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OR WINTER HELL?

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THE CIRCLE
845-575-3000 ext. 2429
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Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Students take control of MCCTA

By LOUIS P. ORTIZ III
Staff Writer

In its current production of "Once Upon a Mattress," the Marist College Council on Theatre Arts has developed a different approach in collaborating with the Marist Singers and the Marist Band.

The reenacted Broadway musical, which in 1997 starred Sarah Jessica Parker, took center stage Nov. 13 to Nov. 16 in the Nelly Goletti Theatre.

Over the past 27 seasons, MCCTA has successfully grown in popularity. Its current president,

Karla Gareau, is aware of the new role that the organization's executive board has taken.

"With this particular production, three of the five directors worked within the music department at Marist," Gareau said. "The entire e-board literally went through an application process when choosing the various positions that would be filled by adults on and off campus, which is definitely a first considering that the e-board is compiled of only students."

After years of hiring outside professional orchestras, MCCTA chose Marist College composer,

Art Himmelberger, as the musical director to work with the Marist Singers and Marist Band to search for potential musicians that could help out with the show.

This allowed more money to be put towards detailed scenery and elaborate costumes handmade by students Jenn Dugan, Christine Digirolamo, and Chrissy Pulaski.

Since many of the cast members are active members of the Marist Singers, production for "Once Upon a Mattress" ran into many problems when scheduling practice times in between the singers' separate performances.

As a result, a new rule was approved where performers cannot hold two lead roles in consecutive shows.

Nearly 600 students attended the play throughout the weekend, according to the Gareau.

"I liked the music," sophomore Melinda E. Martinez said. "I was impressed with the costumes and the scenery on stage. Many people around me agreed the performers were very animated."

Frosh Ricalya R.A. Brissett, who played Lady Meril, offered her opinion about the show's run.

"I thought the play was very suc-

cessful. It was well rehearsed and people enjoyed it," said Brissett. "Personally, I felt very comfortable on stage because normally in high school, the theatre could hold over 900 people... at Marist it can hold up to 300 people or more. We need a bigger theatre."

Other performances to look forward to include "The Heidi Chronicles," debuting this weekend, "The Vagina Monologues" and "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown"; in February, "The Children's Theatre: Looking Glassland," the date for which is yet to be announced.

Commitment to Community 'Citizen' editor strives to reach media ideals

By AMANDA VLADICK
Circle Contributor

Imagine a world full of caring individuals with a real desire to affect the lives of those around them.

That is Elaine Fernandez's goal. She and her fellow editors at The Citizen, a monthly magazine run by independent community journalists, are working toward a community-minded world, one step at a time.

Fernandez visited Marist Nov. 19 to discuss the goals of The Citizen, which chooses a new public interest topic to cover each month.

Approximately 50 students, staff, and community members attended the discussion at the performing arts room in the Student Center.

Her talk centered on the recent commercialization of news and the media, and attempted to enlighten audience members about the benefits of independent community journalism versus corporate mainstream media.

"Most media is owned by a few large companies," she said. "Thus, our choices for thoughts, opinions, and actions are

becoming increasingly narrowed."

In addition to media being owned by a sparse group of people, it has become increasingly dependent on sales revenue for its profits.

"Corporate mainstream media is about selling news," Fernandez said. "No matter how important an issue is, if it doesn't sell, it's not news."

Plus, the news that greets consumer ears each morning is becoming increasingly negative.

"The media dramatizes the preliminary hearings of Kobe Bryant and Scott Peterson because education and the job market aren't juicy," she said.

However, these issues rarely get any airtime unless something big happens.

"When the high school dropout down the block breaks into your house one day, you start paying attention to why and how he fell through the cracks," said Fernandez.

That is precisely why The Citizen was created.

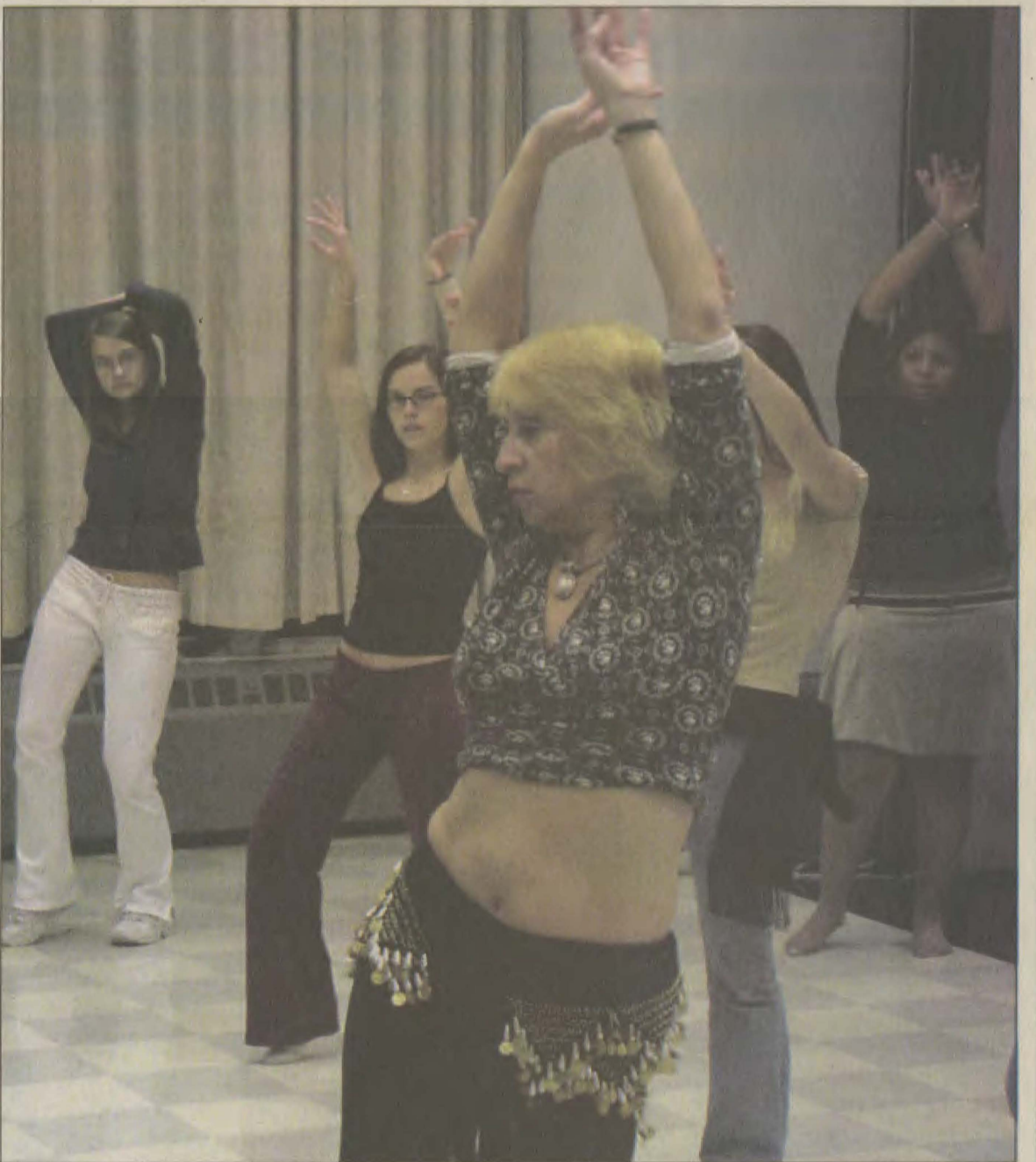
"The basis for The Citizen are common social concerns and an effort to involve the public," she said.

SEE CITIZEN, PAGE 3

'Most media is owned by a few large companies. Thus, our choices for thoughts, opinions, and actions are becoming increasingly narrowed.'

— Elaine Fernandez
Editor, The Citizen

Belly dancing with Sarah



SARA STEVENS / THE CIRCLE

Sarah Bell, renowned belly dancing instructor, taught basic technique and history to approximately 40 students in the Student Center on Tuesday night. For more information see story on page four.

