



Marist scholars attend national conference

By TRICIA CARR
A&E Editor

This year's annual conference of the National Communication Association (NCA) brought thousands of professors, scholars and students to Chicago, Ill. on November 14. Six of the students were Marist undergraduates who presented their research to NCA members.

These students presented their research papers, each averaging about 30 pages, to scholars in a particular field of communication. Three to four groups presented consecutively, each explaining the methodology and results of their research.

Students who are selected to present at this conference are usually graduate students, but the NCA allows undergraduate students whose research papers are accepted to attend so they can network with professionals in their fields of study, which could help them get into graduate school later. This year, about 40 undergraduate students presented their work.

Marist students have attended the NCA conference each year since 1999. This year, six undergraduates attended to present two research papers: Maggie Brittle, Margeaux Lippman, Tim Morris, Matthew Onderko, Ashley Southard and Jessica Tougas.

The entries for the 2007 conference were selected by scholars who used a blind review process. Cochece Davis, Director of Undergraduate Research and Assistant Professor at Marist, said this process ensures that undergraduate students have a fair chance of being accepted since their research is judged alongside graduate research and research done by professors.

"A competitive blind review process means that the person reviewing the manuscript, usually a scholar in the field who is a member of the particular divi-



Courtesy of Margeaux Lippman

Marist students presented their research papers in Chicago at the National Communication Association's annual conference on November 14. Scholars in various fields of communication were in attendance.

sion, does not know who the author of the work is, or what institution the author is from," he said. "This is a huge advantage for our students because it means their work is judged on the work itself, not their student status or institution."

The two research papers presented by Marist were "Face-Off: Different Ways Identity is Privileged Through Facebook" and "Booking a Social Life: Stimulation Avoiders Overcoming Social Anxiety Through Facebook."

Tim Morris, a junior and one of the authors of "Face-Off," said that the research his group did was completed during Davis' Research Methods class last fall. His group made a survey that they distributed to students on campus. Their research paper was based on the results of 200 completed surveys.

"Our research was centered around the use of Facebook and how people use it to develop social presence and build identities for themselves online through computer-mediated communication," Morris said.

Both papers were presented in

the interpersonal communication division. Groups had the choice of presenting together or choosing one member to present. Communication scholars viewing the presentations are well-known in each category.

"One of the most interesting twists in this year's conference was when our Marist students presented their original empirical research on Facebook as part of a computer-mediated communication panel, and sitting just three feet away was one of the seminal scholars of that area in the communication field," Davis said. "In fact, several of his works were cited by our students in their literature review."

Other than experiencing the conference first-hand, benefits of attendance are not open to undergraduate students right away, but they are a step up from the average graduate school applicant. Undergraduates had the chance to meet recruiters from some of the top communication master's programs.

"The three main areas graduate schools applicants are evaluated on include GRE scores, GPA, and letters of recommendation,"

Davis said. "Having presented a professional conference paper can break you out of the pool of normal applicants."

Students who participate in scholarly research can potentially earn free graduate school. Some programs waive tuition fees for students who meet the qualifications.

Aside from the NCA conference, Marist undergraduate students have presented their research papers at the Eastern Communication Association and New York State Communication Association conferences. Just like the research papers presented at this year's NCA, the research presented at these other conferences was produced in classes.

"The Marist College communication program is one of the most active undergraduate scholarship communication programs in the world," Davis said.

Davis is willing to assist students who are interested in submitting their original research papers. The tentative deadline for submissions to the 2008 NCA conference is Feb. 1.

Construction continues with no serious delays

Project on schedule, at present

By SHANNON LECOMTE
Staff Writer

The future Lower Fulton Street townhouses are becoming a reality as construction vehicles dominate the east side of campus. Sarah English, Director of Housing and Residential Life, has high hopes for the townhouse development.

"There have been no tremendous delays," she said. "We know it's an aggressive schedule but we plan to open in fall 2008."

Justin Butwell, Director of Physical Plant, displayed both confidence and optimism toward the completion of the townhouses.

"Everything is right on schedule," Butwell said. "We hope to be finished in August."

Questions have been raised about how the construction will affect Marist students. Colleen Sprague, RA for Fulton Street Townhouses, is pleased with the way construction is going.

"The construction workers have been very good about being sensitive to the students' needs," she said. "The bridge connecting our side of campus to the rest of campus is a high traffic area and they have been great about keeping the area open so as not to delay students from getting to class, or forcing them to take an alternate route."

Since there is heavy machinery and construction vehicles operating in an area so close to students, safety is a concern.

"Occasionally some machin-

ery must cross the path of the walkway the students use," Sprague commented. "The workers have made sure that our safety is put first. I feel completely comfortable walking by the construction site."

Ralph Rienzo, RA for Fulton Street Townhouses, expressed great enthusiasm about the new townhouses.

"I think that this is one of the best construction plans that Marist has implemented in a long time," Rienzo said. "The new Fulton townhouses are going to put Marist on the map for quality housing and residential life."

There seems to be a silver lining attitude expressed by students about living in the Fulton Street townhouses.

"The most requested housing changes for the spring 2008 semester have been Fulton Street," English said. "Clearly, students like living with their friends and having their own room."

"Currently living in Fulton has been amazing," Rienzo said. "Having my own room prevents me from waking up my house mates and at the same time allows them to do whatever they want, as late as they want, without disturbing me."

However, the harsh winter weather could impact the progress of the townhouse development.

"The construction will continue through winter break," English said. "However, we are waiting on the weather; we are hoping for a light winter."

Marist bids final farewell to 39-year-old Benoit and Gregory Houses

By ANDREW OVERTON
News Co-Editor

With the current construction of Lower Fulton and plans for the construction of the Hancock Center next fall Marist will wave goodbye to Gregory House and Benoit House with mixed reactions.

According to the Marist website, Gregory and Benoit "were erected in 1968 as a residence for the Marist Brothers living on campus."

Originally Gregory and Benoit only housed Marist Brothers that were enrolled in the college and Brothers that taught at the college. Then, in the early 1970's when the number of Marist Brothers declined, Benoit became housing for Black Student Union members on campus, Brother Joseph Belanger said.

Brother Robert Clark, Class

'74 recalls Gregory and Benoit as the places to be when he was in school.

"That was the desired housing when I was here in the early 70's," Clark said, "but I think the other alternatives seem to be more appealing to students now."

The residence areas are located between the academic buildings, library, and student center.

However, sophomore Gregory resident Eric Miller said that he's not surprised that Gregory and Benoit are being demolished.

"Gregory hasn't exactly been kept in the best of shape, nor is it treated that well but others," Miller said. "It'll be good for the campus because they do appear rundown, and putting something new will make the campus look better."

Sophomore Andrea Duffy-

Cabana won't miss the appearance of Gregory and Benoit appearance either, but will miss the uniqueness of their residents.

Although they are a bit of an eye soar on our beautiful campus I will be sad to see them go," Duffy-Cabana said. "The kids that usually live there are known for their good times and these buildings represent a feeling of the typical college experience."

Sophomore Gregory resident Pete Liveten said he will definitely miss his residence.

"Now that I've lived here, I'll miss it," Liveten said. "It's better than Midrise or Marian."

Steve Kuhnert another sophomore Gregory resident isn't as upset as Liveten.

"I'm not going to miss it that much," Kuhnert said. "It's just a building."



From library.marist.edu

Benoit, pictured above, and Gregory will be torn down to make room for the Hancock Center. The new building will be a technology center, and construction is slated to start sometime next year.



THE CIRCLE Campus

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Security Briefs

“All I want for christmas is a drug possession charge.”

By TYLER THURSON
John Gildard in Training

12/4 -

Lowell Thomas/Dyson

Oh, the holiday season, the time of giving. Or, if you're the female panhandler spotted outside the Lowell Thomas and Dyson buildings, the time of taking. Security reported the woman soliciting money, and the Poughkeepsie police promptly removed her from campus. You know, you gotta give her some credit. She had a solid plan: if you can't make any money yourself, just ask for it nicely. Her execution, though, may have needed some work. A college campus? Seriously? Do we know college students have no money? As in...zero dollars. That's like going around looking for dignity at a strip club. You can wish and hope all you want, but you're leaving empty handed. Well, maybe not empty handed, but you know.

12/4 - Campus

Ah, and the boots continue. At 10:45 AM, a Mitsubishi was booted in the Foy lot, and approximately two hours later, the same car was booted again in Donnelly parking lot. Wow, at least you have the courage of your convictions. You stand up for what is right, and no one, not even security, will stop you. So you get in your booted car, and drive your statement home, only home is right in front of the security office. Well, at least you still have some self-respect, and security can't boot that. They should, however, boot you, because I'm thoroughly convinced you shouldn't be allowed to function in public.

12/4 - McCann

An ID card and \$10 were stolen from a purse on November 30, and the student just recently remembered to report it to security. This is somewhat understandable. You probably just thought you lost it, and never entertained the notion that someone on campus would dare do something unbecoming of a good citizen. See, I somewhat have the opposite problem, hence why my family has been through 4 cleaning services in 2 years. I always find my watch right after they've been given the boot. Well, too little, too late I guess.

12/4 - Marian

Shocking, really. A security officer patrolling the

first floor of Marian Hall reported the strong odor of marijuana, although no incriminating substances were found. The accused students denied ever touching the much-maligned plant, although one did confess to being a big fan of Calvin Klein's new cologne "Possession."

12/8 - Donnelly

Listen, there have been a lot of times where I've questioned as to whether I could make it back to my room. However, I've never passed out in the Donnelly bathroom, only to be awoken by the sweet scent of lemon Pinesol and the swift sounds of a sweeping mop. Well, I guess that makes one of us. On second thought, you and the housekeeper that found you might have much to talk about. I'm sure you'll want to familiarize yourself with the Donnelly bathroom, you know, for future careers and internships and whatnot.

12/8 - Champagnat

Breaking stuff was apparently all the rage over the weekend, as security reported property damage on the 4th, 6th, and 8th, floors of Champagnat. Among the items damaged: coffee tables, wooden chairs, and any sense of respect freshmen ever had. You know, if you just added the 2nd floor, this could've been just like 2,4,6,8 who do we appreciate? Apparently, not yourselves, because when that bill comes at the end of the year, you guys are going to be mighty pissed. Just a warning, good luck explaining that to the parents.

12/8 - Townhouses

Thanks in part to a door that could not be secured, an unknown visitor made a dramatic entrance into one of the Townhouses, taking a painting off the living room wall and throwing it over the balcony. Okay, so I know art is in the eye of the beholder and all that, but is this really necessary? I mean, can't you just let the "tears of a clown" painting be? Do you really need to make it any sadder? Just saying.

12/8 - Fontaine Annex

What is wrong with people? It's the holiday season, people, what is with all the robbery? Can't we all just get along? Seriously, join hands and start a love train. Is that

too much to ask? A stereo was stolen from a parked car in the Fontaine Annex, and no suspects have yet been apprehended. It's really only a matter of time before the victims start fighting back here, honestly. I mean, if it were me, and you dared touch my car, I would hunt you down, find out who you loved ones are, find out where you sleep, and steal any chance you ever had at leading a fully functioning life. Seriously, try me.

12/9 - Champagnat Green

Security reported a highly intoxicated student reconnecting with Mother Nature outside of Champagnat, also known as rolling in the grass on a drunken high. This seems relatively innocent, and very well could have been. We don't know, we weren't there. So what if someone wants to finally bond with the environment they've come to know and love? And if they can do so without once spilling their vodka tonic, well, more power to them.

12/9 - Champagnat Continued

On the backside of Champagnat, another student was spotted being somewhat sketchy at around 2 in the morning. Upon being approached by security, the student played it cool, and promptly headed for the hills. Where do you think you're going? It's a small campus; you really have nowhere to run but Gartland and Fontaine. I assume you could run into Poughkeepsie, but really, that's one brave decision. Good luck with that, though. Make sure you have your wallet open and ready. For the mugging, that is.

