



THE CIRCLE

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The Student Newspaper of Marist College

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Class ring selection too limited

Students want to choose styles other than what Marist allows

by STEVE LINDEMAN
Staff Writer

Junior Michael Bogush was aggravated when faced with a limited number of choices while purchasing a Marist ring this year.

"You only have a limited number of choices. They won't even except a credit card for final payment," said Bogush.

A Marist ring is offered to any student with 45 credits and a G.P.A. of 2.0 or greater.

The controversy surrounding the ring involves the limited number of choices regarding the type, color and particular cut of the stone.

Jostens, the ring company that

controls the production of the Marist ring, limited the amount of choices this year. Not having as many models of rings offered to the students makes the process less cost effective, said Gerard Cox, dean of Student Affairs.

"It might also reflect the alumni's satisfaction with the traditional style ring," Cox said.

One unsatisfied junior, Mike Onorato, was willing to pay the extra money for a rounded stone instead of the square stone that was represented on the traditional rings, the one stone that was approved by Cox.

"At the time, I was sort of puzzled why this was the case,"

said Onorato.

Dean Deborah DiCaprio said college rings should be based upon the traditions of the school. That is what makes the ring memorable to the students when they become part of the Marist alumni.

"If we change [the style of] the ring every year, then it wouldn't be a tradition," said DiCaprio.

The chosen style of the Marist class ring is called "traditional," and only two inscriptions are allowed. One of the Greystone building and the other of the Marist Chapel. Both styles have



Circle photo/Meredith Kennedy

Some students want rings in styles other than what Marist sets.

a different form of the Marist seal imprinted on the opposite sides of the ring, said DiCaprio.

"The Chapel was chosen because it was built by the
Please see Students, page 3...

Some computers collect dust while labs are jammed with students for finals

by KELLY SMITH
Staff Writer

As finals begin and students line up to wait for an available computer in the labs, there are about 25 computers sitting in Marist East, the college warehouse, collecting dust.

According to Eileen Bull, assistant dean of special academic programs at Marist, the Marist Prison Program officially closed in August due to a lack of funding. As a result, computers used in the program are currently unplugged and homeless.

"Dollars are always an issue

here, in terms of everyone's operating budget...we are assessing what equipment needs to go where," said Bull.

Bull also said that a lot of the computers were purchased through HEOP and will go there for use, although some are dated as early as 1985 and need to be upgraded.

Teri Cormier, a communications major, said all of her classes require her to work on computers. And, because of high phone bills, she said that computers are the only way she can keep in touch with a lot of her friends.

"I'm always in one of the labs

trying to get them [computers] to work," said Cormier. "We definitely need more computers here at Marist."

Cormier said she has a strategy to get a computer in one of the labs.

"I avoid the busy week nights in the labs and venture out on weekend days to the computer center," she said.

Senior Adrian Zajac, who works in academic computing, said the Lowell Thomas computer lab could extend its hours.

"In the beginning of the year

Please see Computers, page 2...



Circle photo/Daryl Richard

CLEAN-UP A member of Marist Maintenance finishes some plowing on Monday afternoon in the townhouse parking lot. On Saturday, the Poughkeepsie area got about 5" of snow.

Money stolen from McCann Center

by TOMMY SCHWAB
Staff Writer

On Saturday morning, Nov. 18, Assistant Athletic Director Collin Sullivan discovered that someone had broken into his office located in the McCann Center.

According to Marist security, \$200 in petty cash was taken from Sullivan's desk drawer. The incident was reported to the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department and Marist security.

Joe Leary, director of security, said the whole situation caught him off guard.

"You have to take necessary precautions," he said. "This is not always a perfect environ-

ment."

Leary also said that the crime was odd because there was more money in the office that was not taken.

Sullivan said the perpetrator apparently gained entrance into the building through a window that is normally locked. Then, he said, the thief broke a pane of glass to open the door that leads into his office.

Town of Poughkeepsie Police detective, Paul LeComte, said the gym was open late and that the incident occurred sometime late Friday night or early Saturday morning.

LeComte said he has no leads as to who committed the crime.

First Amendment debate hits Cyberspace

Congress may censor material on Internet

by CINDY BOTTICELLO
Staff Writer

Freedom of speech in interactive media and the fate of the Internet may enter the endangered species list.

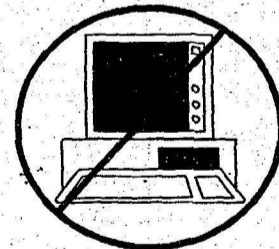
On Dec. 6, members of a Congressional conference committee voted 17-16 for a measure that would impose fines up to \$100,000 and prison terms up to five years for people who make indecent or obscene material available to minors.

The committee agreed in principle on sanctions against transmitting obscenity and indecent material over computer networks, but stopped short of defining the bill's exact language.

The vote means prohibitions will be imposed for the first time on communication in Cyberspace. The regulation of the Internet, or Net censorship, is part of a telecommunications bill expected to pass by the year's end.

Net censorship has ramifications ranging from research dilemmas to banned books, for students.

Censorship on the Net



Congress tries to limit material available on the Internet.

According to the American Council on Education, a school librarian could be liable for allowing a student who is under 18 online access to *Ulysses* or *Catcher in the Rye*, because they contain indecent language.

In a report released on the Internet, the definition of "indecent" was clarified by the Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT).

"Indecency is a broad classification of material including sexually explicit material, [George Carlin's] 'seven dirty words', and even classic works of fiction," the CDT report said.

Students who are currently us-

ing the Internet to research subjects such as rape may find that they have few sources to choose from in the future.

According to an article by Edmund Andrews, in the Dec. 7, edition of the *New York Times*, there are many inconsistencies that arise with the new censorship bill, which is being pushed by organizations like the Christian Coalition and the Family Research Council.

"...The new bill raises the incongruous possibility that newspapers would be able to print a word like 'penis' on paper but not in their on-line distribution over the Internet," the article said.

Students like Jamie Olmstead, a Marist junior who uses the Internet to do research, said he feels that Net censorship is a violation of one's constitutional rights.

"[Censorship] goes against freedom of speech," Olmstead said. "People should be allowed to do and say whatever they want as long as it is not physically hurting someone."

Please see Internet, page 2...

Praxis Program changes students' views on education for inmates

by SANDY ZELLER
Staff Writer

While many Marist students have been busy learning about subjects such as history and economics, others have been researching topics such as education in prison through the Prison Praxis Program.

The program was initiated by Benay Rubenstein, former coordinator of the Marist program at the Federal Correctional Facility at Danbury, Conn. Rubenstein, along with Richard Stratton, editor and publisher of Prison Life Magazine, met with 10 students from Professor Mar Peter-Raoul's Philosophy and Religious Studies classes.