Abroad program activities inform prospective travelers

By LORAIN HOWELL
Circle Contributor

The Marist Abroad Program endorsed three unique activities in support of International Week from Nov. 17 - 21. This year, MAP invited two guest speakers to Marist and sponsored a study abroad fair.

Antonio Di Palma, a Marist senior and employee at the abroad office, said the two guest speakers were a great contribution to International Week.

"Ron Hick, a Marist College graduate, spoke about international trade and the globalization of the Hudson Valley area as well as the Empire State development," said Di Palma.

Emergency Medical Services assistant director David Violante, of the Arlington Fire District in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., spoke about his volunteering experience as the EMS coordinator for a non-profit organization called the Society for Hospital and Resources Exchange. This program is devoted to bringing people in deprived areas of Africa healthcare and education.

Katie Hargis, an undergraduate at Marist College, said she regrets missing Violante's lecture.

"I was disappointed that I could not attend his lecture because I have often thought about how fulfilling it would be to assist impoverished people one day myself," said Hargis. "I give him a lot of credit for being able to contribute to such a noble cause."

In addition to the two lecturers,

another activity MAP sponsored in tribute to International Week was the study abroad fair. Representatives from all abroad programs distributed information to students going overseas next semester and to prospective Marist abroad students.

Lauren McCusker, a Marist senior, studied in Sydney, Australia and was one of the student representatives at the abroad fair. McCusker said the fair is an important activity that provides a lot of helpful information to students.

"Anyone who is looking to go abroad should take advantage of all the meetings MAP provides," said McCusker. "Students should also listen to all the people who have come back from being abroad because they have a lot of interesting and important information to share."

MARISTCIRCLE.COM WEEKLY POLL

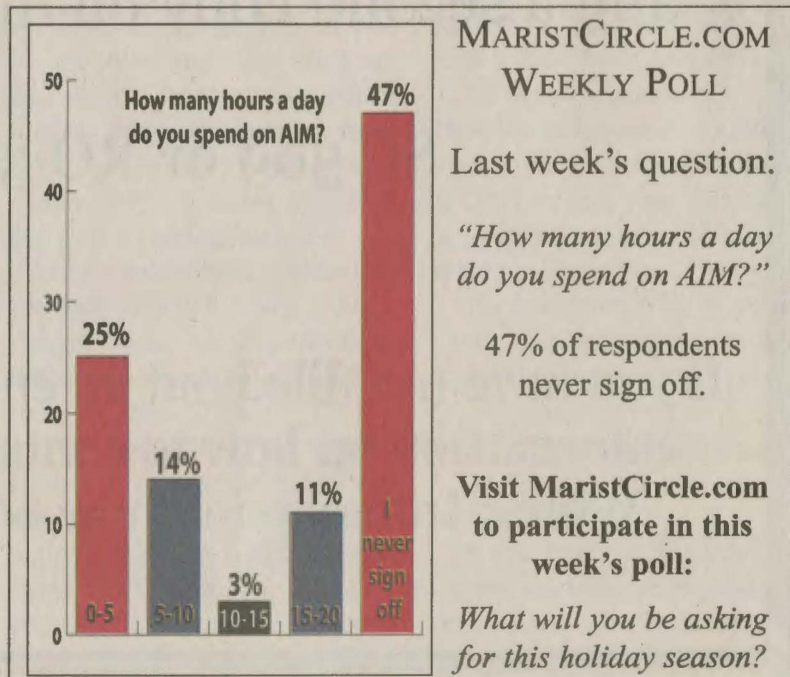
Last week's question:

"How many hours a day do you spend on AIM?"

47% of respondents never sign off.

Visit MaristCircle.com to participate in this week's poll:

What will you be asking for this holiday season?





THE CIRCLE Campus

The "Security Briefs" and the "Alcohol Fantasy Beat" is intended to be a parody and not a representation of The Circle's editorial stance on drinking — illegal or otherwise — nor is it intended to be a statement regarding the official Marist college policy on alcohol consumption.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2003

maristcircle.com

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Security Briefs: Car break-ins, thefts outshine drinking

Compiled By **DAN ROY**
Campus Editor

Alcohol related incidents this week

Sheahan — 2
Midrise — 1

Alcohol related incidents by dorm total

Gartland — 10
Champagnat — 9
Leo — 6
Sheahan — 5
Upper West Cedar — 4
Midrise — 3
Old Townhouses — 2
Marian — 1

Security Alert!

On Dec. 1, at approximately 1 p.m., an unknown male subject was found by a female student in her room in Marian Hall. The subject left after being confronted by the female student.

It is believed the subject may have entered the dorm by following other students as they swiped into the building. The subject was able to enter the dorm room when the student left the room momentarily and left the door ajar.

All students are urged to make sure that no unauthorized persons enter the building behind them as they swipe in. It is important to lock room doors even when leaving the room for a short time.

The subject is described as a black male about 30 years of age, with a stocky build. He was wearing a black puffy coat, blue jeans, tan work boots, and a knit cap or hooded sweatshirt. Anyone who has information on this incident should contact investigator DeMattio at extension 2116.

11/18 — On a lighter note, there was a fire alarm in Townhouse C at 1:28 p.m. Tuesday. These are interesting because there is always some great reason for why this happened. This time, over-cooked mushrooms was the cause. This is a perfectly reasonable ... reason ... however. The student was obviously tired of playing with a small Mario, so they tried to give him a power up to make him big. I know since I've tried this before, and I ended up beating King Kupa because of it. But this is advanced, and only should be done with parental supervision. My advice is next time just go outside and pick a flower, you may not be big, but at least you'll have fire power.

11/20 — The first of about 12 vehicle break-ins happened at 7:33 a.m. Thursday morning in the Upper West Cedar lot. A car was found to have its window smashed out and the CD player and speakers stolen. I don't care how poor you are, there's got to be a better way of getting gifts this Christmas.

11/21 — One of the most embarrassing events occurred at 2:05 a.m. Friday. A commuter student attempted to enter Leo Hall using the ID of another student. He also did this while intoxicated. The officer wasn't fooled, and prohibited this stu-

dent from entering. Normally, the student would be told to go back to his dorm at a time like this. But since he commutes, this was not possible. Instead, the security guard called the person's parents to come pick him up. How awful is that? "Yeah, excuse me Mrs. Jones, this is Marist security. You're son is drunk and tried sneaking into one of our dorms. Can you pick him up please?" If I were this person, I would rather go to Dutchess than come back here.

11/21 — Our second car larceny was reported at 7:30 a.m. Friday in Beck Place. The car's driver side window was shattered and the stereo and speakers were taken. The town police were notified. This seriously is not anything to joke about. How someone could do something like that, especially this time of year is outrageous. Stealing candy or Hallmark cards is one thing (we've all done that), but this is going too far.

11/21 — More vandalism happened in the Lower West Cedar lot at 3:20 p.m. A student walked back to his car to find yellow paint splashed all over it. It could be worse though. It could have been black paint. You can't get a tan standing next to black paint ...

11/21 — Another vehicle was broken into at 5 p.m., this time in the McCann lot. The same thing was found too, the window smashed and the stereo taken. The broken window must be his calling card. All the great ones do it. I mean look at the Wet Bandits later known as the Sticky Bandits, now they were pro. All we need is Kevin here to catch this guy and we'll

be all set.

11/22 — Sheahan got caught drinking. "Ooooooh!" The RD found a small party going on in one of the rooms at 12:33 a.m. Saturday. Ten students were there with about 50 empties on the floor and 18 cans still in the box.

11/23 — The N-block of Lower West Cedar threw a large party on Sunday. Everyone was having a grand old time until a security guard showed up around 11:05 p.m. The party of about 40 people quickly dispersed at his arrival, with a lot of them jumping out the kitchen window. No alcohol was found, which leads me to believe that they were playing a big game of tag, and the security guard was "it."