12/9 - Poughkeepsie

Uh oh. Any title with the word "Poughkeepsie" in it just can't be good. I'm sure it was just a harmless children's birthday party though, right? Or maybe a nice church social where they danced like it was 8th grade again. Um, no. Two students were leaving the Mad Hatter, and were somehow mugged by some dangerous Poughkeepsie delinquents. Well, lesson one, don't go walking through Poughkeepsie. This isn't the Yellow Brick road, and if it is yellow, it's probably hazardous waste. Seriously, I lock my doors when I'm driving through Poughkeepsie. Why not

just staple a sign on your back that says MUG ME? At least it will quicken the process.

12/10 - Townhouses

An anonymous complaint was reported to security, who then responded to the Townhouses for which the complaint was lodged. Upon arrival, it was noticeable that the complaint was for students smoking what appeared to be marijuana on the balcony. Eh, it's hard who to side with in this situation. Actually, it's probably not. Are a couple of kids smoking pot really that big of a deal for you? I mean, really? At least they're trying to air out their apartment. I mean, they're probably only smoking to begin with because they have to relax after a long day of dealing with uptight people like you. No offense, really. Well, only if you're reading this, if you're not, then I don't really care.

12/10 - Townhouse

Students reported a suspicious person entering their room, taking measurements, and leaving, only to find out later that it was a contractor for the college. Point is, make sure you know who you let into your room. I mean, before you know it, the plumber you just let in doesn't have any tools, but does want to inspect the pipes, if you know what I mean.

12/11 - Champagnat

Oh, the fire alarms in the

bitter cold, how I miss you. Actually, not really, but this is really funny. A fire alarm was set off in Champagnat, due to a cigarette lighted activating it. So, let me get this straight. You set the fire alarm off because you really needed a cigarette and didn't have to brave the cold, only to have to go outside anyway, where you could smoke and pretend it's the cold air. Wow, that is really ironic. Alanis would be so proud. Security, not so much.

12/11 - NOTE:

Well, it's been a riveting semester people. I know some of you have enjoyed, and well, some of you aren't going to be sending me a Christmas card. But, fret not good people, because next semester, I shall return to hopefully win you over for good this time. Or not, it really doesn't personally affect me. Because next semester, students still will attempt to wrap their heads around bacon, security will still be on top of the action, and well, freshmen will still be freshmen.

So, on that note, I leave the semester, with a heavy heart and a few more people that hate me. Well, try it. I'll have bodyguards, and words cannot express the lawsuit I will press on you. Seriously.

Disclaimer: The Security Briefs are intended as satire and fully protected as free speech under the First Amendment of the Constitution.

**The Circle's
editorial board
would like to thank
our writing staff for
their contributions in
2007.**

**Good luck on your
final exams in the
coming week!**

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News

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Music Department's Winter Festival Concert impresses

By KRISTEN DOMONELL
Staff Writer

Poinsettias lined the stage and a large wreath helped brighten the theater for the Music Department's Winter Festival Concert on Sunday afternoon.

On December 9, the Handbell Choir, Concert Band and Wind Symphony joined in the Nelly Goletti Theater for their last concert of the semester. In the evening, the Marist String Octet, Freshmen Women's Choir, Women's Select Choir, Chamber Singers and Wind Symphony performed. The concerts were performed for about 100 students, family members and friends of the musicians. According to sophomore Alexa Mullen, a member of the Concert Band and Wind Symphony, the band had eight rehearsals prior to the shows.

Junior Amy Kate Byrne attended the evening concert and said she was especially enthusiastic about the performance of the singers.

"I am so impressed by the singers because they are so phenomenal at what they do and made it come together so well,"

Byrne said.

The concert began with a prelude by the Marist String Octet, followed by the Freshmen Women's Choir, which set the holiday mood by performing a fast paced version of "Deck the Halls."

"We tried to make it holiday-ish," choir conductor Sarah Williams said. "This is why we sang 'S'vivon', the Jewish piece, and also some Christian pieces."

According to Mullen, "Sleigh Ride" is a piece the band plays every year. Mullen said it is always a fun piece and that members of the band wear Christmas hats and antlers while playing it.

For their final song, the 98 members of the combined choir sang "Hope for Resolution."

Williams said the song was written in response to the mistreatment of the Zulu people during the Apartheid era in South Africa and translates to "Nation do not cry. Jehovah will protect us. We will attain freedom. Jehovah will protect us."

"I thought the last song was very important and that it is very important that Marist students

understand how blessed they are compared to the Zulu people," Williams said. "I want the young adults at Marist College to realize that there are truly people suffering, and maybe they can do something about it."

The Wind Symphony, an approximately 50 member audition-based ensemble under the direction of conductor Arthur B. Himmelberger, played five songs.

"'Abram's Pursuit' was a big challenge," Mullen said. "It was sort of outside of our comfort level, so that was fun to play."

One piece the Concert Band played was special to the band's director.

"We played 'Prayer and Dream Pantomime' from Hansel and Gretel because it was Art's favorite song when he grew up and he always wanted to direct it," Mullen said.

Despite cold temperatures and a foreboding forecast, those involved with the concert said they thought things went according to plans.

"I thought it went very well, especially since the weather was supposed to be awful and it's pretty late," Williams said. "There was lots of energy."

ESPN Radio personality - Marist alum - to appear on WMAR show

By JON WHITE and MIKE MUSCHIANO
Circle Contributors

ESPN Radio New York personality and Marist Alum Brandon Tierney is set to appear on MaristRadio.net's "Sports Stop" with Jon White and Mike Muschiano on Thursday, Dec. 13 between 6-8 p.m. ET on WMAR 1630AM.

Tierney graduated from Marist in 1996 with a B.A. in journalism while lettering in baseball.

"Unfortunately, when I was at Marist the Radio Club was not nearly as developed," Tierney said. "At the time, the school only had an FM station, which only aired music. It is terrific to see the opportunities that are now available."

Tierney spent his four years at Marist playing for the school's baseball team. Being an athlete restricted him from certain internships, but certainly did not prevent him from succeeding in a career in radio.

"My first internship did not even come until after college with WFAN," Tierney said. "The key is stay aggressive and passionate for what you want to do."

After completing an internship with WFAN, Tierney began his broadcasting career working in Pennsylvania and Las Vegas. By 2001, he had landed a job hosting his own top-rated mid-day show on Sports Radio 1130 "The Fan," in Detroit. In 2004, Tierney landed a job with ESPN and currently hosts "The Brandon Tierney Show," which airs weekdays 7-10 p.m. on ESPN Radio 1050.

Ryan Restivo, the AM Station Manager at Marist, is very pleased with the support of the alumni.

"I think the direction we are moving in is definitely positive," Restivo said. "But it is also important to relate to the ever-growing amount of support of the alumni. Not only are they making a tremendous impact in the media, but also

with our current programming."

MaristRadio.net offers a variety of programming, including men's and women's basketball coverage and interviews with top sports personalities such as ESPN News' J.W. Stewart, ESPN.com's Matthew Berry and former Mets player/manager Bud Harrelson.

Listeners will be able to tune in to "Sports Stop" by logging on to MaristRadio.net and clicking the 1630 AM link on the top of the main page. Listeners will be able to submit questions to Brandon Tierney by e-mailing SportsStop1630@yahoo.com or calling in at (845)575-3692.

"Sports Stop" is part of WMAR 1630 AM's Thursday Night Express, a four hour block which includes "Sports Stop" from 6-8 p.m., followed by "Sports Nation" with Ryan Schneider and Dustin Aglietti from 8-10 p.m.

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Email to: gerard.cox@marist.edu

Campus mail: Prof. Gerard Cox, Campus Box MSC 14188.

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Spirit of Christmas overshadowed by commercialism

By KELLY LAUTURNER
 Staff Writer

“Stop being a grinch!” My roommate has told me this several times in the last few months. I will be the first to admit I can be cranky; but my low holiday spirit has not been caused by my lack of excitement for Christmas, or by the shorter vacation we’re having this year. My lack of holiday cheer comes from the fact that the “reason for the season” has vanished.

No, I’m not just talking about the whole Santa thing; although I do love the old jolly guy. I’m talking more in a spiritual sense. I’m not really focusing on the problem of people not recognizing the religious aspects of Christmas. I’m talking more about the soul.

Regardless of what you believe about religion, the reason for Christmas is to celebrate life and new beginnings. So, my “grinch” attitude comes more from the

fact that people claim they believe in the spirit of Christmas, but don’t actually show it in anything they do. Just because you put up a Christmas tree or donate a gift to a toy drive doesn’t mean you’re following the ideals of the Christmas season. I’m not saying that we need to go around proclaiming, “God bless us everyone” like Tiny Tim, but we need to be more considerate to the people directly in our lives. It’s really the daily interactions

we have with other people that make us human and allow us to share the message of Christmas.

As far as I’m concerned, Christmas is about being kind to others, celebrating our relationships with loved ones, and being together with those people. In the society we live in today, neither of these ideals are encouraged. We have the Darwinian idea of only the strongest succeeding and the need to look out for

“number one” (ourselves) over caring for others. We all have our own televisions, computers, cars, cell phones, are virtually independent from the world, but still feel the need to be constantly connected. How are we supposed to come together as a human

relationships and stabbing each other in the back, then trying to make amends. It sounds a lot like college doesn’t it?

This kind of attitude is the complete opposite of the spirit of Christmas. We can’t just push our problems and issues aside for a few days and expect the holiday season to be perfect. We have to learn to stop these problems from occurring in the first place and learn to be more accepting of people in our lives.

Another problem I see with the Christmas season is family. I know we’re young and naturally there is a part of us that would rather be with our friends than our families. But when it comes to the holiday season, family time should be a given. So prepare to hear your uncle’s story about seeing every castle in Europe again, because that’s what the holiday spirit is about. We eat a lot of food, we talk to our families to clue them into our

lives, and we take part in traditions. Now this can be silly or hokey, but these holiday memories really do mean something to us. They will determine how we raise our children. I’m sure nobody wants to raise a kid that thinks Christmas is all about who gets more presents and has no connection to the positive messages of the season.

Earlier in my article I mentioned the idea of new beginnings being another part of Christmas. I know not everyone is a saint, but this is the time of year we try to be a little more angelic, right? With New Year’s resolutions right around the corner, Christmas is the perfect time to get a do-over.

Christmas is the time when Jesus was born, so we should celebrate that idea by trying to give birth to new hopes. This is the time of year when we need to be mending bridges instead of burning them. It is the time when we should be reaching out to friends and family members who

we have lost touch with or had arguments with. If Ebenezer Scrooge taught us anything, he taught us that we need to reach out to the people in our lives and show we are grateful for them. Even though it is not a Christmas song, I feel that the Goo Goo Dolls’ song “Let Love In” really helps identify this spirit of Christmas. They sing, “The only way to see again/ is let love in.” It’s a nice message because it reminds me that we have people in our lives for a reason and we need to acknowledge them and show them that we do appreciate them in our lives.

The overly-commercial aspect of Christmas, sadly, cannot be avoided. Christmas sales begin in October and commercials are on television before Halloween. That sickens me greatly. I understand that we want to find presents for people we care about. However, more often than not, trying to find the best present can lead to more frustration than it is

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We can’t just push our problems and issues aside for a few days and expect the holiday season to be perfect. We have to learn to stop these problems from occurring in the first place and learn to be more accepting of people in our lives.

population and show compassion for others when everything we are taught divides us? Good question.

First of all, we need to stop the self-pity and ridiculous excuses we come up to convince ourselves our behavior is okay. I mean, we watch shows such as Grey’s Anatomy, which I really do love, but the entire show is about people complaining about their miserable lives, frustrating

Ron Paul shows little promise for success in 2008 presidential election

By JOSEPH GENTILE
 Staff Writer

He’s not up for Student Government election, but Congressman Ron Paul, representing the state of Texas for about 20 years in the House of Representatives, has been campaigning more aggressively for the Republican presidential nomination here than any Marist student has for elected office. Unfortunately for Paul, his bid for the presidency of the United States does not get the Marist “rubber-stamp” treatment, as is evident by the uncontested incumbency of Student Government candidates.

It seems that wherever you turn though, Paul is promising more of his “hope for America.” Hope, under the Bush administration, has a magnificent record of providing federal aid to Gulf Coast hurricane victims, extend-

ing healthcare coverage to the millions of uninsured citizens and stopping a sandbox quagmire costing taxpayers, on average, \$1 billion a day according to the Government Accountability Office.

