

The



Circle

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Anderson makes exodus from Middle East

By THOMAS LOTITO
Editor-in-Chief

Before Jan. 25, Myriah Anderson was enjoying falafel, hummus, pita and tons of hookah-smoking while exploring the streets of Cairo. Before Jan. 25, Anderson walked along the Nile and made Egyptian friends, people she says are some of the most genuine that she's met. But then Jan. 25 did happen, and so did the days after; and Anderson took part in an ordeal that brought her from the sand of Cairo back into the snow of Poughkeepsie, and she's restless.

People are walking up to her asking if she's "that girl" from Egypt. She answers that she is indeed that girl, but it hasn't fully hit her yet what that may mean. Pat Taylor, graduate school and fellowship advisor, told Anderson that she needs to take two weeks to let it set in; she might not realize what she was a part of.

The protests are hitting the three-week mark, and the current Egyptian government conceded that it's going to step down. It still stands that at one point, over two million protesters filled the streets of Cairo and aren't leaving until they get what they're there for.

Although it was only urged that Americans in Egypt leave the country, Anderson's trip would have been doomed no matter what, since it was recently mandated that all Americans leave. The irony of it all is that Anderson didn't think anything like this was going to happen in Egypt, or at least it wouldn't last for so long. She was aware of the social media storm that took over and usurped a dictator in Tunisia. "Did I think it was going to spread over to Egypt? Maybe for a day," Anderson said.

The drive to go to the Middle East hit Anderson after she took an Arabic class at Marist and heard of all of Professor Noura Hajjaj's experiences as a Palestinian refugee.

"My biggest interest is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I can't get enough of it," Anderson said. "Hearing her story and what she had gone through—for some reason something just clicked. And then I started reading Al Jazeera all the time and going to the library coming out with so many books of the Middle East."

Then, Anderson's resolved to study abroad in the Middle East. For two years, she fought with the Marist Abroad offices to go to Israel for long term study (she had already been there for a short term program). She was advised not to go—

here's the kicker—in case anything happened. She was granted a government scholarship for her research and study in Egypt, so she went with what she thought was the safer route.

Once she landed, she jumped right into everything. "I didn't even really go to orientation," Anderson said. "Every morning I would be like 'we're not going to orientation today. Get your things; we're going into the city.' They told us to be careful, don't just go out by your selves and roam around. We absolutely did."

Rallying the troops is one testament to Anderson's forward-approach and optimistic personality. "I'm very, very stubborn," she admits. When news of the protests broke out, people approached her mother asking if she is the kind of person who would go to the protest sites and march. She is.

A single child from Austin, Texas, Anderson doesn't let her parents overbear her own judgment. "They know that what I end up doing is my decision," she said. "I think they're realizing that whenever I put myself in situations that are dangerous or uncomfortable, maybe they're thinking 'she's starting to get the hang of what she needs to do.' They know I'm smart about it. I'm not going to be naïve and get drunk and run around the streets of Cairo myself."

On the second day of the protests she and a group of friends wanted to see what was going on. One man behind them started shouting "Yalla! Yalla!" which translates from Arabic to "come on, let's go!" That gave the group the feeling that something was going to happen. "I was like, 'Oh my gosh, this is going to go down,' I thought we were going to be tear-gassed, we're going to get pulled into this, where are we going to go?"

They ended up going around the back of the downtown American University in Cairo's campus to try and see what was going on from the roof. Later that day they went out to dinner and were informed there was a national curfew for 8 p.m. and all buses had been shut down. The rest of the time she and her would-be classmates (she actually didn't have one single class for the two weeks she was there) sat inside a campus building watching Al Jazeera and the furious discontent parading the streets of the city.

