an answer for it, hit me up."

As evidenced by Marist's 44-point second half onslaught against Saint Peter's, the Red Foxes are one of the MAAC's better offensive teams. Through 25 games, Marist is second in the conference with a .459 field goal percentage. Only Rider has a better percentage from the field.

Marist's one true flaw up to this point has been turnovers. Although the Red Foxes sit in a tie for third place with Niagara and Loyola, the team has the second worst turnover margin in the MAAC (-2.20). Only last place Canisius has a lower margin (-4.67).

Despite boasting the second best field goal percentage, Marist has attempted just 1,355 shots. Only Fairfield and Canisius have attempted fewer.

Coach Brady recognizes the difference between the first half production against the Peacocks as compared to the second half.

"We played the second half with five turnovers, and that's a big deal because we're a team

that's a high-percentage shooting team," Brady said. "If we can just get shots up, we'll make enough."

Hope may be on the way, however. Senior guard Louie McCroskey, who suffered an ankle injury to Loyola on Jan. 17, could return this season. McCroskey is currently off crutches and should be out of his protective boot by the end of the week. According to Coach Brady, McCroskey might be able to test the ankle next week.

"I was initially reticent to believe that he could [return], and now I'm hopeful that he can," Brady said. "Weight bearing activities [should start] sometime next week, and then we'll see how his wheels feel when he's able to put some stress on his ankle. It's possible [that he will return]. I didn't think that initially, but there's a chance we can get him back for the MAAC tournament."

In McCroskey's absence, the Red Foxes have relied heavily on freshmen guards Jay Gavin and Dejaun Goodwin. Jay Gavin leads Marist in scoring with 13.3 points per game and ranks ninth in the conference in scoring. The two have struggled with turnovers at times though. The duo combined for seven turnovers against Siena and five turnovers in the first half against Saint Peter's.

"I need to get this team to understand the value of the basketball, and until we make that step, we're in a danger area here because we could lose some more games or we could run the table," Brady said. "If we don't take these turnovers down to 12 a game we're going to have a hard time."

Brady acknowledged Gavin's potential, but the coach also realizes there is plenty of room to grow.

"He is a kid who wants to be great. He's one of the hardest working kids I've ever been around, [and] he shoots about 700 jump shots a day," Brady said of Gavin. "He's being face-guarded but he's got to make simple plays, and that's the thing he needs to learn. Part of this game is about playing simply."

Gavin has assumed the scoring

role ever since McCroskey's injury. Gavin scored 20 points in five straight games earlier this season. Only Indiana's Eric Gordon has notched more among freshmen with six. Gavin has also been named MAAC rookie of the week five teams for his efforts.

Brady believes that Gavin has missed McCroskey's presence the most.

"I think the guy that misses him the most is maybe Jay Gavin," Brady said. "Before he might've been guarded by the other team's third best defensive player, now he's the guy that's never being left. The other team's scouting report probably starts with Jay Gavin."

"I think Jay has pressed the issue for a number of reasons. He does too much," Brady said. "It's not external pressure, it's internal pressure. He's doing it to himself. As much as I try and talk to him about just continue [to play within yourself], score 10 points a game, he thinks he's got to score 25 and he hasn't played as well."

Despite Gavin's growing pains, the freshman guard's play has drawn the ire of Siena's head coach Fran McCaffery.

"He's gotta be the rookie of the year," McCaffery noted about Gavin after his team's overtime win against Marist. "Obviously he's a tremendous shooter, but he plays with so much composure. He does not play like a freshman."

Although the Red Foxes have relied on freshmen down the stretch, the team has looked to its veterans to pick up the slack.

Redshirt junior Ryan Schneider scored a team-high 17 points against Saint Peter's after pouring in 15 Feb. 4 at Siena.

Brady pointed out that Schneider has many qualities that make him an asset coming off the bench.