The students entered information into a data bank from responses to a survey on education in prison that was published in Prison Life Magazine. The survey was published in response to the government taking away funding for education programs for inmates in an effort to be able to better address the educational needs of inmates.

The students were also required to write a research paper on a selected aspect of prison life.

Senior Jamie Dunn did his research paper on women in prison. He said he feels his experiences in the Prison Praxis Program have changed his views on the prison system. Dunn said he feels that education is the key to reform.

"Without an education in prison, how are they supposed to get a job and stay out? If we don't want them to go back, we have to do this," said Dunn.

According to Stratton, society assumes that inmates are very different from the rest of us because the vast majority of people in prison have not had the same opportunities that we have.

"Less than 10 percent of the prison population are deprived and act out... We need to solve social problems that start every-thing and keep it in check,"

Stratton said.

In response to the data collected from the survey, Stratton said he intends to put out a newsletter and do a section on Marist's Prison Praxis Program in an upcoming issue of Prison Life Magazine.

"Working with Marist and Mar Peter-Raoul was great and the overall experience was extremely rewarding for me. I would love to see something in place that stays in place, a center where research was done on education in prison," he Stratton.

The Praxis Program began with Professor Mar Peter-Raoul's proposal for a minor in Public Praxis. Sociology Professor Bruce Luske and then-chairman of the Humanities Division, Vince Toscano, collaborated on the proposal.

Luske said he supports the students involvement in the Prison Praxis Program and education in the system.

"Education is the way out, a way for us to empathize and see our connection with [the prisoners]," Luske said. "Education is the key for prisoners to change their lives."

Professor Peter-Raoul said she was pleased at the reactions from the students and how much they learned and changed through their experiences reading the letters and through their research.

"To work together with these people, who are bringing together the head and the heart, caring and putting into practice and acting upon deep social concerns, this is one of the most meaningful experiences [for me]," Peter-Raoul said.

Rubenstein stressed her desire for the Prison Praxis Program to continue on the Marist campus. One idea is to initiate a campaign in which students donate used softcover books to prisons to aid in the education of prisoners.

According to Rubenstein, criminality exists in everyone in terms of facing certain issues within.

"The potential for the full-range of human behavior exists in every person," said Rubenstein.

Senior James Matranga said he felt the program really enlightened him to the truth about prisons and prisoners and was impressed with the responses to the survey. He also said he is not as biased against prisoners

as he was in the beginning of the project.

"These people write better letters than a lot of people at Marist could've written; they express themselves better. A lot of their feelings and emotions are genuine," said Matranga.

Senior Jennifer Groot said she also feels the project has changed

her. Through entering the information from the survey into a database and researching her paper, she had to connect with the community, do research and get practical experience.

"I'm more aware of different situations. I see things differently now. It's easy to write [the prisoners] off," said Groot.



SANTA CAME EARLY?

No, just students from Marist who donated gifts to the Giving Tree Project. As seen here in Lowell Thomas, the lobby is filled with presents for needy children.

Computers become hot item when finals approach

...continued from page 1.

the lab was open until 1:00 a.m.," said Zajac. "Security didn't want to pay for an extra guard to sit there, even though we had lab assistants handy."

Zajac also said the Donnelly lab is open 24 hours only because security headquarters is located in the same building.

Another computer lab is located in Dyson, room 303. According to Zajac, the machines there run much faster.

Dyson lab assistant, Alejandro K. Brown, said there is a steady stream of students using the Dyson when the lab is not being used for special topic classes.

"Students have access to programs such as Microsoft Office, Pagemaker and the Internet outside of these classes," he said.

Brown said the lab in Dyson is fully staffed from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Junior Erika Scinto said she took matters into her own hands and bought a computer. She said

she did not want to be hassled by having to wait for a computer.

"You have to worry about having things done and written out before you go to the lab," said Scinto. "I like to take my time."

As a psychology and special education major, Scinto said she needs a computer for courses such as Research Methods. However, she said she had to pay \$500 for a Xircom adapter, plus \$35 a semester to Marist, in order to hook up the mainframe.

Director of Academic Computing, Barbara McMullen, said the faculty computer lab was created because of the high demand by faculty to use computers with state-of-the-art equipment. She said part of the mission statement of the college includes the priority to improve the teaching and learning of the college by upgrading computers in the faculty lab with state-of-the-art equipment.

McMullen also said that students would not be able to use the available computers without

seeking permission from a faculty member.

Although McMullen said the faculty computers were in use 24 hours a day, seven days a week, there was not one faculty member on a computer.

In the meantime, students were lined up on the other side of the window which separates the faculty lab from the main lab in Lowell Thomas, waiting for a seat and computer to open.

Another computer lab is located on the first floor of Donnelly, in the computer processing center. The center houses about 15 computers.

Dennis Creagh, manager of Information Services, said that the lab is used to train staff and conduct workshops for faculty.

"We book the room about 85 percent of the time," said Creagh.

Creagh also said he wasn't sure the center, when not in use, could be opened for students unable to get on a computer in the main lab upstairs.

Internet may soon be censored

...continued from page 1.

Spokesperson for the Church of Scientology, Mark Rost, formed a national Task Force for Responsibility and Freedom on the Internet.

Rost said in the group's news release he feels Internet censorship is a violation of an individual's freedom of speech.

"[This is] a serious threat to freedom of speech and the future of the Net," Rost said.

"However, it is the asocial behavior of a small percentage of Net denizens who abuse the Net for criminal pursuits that is going to pull the roof in on the rest of us."

Olmstead also said when the government censors the Internet there are many ramifications for students who use the Internet to obtain information for research papers and speeches.

"When the government denies an individual certain information on the Internet, they are denying everyone else that right to information because that individual can't pass on information they don't have access to," Olmstead said.

Senator James Exon, a Democrat from Nebraska, wrote a letter to USA Today on Dec. 7, saying censorship is needed to protect children from viewing pornography.

"We now have a framework for reaching a final agreement on a proposal that will go a long way toward keeping the red-light districts on the information superhighway off-limits to our kids," Exon said.

But many Internet users, like Marist junior Gina Trapani, an information services student staff coordinator for the Donnelly lab, said she feels parents should be responsible for what their children can access.

"I think it should be the user's responsibility to block out any sites on the [World Wide] Web they don't want to access, similar to when you get cable TV and choose not to get the Playboy channel," Trapani said.

Parents and educators already have access to software that block certain sites. Cyberspace monitors like SurfWatch uses a password to block Internet access to children.

SECURITY BRIEFS

On Saturday, Dec. 2 at 2:55 pm a Champagnat resident was assaulted by another Marist student.