11/23 — Midrise didn't let me down with my pick last week. At 1:21 a.m., a security guard was searching for the source of water balloons thrown from a fifth floor window, but found a little bit more than balloons when he entered the room. Four 12-ounce cans of Coors Light were also there for the ride.

11/23 — I don't know what do with Sheahan anymore. They are just going bananas over there. At 3:20 a.m. the entry desk officer stopped a student and confiscated eight 12-ounce cans of Budweiser. I think I'm going to have to write to Dr. Phil so he can make you guys his new family, because you are out of control.

11/24 — On the road descending the hill to Midrise there was a two car accident at 9:30 p.m. Monday. One vehicle

drove into the opposite lane and struck the oncoming car in the fender. The hit was hard enough that one of the air bags deployed. Both cars had to be towed away.

11/26 — Another fire alarm went off in Old Townhouses, this time in the B-block at 1:30 a.m. Not to be outdone by their counterparts in C, they caused this alarm by spraying too much Pam onto a cooking pan. That's just funny as is. But I have one question for you ... does she have a sista?

11/26 — The final brief of the week is yet another car theft. At 8:30 p.m. Wednesday night a vehicle was found in the Sheahan lot, broken into, with its stereo and about 30 CDs stolen. This was actually a guest's car this happened to. Instead of filing a report, security slapped the kid with a ticket for not parking in Beck. Just kidding.

Roy's dorm alcohol incident fantasy beat

This is it. We are going into our last weekend of the regular season. Everything each dorm has trained for all off-season, and worked for all semester long will come to a finish this weekend. Who will go home for winter break with the first annual Anheuser Busch Cup? I know for me the anticipation is worse than Christmas morning. All we can do now is sit back and enjoy the show. Next week I will hand out the season awards to our winners and our losers.

Upcoming campus events

Thursday, Dec. 4 & Friday, Dec. 5 "The Heidi Chronicles" 8 p.m. — Nelly Goletti Students - \$2	Friday, Dec. 5 Class of 2006 Holiday Party 7 p.m. SC 349	Friday, Dec. 5 SPC Comedy Club: Tom Cotter 9 p.m. Cabaret
Friday, Dec. 5 Science Major Capping Presentation "Come find the answers." 5 p.m. — DN 225	Saturday, Dec. 6 Bus Trip to "The Christmas Spectacular" 3 p.m. Radio City Music Hall	Saturday, Dec. 6 Galleria Mall Trip 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6 "The Heidi Chronicles" 2 p.m. — Nelly Goletti Students - \$2	Saturday, Dec. 6 Lessons and Carols 8 p.m. (Bus leaves at 7:30 p.m.) Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	Sunday, Dec. 7 Annual Children's Holiday Party Noon SC 349
Sunday, Dec. 7 Holiday Concert with Marist Band 3 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Nelly Goletti Theatre	Sunday, Dec. 7 Mass and Tree Lighting 7 p.m. Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Church	Monday, Dec. 8 Campus Ministry Holiday Social 8 p.m. Cabaret
Tuesday, Dec. 9 HuMarists Big Show 9 p.m. Nelly Goletti Theatre	Tuesday, Dec. 9 SGA Dessert Party 9:30 p.m. Cabaret	Tuesday, Dec. 9 ARCO Christmas Social 9:30 p.m. SC 349
Wednesday, Dec. 10 Music at Marist: Ulrich Recital 8 p.m. Performing Arts Room	Friday, Dec. 12 "A Christmas Carol" performed by Marist Faculty 7 p.m. Nelly Goletti Theatre	Friday, Dec. 12 BSU presents "Nyabingi" 9:30 p.m. Cabaret

DEADLINE FOR STUDENT-WRITTEN PLAYS

Plays to be entered in the
John P. Anderson Playwriting Contest

are due no later than the end of fall final exams.

Bring one hard copy of your entry and a second copy on disk to either

SC 369 or RO 389

If you have not filled out an entry form, do so. Information on how to contact you during Winter Intercession may be important.

Call ext. 2429 or visit maristcircle.com to submit events for the campus calendar.

The Circle's last edition of the semester will be next Thursday. The Circle office will be closed from Dec. 15, 2003 until Jan. 15, 2004.



THE CIRCLE News

“It concerns me that I’m here [graduate school] for less than two years, and my debt will be more than my entire undergraduate education.”

— Jessica Ebert
NYU graduate student

News Editor
Cassi Matos

News Editor
Courtney Kretz

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2003

maristcircle.com

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‘The Citizen’ strays from media norms ... from page one

“[The public] needs more meaningful information that will encourage them to get involved. We use statistics, facts, historical timelines, and community-based reporting to surround an issue and give the public a good look at it.”

“It extends way beyond print news,” said Fernandez. “We’re invested in our community.”

The magazine hosted a pilot program last year to get high school students involved in the

politics of their neighborhoods. Students from three schools learned to discuss current, pertinent legislation, research bills, and contact legislators.

“We are committed to cultivating the next generation,” said Fernandez.

Many audience members, such as Stephen Burger, junior, biology major, were impressed with the goals of The Citizen.

“Independent community journalism really is needed for diver-

sity in news,” he said. “Otherwise all we’re going to ever hear about is Michael Jackson.”

Kamby Honour, senior, Millbrook High School, said she agreed that The Citizen’s goals were admirable. However, she

said she found the discussion to be as much informational as

advertising.

“Of course it sounds like a necessary addition to society, and I

understand that they don’t get a whole lot of publicity,” she said. “But to get up there and demand that

the audience buy it, pass it on, go to the Web site, and spread the

word was a little over the top.”

According to Fernandez, the magazine does have a very tight budget and relies on readers to pass the word as a form of advertising.

“All of our six editors are volunteers,” she said. “We’re very committed, and we believe in what we’re doing.”

Fernandez is the publisher and editor in chief of The Citizen Monthly. Her career in public service began in the 1990s when

she served as an Americorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) for Literacy Volunteers of America. She has directed, organized, and consulted on a variety of public service projects. In 2003, she was nominated a Woman of Achievement by the YWCA’s annual Tribute to Women.

For more information, visit The Citizen’s Web site at www.thectzn.com

‘Independent community journalism really is needed for diversity in news.’

— Stephen Burger
Junior

Congressman questions high college textbook costs

By HEATHER MEYER
Daily O’Collegian
Oklahoma State University

STILLWATER, Okla. (U-WIRE) — A new bill introduced to Congress may help ease the pocketbook pain students feel each semester when buying textbooks.

Recent studies show American students often pay more than overseas students for the exact same textbooks that are published in the United States.

Oregon Congressman David Wu, member of the House Education Committee, introduced legislation to the U.S. House of Representatives Nov. 20 to require an investigation of the college textbook industry’s pricing practices.

According to the press release from Wu’s office, the investigative division of Congress, the General Accounting Office, will look into why American students often pay more than double what overseas students pay for the exact same textbook and why U.S. college bookstores are barred from buying the cheaper alternatives available overseas.

“American college students should not have to pay double what overseas students pay for identical college textbooks. The pricing practices of the college textbook industry defy common sense, and today I am announcing legislation to get to the bottom of it,” Wu said in the press release.

“The (books) are too expensive,” said Tiffany Dougherty,

mechanical engineering freshman.

Textbook publishers churn more money out of students by packaging textbooks in plastic bundles requiring students to buy extra materials such as CD-ROMs, workbooks and study guides. These extra items are added to make the textbook look more appealing to professors when choosing which textbooks to use for the classes they teach.

Dustin Morgan, political science sophomore, said of the packaged textbooks, “It’s just a way for them to charge more. Not many students actually use that extra stuff. It is unnecessary.”

Publishers have been continually losing money to the efficient used-book market. This problem

is not a new one. It has been building for years since publishers made the mistake of not getting in on the used-book market. Therefore, publishers are frequently releasing new, unneeded editions of textbooks to make more money. Several publishers now control the marketplace because the others could not survive.