"He's been the guy that's benefited most with Louie's unfortunate injury," Brady said. "I think he's really growing into his role. He led us in scoring [against St. Peter's], he's a terrific rebounder, and we think, his teammates and the coaching staff, we think he's one of the best shooters in our league. Frankly he's one of the



JAMES REILLY / THE CIRCLE

Injured guard Louie McCroskey looks on from the bench. He injured his ankle in a loss at Loyola on Jan. 17, but coach Brady believes he'll be able to return for the MAAC Tournament to give his team a boost.

best shooters I've ever coached. But Ryan's one true, great flaw is that he over thinks this game too much. When he just goes out there and plays like he did Sunday, he's a real good player."

Another veteran the team has turned to is senior captain Ryan Stilphen. The 6-foot-8 Stilphen showcased his versatility when he nailed a three-pointer to give the Red Foxes a 79-77 lead with 0:40 remaining in regulation against Siena.

Brady believes Stilphen will be strongly missed by the Marist community.

"He's a tremendous player, Ryan Stilphen's really great. We're really gonna miss him when he leaves, and we may petition the NCAA for a sixth year for him," Brady said with a smile after the home loss to Siena. "He is a quiet warrior and he makes a big three every game. He's a dynamite college basketball player who's getting the absolute most out of his ability, and we all might be working for him someday because he's a really bright academic kid, and

hopefully he's gonna own the world some day."

Up next

For now, the Red Foxes will lean on their veterans and hope to build upon their win at Saint Peter's. Marist (15-10, 9-5) will travel to Manhattan (9-15, 3-11) to take on the Jaspers in a MAAC contest that will be televised on ESPNU Friday night at 8 p.m.

Marist upended Manhattan, 76-66, in the two teams' prior meeting on Jan. 7. Two guards will be featured in this game, Manhattan's Antoine Pearson and Marist's David Devezin. The sophomore Pearson leads the Jaspers in points and assists this season.

Devezin has played every minute, 125, of the Red Foxes' last three games. In that span, he averaged 11.3 points, six assists, 3.3 rebounds, and 1.3 steals. For his efforts, Devezin was named to the PrestoSports/Met Basketball Writers Association Honor Roll.



Roarin' Red Foxes

Marist's male and female star performer for the weekend of Feb. 8-10.

David Devezin
Basketball, Sophomore



In the Red Foxes past three games, Devezin played all 125 minutes and averaged 11.3 points, 6 assists, 3.3 rebounds and 1.3 steals per game. The sophomore guard was named to the Met Writers Honor Roll for his performance this past week. He's averaging 8.9 points and 4.5 assists per game on the season.

On the horizon:

Marist will travel to Riverdale this Friday, February 15, to take on the Manhattan Jaspers in a MAAC showdown at 8 p.m.

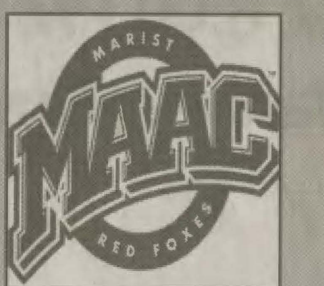
Julianne Viani
Basketball, Junior



Viani scored a career-high in points with 25 in Marist's 91-46 romp over Canisius. She went 8-15 from the field and tied her career-high with 6 three-pointers made. The junior guard recovered from a slow shooting day from the field in a win over Niagara last Friday, where she only scored 6 points, all from the free-throw line.

On the Horizon:

The Red Foxes will look to continue their 13-game winning streak when they return home this Friday to take on MAAC rival Niagara at 7:30 p.m.



* Photos courtesy of
www.goredfoxes.com

Marist water polo makes a splash at the Hilton Invitational

By MIKE WALSH
Staff Writer

This past Saturday, Feb. 9, marked the beginning of the Red Foxes Water Polo season. It also marked the beginning of Ashleigh Jacobs' era as head coach.

The former Australian Pro was hired this past Sept. by Tim Murray to lead the women's team this spring.

Jacobs stepped into a pretty good spot this year. The team finished 24-14 last

season, setting a program record for wins in a season. Two years ago, Marist earned its first NCAA berth.