According to Joe Leary, director of Safety & Security, the victim, a freshmen male, was found by a resident assistant kneeling on the floor of his room with a bloody nose.

Security was called in and the victim was sent to St. Francis. Town of Poughkeepsie Police were notified and later arrested junior Kevin Ledwith at 14 Fountain St. in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Ledwith was charged with assault in the third degree, a class A misdemeanor.

Preliminary medical information sighted a possible nose bone fracture and orbital fracture.

Leary said, this might turn the charges into assault in the second degree.

"The victim was down and then was kicked in the face," Leary said. "It was a cowardly attack. You wouldn't do that to an animal."

Freshmen Colleen Sharkey was arrested for falsely reporting an incident, when she pulled a fire alarm in Leo Hall Tuesday morning.

Sharkey, a Leo sixth floor resident, set the alarm off at 3:29 am.

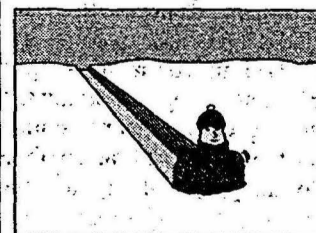
Town of Poughkeepsie Police were called in and Sharkey was interviewed and admitted she pulled the alarm, Leary said.

According to Leary, Sharkey left a trail of ink from the alarm to her door. Ink was also found on her hands.

Sharkey was charged with a class A misdemeanor and served and appearance ticket.

The Weekend Weather

Friday:



Chance of snow. Highs in the 30s. Low 15 to 25.

Saturday:

Snow likely north, mixed in the south. High 35 to 45. Low 25 to 35.

Sunday:

Partly sunny. Highs in the 30s. Lows in the 20s.

Source: Associated Press

Resident halls dressed in holiday style for decorating contest

by CHARLOTTE PARTRIDGE
Staff Writer

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Marist College.

The annual holiday decorating contest took place on Dec. 2, and many students got into the spirit.

The Office of College Activities ran the contest, and a committee of faculty, staff and administrators judged it.

The committee was split into two teams, and each team judged one end of campus.

Bob Lynch headed the South End team and Steve Sansola headed the North End team.

Steve Sansola said he really enjoyed the festive contest.

"It is a nice tradition to celebrate the holidays," Sansola said.

B7 was the winning house from the North End. The participants were judged on originality, general effect, group participation and presentation.

The first prize for B7 was a \$100 gift certificate. According to Catie O'Brien, a senior who lives in B7, the residents of her house agreed to spend the prize money

on groceries and a present for the giving tree.

O'Brien said she thought their presentation helped them win.

"Everyone in the house dressed as elves, or in red and green. That could be what the judges liked," O'Brien said.

B7 had a Rockefeller Center theme, including an ice rink, icicles and a snowman.

The second place winners from the North End was Gartland G10. The apartment had a village theme. Resident Nicole Trupia said it was not expensive to decorate.

"We made everything from scratch. It only cost about \$4 each. We bought a lot of ribbons, wrapping paper and construction paper," Trupia said.

Their second prize was a \$75 gift certificate, which they are using on a holiday dinner together.

Jody Slattery said she thought their construction paper village and snowflakes helped them win, but Nicole Trupia said she did not agree.

"We baked cookies for the judges. That probably helped to win them over," Trupia said.



Circle photo/Daryl Richard

Townhouse B7 won this year's annual Christmas decorating contest for the North End. Housemates dressed-up as elves and B7 became Rockefeller Center for the holiday.

The third place winner from the North End was Gartland F10.

The winners from the South End were: Marion Hall, first, Champagnat floors 1-3, second, and a tie for third between Leo and Sheehan Halls.

Along with the participants'

cookies, Sodexo offered hot chocolate and cookies to the busy decorators.

However, Trupia said the residents in her house just enjoyed decorating for Christmas.

"We probably would have decorated this way even without

the contest. We are really into the holidays," Trupia said.

Bob Lynch also said he enjoys the traditional contest.

"It is good to see the continuation of the tradition. I always look forward to the judging," Lynch said.

Future educators organize 'Teacher of Tomorrow' club on-campus

by JEANINNE AVILES
Staff Writer

The Teachers of Tomorrow club is lessening the gap between students, faculty, and community.

Teachers of Tomorrow is the newest organization on campus. Senior Aimee Rouis said she founded it to bring together all facets of education.

"We've already accomplished two of our goals in the club. The first one was to get some more interaction on a social basis with the faculty. The second goal was to get us (education majors) more involved with the community, and to help get Marist known," Rouis said.

Rouis, the chairperson of Teachers of Tomorrow, explained that although education majors do some field work in their freshman and sophomore years, they are not able to really get out into the community until junior year.

This is when they begin their major field work.

Rouis said students are split up by semester. Some students do field work in the Spring semester, while others do it in the Fall.

According to Rouis, the split makes it more difficult for education majors to stay unified. She said the new club is designed to

"It's in the works to formulate some kind of career expo just for education majors."

-Amy Rouis, founder of Teachers of Tomorrow Club

bring everyone together.

"A lot of us are separated when we become juniors, and we are divided up depending on when we do our student teaching," Rouis said. "This will hopefully be a nice place for us to come for support, and the under-

classmen can come for guidance."

Rouis said another difficult aspect of keeping unified is the faculty. Since they are out in the field and they teach at Marist, it is often difficult to interact with them outside of the classroom.

"(Teachers of Tomorrow) will create a nice communication link by having this time to come and support each other," Rouis said.

Teachers of Tomorrow received their charter about a month ago, and although their first meeting was on Nov. 30, they have already held their first event.

At the first meeting, there were more than 100 people.

According to Jennifer Nocella, Vice President of Clubs, this is an incredible number for an introductory social.

"They've made such a big impact already," Nocella said.

Rouis said there has also been a great amount of interest outside of the meeting.

"A lot of people are interested in trying to help out," Rouis said. "I've got a ton of calls saying 'if you need help just give me a call'. A lot of people are very anxious, and they're very excited about this."

Rouis also said students seemed grateful she started the club.

"A lot of the comments that I heard at the meeting were 'we've waited so long for something like this and no one has enough time to do it.'"

It is this type of comment that Rouis said gave her the initiative to start Teachers of Tomorrow.

"From the feedback of other students, I began to formulate some ideas for the club and how it could get started. I researched some of the other colleges that have education clubs and what they do, what they find successful and what worked for them. It has ended up working out great," Rouis said.

The Teachers of Tomorrow held a book fair last week, and Nocella said it was a great success.

According to Nocella, the sale made all types of books available, including children's books and school books.

However, Rouis said the book fair is only the beginning. They have many more events planned for the future.

Rouis said they will be discussing hot topics, such as discipline and time management, as well as inviting guest lecturers to speak.