“It’s somewhat unnecessary to have 12 editions of a book with only minor changes to the text,” said Erik Kritz, international business freshman.

One of Stillwater, Okla.’s college bookstores, Cowboy Book, sells both new and used books. Its book prices range anywhere from \$5 to \$150 per new or used book, some of the cheapest prices in town. They buy books back

based on whether the book is still being used, how many books of that kind they have on hand and the condition of the book.

Two of the biggest complaints students have are aimed at books they cannot buy used, such as workbooks, and the sell-back value of their books.

“You spend \$30 on a workbook to only tear two pages out of it, then you can’t even sell it back,” Kritz said about workbooks.

Morgan finds the sell-back value on books ridiculous. “You spend \$60 on a book and then you can only sell it back for \$20.”

According to the press release, Wu’s bill will require the GAO to investigate the college textbook industry and report back within one year on at least eight of the

following points: The average amount of money a student spends on textbooks, the average cost to produce new textbooks, the average cost to produce a new edition of a previously published textbook, the reasons for the price discrepancy in textbooks in the United States, and outside the United States, the extent of the problem with such price discrepancy, whether the price discrepancy problem occurs more in a certain subject area than others, the extent to which new editions of textbooks are different from their previous editions including the percentage or work that is actually substantively changed from one edition to the next and the average time period between old and newer editions of textbooks.

More students turn to private loans

By OLGA NORSTROM
Washington Square News
New York University

NEW YORK (U-WIRE) — An increasing number of college students are turning to private loans to finance their education — despite the risk of sinking deeper into debt — as the gap between the cost of a college education and federal aid continues to widen.

The average cost of a four-year private college education has jumped by 43 percent since 1992, while federal loan limits have not increased in over a decade, said Sandy Baum, an economics professor at Skidmore College. Baum is co-author of the “Trends in Student Aid Report,” which is published annually and sponsored by the College Board.

Meanwhile, there has been a private loan increase of 45 percent among undergraduates and 51 percent among graduates since the 2001-02 academic year. “Last year students borrowed \$6.9 billion from private lenders,” Baum said. “This represents a 477 percent increase from the 1995 academic year.”

The total volume of private loans has now surpassed the amounts awarded annually under the government-financed federal student educational grants, Federal Work Study and the Federal Perkins Loans programs combined, she said.

But while private lending has increased, it still only comprises 10 percent of the total student loan volume, said Kenneth Redd, director of research policy and analysis for the National Association of Student Aid Administrators.

“Only a minority of all undergraduates — about 4 percent — receive private loans, but these are generally students attending higher-cost schools like New York University, or who have very high financial need,” Redd said.

The drawback of private loans is that monthly payments begin accumulating interest right after disbursement, so interest accumulates while students are still attending school.

“While it is a small percentage of students that borrow from private lenders like Sallie Mae, those who do turn to private loans are borrowing quite heavily,” said Martha Holler, spokeswoman for Sallie Mae.

She said 25 percent of private loan borrowers perceive themselves as having significant problems with their education debt after graduation. Excessive debt can affect students’ decisions about their careers, students said.

Jude Divers, an undergraduate in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, borrowed \$6,000 in private loans this year. She would like to go to medical school after graduating from NYU but considers this pricey dream “iffy” because she does not want to add to her debt.

Private loans from lenders like Citibank and Sallie Mae, unlike federal loans, allow students to borrow for non-tuition costs like room and board.

Students at NYU can borrow from one of the two lenders at negative 1 percent interest rates without fees, said Antonio Del Bono, NYU’s director of financial aid. “These rates are among the lowest in the country,” Del Bono said.

But the lowered rates have not eased some students’ fears about life after graduation.

“My first job out of school, I’ll be making a lower-end salary,” said Cindy Luff, an NYU graduate student in occupational therapy who has incurred more than \$100,000 in debt. “Now that these programs are starting to list these loans on our credit reports, how am I going to be able to get a car or rent an apartment?”

A few students said counseling required for federal student loans should be mandated for students obtaining private loans.

“What is missing is that they don’t sit with the student and strategize,” Luff said. “We don’t get good counseling at the Office of Financial Aid. They don’t provide students with any direction.”

If federal loan limits were increased, a significant proportion of the students who are currently receiving private loans may obtain more federal loans instead, Baum said.

Congress is considering raising federal loan limits under the Higher Education Act, which is up for reauthorization this year. The bill, which called for colleges to lower their tuition rates in October, proposes increases in all forms of federal financial aid.

Other students, like Jessica Ebert, who has borrowed over \$20,000 in private loans to pay for a graduate degree in science and environmental reporting at NYU, consider the cost a good investment.

“It concerns me that I’m here for less than two years, and my debt will be more than my entire undergraduate education,” Ebert said.

MOST MARIST STUDENTS
DRINK MODERATELY OR ABSTAIN FROM USING ALCOHOL

MOST MARIST STUDENTS HAVE 0-4 OR AT THE MOST 5 DRINKS WHEN THEY GO OUT

Based on 2001, 2002 and 2003 survey data from randomly selected Marist students by the Division of Student Affairs in conjunction with Education Development Center

13% of Marist students abstain from using alcohol
One drink = 12 oz. beer = 4 oz. wine = 1 oz. liquor

3 out of 4 Marist students say they don't have to drink to have a good time

just the Facts



THE CIRCLE Features

Features Editor
Sara Stevens

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2003

maristcircle.com

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Belly dancing: art and honor

By SARA STEVENS
Features Editor

Girls shimmied across the Student Center as Marist College became home to one of the oldest forms of artistic expression: belly dancing.

For two hours, the room undulated with the beat of Middle Eastern music and the fervor of eager students. Teaching the class, both traditional and modern aspects of the dance was professional belly dancer Sarah Bell's mission.

"Belly dancing is all about attitude," Bell told students. "[As a dancer,] you have to make an impression from the moment you walk in the room."

Along with basic technique, Bell taught some of the history behind this ancient dance.

"It's the oldest form of dance in the world, originating thousands of years ago," Bell said.

Over centuries, the dance has traveled around the world and evolved to incorporate various aspects of Latin, Turkish, and Moroccan culture.

"Each of the movements you make tells a story. In traditional times, women gathered together to share the details of their lives in a celebration of movement," Bell told students.

Belly dancing is an integration of spirit and body, and should be honored as such.

Bell also sought to tear down some of the negative stereotypes

'All of your life's wisdom goes into your dance. As a teacher, I have the opportunity to pass that wisdom down to my students.'

— Sarah Bell

empowering ritual for women.

"All of your life's wisdom goes into your dance. As a teacher, I have the opportunity



SARA STEVENS / THE CIRCLE

Above: Marist students experiment with the fundamental concepts of belly dancing. The belly dancing program was taught by professional belly dancer Sarah Bell Tuesday evening in the Student Center.

to pass that wisdom down to my students."

Sarah Bell has been belly dancing for thirty years, during which she has made numerous television appearances. She currently teaches at Exercise Express in the Marshall's mall in Poughkeepsie. With students ranging in age from nine to seventy, she is able to pass her wisdom to young and old women alike.

In addition to the traditional

celebration of womanhood, many men also find belly dancing to be valuable for its grace and physical expression, making it an art form from which everyone can benefit.

Logging on

For more information, check out Sarah Bell's Web site:

www.dancingwithsarah.com

College Life Chilly weather doesn't ice urge to socialize

Baby, it's cold outside.

It's that time of year again. Along with the onset of holiday shopping and yuletide cheer comes the beginning of very cold weather in the Northeast.

Even though most of us have probably experienced winter for a significant portion of our lives, everyone acts completely shocked when the temperature drops each year. It always "seems" like it's getting colder earlier and earlier, and even if the statistics show differently, each winter seems worse than the one before it.