Still, Paul’s supporters are fervent in their impassioned promoting at both the college and greater Poughkeepsie area on his behalf. But, behind the patriotic blues and reds, underneath the star-spangled glamour, what does Ron Paul actually stand for? He couldn’t tell you himself. Nowhere in the current political fray does a candidate, possessing such a fractured personality, purposely exist to be contradicted.

Excluding Mitt Romney, who would convert to Scientology if it garnished him votes, Paul desperately pans himself as the sexiest alternative among a field of bland Republican contenders by adamantly opposing the Iraq War. By being the first, and only,

presidential candidate from the Grand Old Party to do so, Paul does manage to set himself apart in terms of his originality. But, his so-called “libertarianism” sets him light-years apart from the average American.

College students, in particular, might be interested in hearing that in December 2000, Paul championed the abolishment of the Department of Education. Sure, those pesky No Child Left Behind standardized tests would be a relic of the past. However, for those of us that depend upon a Stafford Loan to finance their higher education, you can just

say “buh-bye” to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and “hello” to a sea of red

Due to our “young adult” demographics’ history of inaction, I figure Ron Paul stands a better chance of being elected president of Facebook rather than president of the United States.

ink upon graduation.

Paul, though, has not tempered his support of tax-credited funding for Christian schooling from the feds as of September this year, or for increased spending on abstinence as opposed to con-

traceptive-based sexual education. So, if I am to get this straight, Paul does not want to help me finance my education, but uses the federal government to propagate his viewpoints on faith and sexuality?

I’m confused, because in my Political Issues and Ideas lecture I understood that “libertarians” abhorred big government and its intrusive policies. Instead, they championed for the liberty of the individual above everything

else. But, in August of 1998, Paul voted against a voucher program for the District of Columbia’s school system. What has Mr. Paul been trying to say this entire time?

While he may harbor no qualms about spending taxpayers’ dollars on the religious indoctrination of schoolchildren, Paul voted against \$84 million in federal grants for historically African-American and Hispanic colleges in March of 2006. I don’t consider Paul racist, but his adamant opposition to affirmative-action programs in

SEE PAUL, PAGE 6

NIE release gives reason to rethink diplomacy with Iran

By MIKE NAPOLITANO
 Staff Writer

Imagine the stereotypical schoolyard bully, the one that won’t leave any kid alone. Now imagine that kid is a country and it’s about to kick another country in the gut.

With the release of the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) last week, the charlatan war hawks essentially have no more evidence to go to war with Iran. After all, they haven’t even had a nuclear weapons program since 2003. So why not, at this point, put the guns down and ask Iranians what their plans are with their enriched uranium?

In order to find these things out, the Bush administration would have to do something that it rarely does—practice diplomacy. Despite the consistent claims by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the United States has not been active in any positive diplomatic efforts with countries they deem as “undemocratic.”

The Bush Administration has, however, practiced their own version of diplomacy, once again rewriting international relations to fit their desires. It seems like

their definition of diplomacy involves getting many other countries to agree with what they think, and in turn, sanctioning a country nonsensically.

Anyone who has an iota of common sense must realize that antagonizing a situation only makes things worse. Perhaps this is why the Bush administration is attempting to get yet another sanction to pass in the United Nations against Iran over their “nuclear” program; if it passes it will be the third sanction against Iran in 18 months. This sanction probably won’t even pass at this point looking only towards the findings in the NIE.

Even the few times that Iranian and American diplomats have met in the same room for a conference, usually on Iraq, the American’s are usually reduced to belittling the Iranian diplomat by bringing up the alleged arming of Shiite militia in Iraq. So once again, instead of working with Iran for what could potentially be a common goal (remember Iran and Iraq are Shiite states), the U.S. decides to badger their Iranian counterparts in what they see as some type of prophetic decree in the realm of international relations.

Even though the United States

is still persisting at sanctioning the Iranians, there is a little support from some European countries. According to the Chicago Tribune, “Britain, France, and Germany stated that the dual track of diplomacy and sanctions must be maintained.”

Despite the support from these countries, these nations did agree upon these terms prior to the release of the NIE, which may change their minds on the issue. Now we’re left wondering what the Bush Administration is really aiming at in this scenario.

Vice President Cheney has openly stated that, “Tehran would use talks to buy time for its weapon program.” Their weapons program is suspended, so what is Mr. Cheney hinting towards? Is he, once again, beating upon the war drum, trying to rally his supporters behind him and his corporate demands? His affiliation with the Project for a New American Century would say yes.

But what about other members of the cabinet like Secretary of State Rice? Despite her loyalty to Bush, she has recommended talks with the Iranians. These mixed signals have lead many experts, such as Tony Karon of TIME magazine, to claim that

the Bush Administration is purposefully doing this to seek, “a compromise between hawks who seek military strikes and regime change, and Washington realists.”

Perhaps now is the best time for Bush to change his foreign policy. Iran does not have nuclear weapons nor are they seeking one and many countries are backing down support for his U.N. sanctions. A good avenue for Mr. Bush to take would be to talk to Iran to simply discover their motivation behind their nuclear program. Seriously, where’s the harm in asking another nation to discuss an international issue in the spirit of cooperation and civility.

It is in the best interests of the Bush Administration to act upon this opportunity. If Bush lets this issue shrivel and die, it may be the obituary of the Republican hopes for the White House in 2008. For all of the ridiculous things Bush has utterly failed at during his time in office, he finally has an opportunity to do something positive.

All you Republicans better start hoping Bush’s ineptitude doesn’t take over again.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

The Circle welcomes letters from Marist students, faculty and staff as well as the public. Letters may be edited for length and style. Submissions must include the person’s full name, status (student, faculty, etc.) and a telephone number or campus extension for verification purposes.

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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From Page 5

Christmas spirit found in faith and family

worth, and makes the holiday season more stressful than it needs to be.

When we're in the mall at 10 p.m. trying to track down that last minute gift, we might lose the point of Christmas. But we can get it back, because the spirit of Christmas is not all about the presents. Yes, this is a time when we express to the people closest to us that we appreciate them in our lives. So getting them a present has significance, but finding the right gift does not need to be the sole purpose of our holiday season.

Christmas is going to be here in less than two weeks. I'm not expecting everyone to start a revolution about spreading the positive messages of Christmas, but I hope this will remind them that Christmas is more than just presents. Presents are good, but we already have so much we should

be grateful for. We need to show the people in our lives we value them. This season is all about appreciating and spending time with family and friends. People travel thousands of miles to be home for Christmas because "home is where the heart is."

So we need to remember that we create our own homes. We need to surround ourselves with goodwill to others, both in our lives and the less fortunate. We can take this vacation time to recharge our mental batteries and our hearts. As a society we need to open up more and take on the negativity of the world. We need to reach out to other people in our lives, and maybe even make some new friends. So smile at someone else and brighten their day, I promise it will be contagious. That's what the holiday spirit is all about.

From Page 5

Ron Paul popular among college students

higher education, and unfettered federal support for Christian parochial programs and home-schooling, smacks of hypocrisy. Preferential treatment, regardless of race or religion, in government does not represent the basic tenets of libertarianism.

Sadly, not any of this has dawned upon the roughly 33 percent of Facebook subscribers that support Paul using the U.S. Politics application, a joint project of the social-networking Web site and ABC News. But, although the first-place Paul outpaces his nearest Republican competitor, Mitt Romney, by about 16 percent, the Marist Institute for Public Opinion has Paul a distant fifth among likely New Hampshire Republican Presidential Primary voters as of December 5, accumulating 6 percent support.

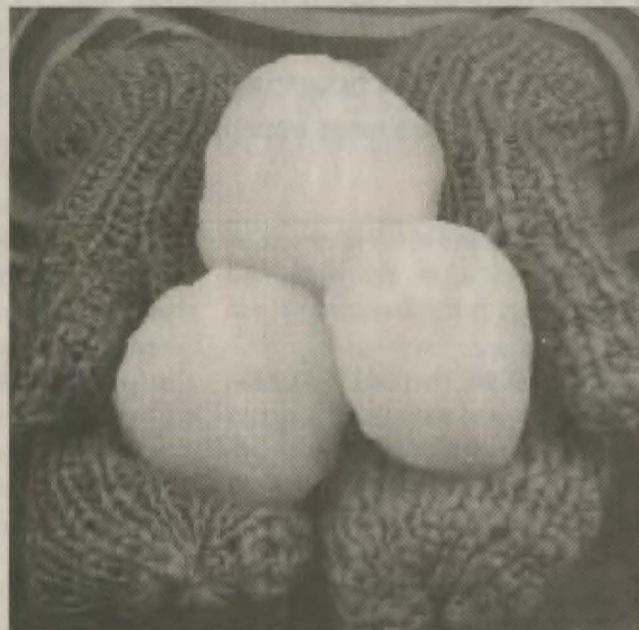
Although I commend Paul for

encouraging political efficacy among the 18 to 25-year old demographic, of which 40 percent vote on Election Day according to my We the People textbook, I doubt their devotion extends beyond their desktops. Sure, it may be "revolutionary" as you skulk around campus under the cover of night, eluding SNAP as you coat every available surface with Ron Paul bumper stickers. But, I sincerely wonder if his more than 44,000 supporters on Facebook can identify their two U.S. Senators, or what federal Congressional district they are from or if they bothered to register to vote?

However, due to our "young adult" demographics' history of inaction, I figure Ron Paul stands a better chance of being elected president of Facebook rather than president of the United States.

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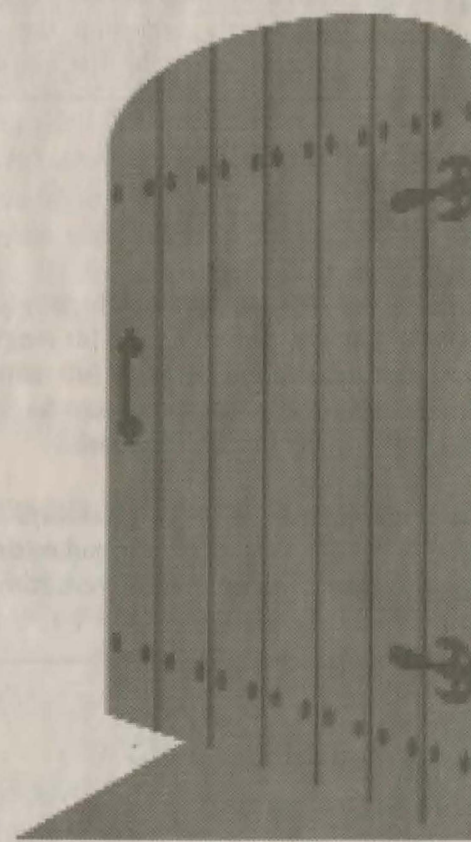
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THE CIRCLE Features

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007

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Column about nothing

Where is the real Christmas spirit?

By **ASHLEY POSIMATO**
Staff Writer

As I woke up this morning I was greeted with an AOL instant message that immediately elevated the potential level of obtainable success today. It read, "Dunkin Donuts?"

My initial reaction to my telepathic friend was "How did you know?"

At approximately 11:15 am there was nothing more appealing than a hot cup of coffee to start my day. Assessing my list of the day's essentials; an entire research project to complete, a final paper to begin, and an assortment of exams to begin to strategically prepare for, a preliminary trip to Dunkin Donuts was surpassing attractive, and becoming necessary.

As my fingers, suffering the worst kind of manicure-neglect, began typing "ABSOLUTELY," I was suddenly reminded of my inhibiting circumstance. With the nearly unmanageable amount of work ahead, I had reserved my 12-1 time slot for mass. My anticipated inevitable procrastination would leave the evening exhausted with the assignments that had been previously conquered by ABC Family's 25 Days of Christmas lineup.

The submissive tasks would be pending completion, therefore the 7:00 pm evening mass was a highly fallible option.

As 11:15 became 11:25 I began to rework my plans in order to fit in a timely visit to Dunkin Donuts. Maybe if we left right now without brushing my teeth or hair, with the pillow creases still imprinted on my face, and in the pajamas and slippers that were comfortably conforming my well rested body, we could make it back... and I would be sitting in the chapel, an erupted volcano, draped in the highest level of inadequate attire when in the presence of the Lord. Plan A= terminated.