According to Rouis, they are also hoping to create a channel for education majors to find jobs after graduation.

"It's in the works to formulate some kind of career expo just for education majors, Rouis said. "It would definitely have to be later on in the year, because that's when schools are looking for next year's teachers, and they know what spots are open."

Marist ranked top in technology next to Cornell

Recognized nationally as leader in effective use of computers

by Ben Agoes
Staff Writer

Marist College has been selected as one of the top four technology schools in America.

On November 30, Cornell took first place as Stanford and Duquesne universities shared Marist's second place standing during this year's annual CAUSE conference.

CAUSE is an organization that gives awards based on how efficiently a college's technology enhances teaching, learning, and research.

CAUSE paid tribute to Marist's "comprehensive campus network [that] has allowed the college to focus on... improving productivity, reducing operating costs, and enhancing communications..."

According to Marist College President Dennis Murray, "The CAUSE Award places [the school] in the same league as some of the most respected educational institutions in the United States."

Receiving the CAUSE award gives prestige to Marist, said Timmian Massie, Marist College Chief Relations Officer.

"This is an international award," said Massie, "and we beat some pretty big name schools."

CAUSE noted that the support for Marist College's learning and teaching environment "comes from the school's library, with its fully integrated library automation system... and external connections..."

Murray also attributes the college's success to the fact that

every classroom, dorm room, and office is wired with state of the art fiber optic technology.

"Marist has been a 'wired' college long before most other institutions," said Murray.

According to Massie, the CAUSE award recognizes only a small part of what Marist has to offer. There are big plans for the future, said Massie.

One such plan is to create an immense paperless library system that could be accessed from every dorm and classroom via the network links.

Compared to the other CAUSE award recipients, Marist is a relatively new college.

"We've come a long way in a short time," said Murray.

Students want more ring selection

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picked because it is part of the original campus," she added.

The purpose of a school ring is symbolic, said Cox.

"If you customize your ring, it really wouldn't be a Marist ring," said Cox. "It's like a wedding band. It shows the commitment one person has to another. Marist alumni with the same ring would recognize the ring on the hand of the wearer," he added.

Contemporary and modern style rings allow Class majors, Greek lettering, and athletics to be imprinted on one side, replacing the Marist seal, but all rings bought through the college would have one of the two historic buildings.

Other limitations apply to the choice of stone. It has to be either a garnet or ruby, and the color of the stone must be red in commemoration of Marist College.

A choice of metal, either gold

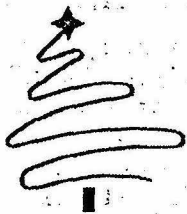
"If you customize your ring, it really wouldn't be a Marist ring. It's like a wedding band. It shows the commitment one person has to another. Marist alumni with the same ring would recognize the ring on the hand of the wearer."

-Dean Gerard Cox

or lustrum is also limiting, and students say they feel the prices are extremely high, ranging from \$200 for the lustrum metal, to almost \$600 for the most expensive gold ring.

Junior Charlie Melichar said the prices are just too damn expensive.

"I can barely afford to eat in the cabaret, let alone buy a class ring," he added.



THE CIRCLE

The Student Newspaper of Marist College

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The Circle is published every Thursday. The opinions and views of this newspaper do not necessarily reflect those of the Marist administration.

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Editorial

Government attempts to censor the 'Net'

Freedom of speech is in trouble. Congress is trying to pass a measure that would allow for the censorship of material over the Internet.

In a close vote last week (17-16), a committee comprised of both the House and Senate agreed to make any indecent or obscene information illegal on the Net. The problem with this measure is who gets to define what is "indecent" and "obscene?"

The Supreme Court has been faced with this decision many times, with cases like *Roth v. United States* and *Miller v. California*. However, the consensus has always been to allow publication of sexual and seemingly indecent material as long as it does not "appeal to the prurient interest," or lustful interest, of people. In other words, it is considered obscene if the information is intended solely for sexual arousal. So why should the Internet be treated any differently than the television or radio?

Proponents of this measure argue that children have easy access to the Internet, and subsequently the obscene and indecent material they want censored. However, the same children who can jump on the World Wide Web or America Online can just as easily turn on the television after 8 p.m. and hear the same words and see the same pictures they'll read on their computer screen.

The debate over censoring the Internet shares the same solution for censoring television and literature - parents must take the responsibility to monitor what their children watch and read. Unfortunately, parents today have used television as a mechanical babysitter. When mom and dad come home from work each night and want a few hours to rest, they tell their child to go watch television.

There is rarely supervision in the cases in which young kids are viewing or hearing the explicit material. Nowadays, the kids sit in front of the computer and surf the Net, pulling up the same stuff they will find on television.

Creating a national law banning the placement of such material on the Internet is not the answer. Americans' First Amendment rights should not be infringed upon because the government does not know how to deal with the advancing computer technology.

Other areas of society will suffer because of this measure. Students doing research will not be able to find any information on the Internet that has any sexual or "indecent" words or visuals.

The New York Times raised the issue that if they print a newspaper distributed to millions of readers worldwide with the word "penis" in an article, why should the same article not be allowed online? The fear of children finding obscene or indecent material on their computer cries out for parental supervision. The Supreme Court upheld freedom of speech in television, radio and newspapers, and there is no reason why computers should be treated any differently. Government regulation is not the way to respond to the newest way to receive information.

Editor's Notebook:

Tell me: How do I get back that 'Christmas Spirit'?

A long, long time ago, I can remember anxiously waiting for Thanksgiving Day to come. It was on that day, in my eyes, that the Christmas season officially began. For, after Thanksgiving dinner, my brother and I would plead and beg until my father finally became overwhelmed by our never-ending whining and climbed into the attic to get down our boxed Christmas tree.

We would stay up all night, my brother and myself, making sure every ornament was placed perfectly and all the branches were straight. Then, in fighting over who would put the star on top, we would wake my parents and be sent off to bed grounded for the rest of the weekend — every year, it never failed.

It didn't matter though, it was Christmas time and *Frosty the Snowman* and *Charlie Brown's Christmas* were on every other night, there were party's in school with candy-canes and home-made cookies, and everybody seemed just a little bit more friendly every where you went...I think it was called the 'Christmas Spirit' or something like that.

A lot has changed since then, and, unfortunately, I have to say that I no longer feel that so-called 'Christmas Spirit' anymore — I don't have the time. I never thought I'd say that.