In college, however, we handle cold weather a little differently than other people. For one thing, cold weather means new guidelines on when you can and cannot do certain things. For example, a large decrease in temperature may mean that it's too cold to go to class. An incoming snowstorm could mean the weather's too bad to go to work. But I'm sure if the storm of the century hit on a Tuesday night, most of us would unflinchingly brave the elements to make it to the Mad Hatter.

But if you decide to attend class when it's cold out, find a route to class that will require you to be outside for the bare minimum amount of time.

For example, if you're walking from Gartland to Donnelly, cut all the way through Dyson, then halfway through Lowell Thomas to the door near Route 9, behind the library and through the back door of Donnelly. Remember, this is what these buildings were strategically placed there for. And plus, coming up with new routes to class is sort of like learning. Except not really at all.

Unfortunately, the onset of cold weather also means a decrease in random socialization before and after classes. I mean, this isn't

really the height of social life on Marist campus, but it sure beats going to class early. So although the area between Dyson and Lowell

Thomas was formerly the ongoing gathering spot and gossip mill of the "in-between" class time, the inches and inches of snow we're sure to get will discourage people from hanging out on the benches. Therefore, you'll have to find another distraction to make you late to class. I'm guessing that the Dyson café will be a good bet.

This also counts for the cigarette / boredom breaks that everyone takes outside the dorms and townhouses. There will no

longer be people lingering outside for more than ten or fifteen minutes. In fact, most people, besides smokers, will stay contained, hermit-like, in their rooms / apartments, emerging only for food, class, and drink specials.

Finally, one of the funniest things of winter is how different people react to the weather.

There are those people who claim to love snow, play in it once, and curse it out three hours later. There's those, like myself, who remember all the problems that snow causes, and curse it right from the beginning. There's people from New York City who think one inch of snow should shut down the city, and those from up North who always claim they've seen worse.

Either way, it's too late to move down South, so it seems we're all in for it.

— Roff is now a syndicated columnist for *The Circle*. Her previous "AIM" article was featured in *Ka Leo O Hawaii*.



AUBREY
ROFF

Most people, besides smokers, will stay contained, hermit-like, in their rooms / apartments, emerging only for food, class, and drink specials.

How to research 150 years of the New York Times

Surprise! *The Intrepid Researcher doesn't need to find old microfilm*

By VERNE NEWTON
Library Director

Many students are required to use newspapers going back 20 years or more. And like scholars for decades, they retrieve microfilm, thread it thru the microfilm reader into the "take-up" roll, and begin cranking — and copying.

But in many cases there is an easier and cheaper way.

Go to the "Research" drop down menu at the library's home page and click on "Newsstand." Librarian Katy Silberger has put the inclusive dates for several national newspapers that go back 10 years or more.

Also note! Every issue of the Marist College newspaper — *The Circle* — is online going

back to 1961.

But the New York Times, going back to 1851, is in a class by itself. So today we are going to explore how to use it.

Students examining news in the month they were born want to know how they can browse through issues, as they would scrolling on microfilm.

You were born in March 1982. Click on the New York Times (Backfile). Leave the search box empty. Go down to the radio button "On This Date." Enter 03/01/1982 (don't worry: the date format is in the other boxes).

Page 49 appears (it doesn't matter). Just above the newspaper, in the center of the screen is a "Page" menu with "1 of 60." To "browse" the Times, merely

click on page 1.

Now here's the tricky part. You can make out the headlines, but even though your eyes are much younger than mine, you can't read the individual stories either.

Roll the cursor over the page and the individual headlines will appear in a box. Click on the headline and it will take you to a screen with only that story.

Quirk number one: Sometimes you have to point and click at several different spots on the headline to find the "sweet spot." Don't ask me — I'm just reporting the facts. We have told the database vendor about this and hope it will be corrected. But for now don't be surprised if you have to click three or four times before the icon spins and takes you there.



Now you've got a story that you want. Quirk number two: do not click on the browser printer icon or you'll get a blank page. Go down to the printer icon inside Pro Quest.

To go to the next day's issue, return to "search" page and change the day in the date box to "/02."

I know this seems really complicated. But after a few minutes you'll be sailing through it and will have access to one of the most remarkable records in the English language.

Next time, we'll talk about how to do even more sophisticated searches in it.

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The Daily Grind

We still must acknowledge stereotypes in workplace

In reply to the letter to the editor that appeared in the Nov. 20, 2003 edition of The Circle about my column, "Glass Ceilings & Mini Skirts."

I couldn't agree further myself. I simply pointed out the common stereotypes, and let's face it: Women are treated poorly in the workplace, otherwise there wouldn't be terms like "glass ceilings."

Yes, I also used insulting language. And yes, my sources are out of date.



ALEC TROXELL

However, no, I don't fail to notice that men do take care of their children just as women do, but you have to admit, more often than not, women take that role, not men.

No, I do not have scientific evidence to back up my opinions, and it was an incomplete article, but that is because of lack of time and findings. I have found updated data however.

According to the 2001 Census of Women Board Directors Catalyst 2002 exactly progressive if you ask me. But in the end, the only thing I am guilty of is pointing out the stereotypes in the workplace that affect both sexes. Your letter, as a matter of fact, furthered my points about the stereotypes, which was the ultimate goal of the column. Thank you for your help.

There is only a difference of three women between 1988 and 2003.

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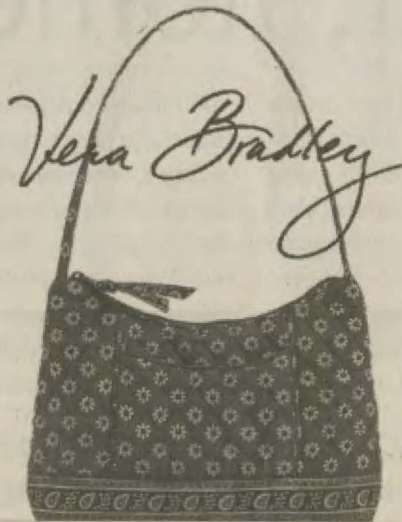
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THE CIRCLE Opinion

Let the voices of the Marist community be heard.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2003

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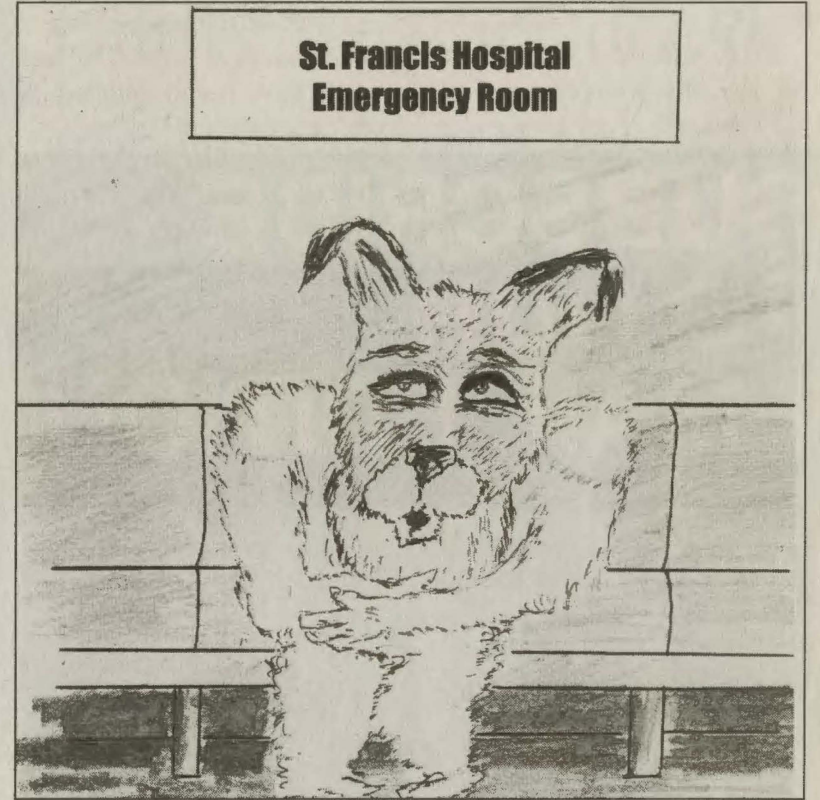
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Where has my semester gone? Well, I spent many an hour conversing with intelligent women ...