It wasn't until after the third day that the Internet and the phone were completely cut off. "The last thing I blogged about was going to Tahrir Square and the last thing I



PHOTO COURTESY OF MYRIAH ANDERSON/THE CIRCLE

Myriah Anderson is pictured above at the American University in Cairo where she was supposed to continue studying abroad during the spring 2011 semester until the protests began in Egypt on Jan. 25.

wrote on my status was 'Off to Zamalek,' which is in downtown Cairo and I was thinking 'My family is probably freaking out right now, my friends are probably freaking out right now.'

Adding to the irony of her situation, the only bruises Anderson got from her trip were from an IV she needed at a clinic from a mystery illness. She was also in two (minor) car accidents during her stay, which she claims is a completely normal thing—as well as the bout of shouting that follows and then the drivers taking off as if nothing happened.

At the protests she was, of course, worried about her own safety. "But I knew I put myself in that situation," she said. "It's an adrenaline rush, but I had to tell myself not to be naïve about it too. I said 'It's not just like you might get arrested, it's also like you might get shot. You might get tear gassed.'"

Artin Arslanian, professor of history and international relations, said that this is something very different for Americans. "It's the kind of demonstrations we don't see in this country," he said. "What's always in the background is the possibility that the police and the army will pounce on a demonstrator. It

might have been a scary yet exhilarating experience."

Arslanian is one of many people from Marist who reached out to Anderson for support. She's being allowed to drop back into classes, and has been approached to do several independent studies should classes prove daunting to drop into. She is set on working with Arslanian on one study: she'll look at Egyptian literature from the past 30 years of Mubarak's rule and try to find if any of this was in the cards.

Marist, Anderson said, was phenomenal in helping her out. John Peters, dean of international programs, as well as her scholarship advisor were on top of the situation, trying to find other places she should go, and even managing the mind-numbing tasks of finding last-minute lodging for wherever she would end up.

After a near-13-hour wait for a plane to Cyprus, a last call was made for mothers, children and the elderly to have priority. Anderson says that she felt like she was getting on the Titanic. Thankfully, someone recognized that she was ill and spoke up for her to get on the last plane. As she was boarding the plane, she received one phone call after accommodations had been



THIS WEEK

Thursday, 2/10

Flower Sale

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Champagnat Breezeway

Relay for Life kick off party

9 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Cabaret

Friday, 2/11

Men's basketball vs. St. Peter's

McCann Center Gymnasium
7:30 p.m.
Free with valid Marist ID

Saturday, 2/12

SPC Movie: "10 things I hate about you"

10 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.
SC 346

Sunday, 2/13

Valentine's Day Sale

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Champagnat Breezeway

Monday, 2/14

Men's basketball vs. Iona

McCann Center Gymnasium
4 p.m.
Free with valid Marist ID

Tuesday, 2/15

No events posted.

Wednesday, 2/16

Marist College Toastmasters International

9:15 p.m.
Dyson 231

Security Briefs Getting slizzard in the blizzard

By CHRIS RAIA
Staff Writer

This snow is getting out of control. My car has been cocooned in ice in the Upper West lot for weeks. I keep losing track of time and forgetting to dig it out. This is why I have a proposal. What if students were hired by Marist during the winter to work as emergency shovellers? Hours would be on an on-call basis, similar to SNAP, and students could get paid minimum wage for responding to their fellow students and helping them dig out their car. Think about it. Security is far too busy to help all of us push our cars out, and we can't expect our bigger and stronger friends to be around at all times. Besides, if I can get paid for being the commissioner of the intramural wiffleball league, students should be able to make a few extra bucks making everyone's lives easier. We could increase campus employment, raise winter morale and have an extra aspect of Marist life that tour guides can brag about to prospective students. Let's make this happen for Winter 2012. I'm looking at you, work study. Thanks for your time. Moving forward.