My imaginary endeavor seemed to have made the clock tick faster; it was now 11:40.

With only 20 minutes to the welcoming hymn, I had to quicken my procedural development stage. If I submerged complete tornado mode, got dressed and refreshed in less than two minutes, vigorously sprinted to the car as if it was the finish line in a track meet, systematically approached each traffic light as it changed from red to green, and surpassed each customer in line without any situational explanation... I would end up decrepit in the parking lot; victim to attack by those I cut in line (who were most likely were on their way Christmas shopping and necessitated Dunkin Donuts as their stimulating starting point).

It was the vision of assault that ignited my return to reality. I relinquished all attempts to transcend space

and time. I was going to mass. The obligatory beverage would have to wait. I painstakingly walked to the bathroom to brush my teeth and wash my face before devastatingly embarking on my journey to the chapel where I would employ the forecasted attitude; sitting in isolation, I would consistently remind my disconcerted self that in one hour I would be free for indulgence.

As I approached the chapel I began to feel guilty about my restless misery. I was going to church for all the wrong reasons. Approaching a vacant spot in the second pew, I decided I should pray towards forgiveness for the convention of seemingly viable manipulations that would allow me to acquire my coffee and further distract my participation in mass. Kneeling down I was acquainted with the most beautiful depiction of genuine love and ultimate happiness.

There was a couple sitting directly in front of me. No younger than eighty, they were eloquent in their age and exuding vast amounts of ancient wisdom. The man wore a hearing aid which his wife assisted in adjusting with the hand that was not enveloped by his.

And it was the interlocking of their fingers that served as the causation of my enlightenment. At the ripe-old age of eighty, with more years than those equating my lifetime spent together, the union of their hands symbolized a timeless testament of their affection. I was immediately reminded of my selfish behavior. I grew increasingly embarrassed of my earlier attempts to evaporate the present in pursuit of a future reward. The tranquility of the couple before me altered my perception. Not only were they content with the current, they were in love with it.

Mass progressed and the father asked us to offer each other the sign of peace.

As I extended my hand to the esteemed man in front of me, he exceeded my gesture, placed his right hand on my cheek (his left was still holding his wife's) and said, "To you, good health and happiness, and a very Merry Christmas."

Our existence in a world that is consumed with looking ahead makes it difficult to recognize the beauty of the present. The reason for my attendance at church, although initially insincere, was to be reminded to enjoy each moment for exactly what it is. I will forever remember the grace and authenticity apparent in the couple's manifestation of love: undeniably unmatched by a cup of coffee. Upon the periphery of the holiday season, remove yourself from the tornado-resembling lifestyle you are currently engaged in, and reflect on instantaneous significance; good health, and happiness, and a very Merry Christmas.

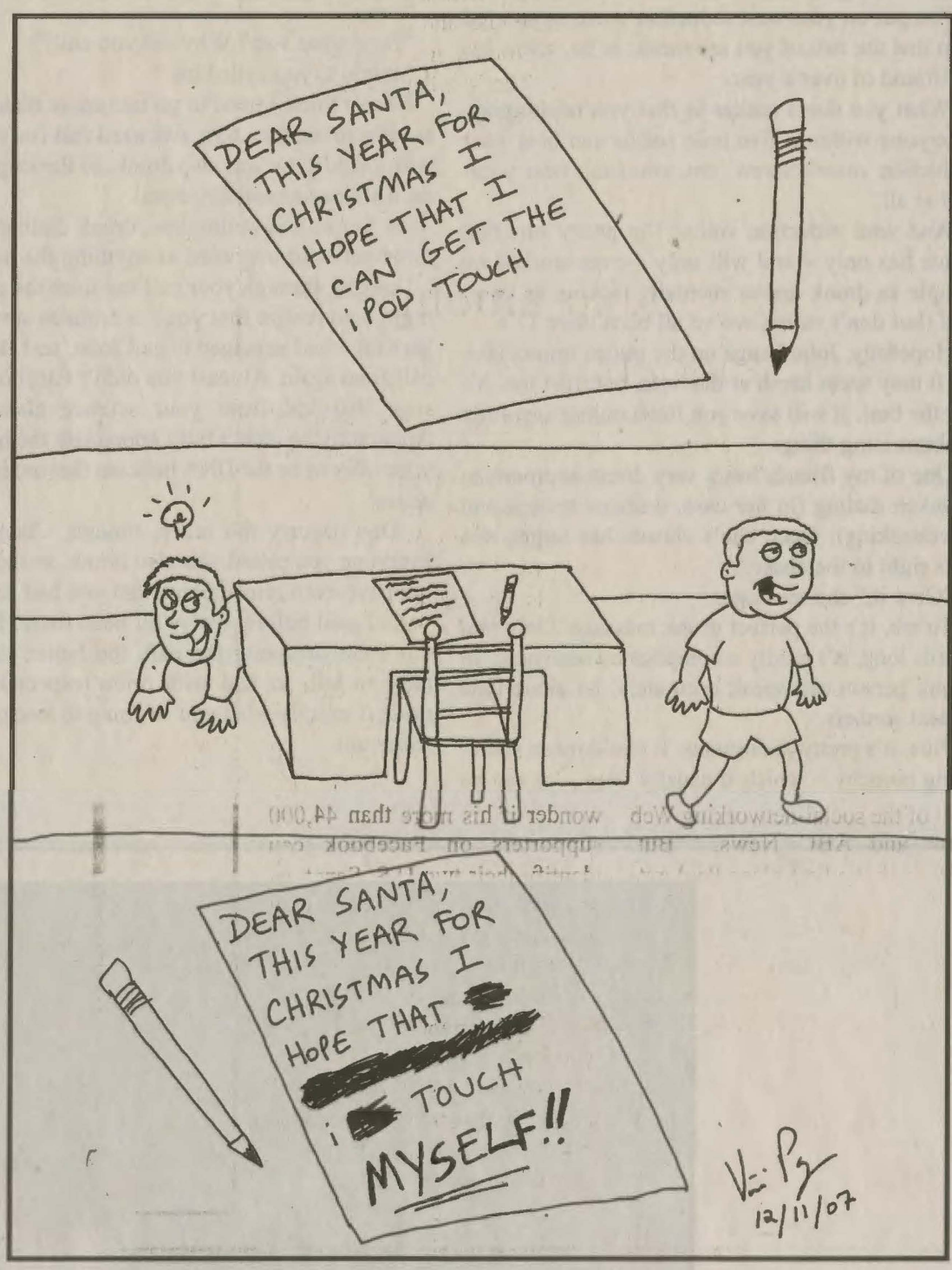
cartoon corner

By **VINNIE PAGANO**

Merry Christmas and Happy
Holidays!

from your weekly cartoonist

Vinnie Pagano



The best and the most terrible tech gifts *it Girl: tech & web culture from a net-savvy chick*

By **LISA BRASS**
Copy Editor

The typical thing for me to do this week would definitely be along the lines of "Top Holiday Tech Gifts," which is exactly what every other article in the tech world is covering. Lame. This week, I'm going to describe to you a few of the most terrible tech gifts and the most awesome tech gifts you could give to anyone. Most of them are highly impractical. You'll want them anyway.

Awsome: If you go to MyTego.com, you can get "skins" (durable plastic covers) for a multitude of tech devices like every version of the iPod, different phones, laptops, portable game systems, and much more. The skin easily sticks to your device and won't peel off unless you really try to remove it, and for prices as cheap as \$10 and as expensive as \$34, that's pretty damn good. This concept isn't new, but what's really cool about MyTego.com is that you can customize each skin with whatever you want. To customize, you pick which device you're making the skin for and then drag and drop text, images, etc. A really cool gift for any tech people on your list who have ugly or boring technology they need to spruce up.

Terrible: Does anyone else remember the horrendous iDog product from last year that

was a flashing-lights speaker in the shape of a dog that gets a personality based on what music you play? Yeeeeeah. Now we have the iFish. A speaker, but in the shape of a fish. For your iPod. Besides being an absolutely retarded concept, I picked the iFish to go in the terrible category because of the description I found on the site, which calls the iFish as a "robotic-fish-cum-iPod-speaker." Lol. If you still want it, it's available on Ecrater.com for \$19.99.

Awsome: USB devices other than flash drives are generally terrible, but that's not the case when it comes to Thinkgeek's USB Digital Microscope. Seriously. View tiny objects and organisms up to 200X and take pictures, videos, and time-lapse movies of the interesting bits. The LED lighting ensures you won't be left squinting at dark shapes on the slides, and the great software that's bundled with it lets you mess with any snapshots you take. It's pricey at \$199.99, but it's an especially fun gift for younger kids who are still bright-eyed and curious about the world. Just wait until they look at scrapings from under their fingernails!

Terrible: Also from Thinkgeek comes the Gorillapod, a device that firmly secures your digital camera to anything by wrapping its creepy little robot arms around things. What the hell? It's designed for places where you don't have a flat surface to place the camera on... but when are you

doing that? And it's not like this thing will guarantee a non-tilted picture. I think this is dumb, so don't buy it for \$21.99.

Awsome: If you're looking for something more practical than anything else that's been mentioned, you'll love this. Let me introduce you to the Chargepod, a device that plugs into the wall with a single cord and then charges up to six electronic devices of your choice. Go to Callpod.com to order the Chargepod base unit and add up to six other adapters for whatever you need to charge—iPods, cell phones, game systems, palm pilots, and more. It's heftily priced at \$50 for the base alone and then \$9.99 per adapter, but hey, this guide wasn't designed to find you realistic gifts.

Terrible: Speaking of unrealistic, could we please stop getting each other the Humping Dog USB device? If you've never heard of it, it's a little dog that plugs into your computer with a USB plug where his you-know-what is. Connect via USB dock to begin the action. It isn't even a humping dog disguised as a memory stick—it's just a humping dog period. I don't know who thought of this, but they obviously had time and money to waste. Stop getting this thing as a gift for friends, because it's not funny. If you laughed, you lose. And no, I'm not telling you where to find this nor how much it costs. Sheesh. (Newburycomics.com, \$12.99)

Oh, What a night: Po-town Hotspots

By **KARLIE JOSEPH**
Circle Contributor

We all know the feeling. It's Friday afternoon and you just spent the last 75 minutes of your life drooling through your philosophy class anxiously awaiting the week's end. While this weekend's agenda shows signs of minimal campus activity, we can all rely on one consistency: clubbing. Though Marist College administration may boast minimal on campus partying, we cannot deny that this is the result of one truth: everyone is doing it somewhere else. So where are all these college hot spots? Easy; whether you want a hot dance party or just to hang out, there are a variety of places to let loose.

If you're a freshman, Friday nights are usually spent in the Sandbar, complete cheesy luau decorations, oversized beach balls and security guards perched at the highest of life-guard chairs. While this festive setting may seem ideal, beware of themes such as "hippie" night: if you're decked out, chances are no one else is.

Of course, if you're a freshman, you are aware of the infamous loft. Why? The price is cheap and the drinks are easy, with or without a proper ID. And don't let weekends limit you, "Tipsy Tuesdays" allow you to explore the bottom floor and enjoy eclectic college rock. Although this hang-out is predominantly freshman, few upperclassman of the male gender can be found working the dance floor with the "fresh meat".

Although partying is always fun, the location can get old fast. Mad Hatters provides a solution to this problem. However, with greater space and a more mature crowd, comes the burden of avoiding creepy Poughkeepsie locals who consistently linger by the dance floor, looking to make a move.

For a more relaxing setting, you can hit up Backstreet. This atmosphere provides for a more bar-like setting, if you're tired of the dancing scene. Sorry underclassman, its 21 to get in, so either forget it or bring a fake!

Hook Ups and Break Ups

Don't Drink and Dial

By MORGAN NEDERHOOD
Staff Writer

The drunk dial can go a few ways depending on the situation, level of intoxication, and relationship with the dialee. I'm obviously talking about drunk dialing that involves a crush because drunk dialing your friends just isn't as funny for me or embarrassing for you.

Whether it's via Facebook messages, text messages, or the old-school phone call, drunk dialing is the point when you realize that, somewhere along the line, your night went horribly wrong.