The expectations are high this year as well. Marist was chosen to win the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) in the preseason coaches' poll. Three Red Foxes were chosen to the preseason All-MAAC team, lead by senior goalie Elizabeth Davis, last year's MAAC Defensive player of the year.

On Saturday the women took to the water full force.

They were a little rusty in a 12-6 loss to Bucknell but came back to take both of their next matches on the day. In the loss, sophomore Hilary Schroeder notched a hat trick.

The ladies then took down Colorado State 11-5. This time around it was senior Maggie Hatcher with three scores. Hatcher also chipped in on the defensive end with five steals.

On the third game of the day, Marist fought off exhaustion to outlast UC-Santa Cruz 12-8. Sophomore Samantha Swartz

had a huge game with four goals, giving her six total on the day. Junior Kaitlin McCahill also chipped in a hat trick in the night cap.

Entering Sunday, the Red Foxes had a 2-1 record and took on Colorado State again in the opener. Marist scored four goals in both the second and third quarters to pull away from Colorado State. Swartz played well again and had a hat trick. The final score was Marist 11, Colorado 7.

Marist then faced Bucknell

who delivered Marist's lone loss. At halftime the score was knotted at 4-4. Marist fell down by one through three quarters. The Foxes fell apart in the fourth quarter, being outscored 4-1 by the Bison. Sophomore Kristen Barnett had three scores in the losing effort.

With the 3-2 overall record, the Red Foxes took home second place in the Invitational.

The ladies return to Poughkeepsie on Feb. 17 to take on the New York Athletic Club at the McCann Natatorium.

Carow breaks school pole vault record at Valentine Invitational

By DANIEL BARRACK
Staff Writer

With the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Championships only one week away, the men's track team finished one of its best meets of the season at the Valentine Invitational last Sunday. Sophomore Max Carow broke the Marist pole vault record and several other Red Foxes set personal best times.

The main highlight of the meet was Carow setting the new school record for the pole vault at 4.15 meters, beating the previous record of 4.05 meters. Carow set the record with the inability to properly prepare due to the

limitations that the McCann Center offers. Coach Peter Colaizzo thinks that the feat was more difficult for Carow than it would have been for other athletes.

"It was challenging for him because he can't do full jumps until the actual meet because of weather and the facilities, he can only practice in the gym," Colaizzo said.

Girma Segni also was impressive in the 5,000 meter run with a time of 14:38.68, the best of his collegiate career. With the results for the Valentine Invitational, Segni became the first runner to qualify for the IC4A Championships.

Other runners to note are soph-

omore Conor Shelley and senior captain Mike Rolek. Shelly lowered his career best time in the 3,000 meter run by 10 seconds with a time of 8:33.79. Rolek finished right behind Segni in the 5,000 meter run and has been impressive all year.

"Mike [Rolek] was the team MVP after the cross country season ended and is carrying his success into the indoor track season," Colaizzo said.

As a team, Coach Colaizzo was impressed with how Marist finished at the Valentine Invitational.

"I thought the Valentine went very well, with all of the illness that has been going around, it has affected us," he said. "The guys

who were healthy and were able to run did great."

With the MAAC Championships approaching next week, Coach Colaizzo is looking forward to competing in them next week.

"We are hoping to make a dent in every event, but we are hoping to do very well in the long distance races and the pole vault," Colaizzo said.

The Red Foxes will not have to face a power house in the indoor track MAAC Championships like Iona in cross country, but Colaizzo believes there are still tough teams to beat.

"Manhattan is the team to beat indoors, but I know that we are among the most talented in long

distance and pole vault,"

Colaizzo said.

The MAAC Championships are set for Feb. 22 at the Armory in New York City.



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Red Foxes ranked in Top 25 for first time this season

By ERIC ZEDALIS
Media Editor

The Marist women's basketball team (23-2, 13-0) seeks to win its 14th straight game, and sophomore Rachele Fitz aims to reach the 1,000-point mark for her career Friday night at home against Niagara.

This past Monday, Fitz earned her third straight Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) player of the week (fifth of the year) as her 23 and 19-point outputs against Niagara and Canisius over the weekend left her just five points shy of 1,000 for her career.