2/1 - McCann Lot

On a snow day, security spotted two students returning to campus

with completely full backpacks with a square-like shape. The backpacks were also clinking with the sound of two glass bottles hitting each other. They told security they had books, and security quickly proved them wrong by asking them to open the bags. Two 40s of Bud Light and two 12 packs were confiscated.
10 points

2/1 - Upper New

A party was broken up in one of the Upper New townhouses. At least 25 people were seen scattering in different directions as soon as security showed up, like the munchkins in the Wizard of Oz after the Wicked Witch of the West busted onto their turf. I made that reference last year. Sorry, I'm writing this article in class and my computer is at 14 percent battery. I'm sure you understand.
25 points

2/4 - Donnelly

A student was seen skipping and running with his group of friends right outside of Donnelly Hall. He was holding an open container of Keystone Light. Oops. You can't do that...anywhere. Even when you're 21 and out of college. Damn that pesky open container law.
20 points

2/5 - Sheahan

An RA broke up a party and con-

fiscated 12 cans of beer around one in the morning. Um. Nothing happened after that. Right.
5 points

2/6 - Gartland

Another party was broken up, but this one had unauthorized guests! They were escorted off campus to that magical place where unruly guests of Marist College students get to spend the night. That would be nice. It would be like whatever was behind the cornstalks in Field of Dreams. The Marist student would plead, "But what about me?" and their guest would turn around dramatically and say, "You weren't invited." Then he would get to play catch with his dead father and every single male regardless of level of masculinity would shed at least one tear. Done.
15 points



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

Letter from the Editor

This week's issue is packed with political news and love as Valentine's Day draws closer.

Find out about how junior Myriah Anderson became a witness to history when she was abroad in Egypt, and had to return to Marist due to political unrest abroad.

Discover how to get more bang for your education buck with Senator Chuck Schumer's new college tuition tax credit. Schumer kicked off his in-

formational campaign at Marist to spread the word about the tax credit over 50 percent of New York families did not take advantage of last year.

As V-Day is fast approaching, find out how to spend the day ridin' solo and flyin' high.

Take a peek at what all the controversy on MTV's new drama series *Skins* is about and what Marist students think of the show.

Learn about the world of international retail as one student tells all on the NYC international gift fair, where fashion merchandising stu-

dents visited the city to learn about buying abroad.

After mauling conference opponents in the MAAC, head coach Brian Giorgis' squad has finally cracked the AP Poll and the USA Today/ESPN Coaches' Poll.

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Schumer news conference reveals tax credit

By JACEL EGAN
Editor-in-Chief

Senator Chuck Schumer held a news conference at Marist Monday morning to spread the word about a tax credit for current college students and their families.

"My focus is on the middle class," Schumer said.

The credit will be awarded to middle class families, whose annual income is \$160,000 and below, making them eligible for a federal tax credit of up to \$2,500 for every dollar spent on tuition. Partial credit is given to families with an annual income of up to \$180,000.

Joseph Weglarz, executive director of student financial services, sees this bill as having only a positive effect on Marist's 4,200 undergrads.

"In the tax world, this is a great deal for families," Weglarz said. "We try promoting the credit on the Marist site and in our financial aid information packets and do our best to spread the word. I think Schumer's doing a good job trying to do that throughout the state."

The college tuition tax credit was signed into law in 2009 as part of

the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Schumer was able to extend the credit for two years, as the bill was due to expire in 2010.

"Unfortunately far too many families don't know that this credit exists," Schumer said, "but the good news is that it's not too late to put

tiative to inform students and their families.

"They say that knowledge is power, but in this case knowledge is money in the bank," Schumer said. "I'll be working with Marist College's President Dennis Murray to make sure that we are leaving no stone unturned in getting this information out to college students and their parents."

Various students who attended that meeting thought the conference was helpful in bringing about awareness.

"I think it is great that the Senator is making sure that students are being made aware if they are owed money," junior Dan Torres said. "Too often people are unaware of programs and services that can help them — often the people who need these things the most and I applaud Marist for taking the initiative of informing students."

"I think the tax credit is a great idea and having Senator Schumer hold a press conference at Marist is a great way to inform college students," senior Jenn Hill said. "I'll definitely be sharing the information with my parents."