Many sites on the internet scared the hell out of me ...



St. Francis Hospital
Emergency Room

And I had many religious experiences ...

After months at war, homecoming a reality

By **ANDY JOYCE**
Foreign Correspondent

CAMP ARFIJAN, Kuwait — Just so you all know, everything I've written in this little series was neither fact or fiction, true or false, *its just what I know.*

I'll sit here in an Internet kiosk in Kuwait, and maybe when I'm done I'll go get a pizza or something with my buddies. Life for me for the past couple of weeks, has been relatively quiet compared to the last seven months I just spent in Iraq. I'm comfortable knowing that any day now I could be on a plane coming home. Obviously, I still long for home, my friends and family. And sometimes I'll feel guilty that I made it out of there in one piece, while soldiers are dying by the dozens up there now. My fellow reservists might call me crazy or even a liar, but from time to time, I'm plagued with guilt over the fact some people, people I don't know, died in Iraq, while I made it out without a scratch. I know I'll live with this guilt for a long time, and if you ask me, so should you. This guilt shouldn't belong solely to soldiers out here in desert colored uniforms — it belongs to the entire nation that sends its young, and sometimes less privileged, 6,000 miles away to die in the sand. This is yours as well, but you'll try not to remember it.

I'm sure you've become familiar with it by now.

You'll come back from class and you'll turn on the TV, flip through the channels and you might happen upon CNN, and there it is, death rolling along the bottom of the screen like stock quotes. One killed by an improvised explosive device alongside a road, four at once, maybe, killed by a rocket propelled grenade while on patrol in Baghdad. It's disturbing, but you'll turn off the TV and get back to life. Too many Americans are dying in Iraq and not enough people are really paying attention. Could you imagine yourself in Iraq, with a weapon and wearing a uniform? You might say, "Damn, that sucks!" but that will pretty much be the end of it. These realities used to bother me while I was out here, as did the seemingly universal opposition to our being there at the time. I wonder what they would say if they could see the Iraqi kids we'd meet, running back to their houses, barefoot and dirty, with more food, bottled water and candy than their little arms could hold?

I thought about this, and I came to the conclusion that regardless of the protests, the people with the guns and the bombs who are actually here aren't against the war, so it doesn't matter. The same can be said for the humanitarians here as well. As much as you'd like to think, I cannot believe this war and the subsequent occupation was all about killing.

I'll take home some of these more happy memories. Like sleeping on top of my fuel tanker, my buddy a few rows down, arguing with his assistant driver all night long. I'll remember pulling guard duty, during a blinding and awful sandstorm, recalling that if the enemy wanted to attack, "Here's his chance because my shirt is over my head." The shirt didn't help much, besides, by that point the sand had become a part of me; my soul.

'But if you want to go on fighting, go take some young chap, flaccid and a half wit, to give him a bit of courage and some brains ...'

— Ezra Pound
Canto LXXII

I'll remember playing dodgeball in Kuwait in the pitch black, wearing night vision goggles. I'll remember coming out of Iraq to Kuwait briefly during the summer, my buddy and I deciding how dumb it feels to salute, especially after coming out of a place where it was forbidden, the fear being, by saluting in a combat zone, you identify senior officers, making them vulnerable to attack, like sniper fire. A pint sized little Major bopped past he and I, and saluted me, and after laughing heartily at her mistake, we both decided we wouldn't be saluting anymore. So as my buddy and I goofed off, saluting wildly and mimicking the little Major with poor eyesight, a two star general, in all his glory, walked by. More like he glided alongside us, like he was walking on air. We saluted him and ended our insubordinate ways there. And lastly, I'll remember the Iraqis, and smile,

knowing I've never heard "I love you" or "you're beautiful" more times in my life. They won't put the good Iraqis on CNN, so you probably wouldn't know the majority I've met have welcomed this wide-eyed, and homesick American kid with open arms.

But shortly, I'll be on a plane to come home, and soon I will join you again at Marist. I'll slip back into relative anonymity, quietly confident knowing what I've done and satisfied for doing it.

Spc. Andrew Joyce was transferred to the 325th Transportation Company, of Brockton, Mass. in January 2003. The 325th is a medium truck company in the United States Army Reserves, specializing in fuel hauling. Following the activation, the unit went through mobilization at Ft. Drum, N.Y. until March 2003, when they arrived in Kuwait. On April 1, Joyce's platoon went into Iraq on their first fuel mission to LSA Bushmaster, with the 773rd Transportation Company of Long Island, N.Y. Joyce's platoon ran fuel missions, until meeting with the rest of the company weeks later. When all is said and done, the 325th has done over 100 fuel missions in support of the 3rd Infantry Division, the V Corps, Army Air Force, 1st Armored Division, Air Force and elements of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. The 325th has delivered over eight million gallons of fuel and has traveled over a combined two million miles before coming back south to Kuwait to redeploy home in November 2003.

Kudos to online courses offered at Marist

By **TIM DUGUAY**
Staff Writer

One thing that I was thankful for this Thanksgiving was that I finished a course before finals.

How could this be, you ask? It is the revolutionary breakthrough that Marist has had for some years now: the online course. Since I do not have to waste time sitting in class learning something that I will probably forget later, I have time to finish work for other classes. For a 13-credit workload, it helps a lot, believe me.

You might now be asking how does an online course work? Well, the answer is quite simple. My employment practicum course, offered by Career Services, has 14 sessions, with only two of them actually meeting in class, the midterm and the final. The other

lessons are online but are genuinely descriptive and helpful.

I have found this class to be quite a nice addition this semester. College is already way too structured for a student's good. Instead of having this class Monday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., I fit the lesson into whatever time is good for me — my own class time in other words. The only restriction in the course is that the assignments need to be handed in on time or they are not accepted. This is no problem because there are at least two weeks given to complete each assignment.

I see no drawbacks in creating more online courses. It may be a problem to fit a three-credit course into an online framework, but other one-credit courses we have had to endure might work well online. It would be good if more instructors would sit down and plan out what their 15 weeks of work would look like for the semester and translate that

into an online program.

Online courses are great because people tend to express what they really want to say more concretely in writing. This way a professor could give as much information as they want without the students getting lost along the way because the students are reading the material at their own pace. If there is any worry about students not taking the course seriously, keep in mind there are deadlines still to meet. Students can't get away with not doing work. What else is there left to say?

This online course has been my savior this semester, as I am sure it has been for some of my classmates. The amount of time that we would have spent in class was devoted to my other studies, and for that I am thankful.

If you ask me what I want for Christmas this season it would be to see more online courses worked into the curriculum.

THE CIRCLE

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G. Modele Clarke
Faculty Advisor

MaristCircle.com

Circle Mailbox

Vandalized cars need attention

I'm a resident student at Marist who is concerned about the parking policy and security. I'm not alone when I say all security does is hand out parking violations like it's their job. Oh wait, that is their job. Frankly, it seems like that's the only thing they do. I feel that they truly don't make the campus a safer place, otherwise cars wouldn't be broken into and students wouldn't have to feel unsafe walking to their cars at night. So they came up with the idea of SNAP, which

is nice. However, most of the time, all I see is SNAP walking themselves around. I'm scared to think that Marist uses the parking violation fines to pay for SNAP's payroll. Has anyone really thought about where that money goes? Does Marist really need any more money from its students? I'm upset because all security does is hand out tickets when they should actually be making Marist a safer place to walk at night.

People drive their cars around campus but can't if they're afraid of getting ticketed every five

minutes. I parked in the Upper West Cedar overflow lot for an hour at 1 a.m. and received a ticket upon my return because my pass is for Riverview. And where was security? Hanging out with his fellow security officer buddy having a smoke. Yeah I feel safe with these guys.