Now, let's examine the twisted and awkward layers of the drunk dial, as witnessed by friends and myself.

It's Friday night, you're piss drunk, and your drunk self is mistaking 'sloppy' for 'sexy.' You're not a mess, you're a stone cold fox.

So, you call "John," and he unfortunately answers the phone.

You put on your best seduction voice as you tell him that the two of you are meant to be, screw his girlfriend of over a year.

What you don't realize is that you're shouting. Everyone within a five mile radius can hear your seduction voice? Screw 'em, you can't hear yourself at all.

And your seduction voice? I'm pretty sure that voice has only – and will only – ever worked on people as drunk and/or mentally lacking as yourself (but don't worry, we've all been there.)

Hopefully, John hangs up the phone immediately. It may seem harsh at the time, but trust me, it's for the best. It will save you from saying any other embarrassing things.

One of my friends has a very direct approach to drunken dialing (in her case, drunken texting and Facebooking). Once she's chosen her target, she cuts right to the chase.

"Give it," she messages.

To me, it's the perfect drunk message. Only two words long, it's hardly a complicated sentence. No drunk person can speak accurately, let alone type or text sonnets.

Plus, it's pretty ambiguous. It could mean something raunchy – which it usually does – or can be

twisted to mean something innocent, like you needed the Biology homework (an excuse also used by my friend).

Try it out and see how it goes. Your booty call accepts the invitation? Awesome, go get 'em. They don't? Play innocent, saying you never had anything like that in mind, and then tell them to get their mind out of the gutter.

Another friend once had no idea she was even drunk dialing anyone. After a solid few rounds of car bombs, "Jane" proceeded to call her friends about plans for later that night. While calling person after person and answering phone call after phone call, she lost track of to whom she was speaking.

Eventually, she found herself talking to John, the crush whom she had apparently called either out of habit of some sort of subconscious want of booty. At first, she didn't even realize what she had done, thinking she was talking to her roommate.

"Who is this?" She asked.

"John."

"Hey, what's up? Why did you call?"

"I didn't, you called me."

I don't think I need to go into more dialogue for anyone to imagine how awkward that conversation was. Luckily, he was also drunk, so the stupidity on each side was basically equal.

As fun as it is at the time, drunk dialing usually turns out to be awkward as anything the next day.

Looking through your call log from the previous night, you realize that you – a drunken sort of juggernaut – had managed to call John, text Billy, and call John again. At least you didn't Facebook message that kid from your science class again. Apparently he didn't fully appreciate the humor in your offer to be the DNA helicase that unzipped his genes.

Don't worry too much, though. Chances are, everyone you called was also drunk, so they might not have even remembered that you had called.

As I said before, we've all been there. Plus, the more embarrassing the call, the better story you have to tell, so dial with pride (especially since pride is exactly what you're going to lose once you sober up).

Marist Defined: An UrbanDictionary for the Poughkeepsie Inclined

By MARGEUX LIPPMAN
Editor in Chief

Safety Buzz (n.): The sweet spot between drink #3 and drink #4 where you can knowingly act stupid and get away with it -- by blaming it on your alcohol consumption.

See also: not-quite-beer-goggles, a freshman after one glass of wine, "oops" hookup.

To cab-it (v.): Activity undertaken by Marist students when the cafeteria isn't serving edible food and they must relocate to the Cabaret. Also done by seniors who somehow wind up with \$1,000 in extra Thrifty Cash and need to spend it before graduation.

See also: Sodexho, quesadilla, Marist Money.

Sleepdrunk (adj.): State of consciousness induced by lack of sleep from finals, capping or extracurriculars. Those who are sleepdrunk are often known to hallucinate or act in an overly hyper fashion.

See also: insomnia, Red Bull, communing with the soul of Lowell Thomas.

Obvi (adv.): Derived from Instant Messaging shorthand, term is used when something referred to is fairly apparent. Short for obviously.

See also: legit, captain obvious, blatant.



The 2007/2008 *Circle* staff wishes the Marist community a healthy and safe holiday season.

Thank you for all of your support this semester.

Over your holiday budget? Gifts under \$10

By JUSTINE MANN
Circle Contributor

Christmas may be a time of joy, but gift giving can be a daunting task when you peer into your empty wallet. While it may seem that the best gifts are the most expensive, sometimes it really is the thought that counts.

Making a gift personal will always make it special. If you don't know the person well, go with food. Most people love it (and it's easy for them to re-gift).

Searching for a gift for someone special? Stay away from generic gifts such as candles, lotions, or socks. How many

pine tree scented candles does a person need? Thanks to modern discount shopping, you can afford to give a personalized gift.

To start, try Target, Best Buy, and Icing. If you're better at shopping online, the best websites are overstock.com for discount prices on anything and everything and deepdiscount.com for CDs and DVDs. Just don't forget some cute wrapping from the dollar store.

Still stuck? Here are 10 gift ideas all for under \$10:

1) Shoelaces. While it may seem strange, shoelaces can be a cute gift that shows how much you know about a person. Gnomes, music notes, and imag-

inary friends are my personal favorites. \$4.99 *Hot Topic*

2) New York Yankees ball ornament (Giants also available)...because the Yankees are great. \$4.99 *Target*

3) Jewelry. While it may seem a little preteen, Icing does have a jewelry selection worth looking over. They have a lot of the same styles as expensive stores for half the price. Just take off the Icing tag and put it in a cute box. \$5-10 *Icing*

4) Metallic ID case. A 3 inch by 4 inch metal case so you can swipe in in style. \$6.80 *Forever21*

5) Flavored cocoa set. 4 boxes of yummy goodness. \$6.99 *Target*

6) Scarves. Many can be found for under \$10. They're soft, sweet and show off any personality. \$7.80 *Forever21*

7) Mini chocolate fondue set. It comes with chocolate and a tea light. Now you can make s'mores in your dorm room! \$7.99 *Target*

8) Cow soap set. Soap dish, brush and soap shaped like a cute farm animal. \$8.99 *Target*

9) Magnetic Sudoku game. Because gifts are about getting junk you wouldn't buy for yourself. \$9.99 *Target*

10) Dynex blank DVDs with movie cases. That friend who's always making slideshows and short films can show off their stuff. \$9.49 *Best Buy*

Students' picks for best holiday movies

By ALEXANDRIA BRIM
Staff Writer

It's that time of the year again: cookies, lights, trees, Santa, commercials, presents, food and of course, the standard marathon of season-themed movies and specials.

Everyone has a list of the movies they must see every time December rolls around. Marist students are no exception.

The first two "Home Alone" movies came to freshman Chris Steber's mind. "Home Alone" is one of the best comedies of the '90s," he said.

Steber also recalled a Christmas episode of "The Simpsons," which is better known for its Halloween-themed Little Treehouse of Horrors, called "Marge But Not Proud" in which bad-boy Bart steals a game he wanted.

"It teaches many important lessons, like forgiveness of what your relatives have done, how you can't always get what you want, and that Christmas is a holiday that just about anyone celebrates," Steber said.

Junior Mary Di Masi listed her favorite Christmas movies, which included "Elf," "The Bells of St. Mary" and "Frosty the Snowman" among others.

"Die Hard" was one of Junior Russ Voss' picks for holiday viewing, as well as "Santa Vs. Satan" and "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians."

"Those two movies are wonderful examples of how morons try to cash in on the holidays and fail miserably," he said. "And as for 'Die Hard,' I just can't resist picking a movie that takes place on Christmas where stuff blows up."

Steber also mentioned "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," as did sophomore Ryan Glander.

"This movie makes my family seem normal," Glander said.

The cartoon classic, "A Charlie Brown Christmas," was also cited as a favorite.

"It is a reminder that Christmas is not just about gifts but about the birth of Jesus," Glander said, referring to the scene where Linus recites the angel's message to the shepherds.

But the two best Christmas movies, it seems, are "A Christmas Story" and "It's a Wonderful Life." As Voss said, they are the iconic movies that embody Christmas.

"A Christmas Story" shows the adventures of Ralphie and his quest to get an "official Red Ryder, carbine action, 200 shot

range model air rifle" for Christmas. This movie gave the world

quotable lines like "You'll poke your eye out!"

"It is simply a cult classic," Steber said.

Released in 1946, "It's a Wonderful Life" stars Jimmy Stewart as George

Bailey and Henry Travers as Clarence, the angel who showed him what the world would be like without him.

The American Film Institute agrees with the Marist students who chose this film as one of their favorites. "It's a Wonderful Life" was named the number one most inspirational film in their "100 Years...100 Cheers countdown."

Junior Nicki Boisvert said it is one of her favorites.



"A Charlie Brown Christmas"—a Marist student favorite

"It's a beautiful, empowering story that brushes an often overlooked meaning of Christmas," she said.

"It teaches you how important every person is to the world around them," Steber agreed. "It may be considered a Christmas movie, but its message spans all the seasons of the year."

As Dec. 25 looms nearer and final exams and papers dwindle down, perhaps a marathon of these beloved movies and specials is needed.

Disney franchises unstoppable in holiday season and 2008

By ALISON JALBERT
Circle Contributor

"High School Musical" star Zac Efron will earn a \$3 million paycheck for the series' third film, signifying another success for Disney.

The "High School Musical" franchise has earned the Walt Disney Corporation over \$1 billion since the premiere of the first movie in 2006, according to a report on CNN Money. Add the Disney Channel's equally successful show "Hannah Montana" to the equation, and it demonstrates how popular the Disney Channel franchises have become with preteens across the country; the shows' products are predicted to be popular among shoppers this holiday season.

The "High School Musical" movies and "Hannah Montana"

series are thriving on their own, but each franchise has produced a successful line of related merchandise, including DVDs, books, beauty products, clothing and home décor.

Marist junior Lauren Plante works at Club Libby Lu in the Poughkeepsie Galleria. This retail chain caters to preteen girls and carries merchandise from both Disney Channel franchises. Plante said all the "High School Musical" and "Hannah Montana" merchandise are the focus in Club Libby Lu for the holiday season.

"High School Musical 2" is coming out on DVD in time for Christmas, and the 'Hannah Montana' concert tour is going on right now," she said. "We have received many new items in the store as well as created many promotions for each franchise."

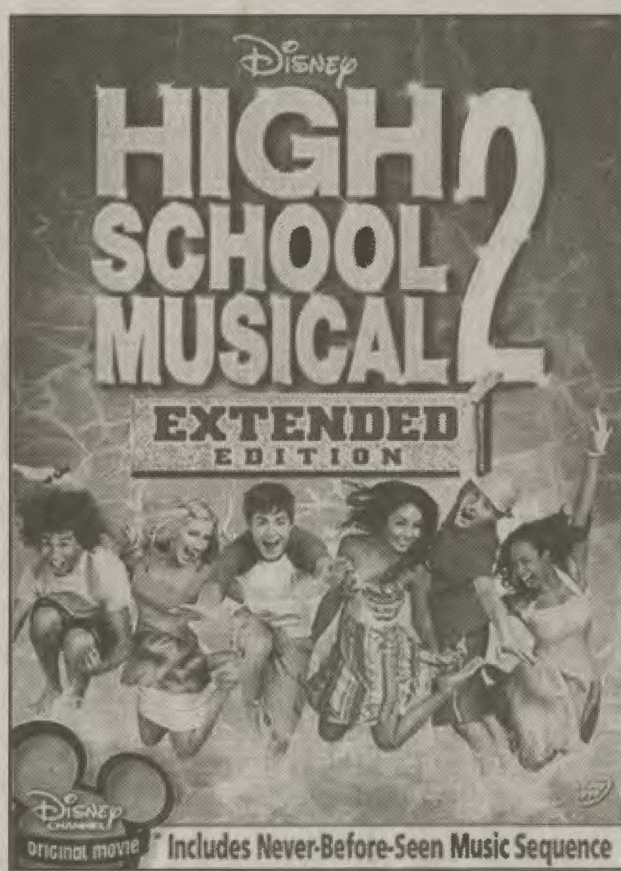
Toy analyst Chris Byrne said Disney has found a winning

combination in marketing their franchises.