DAN TORRES/THE CIRCLE

President Dennis Murray, as well as other faculty members and staff look on as Senator Chuck Schumer, left, discusses the tax credit for college students during a press conference held Monday, on Marist campus.

However, according to IRS based statistics from the Treasury Department, less than half of New York families took advantage of this credit.

that cash in your pocket."

Schumer is looking to make the tax credit permanent, and raise the credit to \$3,000. He urges other colleges to follow suit with Marist's ini-

Hancock succeeds Dyson as Chair

By CAITLIN NOLAN
Managing Editor

On Feb. 4, it was announced that technology executive Ellen M. Hancock was elected chair of the Marist College Board of Trustees, succeeding businessman and philanthropist Robert. R. Dyson, who held the position for 16 years.

"For 16 years, Rob Dyson's skilled leadership was matched by his passion for Marist, higher education and the college's role in the community," Hancock said in a release. "I very strongly believe the college will continue to improve and show leadership through the dedication of the board, President Murray, and every constituency on and off campus. I am honored to be able to participate in that wonderful endeavor."

Hancock chaired her first meetings of the board on Feb. 4 and 5.

"Mrs. Hancock's first meeting as chair went very well," said Chief Public Affairs Officer Tim Massie. "It was an efficient and effective meeting. With 22 years on the Board, Mrs. Hancock knows Marist well and her commitment to the College is strong, most exemplified by her generous support for the Hancock Center."

Hancock joined the Marist board in 1988 and is the first woman to serve as chair. She had been vice chair for 16 years, making her selection for the post a "natural choice," Massie said.

"In most organizations' succession planning, the vice chair eventually succeeds to the chair," Massie said.

In terms of goals Hancock may have for the college, Massie said,

"she wants everyone at Marist to understand the importance of technology in education and American competitiveness in the global marketplace, while ensuring that everyone has access to that technology in and out of the classroom."

Hancock and her husband Jason were the lead donors for the Hancock Technology Center, the newest academic and economic development on campus.

"When you look at where Marist is now, each person connected to this college, as a student, alumnus, faculty or staff member, donor, or friend, can take pride in the advancements we've made and the graduates we produce," Dyson said in a release. "And it will only get better under Ellen's leadership."

President Dennis J. Murray credited Dyson's leadership for guiding Marist into becoming "an internationally recognized institution of higher education that has made a name for itself in using technology to enhance teaching and learning."

Dyson will remain on the board as immediate past chair. The longest-serving board chair in Marist history, Dyson also played a pivotal part in Marist's current capital campaign. The campaign has raised nearly \$141 million toward its \$150 million goal, with gifts for scholarships, faculty chairs and physical plant improvements.

"I have served on many corporate and nonprofit boards in my life and I have never worked with a more dedicated group of women and men who truly have the interests of the people they serve at heart," Dyson said.



MYRIAH ANDERSON/THE CIRCLE

Above and below are pictures captured by Marist student Myriah Anderson during her short stint abroad in Egypt. Anderson was able to witness first-hand the protests that began on Jan. 25 in the capital of Cairo. The protesting began stemming from the frustration of millions who were looking for President Hosni Mubarak to step down from the position he's held for 30 years. Demonstrators are also angered by widespread poverty and rising prices, as well as claims of torture and government corruption. Due to the panic and confusion caused by the protests, all forms of Internet access throughout the country were cut-off, making it impossible for Anderson to reach home while she was still abroad. Now that Anderson is safe in the U.S. she is able to recognize the magnitude of the situation she just left. Still though, as Anderson puts it, "To be honest with you, if they said you can go back tomorrow, I would go back tomorrow."



MYRIAH ANDERSON/THE CIRCLE

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Studying the retail industry in NYC



STEPHANIE MURG/MEDIABISTRO.COM

Marist fashion merchandising students test their skills at the NYC Gift Show.