Also, parking in Riverview is completely dangerous. Cars are vandalized there. Someone should have thought of making the parking lots near the residents. Security should sit in the lots and actually look around instead of just check-

ing parking passes. Something needs to be done about the parking policy because if my car is broken into or vandalized one more time, I'll tell Marist where they can put my parking violations from now on ... Seriously though, has anyone ever noticed how oxymoronic the Office of "Safety" and "Security" really is?

Thank you,

— Christopher Gallo
Junior



THE CIRCLE Sports

GAME OF THE WEEK

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James J. McCann Center

Thursday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.

Sports Editor
Paul Seach

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2003

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PAGE 7

Penn packs powerful punch against Foxes

By MIKE BENISCHEK
Staff Writer

After going blow for blow with a Pennsylvania team with the offensive punch of a heavy-weight, the Marist Red Foxes women's basketball team came up short against the Quakers, 86-78, Monday night at the Palestra in Philadelphia, Pa.

After allowing the Quakers to run off nine unanswered points to start the game, the Foxes struck back with a 12-3 run resulting in the beginning of a see-



saw match. The Foxes took a 39-37 lead to the half but succumbed to the Quakers' hot hands in the second half.

Pennsylvania (2-2) shot a blistering 60 percent from the field, including 68 percent from behind the three-point arc. The Foxes (1-2) connected on 48 percent of its shot attempts, Marist's highest field goal percentage in a loss since January of 2002.

After the game Marist head coach Brian Giorgis said his team played well but the Quakers played better.

"You've got to tip your hat to this Penn team. I've never seen a team shoot like that — never in my whole life," he said. "You can't defend everything. It was very frustrating because no mat-

ter where the double team came from the open player was able to hit it."

Four Foxes scored in double figures. Stephanie Del Preore, who scored her eight hundredth point in the contest, led Marist with 21 points and six rebounds. Maureen Magarity had 18 points, Kristin Keller scored 12 points and grabbed seven rebounds, and Laura Whitney added 11 points.

Giorgis said he was happy with contributions from unsung names.

"You got great games from different people," he said. "Megan Vetter played very well, Laura Whitney shot the ball well, Alisa Kresge came in and did a nice job of running the point and finding people with the ball."

'You've got to tip your hat to this Penn team. I've never seen a team shoot like that — never in my whole life.'

— Brian Giorgis
Women's head coach

Kresge played 22 minutes and used the time well. The frosh play caller dished four assists, while only turning the ball over once, and scored her first career basket. She was one of seven different Foxes to play 20 minutes or more in the contest.

Jewel Clark led all scorers with 27 points for the home Quakers and collected six assists. Four

different Pennsylvania players knocked down two or more three-pointers.

The Red Foxes only turned the ball over 15 times, bringing its three game season total to just 38. Comparatively, last year's edition of Red Fox women's basketball turned the ball over 63 times in its first three contests, and averaged 19 per game at year's end.

On Friday the Foxes return home and open the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference season against the Canisius Golden Griffins at 7 p.m. Two days later the Niagara Purple Eagles come to Poughkeepsie for a 2 p.m. game on Sunday.

Foxes News & Notes

Marist announces five high school baseball players signed National Letter of Intent to play at Marist.

Head coach Joe Raccuia signed his first class of players as head coach of the Red Foxes baseball team.

Representing the class of 2008 will be **Keith Glasser**, a catcher from Rensselaer, N.Y.

Kenny Anderson from Randolph, N.J. plays first and third base.

Jeff Hanson, from nearby Woodstock (Onteora High School) is a right handed pitcher and first basemen.

Left-handed pitcher **Tom Close** who hails from Devon, Pa.

Kevin Dalton, a left-handed pitcher from Edison, N.J.

Crowds dwindle as security increases at college games

By SCOTT MONTESANO
Staff Writer

Anyone who has been around a community rink for any amount of time will attest that hockey parents are by far the worst of all youth sports parents.

For a variety of reasons — not the least of which is a lack of knowledge about the sport — hockey parents can be downright nasty in their boisterous comments during even the youngest age group's games.

In fact there have even been tragic events surrounding youth hockey parents. It has not been long since that unfortunate incident in a Massachusetts rink left one hockey father dead after an altercation with another.

It was this sad incident which led to the USA Hockey Federation mandating a strict code for spectators at all of its rinks, including Poughkeepsie's Mid Hudson Civic Center. The rules are mostly associated with making sure spectators don't yell any negative comments during a game. These rules were put into effect to control hockey parents at youth games. The problem — at least in Poughkeepsie — is that security is forgetting that a college game is a different entity.

For the past three seasons, Civic Center security at Red Foxes club hockey games have



JOHN DOMAN / KRT

Minnesota Gophers' Joey Martin unloads on New Hampshire's Chris Harrington. The intense action that comes from a college hockey game is what allows the college students to cheer passionately for the home team.

turned a once exciting atmosphere into a glorified tea party. Fans — both students and parents — are scared to say anything for fear of ejection.

It's a small, unwelcome, taste of oppression. While not at the level of a dictatorship, it's still unnerving for anyone wanting to

relax at a hockey game.

Security officials argue they are only enforcing the USA Hockey spectator code, but in reality they are ruining what was once one of the more wholesome student activities for Marist students on a Friday night.

At most games, upwards of a

half-dozen security officials will roam the Civic Center on the lookout for anything they deem offensive. As one would expect, intoxicated students, and those who yell out vulgarities are shown the door without any hesitation. This is completely understandable.

What is not is how fans that are simply being loud and supportive are now the target of the security's fire. This season alone, fans have been ejected for saying such naughty things as "You suck" and "I hate you." True, neither one of these statements are friendly but they shouldn't merit an ejection. Worse language has been uttered by Red Foxes' men's basketball season ticket holders this season.

And while college hockey fans are being ejected from the Civic Center, youth hockey parents — those who the rules are aimed at — get off with nothing, since security is typically not present at any of their games.

While a couple security guards are needed at the college games, just as a precaution, they should not be as active as they are.

Hockey is a sport predicated on violence on the ice, and a controlled, yet extremely rowdy atmosphere in the stands. This is not golf, where politely applauding is the name of the game. Instead hockey is a sport where people can experience a catharsis, a release of violent emotions in a controlled atmosphere.

For many years Red Foxes club hockey games fit this description. Throughout the 1990s, the team played before more than 500 fans at the Civic Center on a regular basis. Games were loud

and the student body audience was enthusiastic.

Now games draw less than 200 students, and that number continues to dwindle at an alarming rate. The reason is not the on-ice product anymore. The reason, simply put, is fans' fear of being thrown out of the rink for merely sneezing at an inappropriate time.

Civic Center security must become more relaxed in its control of fans at the Red Foxes' hockey games. Make sure the fans don't get out of control for their own safety, but at the same time, let students have their fun. Most players enjoy playing in a hostile environment and it helps to create a home ice advantage for the Red Foxes.

There are many reasons for students to come to Red Foxes hockey games; unfortunately, arena security has negated all of those positives with one huge negative. A negative that is keeping the students away in droves.

Do you attempt to attend Marist hockey games? If you do, do you feel restricted in cheering?

E-mail your opinions to TheCircleSports@yahoo.com

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PAGE 8

GREATEST HITS GALORE

A holiday guide to the barrage of 'best of' discs

By **TIM BRUDEREK**
Staff Writer

The hits are coming! And they are just in time for Christmas.

Coincidence? Probably not.

While you are doing your Christmas shopping at music stores this season, be prepared to see an overload of "Greatest Hits" and "Best of" albums popping out from all ends of the new release displays. While you may very well be accustomed to these types of collections, most likely owning a few yourself, the difference is that all of these artists are from our generation, the songs not spanning before the late 80's, and most of the artists are still going strong.

The main question posed is: "Why now?" Are the artists looking for a quick buck? Are they preying on the music buyer's longing for the "hits"? Are they genuinely concerned with creating a good collection that will please listeners? You'll have to judge for yourself.