"What Disney has done so brilliantly is leveraged teenage fascination with music and put it into properties that really appeal to a younger age demographic," he said.

Acclaim for the

Disney Channel franchises extends beyond preteen girls and their parents. Entertainment Weekly recently named "High School Musical" star Efron and



"High School Musical 2" came out on DVD Tuesday

"Hannah Montana" star Miley Cyrus to their Top 25 Entertainers of the Year list, calling Efron the "Hollywood heart-throb du jour" and Cyrus "the

Wise words of fashion

By KATE GOODIN
Staff Writer

Dear Fashionable Readers, 2007. What a year in fashion! If we learned anything from the happenings this year, it's that the fashion industry is still thriving and ever-changing. Hold on to your Manolos, because the fashion industry moves so fast that they're already last season.

But as great as this year was, all good things must come to end—and so ends my post as fashion columnist and purveyor of all trends and news of the fashion industry. I am graduating this December, and while I am sorry to leave the column, I am thankful I had the opportunity to write it and I hope that if ever you, readers, should take advice from one of my columns, it will be this one. This week, I will offer you my final pearls of wisdom on fashion and the art of dressing.

I often wrote my columns on what to wear—what to wear to parties, what to wear on a job interview, etc. But there's something that you should wear every day, everywhere, all the time, and it will make any outfit you wear infinitely better than if you wore it without it. I am speaking, of course, about confidence, in yourself and in how you look. All the expensive clothes, shoes, handbags and other accoutrements in the world can't make up for a lack of confidence. And dressing well is, in my opinion, the easiest confidence booster out there. This is why we dress up for interviews, meetings and presentations. It gives you assurance in your abilities and is the easiest way to convey that you at least look like you know what you're doing.

Have you ever bought an outfit or garment that you'd just been dying for? It feels great when you finally get it—even better when you wear it and show it off! You look great, and subsequently, you feel great. And that's simply what dressing is all about: looking and feeling great. So what if 5-inch heels or skinny jeans are a trend? I won't touch leggings because they just don't make me look or feel that great. Put on what makes you feel and look your best.

Whatever you wear, be comfortable and happy with yourself and your fashion choices. Confidence will effortlessly follow.

And that's actually the great thing about fashion: no one can fault you for wearing something "out of fashion" as long as you pull it off with panache. Have you noticed the breakneck speed at which fashion moves? Trends come and go so fast, they were out of style yesterday. In fashion, it's less about following trends and more about breaking all the rules. Designers pull inspiration from all corners of the world, so these days anything goes. Be your own muse and create your own style—that's something that will always be in fashion.

One other thing to remember is that fashion *does* matter. As much as we all like to think we are above trends and look upon fashion victims with a sense of superiority, fashion holds a lot of weight for humans everywhere. How you dress is effectively who you are. You are what you wear! And people do pass judgment about you solely based on what you wear: your job, income, personality, age, etc. It's not right, but it's what people do. Humans have an innate curiosity and inexplicable need to "figure" other people out. It would be quite rude to simply approach someone and ask them personal questions, so we do detective work and decipher what we can about them based on obvious clues (i.e. your outfit).

Be cognizant of what your outfit tells other people. This probably matters most on something like a job interview. Your dress is your own billboard, in a way. It advertises to others part of who you are. Make it a message worth reading.

So I leave you with those final words of advice and hope that you regard fashion not as a mysterious, unpredictable force but as a tool of expression. Some fashion can be outlandish, crazy and weird, but ultimately it's wonderful and creative. You can be anything you want with the right outfit—but I've found it's always easiest to be yourself in an outfit that's right for you.

Thank you to all my readers. Have a happy holiday season and a fashionable New Year!

hottest ticket in the U.S."

This compliment to Cyrus is far from exaggeration. Since the summer, controversy surrounding ticket sales for Cyrus' Hannah Montana: Best of Both Worlds concert tour has plagued both heartbroken young girls and frazzled parents.

After a shortage of tickets for Hannah Montana fan club members, many parents have turned to scalpers and ticket re-sale websites, spending as much as \$800 per ticket, according to a CBS News report.

Regardless of the controversy, Cyrus' tour is one of the most successful tours of 2007, according to Ticketmaster. "High School Musical" has also proved to be a success on the road with a concert tour, professional stage tour and ice show selling out across the country, according to Disney's Web site.

Following the holiday season

sales surge that Disney expects, they are optimistic about their franchises in 2008. Shooting for "High School Musical 3" is set to begin in March, with a theatrical release date scheduled for later in the year, according to a press release from Disney. A feature-length Hannah Montana movie is set to hit theaters in winter of 2008, Cyrus confirmed during a recent appearance on "Oprah."

Plante says she cannot see the Disney Channel phenomenon dying any time soon.

"When girls come into the store, I hear them say how they want to be like Hannah Montana, and they can sing and dance along with every 'High School Musical' song," she said. "The bottom line is that both of these franchises are extremely relatable to the kids who are watching."

Health & Beauty

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007

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Healthy New Year's resolution solutions

By CLARE LANGAN
Staff Writer

After the presents have been opened and the carols have been sung, it is time to make those annual promises also known as New Year's resolutions. Love 'em or leave 'em, it's hard not to feel a bit more motivated to start the year off with high aspirations. Go to any gym the first week of January and you will be hard pressed to find a treadmill. And isn't it convenient how many self-help books arrive on the shelves around this time of year? Banking on people's half-ass resolutions is a big business, people.

Instead of undergoing a complete lifestyle change you know will fade off come February, why not commit to a few resolutions that you know you'll stick with? Better yet, write them down and stick them everywhere - your desk,

alarm clock, fridge, notebook, etc. Enlist some housemates to help you with your goals because chances are, they probably share some of the same ones.

Fitness is one the most popular resolutions, and unfortunately, it's the one that usually fails the most. Instead of resolving to sweat it out at the gym 7 days a week or completely cut out all junk food, have one specific goal in mind. Maybe it's to be able to bench press your weight or swim 20 laps without stopping.

Whatever you do, make sure it's somewhat realistic: most exercise and diet regimes fail because people can't keep them up. This is a great time of the year to try a new activity. Why not sign up for a ski trip to Hunter Mountain, go to the Civic Center to go ice skating or try a Pilates class? If you are bit more ambitious, you could try signing up for a sum-

mer event (running, biking, surfing), and you can train for it all winter. Resolving to get into shape doesn't have to be boring, you can mix it up. You will be working towards your resolution and picking up some new skills in the process.

Pretty soon finals will be a thing of the past (yes!) and a new semester will be here.

"Go to any gym the first week of January and you will be hard pressed to find a treadmill. And isn't it convenient how many self-help books arrive on the shelves around this time of year? Banking on people's half-ass resolutions is a big business, people."

This is the ideal time of year if one of your resolutions is related to academics. Many people I've talked to really want to become more organized. With the amount of handouts, notes and packets professors throw at you, it can be hard to keep it all straight. So why not think of the New Year as a fresh start? Go to Staples

and get a cartful of new notebooks, pens, Post-It notes - you name it. Sometimes all you need is a brand spankin' new binder to get you motivated to keep your assignments organized. While you may still be spending hours at the library, you will thank yourself during exam week when you pull out those old notes you

kept.

If you are anything like me, your cash supply can take a nose dive this time of year. Saving money always ranks high on resolutions lists. Maybe it's because people overspend at the holidays or maybe it's the fact that they are finding themselves in a bit of debt ("but it was on sale!").

Whatever the reason, being short on cash can really weigh on the mind in a negative way. There are a few things you can do to follow through with your money resolution. Too broke to save money? Read on. Make a list of the past 10 purchases you have made. Now take a look at this list. Chances are you probably could have done without at least 2 of the things you bought. Maybe it's that overpriced movie theater popcorn or that DVD that you will probably only watch once. I came upon the statistic that you could save \$540 a year if you cut back on your three-days-a-week Starbucks habit!

Quitting bad habits also ranks high for many resolution-makers. Whether it's biting your nails, smoking, Facebook-ing, gossiping, or that annoying thing called procrastination, breaking these kinds of habits are not easy because they have become a way of life for many of us. Let

people know what you are trying to do so they can remind you of your resolution if you slip up. Don't put yourself in situations that will cause you to fall into your old ways, either. If you know that you can't get work done without checking MySpace every 5 minutes, go where you won't be distracted. Have the habit of getting stressed? Take a 5 minute break to listen to music, lie down or go for a walk to cool down.

New Years resolutions are the perfect way to improve your mind, body and spirit. New Years is all about reflecting on the past and looking into the future. Resolutions are a way that people can start the year on the right foot - make it your mission to have your best year yet in 2008!

Cheers!

Those feel-good sing alongs

By KELLY LAUTURNER
Circle Contributor

This weekend, the Marist College Handbell Choir delighted me and other audience members by playing the infectious Christmas song "All I Want for Christmas is You." This 1994 holiday pop hit by Mariah Carey has become part of the musical magic of Christmas. Some songs just delight us when the holiday season comes around. It's almost as if this music has some kind of magical healing power that makes anything, from driving in heavy traffic to finishing up a paper slightly more bearable. I don't have any official research to back this up, but I would wager that Christmas songs, regardless of how corny they are, suddenly flip the switch in our heads that give an extra boost of serotonin to our brains when we really need it. Here is a brief look at some of the peppiest Christmas songs of the past years that will put us in a better mood.

There are several different branches of music on the Christmas tree. First there are the classic songs we know and love. There's "Frosty the Snowman" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", both songs that remind us happily of childhood. I'm sure that we've also made up versions with alternate lyrics as well.

"White Christmas" is another exciting Christmas song. I'm sure we all remember the scene in "Home Alone" where Kevin sings along to it while shaving. This song, written by legendary composer Irving Berlin, has been sung by classic singers such as Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, and Michael Bubl . The lyrics are simple, but happy. "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas/ Just like the ones I used to know/ Where the treetops glisten/ And children listen to hear sleigh bells in the snow." It also made us believe that Christmas just isn't the same without a white covering of fresh snow on the ground.

We can't forget about Christmas songs from the early rock-and-roll era either. A classic peppy Christmas hit is Brenda Lee's "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" from 1958. It's part country, part rock-and-roll, and it's always a good song to dance to at Christmas parties. The upbeat chorus makes you feel like you're at a Christmas party even if you're only listening to it while you're reading your psych notes for the twelfth time. Another Christmas classic is the Beach Boys' "Little St. Nick." It's a catchy and hip song about a cool Santa Claus. The first verse captures excitement with, "Well way up north where the air gets cold/ There's a tale about Christmas that we've all been

told/ And a real famous cat all dressed up in red/ And he spends the whole year workin' out on his sled." Santa sounds like one cool cat in this peppy Christmas song.

In the 1980's and 1990's, popular musicians started compiling CDs full of new Christmas music. Bruce Springsteen's 1989 rendition of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" has been a lasting Christmas song. When you hear, "He's making a list, he's checking it twice", you immediately get a smile on your face because you know the next lyrics will be, "He's gonna find out who's naughty or nice." I also fell in love as a child with "Christmas All Over Again" by Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, from 1992. It's a peppy and honest song about all the great things that we do to cele-

brate Christmas and more importantly, Christmas parties. The lyrics go, "All over town, little kids come get down/ Christmas is a rocking time, you'll get yours and I'll get mine/ underneath the mistletoe, here we go." Sleigh bells and true Christmas tales just put a smile on your face for some unmistakable reason, along with Christmas music that makes us dance.

In the last fifteen years, pop artists have felt the demand to do a Christmas CD. A few of the songs from these albums have made lasting impressions and continue to make us smile, such as Mariah Carey's song. Now I am not a fan of Britney Spears whatsoever, but I admit with some hesitancy that I do like her Christmas hit "My Only Wish this Year". Its lyrics are all about desire to spend Christmas with someone special. The chorus is, "Santa can you hear me? I have been so good this year and all I want is one thing/ Tell me my true love is near/ He's all I want, just for me underneath my Christmas tree/ I'll be waiting here. Santa that's my only wish this year." It's pretty catchy and it has a happy Christmas sentiment. Another peppy popular Christmas hit is NSYNC's "Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays". It's pretty self-explanatory and it was a big hit off of the group's Christmas CD several years ago. The band 98 Degrees also had a Christmas hit with "This Gift", about getting engaged on Christmas. The lyrics are: "I've been waiting to give this gift tonight/ I'm down on my knees, there's no better time/ It's something to last for as long as you live/ Tonight I'm gonna give you all my heart can give."