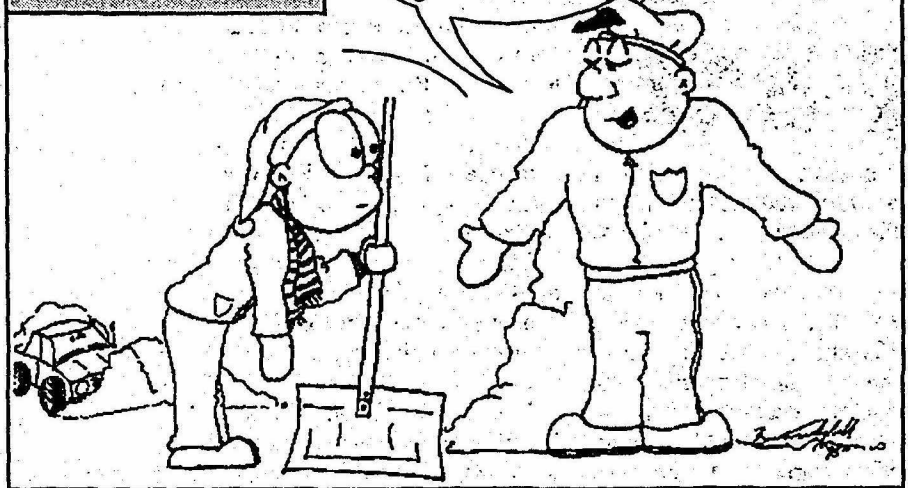
Term papers, final exams, applications for graduate school, the G.R.E.'s, jobs, activities, applications for jobs after school — the list goes on and on.

So, the other day, I took an hour out of my evening, and I got in my car and first drove by the Christmas tree outside of the church. Then I headed up to Hyde Park and drove through the neighborhoods looking at the lights and decorations around peoples' homes and in their yards...I even caught the last part of *Jingle-bell Rock* on the car radio.

I can't say now that I have that same feeling I had as a kid, but I can't say I don't.

Brian Frankenfield, Opinion Editor

SOMEWHERE IN LOWER HOOP LOT...



U.S. Troops prepare to spend the holidays abroad...again

Just in time for the holidays, President Clinton has given 20,000 American men and women an Eastern European vacation they will never forget.

Provided they survive it.

The troops have been sent to Bosnia on a peacekeeping mission. The deployment comes on the heels of the peace agreement recently signed in Dayton, Ohio (where many great documents have been signed) by the presidents of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Putting aside the irony of sending out heavily armed troops in the name of peace, we must take into account what the president hopes to accomplish.

At issue here is the worst conflict in Europe since World War II, what with three years of countless atrocities, hundreds of thousands of people dead, and more than two million people refugees displaced from their homes.

As a condition of the troops will be sent to the conditions of the treaty adjustment of the Bosnian Serbs will have

significantly decreased. Meanwhile, the Bosnian government will expand its military force. To merely say that this will be a tense situation would be like saying that Michael Jackson is just a little strange.

In his televised address last week, President Clinton swore up and down that the troops would be out in "about a year". However, reports already coming out of the Pentagon say this is highly unrealistic, adding that some kind of a peacekeeping force will be necessary for some years to come.

The problem here is not the president making more promises that he could never hope to keep.

The real problem is, what is Clinton's exit strategy? Congress is calling for a plan that will include providing weapons and training to Bosnian Muslims. The president has dodged this issue as much as he could. But, while there is some risk of these people turning around and shooting off the hand that feeds them, it appears to be the only way that a withdrawal by 1997 is possible.

Of the legion of Republican presidential hopefuls, front-runner Bob Dole seems to be the only one to support the president.

The majority of the others have been opposed to the idea of sending troops from the beginning. Dole, on the other hand, has played the good little majority leader and supported the president on the grounds that, like it or not, he is the commander-in-chief and what he says goes.

This is not just common courtesy or common sense, it is good politics. After all, it is not Dole's neck on the line if the mission goes badly. If it does, that will be more fuel for the fire of his campaign. And, if successful, he will look like the good guy for daring to cross party lines and support the president on a controversial issue.

It is also in the best interest of the troops.

While we may not agree with or even understand why they are in Bosnia, or how they can possibly get out, we have to remember that there are 20,000 of our own risking their lives to actually make a stand for the things that this season is supposed to be about.

So, this Christmas, while you are sitting around the tree pawing through that mountain of gifts, remember that there are 20,000 families just like yours that have one less place set at the dinner table. One less person to smile as the younger children rush to see if Santa enjoyed the cookies and milk they put out for him the night before. One less person to take for granted how fortunate we all are that we do not live in a country decimated by war.

Remember that this person is thousands of miles away from home in the name of concepts most of us are content to leave as a nice phrase on our Christmas cards: 'peace on earth and good will toward man.'

Christian Bladt is one of *The Circle's* political columnists

Think you are different...think again

For once at Marist College, I would like to encounter someone who is different... someone

My Turn

who doesn't go to the same old bars every weekend and listen to the same old music and talk to the same old people.

I want to talk to someone who is interested in having a conversation about something other than how many fifty-cent, watered down beers they pounded the night before and how hung over they are at that very moment.

I would like to meet someone who when I ask them if they did the reading for class says, "Yes, and I enjoyed it."

I want to come across just one person who actually chooses of their own free will, to stay in on one Friday night and read Salinger, Twain, or maybe even watch Clark Gable and Vivian

Leigh make history on the screen.

I would like to encounter someone who listens to, not Pearl Jam or Collective Soul, but Mozart and Beethoven... maybe even Handel.

I want desperately to meet someone at Marist College who does not always do what their friends do.

I want to meet someone who does not wear a white baseball cap with some other college's name on it with every outfit they put on.

I want to meet someone who is different...not purple hair and ten earrings in one ear different—that's trying too hard. Difference comes in subtleties, in attitude...most of all, in personality.

I want to come across someone who, when I'm walking around campus, doesn't stare at me just to show me how tough they think they are, but who smiles at me and says 'hello', even though I don't know them.

I want to meet someone who, when they see a person walking right behind them, holds the door for that person.

I want to talk to someone who says "excuse me" when they bump into somebody.

I want to meet someone whose priority is to keep up with current events in the news rather than current events on Melrose Place...and who realizes that life after graduation is not going to be anything like the show Friends...we're going to have to get real jobs.

I want to meet someone who goes to the library to read a book not required for a class.

This person I'm talking about is not a geek or a dweeb or a nerd, simply mature...and different, an individual.

If you know this person, stop me when you see me walking around campus and tell me...because I'd like to shake their hand.

Brian Frankenfield, Opinion Editor

What...computer...broke...huh?

I was sitting in the computer lab just the other day when I noticed it. There I am just typing away like a freakin' madman.

You know, "Where's the 't'?" Okay, got that down, now where's the 'h'? Okay, doing good. Cruising along."

Absorbed with technology as I was at that point is was no small wonder I noticed anything at all.