By LISA GLOVER
Circle Contributor

Kelly Cutrone, author of "If You Need to Cry, Go Outside" claims that, "If anyone really wanted to change the world, they'd bring in the fashion bitches, because nobody gets things done faster."

Any retailing event at the Jacob Javits Center will capture that quote magnificently and illuminate the rush that professionals in fashion receive from attending these occasions.

The semiannual New York International Gift Fair took place at the

Jacob Javits Center from Jan. 29 to Feb. 3.

"Attending the International Gift Show in New York City is a tremendous opportunity for our Marist fashion merchandising students to see the industry at work," Julie Turpin, fashion professor of buying, said.

Besides gaining valuable experience, this is an opportunity to network with companies and vendors. In the fashion world, connections are everything.

For those of you who have never been, the Jacob Javits Center is enormous. The gift fair is an event

that premieres the gift and decorative accessories market in the United States. The attendees are comprised of 45,000 national and international people from major retail outlets, specialty retailers, distributors, catalog companies and others. Each floor is lined with carpet, resembling those seen at the Golden Globes Awards. Vendors are organized and given a number to be identified by. Each vendor can be as creative as they want with their booth. Some booths, including Vera Bradley, resembled what an actual store would look like.

Being present at the New York International Gift Fair was like living vicariously through the life of a buyer.

"The sheer number and wide assortment of vendors represented at the show gives the students a clear view of how extensive the retail industry really is," Turpin said.

A retailer's goal is to "have the right goods, at the right time, in the right quantities at the right prices."

A buyer has so many things to keep in mind when venturing through the aisles and placing orders. It's not about just picking the prettiest picture frame or ordering goods from a vendor simply because they are giving you a good deal. A buyer has to be confident enough in his or her customer to predict what they want and how much they are willing to pay for it. With so many vendors and more than thousands of gift choices, buyers need to be selective.

Being a buyer comes with certain responsibilities. Negotiating items of merchandise, prices, delivery dates and payment terms all fall under the category of a purchase order that must be decided and made within moments. At the end of the day, everything a buyer works for and plans all year round could become rewarding and worth it.

The fashion program at Marist College is very hands-on. The professors believe that aside from reading the material and listening to course lectures, being involved in a career that a student may want to pursue is fundamental to gaining the most experience. Fashionology is Marist's student-run boutique. Each semester the Fashionology class hand selects everything from the jewelry and accessories to the trendy apparel that the boutique sells. The benefit of this class is that the students get the opportunity to utilize their resources and take the concepts that they've learned and use them in the real world.

"The Marist Fashion Program [offers] merchandising students not only [the chance to] gain experience from observing our industry at work, but the Fashionology buying team were busy placing orders for the assortment of accessories offered at the student run boutique," Turpin said.

The versatility and fast paced atmosphere are the thrills that buyers crave and that students uncontrollably learn to love.

From Cover

Anderson witnesses history in Egypt

made in Cyprus—and the flight had been changed and was going to Athens. Her advisor was able to book lodging for her as she was on the plane.

"We wanted to make sure they knew they had various options," Peters said. "Jeff Hausner [another Marist student in Egypt] wanted to go to Florence and Myriah decided it would be best to return to Marist. We gave them pros and cons and a little time to discuss with their parents before making any decisions."

When Anderson landed at JFK airport, Marist had already prepared a taxi to pick her up and bring her back to the school. She admits that the whole situation had tested her optimistic nature. Other students that were part of the program tried resting around in Europe to see if they could wait out the protests. One student tried but ended up coming home.

"I'm usually very optimistic about things and very idealistic," Anderson said, "and I don't want to think about the bad, but I just thought that this is not going to get better."

That doesn't mean she thinks the whole thing isn't astounding, or that

it's intrinsically bad. "The fact that they were able to do this, that makes me happy for them."

The whole call of social media seems to be in vogue in the Middle East. Egypt followed the model from Tunisia and called for the protests via Facebook and Twitter. But Arslanian explains, "What started was a number of younger folks who were using Facebook and Twitter tried to organize a peaceful demonstration. They didn't even know who was going to show up and they were surprised to see hundreds of people show up."