Songs like this just put us in a good mood and more importantly, they give us hope that we won't end up miserable and alone on Christmas. So enjoy, create your own list of happy Christmas music, and get into the holiday spirit.

I'll be home for Christmas?

By AMANDA LAVERGNE
Circle Contributor

For those of us who celebrate the holiday of Christmas, we know that it is normally (and unfortunately) associated with stress. Sure, we all want to believe that it shouldn't be stressful because we should all be focusing on the real meaning of Christmas, but honestly, being a college student can be a little distracting, especially around this time of year.

As if the last week of classes and finals to follow weren't enough to keep us busy, Marist has decided to end finals only a mere 4 days before Christmas. Are you nuts? When are we supposed to have that family time of putting up the tree, decorating the house and all of those other holiday traditions that most students will be missing out on? "I know that since we started a week later we don't get to go home until a week later, but not only am I worried about my finals, but I need to get my Christmas shopping done while I am here too since I won't have enough time at home," said freshman Jennifer Hill.

I myself feel very pressed for time. One moment I am thinking about who I have left to get Christmas presents for, the next minute I realize I have a 5 page paper due and, oh yeah, I have those things called finals to start prepping for. The Christmas season is a naturally stressful time of the year anyway, just ask my mother. I feel like one of these years she will drive us both to the point of insanity, because she spends so much of her time choosing gifts, and a lot of the time she wants my opinion on gifts she is buying for my cousins. This year I can only help her so much via e-mail. "I miss not being able to go shopping with my sisters and my mom, this year I am basically restricted to doing it on my own and what's the fun in that?" said freshman Arissa Chonis.

It is also a little sad when you get a phone call from your parents and they tell you that they have put up the tree and will be decorating it the next day. Your mom has also started wrapping and shipping off some of the family's Christmas gifts and you simply can't be there to help her. I suppose that I am still a little bit touchy on missing all of these things, as it is my freshman year and my first time away from home, but I'm sure there is a little part in everyone who misses doing those small things, even if it is watching "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" with your family.

Next year I hope that Marist will come to its senses and go back to its normal policy, in which we have 5 weeks off for the holiday break like most other colleges. For now, I guess we will just have to suck it up and not go too crazy from all of the stress that is surrounding our lives at the moment.

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Don't let the bedbugs bite

By **STEPHANIE ESPINA**
Circle Contributor

It's bad enough they make your skin crawl, but what's worse is that they make your skin itch. Tiny bloodsucking creatures are hungry and finding their way into your sheets. If you think these insects are here for a one night stand, think again. You may want to sleep with one eye open as entomologists have seen a rise in bed bug cases over the last three years, especially in the New York area.

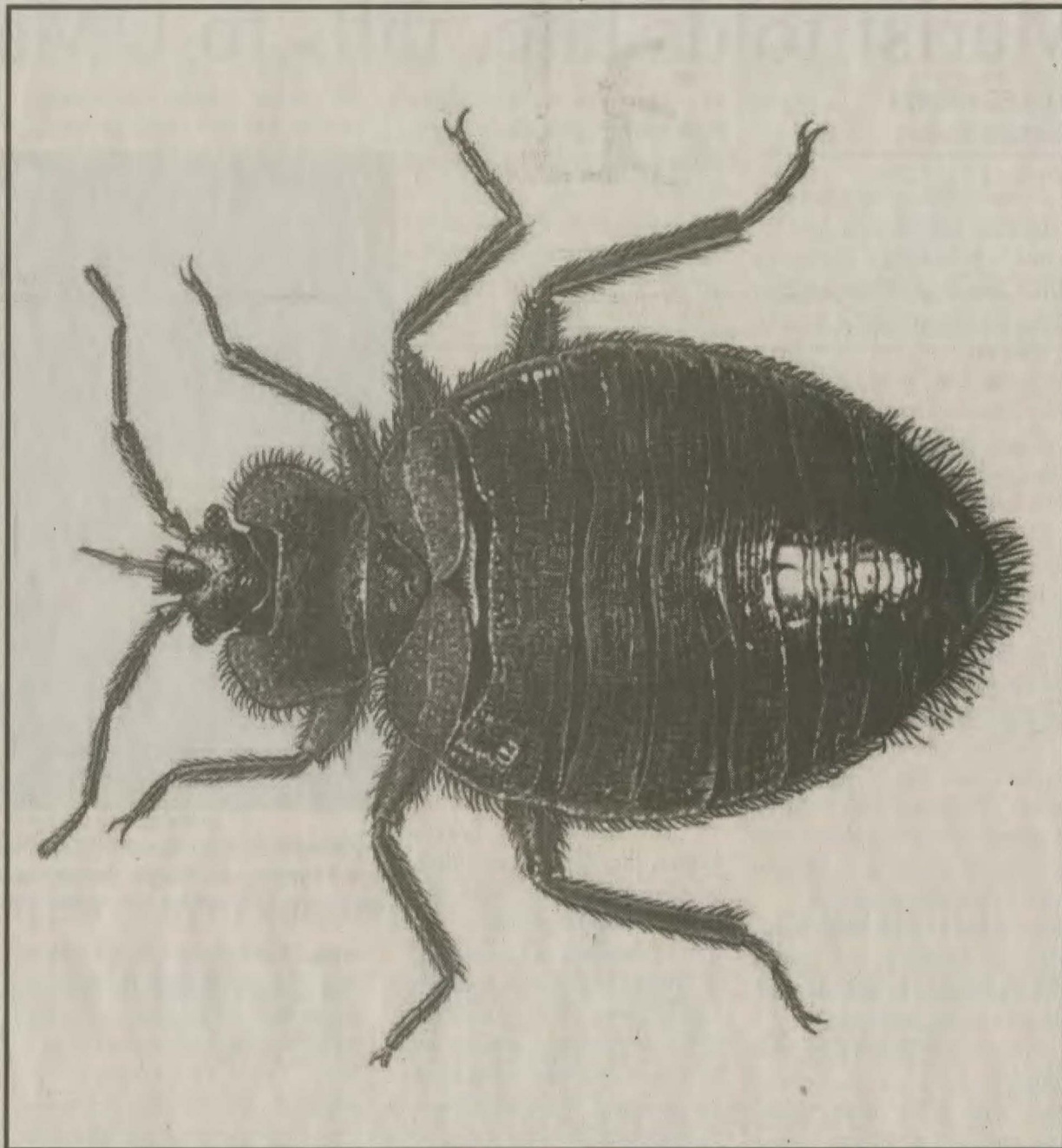
Physically, bed bugs are small wingless insects that feed solely on warm-blooded animals, including humans. They do not carry or transmit any type of virus or disease and can range six to ten millimeters in size. As nocturnal creatures, bed bugs spend their days hiding and their nights biting. The term "bed bug" may mislead people in thinking that a bed is the only place you can find them. Bed bugs can actually hide in your mattress, in and around electric outlets, in headboards and for travelers, in luggage. People who travel frequently or visit an infected house can easily become exposed to bed bugs and transport them back to their bedroom. Once bitten by bed bugs, your skin will become itchy and irritable. In some cases of bed bug attacks, people exhibited welts. Severity may vary depending on skin type and the amount of bed bugs involved. A tell tale sign of bed bugs are small dark red spots on your sheets or carpet. Since they feed only on blood, they release only blood and create a trace of where they have been.

If you searched news stories on bed bug cases, you would find countless accounts of bed bug

woes. These tiny critters have been the source of lawsuits against hotels and apartment complexes across the nation. They are also being found in health facilities. In September, one Fordham University student filed a lawsuit against a Manhattan hotel after being attacked by bed bugs. Michelle Hopkins stayed at the New Yorker Hotel in Midtown, which provides housing for students. She had been on a waiting list for on campus housing at Fordham. She suffered an allergic reaction to the bed bug bites and required medical attention. Hopkins sued the manager of the hotel for negligence and unspecified damages.

Bed bugs are common in multiple occupancy housing. According to Health Services at Marist, there have been no official reports of bed bugs on campus, but a small number of students have complained of unusual bug bites during the winter season.

If you were to experience the inconvenience of bed bugs, you should immediately wash your sheets, along with any articles of clothing that may have been exposed in hot water. Then, literally search your bed and surrounding areas for bed bugs. A good place to look is on the edges and corners of the actual mattress. For determined individuals, taking a flashlight and waking up in the middle of the night would be a tactful way of catching them. Many victims of bed bugs hire exterminators that can charge up to 300 dollars per room, and others throw out all mattresses and furniture. If you think you have been bitten by bed bugs, you should consult with your doctor or Health Services. Do not take this issue lying down or you will be left in a very itchy situation.



Perhaps the scariest thing that you will see this semester - the bed bug (*Cimex lectularius*). These insects are especially popular in multiple occupancy housing. One symptom of bed bug bites is itchy and irritable skin.

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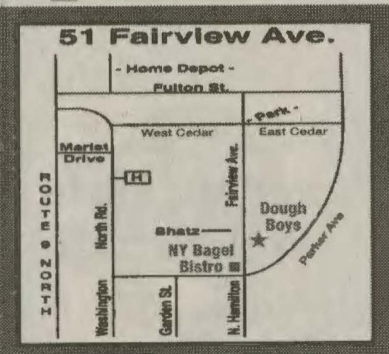
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Marist folds late, falls to UMass at Mohegan Sun

By GREG HRINYA
Assistant Editor

If the UMass Minutemen's momentum carried over into the casino following Saturday night's tussle at Mohegan Sun Arena, it's quite possible they hit the jackpot.

After the Red Foxes established a 58-52 lead with 8:19 remaining in the second half, the Minutemen closed the game with a 31-10 run to escape Conn. with an 83-68 win. With 3:46 left to play, Minutemen forward Etienne Browne capped off a then 18-2 UMass run with a straightaway three-pointer to give his team a 70-60 advantage. The Red Foxes never recovered.

In the midst of UMass's extended run, Marist endured a number of suspect foul calls on the defensive end that ended with the officials slapping the Marist bench with a technical foul.

Marist head coach Matt Brady failed to attribute his team's downward spiral to the questionable officiating, however.

"Tonight we didn't play well enough to win on the road," Brady said. "We have young guys and a lot affects young guys. My coaching style maybe affects them, the whistle, or a made basket by the other team affects them. We've got a lot of growing up to do, and I'm disheartened because I circled this

as a game that we were playing well enough previously to win, but we didn't play well enough tonight."

After Red Foxes' center Spongy Benjamin converted a lay-up to give Marist a 58-52 lead, UMass head coach Travis Ford promptly called timeout with 8:06 left to play.

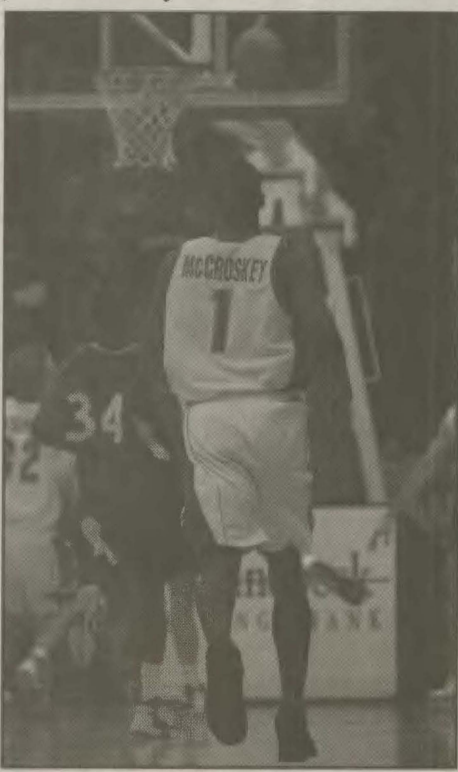
Following a Dante Milligan free-throw, Marist turned the ball over in its own back-court and UMass capitalized. The Marist lead evaporated after UMass guard Chris Lowe intercepted a pass and cruised in for a lay-up to tie the game at 58 with 6:42 remaining. The Minutemen never looked back and their lead grew to as large as 18. Chris Lowe finished with a game-high 23 points on 7-of-13 shooting.