Fitz attributes her success to her teammates and coaching staff.

"I have already played with many outstanding players. A lot of my success is owed to them. They know how to get me the ball in good situations, where I am able to score," she said. "Our coaching staff at Marist has always been supportive of each player. They prepare us extremely well for everything, especially games. They are a great group of coaches and I wouldn't trade them for anything."

According to head coach Brian Giorgis, Fitz has had such an immediate impact in the program because, as her name might imply, she "fits" right in.

"She has a great post-presence, and she knows how to draw fouls and get to the free throw line. And our kids are very good at finding her when she is open. It's a good relationship," Giorgis said.

Should she reach 1,000 points, Fitz will be the first women basketball player at Marist to reach 1,000 as a sophomore. She will also be on pace to score 2,000 points in her career, which also has never been done.

Yet, Giorgis said the primary focus in Fitz's life is still her major — fashion design. Away from the hardwood, Fitz does not concern herself with basketball so much.

"She's not a basketball junkie," Giorgis said. "She's much more of a regular person like everybody else. In fact she watches very little basketball. Outside of LeBron James, she doesn't know who's who in the game other than Michael Jordan. She's just a very good basketball player, who likes doing what she does as a fashion major."

Last Meeting with Niagara

Marist defeated Niagara 75-54 at the Gallagher Center this past Friday on the strength of Fitz's game-high 23 points.

Giorgis' fear that the Red Foxes might have a bad outside shooting night came true as they shot 1-of-20 from three-point land.

However, the Foxes played well defensively and improvised on offense.

"I thought we did a very nice job defensively all weekend," he said. "And [against Niagara] we found different ways to score. Obviously it wasn't the three ball, but we got the ball inside to Rachele, we scored in transition, we let our defense create our offense...we did a number of nice things. It was a good win from that standpoint."

While Niagara defends aggressively on the perimeter instead of trying to take away Fitz, the Purple Eagles do not necessarily deserve credit for Marist's 1-of-20 three-point shooting night, Giorgis said.

"We just didn't hit shots that day. Obviously if you're shooting 20 threes, you've got looks. And we just took them and didn't make them," he said.

Pick your poison

It will be interesting to see if Niagara Head Coach Kendra Faustin has the Purple Eagles try to take away Fitz inside after she led all scorers last time out with 23 points.

This past Sunday when Canisius attempted to do that, Fitz still scored 19, Viani exploded for a career-high 25, and the Red Foxes won by their highest point differential all year, 91-46.

For the first time in the regular

season, the Marist women's basketball team is ranked in the Top 25. The Red Foxes are ranked 25th in the most recent ESPN/USA Today Top 25 Women's Coaches' Poll released on Tuesday. Marist was last ranked on April 4, 2007 when the Red Foxes were ranked 22nd at the end of the season.

ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Poll

1. Tennessee
2. Connecticut
3. North Carolina
4. Rutgers
5. Maryland
6. Stanford
7. LSU
8. Baylor
9. California
10. Oklahoma
11. West Virginia
12. Duke
13. George Washington
14. Old Dominion
15. Oklahoma State
16. Notre Dame
17. Kansas State
18. Pittsburgh
19. Texas A&M
20. Utah
21. Wyoming
22. Ohio State
23. Syracuse
24. Georgia
25. Marist



JAMES REILLY/THE CIRCLE

Rachele Fitz is five points away from 1,000 career points. She will become the first sophomore to ever score 1,000 points and would be on pace to score 2,000, a feat no Red Fox has ever accomplished.

What will you do this weekend?

- A. Refresh your Facebook profile
- B. Wait for something exciting to happen
- C. Wish your roommate went home
- D. Travel to a new city, meet new people, and learn while voicing your views on politics and social issues

MARIST DEBATE seeks students interested in developing career skills, speaking their minds, and learning about the world. Interested? Join us on Wednesdays at 8:00 PM in LT 201 or e-mail James.Maritalo@MaristEdu