These releases hit the listening public in two groups. The first consists of the true fans who will buy these discs for a number of reasons: to complete their collection, to obtain the new or previously unreleased tracks, and to get their hands on the bonus DVDs, featuring videos that have been hard to find. The second is the casual listeners, who like the hits but will never buy the full albums.

Among the plethora of hits albums coming out this season, most notable are the Stone Temple Pilots, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, No Doubt, The Counting Crows, Sheryl Crow, and R.E.M. These bands have been creating music for over a decade now, and many of their hits have been included on our primitive "mix tapes" that we recorded from the radio. These collections are aimed at our age group, who have unknowingly grown up with these artists.

The Stone Temple Pilots

They may not have a future, but their past is remarkable, which is realized with this very complete collection. All the singles are here, and the unreleased track, "All in the Suit That You Wear," seems to fit seamlessly with big hits like "Plush," "Interstate Love Song," "Big Bang Baby," and "Vaseline." When hearing this CD for the first time, it is common to hear "I forgot how many good songs they had" run through your head. With a massive bonus disc of live footage and their complete music videos, this package, appropriately entitled "Thank You," is a definite.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers

Bringing their eclectic mix of funk, punk, and straight ahead rock our way since the mid-1980's, "Greatest Hits and Videos" picks up where "What Hits?" left off. This set starts at 1989 and ends with two new songs, both average but keeping with the Peppers' new style. The CD includes some smashes including "Give It Away," "Under the Bridge," and "Soul to Squeeze" (previously unreleased on a Chili Peppers' album). But it contains a few too many tracks from their past two studio albums, "Californication" and "By The Way." A good CD, but missing some great tracks. Dish out the cash for the bonus DVD of music videos.

No Doubt

Known for bringing ska and girl-rock to the main-

stream, piloted by their breakthrough hit "Just A Girl." With only four albums behind them, the band has had a successful career, but this collection is a bit thin. Everyone already owns "Tragic Kingdom," and those brave enough to explore their new electro-pop sound may have sampled "Rock Steady," meaning this CD might not offer anything too ground-breaking. The new track, a cover of the '80s song "It's My Life," is OK, and "Trapped in a Box" from their overlooked self-titled debut is a great addition. But if you already own their albums, stick with them.

The Counting Crows

"Mr. Jones" was a radio staple and a defining song of our generation. The band scored a few hits with "Round Here," "A Long December," and the recently unimpressive "Big Yellow Taxi," but other than that, they weren't that huge. Their new collection, "Films About Ghosts," differs from the others in their inclusion of some deeper album cuts, including the epic "Mrs. Potter's Lullaby," and the gorgeous "Anna Begins." Two second-rate new songs and the hard-to-find "Einstein on the Beach" fill in the gaps here, but again, you are better off buying their four studio albums.

Sheryl Crow

Her music was all over the radio in the '90s, and "Soak Up The Sun" is still stuck in everyone's heads. She's had a lot of popular hits, and is a current female artist that actually has talent. "The Very Best of Sheryl Crow" is good, and includes a ton of "Oh, I forgot about that one!" tunes. Hits like "All I Wanna Do," "Strong Enough," "Leaving Las Vegas," and "If It Makes You Happy" are ingrained in everyone's memory, and are featured here along with a few lesser-known tracks. There is also a new, surprisingly good cover of Cat Stevens' "The First Cut is the Deepest," in two forms: the regular and the country versions. I will go out on a limb and say that this may be a bit unnecessary, and included in its place could have been another great song like "Anything But Down" or "Can't Cry Anymore." Again, the CD comes with a bonus disc of all of Crow's hit music videos.

R.E.M.

The last collection belongs to R.E.M. This band has had a very lucrative career, and has been coming at us since the mid-'80s. "In Time" is the sequel to "Eponymous," an early collection from IRS records including the gems "It's The End of the World As We Know It" and "The One I Love." Those songs aren't found here, but smash hits such as "Everybody Hurts," "Losing My Religion," "Man On The Moon," and "What's The Frequency, Kenneth" are. Alongside these are two new songs, including the wonderful "Bad Day," and some essentials: "Nightswimming," "Electrolite," "Orange Crush," and "Daysleeper." A great collection, and whatever is missing is probably on the bonus disc in the form of live tracks, b-sides, and soundtrack songs.

So what's the reason for this plethora of "Best of's" being thrown at Christmas consumers? Who knows, but they are all fairly good collections that will definitely end up under Christmas trees or burned from friends shortly after the holiday. The artists may be making some easy money on these discs, but the audience doesn't care because they are getting a good deal on the best that they have.



KRT PHOTOS BY JAMES KEIVOM / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS (top) and BOB LARSON / CONTRA COSTA TIMES (left)

Top: Sheryl Crow, seen here performing in New York City in April 2002, is one of several artists who released a greatest hits album in time for the holiday season. "The Very Best of Sheryl Crow" is available now and retails for \$18.98.

Left: No Doubt also issued a greatest hits singles compilation in time for Christmas. The band's lead singer, Gwen Stefani, is seen here performing at the Super Bowl XXXVIII half time show in January 2003. No Doubt's greatest hits album is also currently available and retails for \$18.98.

Movie picks

- ★ Outstanding
- Worthy effort
- ▽ So-so
- ☹ A bomb

	Local critic	Chicago Tribune	Dallas Morning News	Detroit Free Press	Miami Herald	N.Y. Daily News	Philadelphia Inquirer	San Jose Mercury News	Seattle Times
Bad Santa (R)		★	■	■	★		▽	■	
Cat in the Hat (PG)	☹	☹	☹	■	☹	☹	☹	☹	▽
Elf (PG)	■	■	★	▽	▽	■	■	■	■
Gothika (R)		▽	☹	■	▽	☹	▽	☹	☹
Haunted Mansion (PG)		▽		▽	▽		▽	▽	
Master and ... (PG-13)	★	★	★	★	■	★	★	★	★
The Missing (R)		★		★			■	★	
Timeline (PG-13)		▽	■	☹			▽	☹	

G All ages admitted
PG All ages admitted, parental guidance suggested

PG-13 Parents strongly cautioned, some material may be inappropriate for children under 13

R Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or guardian

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Concert Review

White Stripes leave audience seeing red

By **AUDRA TRACY**
Staff Writer

NEW YORK — The White Stripes show on Nov. 20 left audience members seeing red.

More specifically, they saw red curtains, a red guitar, a red drum kit, and two pairs of red pants. Much like their musical approach, The White Stripes' stage set up at Roseland Ballroom was simple yet effective in conveying their shadowy image. Spotlights illuminated them from below, casting two towering silhouettes on a blank screen behind them.

During their third and final make-up show at Roseland, The White Stripes performed songs off their new album "Elephant" such as "Ball & Biscuit" and "Seven Nation Army." Complimented by a solid sapphire backdrop, wilting flower Meg White even stepped away from her scarlet drum set to sing the bluesy "In the Cold, Cold Night."

Song by song, Meg's crisp drumbeats provided a steady heartbeat to Jack White's erratic musical breakdowns. His piercing voice and razor sharp guitar riffs form a lethal combination that cuts right through you. Their blend of bold lyrics and heavy rhythmic resonance attracts a varied crowd, as seen in the wide range of ages and attitudes that turned out for the Roseland gig.

Perhaps the only thing that united this random unruly crowd was their appreciation for good music.

The dark duo returned to the stage to play a four-song encore that included "Black Math," "I Just Don't Know What To Do With Myself," and a leisurely rendition of "Fall in Love With a Girl."

Since the sold out performance was only an hour long, the audience left

seeing red in more ways than one. An end of set brawl near the bar resulted in some heated faces, both for the instigators and the innocent bystanders that were showered in beer. Perhaps the only thing that united this random unruly crowd was their appreciation for good music.

The White Stripes' next performance is Dec. 31 at the Aragon Ballroom in Chicago, Ill. as part of a triple bill.