Anyway, it seems that the computer next to me was broken, and out of commission. Well, what really happened was some hoodligans were making shenanigans by stealing the little ball out of the mouse, thus rendering that particular machine utterly useless.

With a broken mouse, it's obvious to see what exactly the problem is; you can look right at the thing and see it's busted. It's simple.

But these people would just stare blankly at the mouse like it was some sort of advanced alien technology.

"Uh...broken? Mouse? Not work...uh...uh." Their vocabu-

lary would suddenly dip below the first grade level, and I started to think they were reciting lines from a caveman movie.

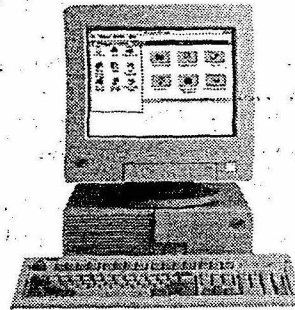
"Uggga, moooga. Daaaaa brook-in....thag....not work."

Their eyes would gloss over as if they were a recent lobotomy patient trying to do the times' tables. It was great. Wait a second. Uh, oh. My machine just froze up. My eyes are glossing. Starting to hunch over. Uh....brok.... thing... work....uggga... munga... dum.....com-puk-er...duhh...."

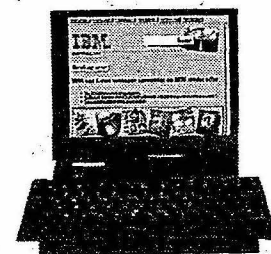
But what it really did, was enable me to see something really funny. It seems that when people really have their heart on doing something, and they realize that this particular task is impossible, they can't believe it. Their little task or activity suddenly turns into some sort of obscure astro-physics or the MENSA test. That's when the confusion sets in. And when the comedy starts.

Scott Wyman, humor columnist

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Letters to the Editor

Internship allows
for real hands-on
experience

Dear Editor:

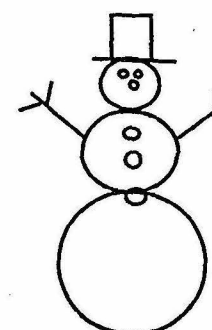
I am a senior and I thought that getting an internship would help my chances of getting a job. Currently, I intern at the Hudson Valley Film and Video Office and it is much different than I expected. Everyone thinks that they will be working on sets of movies but actually my job is much more important. At the film office we locate scouts for feature films as well as television commercials. About a month ago Michael Jackson filmed his video in Warwick County.

My goal is to become a filmmaker and my internship has taught me a lot about the film industry. I have worked on a student film as a second assistant director, production assistant and as a grip. Having this internship has lead me to work on actual projects as well as meeting people in the business. To anyone who enjoys film, The Hudson Valley Film and Video Office is definitely something to check out.

Chris Peckham, senior

Happy Holidays!

From:



The
Circle
Staff

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Drama course allows some to find the actor within



by LARRY BOADA
A&E Editor

The Performing Arts Room was filled with people memorizing lines and realizing that they had an acting ability they never recognized.

On December 1, two tracks of the Rise of the American Drama course held a theatre perfor-

mance of selected works directly from the classes. The event, brainchild of English professor Donald Anderson, gave students who may not be studying drama a chance to show their stuff in the theatrical arena.

"[The performance] indicates how vibrant theatre is at Marist," said Anderson.

For some memorizing lines was a lesser of two evils rather than an adventure in discovering their own inner-acting abilities.

Students in the drama classes were given the choice at the beginning of the semester for their final project — they could act or write.

"The experiment worked," said Andrea Hahazy, producer/organizer of the event.

"People who never considered themselves actors, are now considering it."

"I would like to see this kind of thing happening more often," said Jacqueline Lynch, a student in Anderson's Rise of the American Drama course. "Maybe it could include poetry readings as well."

Martin plays father again

by AMIE LEMIRE
Staff Writer

'Tis the season for schmaltzy movies, and 'Father of the Bride: Part II' definitely delivers. It's a time of merriment and mayhem in the Banks' home once again, though one might wonder if a sequel was really necessary.

Steve Martin returns as George Banks, a (mostly) happily married man who is suffering from a bad case of mid-life crisis.

When he is told that his daughter Annie is pregnant, and his son-in-law Brian calls in "Grampa", it's the last straw for George. He gets his hands on some Clairol For Men, and transforms himself into a hipper, younger version.

After swinging by the local Victoria's Secret to pick up a little something for his wife Nina, played by Diane Keaton, the new and improved George comes home to sweep Nina off her feet with his dashing new looks and attitude. After a quick one in the kitchen, George is satisfied that he's really not an "old man." He washes out the hair dye, and life goes on as normal.

Then one day, Nina sees the doctor because of stomach pains, and the happy Banks' learn Nina is pregnant. And here the storyline gets pretty predictable:

Mother and daughter pregnant at the same time—shudder to think!

Martin Short is once again hilarious as Fronk, the effeminate decorator/party planner. Short and Martin play off each other, and these are the scenes that pull the movie along.

Martin himself is funny, but even he can't save the predictability of the plot. It's obvious where its headed—both Nina and Annie will have their babies on the same night.

In general, 'Father of the Bride: Part II' is definitely not the thinking man's movie. I can pretty much guarantee that the male race will avoid this one like the plague, unless of course they're dragged by their girlfriends.

The movie falls short in the "plot" and "originality" categories, but shoots through the roof when it comes to cute, mushy, and family-oriented. I can't criticize it too much because it was so...heartwarming.

Which, I guess makes it the perfect holiday movie, because hey— isn't that what the holidays are all about?

Go see it; it's the "Feel-Good" hit of the season, and it'll make you want to go call your mom. Collect, of course.

Grade: B-

Locust Grove a walking winter wonderland

✓ Checking out the Hudson Valley
by Anne Tanner

It's time to take a break from final exams in order to follow the candlelit path — straight to Locust Grove.

Locust Grove, on Route Nine in Poughkeepsie, was once the home of Samuel F.B. Morse, the 19th-century painter and famed inventor of the telegraph.

In 1901, three decades after his death, Morse's family sold the property to William and Martha Young, who preserved the estate as it had been during Morse's time.

Today the house contains works of art from both the Morse and Young families, including artwork by Morse himself, displayed in the drawing room.

During a tour of the home, one can view a variety of 18th and 19th-century furniture, including a large collection of chairs, used by both families. The formal dining room, an addition made by the Youngs, contains the Morses' original silver and china.

On the second floor of the home, one can visit several bedrooms and the rounded billiard room, whose closet doors are curved to match the shape of the room.

A natural skylight served as the only lighting during Morse's time.