The only true peaceful moments during the protests were when the crowd would stop their political chants and go silent to recite their daily prayers. Anderson describes these moments as a little unreal in terms of how quick the crowd changes from malcontent to silent reflection.

And the result of the "peaceful demonstration" that was called for is two million protesters, and two weeks of headlines on the Huffington Post and the New York Times and two weeks of CNN keeping its eyes on downtown Cairo.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MYRIAH ANDERSON

Protestors crowd the streets of Cairo demonstrating discontent with Mubarak.

And still, Anderson is restless and seeks that same thrill. She's drawn to unrest, and hopes to get into a graduate program at Columbia, George Washington, Georgetown or Yale, and pursue her Middle East-

ern studies. "To be honest with you, if they said you can go back tomorrow, I would go back tomorrow."

Yeah, she's that girl from Egypt.

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Go solo and celebrate your self-love on V-Day

By BRIANNA KELLY
Circle Contributor

Every February we are bombarded with ideas for fun and romantic things to do and buy for Valentine's Day, but what about the portion of the population enjoying the single life? According to the United States Census Bureau, in 2009 96.6 million Americans 18 or older were single, so next time you feel like you're the only person in the world without a significant other, know that you really are not alone. Sometimes it may seem like not being someone's Valentine is something to be bummed about, but in reality being single gives you a great opportunity to concentrate on getting to know and love yourself. There are plenty fun things you can do this Valentine's Day that will let you relish your free, single life.

Chocolate and love are not just for couples on Feb. 14, and neither is being unapologetically cheesy.

Indulge in some goodies.

When you see that huge heart-shaped box of chocolates in Rite Aid, pick it up and march right over to the cash register. Nobody ever said that chocolate is reserved for couples on Valentine's Day. Or better yet, wait until Feb. 15 to do your shopping – you'd be shocked to learn just how much themed boxes of chocolate depreciate in value once Valentine's Day is over. Head out and buy a box, or seven. Stuff your face.

Have a tearfest.

Sometimes there is just nothing better than sitting down with a really cheesy romantic movie with the sole intention of bawling like an infant throughout the entire thing. Not only does crying your eyes out feel good in a cathartic way, it can also be good for your health! According to Dr. Judith Orloff's article "The Health Benefits of Tears," emotional tears not only contain salt water, but also give your body a way to shed stress toxins and hormones that would otherwise get trapped in your system.

As if that weren't benefit enough, Dr. Orloff continues to explain that, "additional studies also suggest that crying stimulates the production of endorphins, our body's natural pain killer and 'feel-good' hormones."

Whip out the tissues, put on your comfiest sweatpants and get to crying. However, DO NOT under any circumstances take this as an opportunity to wallow in sadness over the fact that you're single. The point here is to make yourself feel good, not an excuse to feel sorry for yourself. When the movie is over, wipe your eyes and do something active.

Buy yourself something special.

Forget all that crap about how love is more important than anything material and GO SHOPPING. Who cares if you've chosen to be single on Valentine's Day? That cute pair of shoes or awesome new video game you've been lusting after will more than satisfy any longings you might have. Grab your friends and get to the mall, then spend the rest of the day using/admiring your purchase.

Do homework.

Call it lame, but Valentine's Day is on a school night this year and chances are, there is homework you could be doing. What better time to get that huge paper looming in the distance out of the way? Then when all the people who spent the day slacking off with their Valentines are whining about how much work they have, you'll be enjoying some glorious free time. For every half hour of studying you do, you can reward yourself with a delicious piece of candy. Yum.

Read up on hilarious V-Day lore.

For example, according to <http://stvalentinesday.org>, an entire website dedicated entirely to all things concerning the holiday, Feb. 14 corresponds to the celebration of the ancient Roman Fertility Festival of Lupercus. Apparently, to start out the festival, priests would sacrifice goats and dogs as symbols of fertility and purity. Young boys would then take the carcasses, slice them into pieces, dip them in extra blood and proceed to run around the city slapping young girls with the dead animal flesh. Being single doesn't really seem like such a big deal now, does it?