Unlike Marist's previous games, the Red Foxes failed to take care of the basketball. Marist turned the ball over 22 times compared to UMass' 11.

"To me it was like a snowball rolling down a hill," Brady said. "I think that they created some turnovers and then it just kind of fed on itself. We turned the ball over in some unusual ways, but it was really just passing and catching. That's where most of the turnovers came from, not completing passes."

In the loss, Marist received another strong performance sen-

ior guard Louie McCroskey. McCroskey led the Red Foxes



JAMES REILLY/ THE CIRCLE
McCroskey led the team with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Marist however was not able to rally behind him for the win.

with 22 points on 9-of-17 shooting. The guard also collected a game-high 11 rebounds to complete his first double-double as a Red Fox. McCroskey's 11 rebounds showed the defensive presence he creates in addition to his scoring abilities.

"Louie's turning into a player that I thought that he could become," Brady said. "He's becoming a better defensive player on the ball and that's a

thing that's going to go unnoticed, but we as a staff have noticed it."

Marist trailed by as many as eight points in the first half. After being down 28-20 with 4:06 left to play before halftime, the Red Foxes embarked on a 12-4 run highlighted by seven points from freshman Jay Gavin. Gavin finished with 12 points.

"We didn't play a good first half and we found ourselves tied," Brady said. "In the second half, I thought we would play better, and we really didn't play better. We took care of the ball marginally better, but we didn't play a whole lot better. I think there were a lot of things that didn't go well."

Long layoff

Following the UMass loss, the Red Foxes will not hit the hardwood again until Dec. 22 when the team heads to Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) foe Niagara for its second conference match-up.

The 6-4 Red Foxes and 4-3 Niagara Purple Eagles both sit at 1-0 in the MAAC. Niagara fell in its last contest against Towson 75-72 in overtime. Charron Fisher leads the team in scoring once again and delivered 31 points against Towson. The senior averages 27 points per game.

Niagara has proven to be a tough opponent for Marist in the

past. The Red Foxes edged the Purple Eagles in overtime in their first meeting last season, but Marist suffered an 83-75 loss in front of the Red Fox faithful for its only home loss of the season.

After dropping a tough game on the road against UMass, Marist must now wait ten days to compete again.

"I would prefer to get right back and play again," Brady emphasized. "The problem is that we now have basically four road games to go before the schedule gets any easier. I've said from the very beginning that this is the most difficult schedule in the history of Marist College basketball and road games are a big part of it."

When the Red Foxes face the Purple Eagles, Coach Brady believes the test the team faced against UMass will benefit the players.

"We've talked about the keys [to the Niagara game] being exactly the same [as the keys for UMass] and that we need to improve in all areas," Brady said. "We're going to spend a lot of time on offensive execution here this week, and next week we'll spend a lot more time getting ready for Niagara and the challenges that they pose to us, but I do think that we'll hopefully improve here in the next 10 to 12 days."



Roarin' Red Foxes

Marist's male and female star performer for the weekend of Dec. 7-9.

Louie McCroskey
Basketball, Senior



McCroskey led the team with 22 points and 11 rebounds in their 83-68 loss to UMass at Mohegan Sun this past Saturday. The senior guard also added four steals. He was 9-17 from the field and was 3-4 from the free throw line.

On the horizon:

The Foxes will look to rebound, but will have to wait a while to do so until they finally return to action December 22nd at Niagara. Tip-off is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Rachele Fitz
Basketball, Sophomore



The sophomore star continued to impress in Marist's 55-44 win over Fairfield. She led the team with 18 points and was 7-10 from the field. She also added four rebounds and two assists as Marist won their tenth straight.

On the Horizon:

The women will be out of action until the 22nd of December when they take on UAlbany in a 2 p.m. game.



* Photos courtesy of
www.goredfoxes.com

A small school state of mind

By ANDREW BATTI
Staff Writer

A small part of the sports fan in me always regretted coming to Marist. Instead of immersing myself in Big East basketball, I watched the demise of Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) football. A small part of me still wishes that I could see my school play in a packed arena and talked about on ESPN, but then I realize what I would have missed. Marist sports allowed me to connect to the school in a way that I could not have done at a larger school. Too bad I am only realizing it my senior year.

While my view of the Marist football team for my first three years came from the glorified tree house that occupied Leonidoff Field, it could have been worse. I might have been camping in a tent outside Beaver Stadium at Penn State for a week to get a quality seat to see the Nittany Lions play Ohio State. I could have been taking my chances in the student ticket lottery for entry into Ben Hill Griffin Stadium ("The Swamp") at the University of Florida. Say what you want about the quality of Marist sports, but the thought of not being able to watch a Marist home game never entered

into the realm of possibility.

The difference between Marist and any school that routinely appears on national television is that Marist has thankfully not allowed money to turn their games into an expensive and exclusive activity. Rather than having to order a season-ticket package or freeze in a tent for six nights, every game I watched on my school's campus has been free of charge and waiting lines.

Many schools have made their games highly profitable at the expense of the students, the demographic that is responsible for the existence of the school. The University of Florida, a school that has reached the pinnacle of athletic success in recent years, proudly boasts that the 25 percent of The Swamp's seating capacity allotted for students is the highest in the SEC. For those fans that end up on the wrong end of the ticket lottery, they have no one to blame but their own luck. At Clemson University, student ticket prices for basketball games reach as high as \$25. I guess the thousands of dollars that kids pay for tuition, room and board is not enough.

As for national media coverage, it has come to be expected for a small fraternity of schools.

It is difficult to imagine a women's national basketball tournament without teams like the University of Tennessee or the University of Connecticut, who have become college basketball fixtures in March. The success of teams of this caliber cannot be compared, however, to the feeling that the fan of an underdog team feels after pulling an upset on the national stage. The excitement generated by the Marist women's basketball team reaching the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament last year would have been far less relevant if they were a perennial powerhouse.

After nearly four years as a Marist student, a part of me still wishes I could have been the hysterical face-painted fan storming the field on a nationally televised game. It would have been the closest I would ever come to connecting with the elusive student-athletes who only seem to appear on game day. Instead, I can get a live post game report sitting in my kitchen with the starting center of Marist basketball team who lives on the second floor of my house. It is not a bad trade and one I am happy that I made.

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JAMES REILLY/THE CIRCLE

Senior Dani Diaz led the Red Foxes with two interceptions and a touchdown in the upset win against rival Iona. With the win, the Red Foxes clinched a share of the MAAC championship for the second straight season. Duquesne and Iona also claimed a piece of the MAAC title. The Red Foxes beat the No. 5 nationally ranked mid-major Iona Gaels and the No. 1 ranked defense among FCS teams. Marist ended the season on a two-game winning streak after earning its first Patriot League victory the prior week after a tough start to the 2007 season. Marist salvaged a 2-2 home record at the new Tenney Stadium at Leonidoff Field. The Red Foxes dropped their home opener but recorded their first win against the La Salle Explorers the following week.



JAMES REILLY/THE CIRCLE

The women's soccer team had a record breaking season in 2007. Their 11-5-3 overall record and .658 winning percentage was the best in program history. They set 10 program records in total, including goals scored (40), assists (32), and total points (112). Freshman keeper Allison Lane also set a school record with her .98 goals against average. The team finished first in the MAAC for the first time in history and were one win short of winning the MAAC tournament and getting a bid in the NCAA tournament.

Lady Foxes reach Sweet 16



Courtesy of Marist Sports Information

The Marist Red Foxes reached the Sweet 16 after beating Ohio State and Middle Tennessee State in the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament. The Red Foxes fell to eventual NCAA champion Tennessee in Dayton, Ohio. They finished the year with a record of 29-6, and a No. 22 ranking in the USA Today/ESPN Women's College Basketball poll.

Red Foxes advance in NIT



Courtesy of Marist Sports Information

The Red Foxes captured their first outright MAAC regular season title by beating Siena 98-88 in the season finale at the McCann Center in a game televised on ESPN2. After suffering a loss to Siena in the MAAC tournament, the Red Foxes went on to win their first ever NIT game against Oklahoma State. Marist sank 10 three-pointers and Will Whittington poured in 31 points against an Oklahoma State team that beat Kevin Durant's Texas Longhorns.

Jared Jordan



Courtesy of Newsday

Jared Jordan competed for the New York Knicks in the 2007 NBA pre-season and, after being waived, signed with the EuroLeague. Jordan was originally drafted by the Los Angeles Clippers with the 45th pick.



Bobby Hastry



Courtesy of Marist Sports Information

After signing with the Kansas City Royals, Marist product Bobby Hastry emerged as a contributor for the Royals A affiliate Burlington. As a rookie in the Appalachian League, Hastry appeared in 14 games.

THE CIRCLE Sports

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Foxes through worst of non-conference with one blemish *Fitz a major factor in the success of Marist outside and in MAAC*

By ERIC ZEDALIS
Sports Co-Editor

Head coach Brian Giorgis may just be able to have his cake and eat it too.

The sixth year coach always makes it a point to schedule tough non-conference teams to help his players and staff get ready for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) schedule. Sure, winning non-conference games might help them vie for a higher seed in the NCAA tournament, but these games have never meant anything unless Marist took care of business in the MAAC first.

Therefore, the entire season is predicated on winning the MAAC championship because that has always been the only way for a school like Marist to make the NCAA tournament – just ask last year's men's team.

But with Marist having played out most of its tough non-conference schedule already, something funny happened – they won all but one game. So not only has Giorgis put his team to the test to prepare for the conference schedule, with wins over Utah, Nebraska (32nd in the RPI

poll), and Eastern Washington, (the results of Wednesday night's game against Hartford, no. 40 in the RPI poll, still pending as of Dec. 11) Marist may not need to hoist a MAAC trophy come March just to get to the NCAA tournament.

If the Foxes run the table the rest of the regular season, but lose in the conference tournament, do they have a case for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament?

"It depends on what kind of people they are," Giorgis said. "I don't get myself involved in that, which is why running the table means nothing to me. We want to determine if we get there, and not leave it up to them."

Marist doesn't seem to leave anything to chance these days.

After dropping its season opener against then 16th ranked Ohio State, the Marist women's basketball team has shown its opponents no mercy. In the Red Foxes' 11 straight victories (as of Dec. 11), nine of them were by double-digit margins, and they more than doubled-up the Ivy League's Dartmouth, 71-35.

The scary thing is, the toughest part of the Foxes' schedule

is already behind them. Therefore, there is a good chance the Foxes could finish the season with just one loss.

Marist already disposed of Iona and Fairfield, ranked sixth and second in the MAAC pre-season coaches' poll respectively, but the Foxes may face a stern test over the winter break at Loyola on Jan. 11.

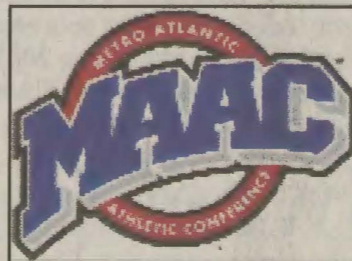
The Greyhounds are 6-3 overall and 2-0 in conference.

However, if the Iona and Fairfield games were any indication, the Foxes should have no trouble winning the MAAC regular season outright for a fourth straight year. Marist's defense stymied the Stags this past Sunday as they held an opponent to 30 percent shooting from the field for the fourth time this season. Iona didn't fare much better the Friday night prior, shooting just 38.2 percent.

Meanwhile, the Foxes' sophomore sensation Rachele Fitz has proven unstoppable, averaging 17 points per game. In the two MAAC contests Marist has played, she has dominated, totaling 40 points and 12 rebounds.

Giorgis' original plan to pre-

pare for the MAAC season seems to have worked. Obviously he and the Red Foxes would like an automatic bid to the tournament by winning the MAAC; but if they should fail come tournament time, the wins they already have on their resume might do the trick.



JAMES REILLY / THE CIRCLE
Sophomore Rachele Fitz is averaging 17 points per game. She is a major factor why the Red Foxes are on an 11 game winning streak. The Foxes' last loss came against Ohio State in their season opener.

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