In the mother-in-law's room, there is an original piece of furniture which hides the family safe. This piece was acquired at the turn of the century, when the Morses' started to become wealthy.

In the basement of the home, visitors can see various samples of the telegraph invented by Morse. His original invention is currently on display, loaned by the Smithsonian Institute.

For the Christmas season, Locust Grove is offering special candlelight tours on weekends. The pathways around the home are lit by luminaria, and the home itself is fully decorated for the season.

In the drawing room, there is a live Christmas tree, decorated as it would have been during Morse's time.

In the basement, punch and cookies are served to visitors while they view the telegraph equipment. Finally, in the front of the home, is a sleigh filled with wrapped gifts in anticipation for Christmas.

Locust Grove is open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas, all year except for January and February. May through October the home is open daily from 10-4, and on Tuesdays by appointment. Through November-December and March-April, it is open daily 10-4 by appointment.

Now through Christmas, there are special candlelight tours on Saturdays and Sundays from two to eight p.m.. Admission is three dollars for adults, two dollars for seniors. For more infor-

mation, call (914)454-4500.

Upcoming Christmas Events
Historic Hyde Park Christmas— Franklin D. Roosevelt Home and Val-Kill are both decorated as they were for the families' holiday seasons.

Runs through December 31. Call (914) 229-2501 for details.

Holiday of Lights, Dutchess County— Downtown Poughkeepsie is lit up with 250 trees and over 300,000 lights. Caroling, historic tours, and musical events given throughout the county. Call for more information at (800)445-3131.

Vanderbilt Mansion— Rt. 9, Hyde Park; The mansion is decorated for Christmas in turn-of-the-century style. They will also be offering music and refreshments. Through December 20, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, call (914)229-7770.

Walkway: Over The Hudson— Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge. Holiday lighting display will be visible from Rt. 9 and other areas of Poughkeepsie and Highland. Through December 31.

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STAT OF THE WEEK:

STACEY DENGLER WAS NAMED NEC PLAYER OF THE WEEK.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Winning is my main concern." - Alan Tomidy

Swim teams win big

Men and women remain undefeated

by **PAT REYNOLDS**
Staff Writer

A lot of attention is paid to the Marist College men's basketball team around this time of year.

But there is another side to the McCann Center that does not have a gymnasium floor or basketball hoops.

The pool.

In this pool swims some of the toughest, most competitive athletes this college has ever seen: the men's and women's swimming and diving teams.

And in case you have not noticed, neither of them can be beat.

As was the case last Thursday when both teams dominated the meet with Fairfield University.

The men, who are 5-0, increased their winning streak to 15, and have not lost a duel meet since February of 1994.

Coach Larry VanWagner told *The Poughkeepsie Journal* that his team had to go into exhibition events towards the end of the meet so they would not run up the score.

"We knew we were stronger than Fairfield," he said. "We are not here to embarrass anybody."

Although all seemed to cruise to easy victories, highlighting

the men's day was freshman Griffin McNeese, who took first place in the 200 meter individual medley with a time of four minutes and 15.43 seconds.

With that time he qualified for the ECAC Division I championships by half of a second.

Frustrating Fairfield on the diving boards was sophomore Chris Blackwell who won in both the three, and one meter events with scores of 295.27 and 273.6, respectively.

The women's team also remained undefeated with their 127-94 victory over the Stags.

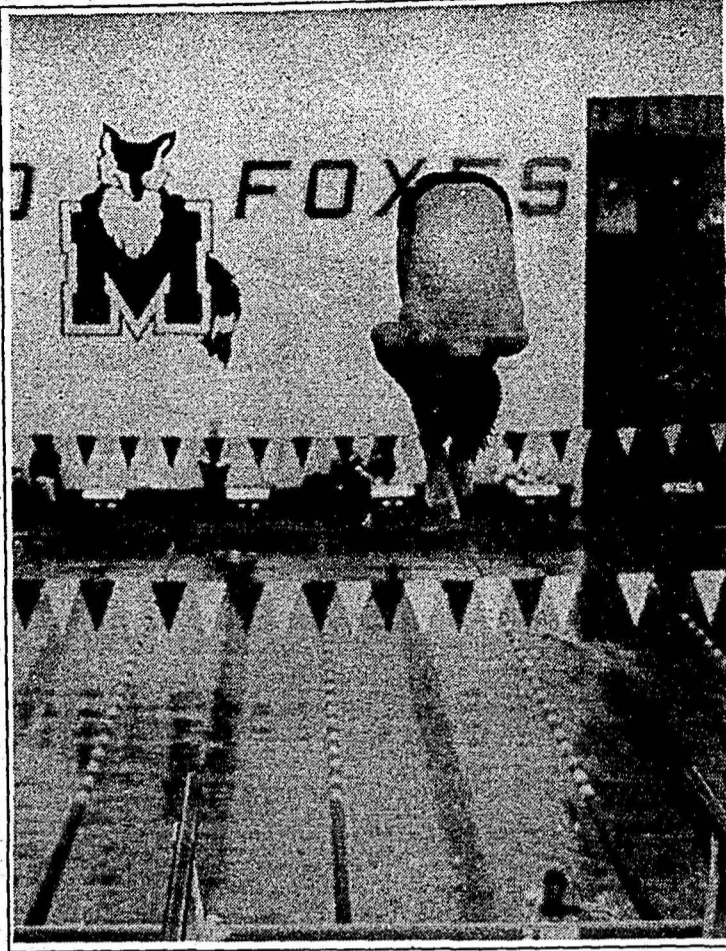
Two swimmers captured a pair of first place finishes for Marist.

Sophomore Danielle Mitchell won the 100 meter freestyle with a time of 55.92 and 200m, finishing at 2:00.38.

Freshman Jennifer Jaeger mopped up the 50m freestyle and the 200m backstroke with times of 26.05, and 2:12.07.

The women's diving team has also been consistently shredding opponents. Thursday was no exception.

The Red Foxes swept both the one and three meter events with senior Jan Martin, junior Danielle DiGeronimo and sophomore Tara Jennings finishing first, second, and third in both.



Circle photo/ Chris Berinato

Chris Blackwell won both events against Fairfield last week.

Martin, who is the two-time conference champion on the 3-meter board, not only broke her personal records, but also qualified for the ECAC and NCAA championships.

Melanie Bolstad, Marist's woman's diving coach, told the

The Poughkeepsie Journal that she was pleased with Martin's performance.

"She has just continued to improve," she said. "She is diving better now than she did at the championships last year."

Hockey has no mercy

by **MARTY SINACOLA**
Staff Writer

The Red Foxes defeated Fordham 15-1 on the opening night of the season, and looked to get back on track against them again last Friday.