Pamper yourself.

Take a nice long shower (or a bath if you can). Light some candles, play some music and relax. Shave your legs meticulously, just because it feels nice. If you're a guy, shave your chin nice and smooth, and admire the results. Do it because it's just for you, and not for anybody else.

Be happy.

No matter what you decide to do on Valentine's Day this year, just be sure to be happy. Sure, Valentine's Day is about celebrating the love in your life, but just because you do not have a significant other does not mean there's no one to appreciate. Chocolate and love are not just for couples on Feb. 14, and neither is being unapologetically cheesy, so send someone you love a card, whether it be your grandma, a friend or even your dog. Let the special people in your life know what they mean to you. Above all, show yourself some appreciation. Love yourself and know that you don't need to be in a relationship to be happy and loved this Valentine's Day.



FROM GREENSPANDEX/FLICKR.COM
Don't be afraid to hoard that V-Day lovin'.

Celebrity women's worst Cupid catastrophes

By DAYNA VASILIK
Graphics Editor

If you're thinking you've had your fair share of horrible Valentine's Day experiences you're not alone. Celebrities also experience their own hallmark holiday horrors... which are nice to read just for laughs!

From saving the whales, to stabbing a voodoo doll!

Hayden Panettiere tells US Magazine her unique way to celebrate on Valentine's Day: "I went through a bad breakup and spent the day at a restaurant called Birds, where they had an anti-Valentine's Day party. You can hang up notes like 'I HATE HIM' or 'HE WAS MEAN TO MY DOG' and make a voodoo doll out of your ex and poke it."

A Sore Sandra

I was shocked to read classy Sandra Bullock's confession of burning her pubic hair, in a true Valentine's Day catastrophe. When "The Blind Side" actress was married to Jesse James, she tried to do a Valentine's Day grooming that went horribly wrong.

"I decided for Valentine's Day I would do a special hair thing," Bullock said. "I wanted to try to create a pink heart shape with my lower hair. It was painful. You had to bleach it first. There's something about bleach that feels like acid. Then I had to shave it. I was in so much pain, but I kept going and put the pink dye on and it went the wrong color."

Run for the hills, Lauren!

Lauren Conrad told US Magazine about one of her worst Valentine's Day moments.

"In high school, I remember me and my friend were dating best friends and we went to a restaurant and we decorated the table and had presents waiting and had them meet us there on Valentine's Day and my date showed up drunk! I was really bummed. I put hours of work into it and he showed up drunk."

Understandable, Carrie!

Country singer Carrie Underwood has avoided turning V-Day into a D-Day by banning the celebration from her life. She tells <http://TheFrisky.com> that she is anti-Valentine's Day because your man shouldn't love you for one day out of 365. He

should love you 365 days out of the year. She believes Valentine's Day should be every day.

Not keeping up with Khloe Kardashian

Khloe Kardashian comes clean to US Weekly about her Valentine's Day as a teen.

"My worst Valentine's Day ever was [when] I was like 17 or 18... my boyfriend who I was obsessed with in love, my first love, left me on Valentine's Day and moved back home. He just left, like never said anything. Who leaves on Valentine's Day when you have a girlfriend that you're supposedly in love with? I get it. It was young love, but it really, really sucked, and I think it ruined every Valentine's Day from here on out."

Swift surprisingly single

The girl who sings about all her past relationships in her music shockingly doesn't confess anything to Life Magazine about Valentine's Day experiences.

"I typically don't ever have a boyfriend on Valentine's Day," Taylor Swift said. "I see it as an opportunity to just hang out with my other single girlfriends."

I spy with my little eye...a creep.