They had no trouble as they once again trounced the Rams 10-0 in a game called after two periods due to a mercy rule.

"The Fordham game was good for us," said sophomore forward Joe Brooks. "It got us back on track."

Head coach Kevin Walsh agreed that his team came out of it's mini-slump.

"We had a little let down, but I thought we could bounce back and we did."

A little short handed on defense Walsh moved forwards Jesse Robertazzi and Mike Darragh to defense to help, and it paid off.

"Jesse and Darragh definitely stepped it up a level," Brooks said. "We are all gelling together."

The outstanding play continued on Sunday as Marist traveled to Albany St. to make the Great Danes their next victim, beating them 17-3.

"Everybody played outstanding," Walsh said. "It was a total team effort."

"We were hitting, playing very physical," said Brooks. "If we keep playing like that, no one is going to be able to keep up."

The team now has its goal set on the national tournament which will be in March in Florida.

"We are starting to realize that the nationals are in our sights," Brooks said. "Sometimes its hard to get up for games, but the coaches have been instilling in us that hunger using the nationals as motivation."

The Red Foxes will not be back in action until Jan. 14.

However, Marist will be put to the test once it returns to action.

"The first three games of next semester against CCM, Southern Connecticut, and Drexel, will pretty much dictate if we go to the nationals or not," Walsh said.

Women's hoops off to best start

by **MARC LESTINSKY**
Staff Writer

Anything the men's basketball team can do, the women can do better - or at least come close.

The Marist women's team is in the midst of its best start ever at 4-1.

Since opening their season with a 62-57 loss to Eastern Michigan at the Navy Tip-Off Classic, the Red Foxes have won four straight. The last two wins came at home against Army in the Anaconda-Kaye Hudson Valley Classic and future MAAC foe Siena.

The women's latest game to date was a 66-63 victory over the Siena Saints. According to coach Ken Babineau, this game was

supposed to be the Red Foxes toughest test yet.

"Despite their 2-3 record coming in, we were concerned about Siena," Babineau said. "But we wanted to prove to the folks in the MAAC that we can play some good basketball here too."

And the Foxes proved that right from the start.

The women attacked the Saints early, going into half-time with a nine point advantage, 36-27.

Siena made a game of it in the second half, but Marist wasn't to be denied.

"I knew they were going to make a run at us in the second half," Babineau said. "But we were able to make enough big plays to pull it out."

Basketball team makes history

by **CHRIS SMITH**
Associate Sports Editor

They say that they want to take the season one game at a time and this seems to be working for the men's basketball team as they improved their record to 4-0 last Wednesday night.

The Red Foxes defeated the Siena Saints 49-47 in Loudonville, N.Y. for the first time in Marist history.

The players did not even seem excited that they made history with this victory but were more concerned that they racked up another win.

"It wasn't a big deal," senior forward Kareem Hill said

nonchalantly. "It's just something we knew we had to do."

The team's goal is to win every time that they step on the court and face another team. They focus on playing their game more than worrying about their opponent's talent or reputation.

"The win over Siena was a good win, a tough win; we didn't play well, but we won," senior center Alan Tomidy said. "Winning is my main concern."

Tomidy led the team with twenty-three points and seven rebounds.

He also said Siena plays very well at home and that Marist let them get too much confidence.

It's the season of good cheer except we have been cheering all year long

Ironically, the end of the semester also brings with it the season of giving and sharing along with the prospects of things new and better on the horizon.

While the workload from classes is piling up and capping is winding down, we have to acknowledge the athletic season for what it was, what it could have been and the hope of what it eventually will be.

I am not spouting about the ghosts of Christmas past and future but the season for giving in this Winter Wonderland...

On the 12th day of Christmas...
The Red Fox football team gave a season almost worthy of repeating had it not been for a mere 5 points. None-the-less, it was the most successful graduating class the school has ever boasted. Toast some egg nog.

On the 11th day of Christmas...
The women's soccer team came out to play in their inaugural season and gave *The Poughkeepsie*

Journal plenty of headlines. Coach P did an excellent job with a team that will lose players to graduation. Things are looking bright in the new year in the new conference.

On the 10th day of Christmas...
Though they suffered through a dismal season, Doc Goldman gave Marist over three decades of memories and wins. With his tenure over, I give new coach Herodes some rather large shoes to fill. But he will be curling up in front of the fire of his old home in the MAAC shortly.

On the 9th day of Christmas...
The "others" on the court are slowly making quite a name for themselves. Santa came early this year, delivering them a healthy Dengler and Lesko. And they have delivered the campus a gift, their best start ever.

On the 8th day of Christmas...
Coach Dave Magarity said it would be a wonderful Yule year if his team could go into Christ-

mas 5-0. That is not something too shabby to put under the tree. But what do I hear on the rooftop? Is that the sound of a Northeast Conference title?

On the 7th day of Christmas...
The weather outside may be frightful but that does not stop Phil Kelly's girls from working on their technique. The women's track team was good for goodness sake and finished atop Kris Kringle's list that he proof reads a couple of times. That is a lot of names.

On the 6th day of Christmas...
Pete Colaizzo needs to look into his stocking and hope he can pull out another Dave Swift. Although his team over-achieved and ran the best they could, a Marist-ite can not help but wonder how much this team misses Swift. Don't worry Pete, another one is on the way. There could even be one nipping at your nose.

On the 5th day of Christmas...

A few prized recruits must have fallen down Kevin Walsh's chimney this holiday season as the hockey team is primed for a national ranking.

On the 4th day of Christmas...
This is a wish list for those who have been around yet are not seen. To rugby, crew, and skiing. Maybe this year, after you leave out the milk and Oreos or Chips Ahoy, even Price Chopper cookies, you will be put on the list (you'll get an article more than once a semester).

On the 3rd day of Christmas...
I'm dreaming of a...tennis court. Well, I am not really but after the year the tennis program turned in, it will not be surprising if a few pop up with this new commitment the college has toward athletics. Hey, if you are going to do it, do it right.

On the 2nd day of Christmas...
It will be a blue Christmas for the swimmers when they return early from vacation to hit the water for

their stretch run into the ECAC. Both are coming off fantastic seasons the year before and it will not be surprising if they do it again.

And on the 1st day of Christmas...
I end my term as editor-by-default. I hope you were kept entertained amidst the mistakes and misspellings. I was no Mark Kriegel or Mike Lupica but I tried in respects to how far I was able to take issues on the Marist College athletic front.

Please go easy on the new guy Chris Smith. He is a rookie so give him a little time to settle in. Good luck to Marist athletics. I look forward to watching you guys on ESPN some day. But until then, it will just be MCTV. Happy Holidays!!

This is Jason Farago's last edition as the Assistant Sports Editor.