Michelle Trachtenberg disclosed to US Magazine, "I once dated a guy who was like, 'Holy s*it, I just made out with Harriet the Spy!' And that's messed up. Don't say that. I was 10, you're 30, it's just weird."



FROM ABCNEWS.GO.COM
Harriet does NOT belong in your dirty talk.

Ladies, approach this Valentine's Day in style

By DAYNA VASILIK
Graphics Editor

You saved your appetite for Thanksgiving, your money for Christmas, and a special toast for New Year's....but the last thing you've been thinking about this month is saving the date for Valentine's Day. This mushy holiday can be stressful and annoying to those not into tooth-cracking conversation hearts and floral bouquets. But there's plenty of room to tweak your V-Day celebration, whether you're going on a date Monday evening or going out with friends. By amping up your style, tuning into your inner self (via tuning into sexy jams), or planning a beauty-filled party with your girlfriends, you can give this excessively sugary holiday a rich, flavorful update.

Seductive Sounds

You can't look beautiful and sexy unless you feel it on the inside. Tune into your inner beauty by listening to music that makes you feel amazing. According to CNN Health Music, it can actually keep the body young. It is believed that music may slow down the aging process because of its positive effects on our mood and emotions. The song "Sexy Silk" by Jessica Cornish is a perfect song to listen to when you're getting ready for your Valentine's night. The first time I heard this song in

the hilarious movie "Easy A," I knew I had to download it. This jingle will sure make you want to jiggle your stuff! A study by neuroscientist Robert Zatorre and his colleagues at the Montreal Neurological Institute suggests that music generates the same pleasure-reward system in the brain as food, sex and illicit drugs. Tranquil music can also create an atmosphere of peace and calm, which can be a nice setting for sex. Additionally, the words within some songs trigger emotions and feelings of sensuality.

Those who eat dark chocolate daily can have a greater libido and better overall sexual function than those who don't.

Not looking to get cozy with anyone this Valentine's Day? The song "I Look So Good" by Jesse James might be right up your alley. If there were a diagnosis for feeling confident after a rough break-up, this would be it. This song will certainly make you belt it out, feeling so good about yourself that you won't care that you can't hit that high note. "A Toast to Men," by Willa Ford, might be another song you want to add to your party playlist. This song is perfect for single women who enjoy a good cocktail and each other's company.

Lovey Dovey

Many people associate Valentine's Day

with sweet candy hearts and cliché sayings like "be mine." Instead of tossing back that cheesy, chalky treat, try indulging in Dove Chocolate. Don't worry about whether he loves you or love you not, cocoa has anti-aging polyphenols that keep your skin looking gorgeous, which is something everyone loves. Dark chocolate is believed to improve your sex life as well as your social life. Women's Health Magazine suggests that those who eat dark chocolate daily can have a greater libido and better overall sexual function than those who don't eat dark chocolate. According to research published in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, the compound phenylethylamine in dark chocolate releases the same endorphins triggered by sex that increases sensual feelings. Psychology Today points out studies that nickname dark chocolate as Viagra for women.

Want to show affection to more than just one person this holiday? The Dove website offers fun recipes and products that will make your Valentine's Day filled with love. The Chocolate Turtle Martini is an easy recipe that anyone would desire. For those who prefer to eat their chocolate, try getting creative with your candy. I like to think of Dove Chocolate as therapy wrapped in foil. The wrappers have encouraging sayings such as, "Be your own Valentine," "Take a moment to appreciate others" and "Enjoy the moment." The delicious chocolate can also create laughs when you personalize the wrappers with funny inside jokes or sayings you and

your friends have. Filling a martini glass with a variety of chocolates is an easy way to decorate and entertain while having friends over.

Candy-Coat it

Love is all about feeling warm inside, but how is that possible when you're going numb in this weather? Have you ever purchased a really cute outfit that you feel sexy in, only to shiver and shake later on in the night...and I don't mean on the dance floor. Having him offer his coat is an adorable gesture and all, but probably not the sexy look you were going for. While the fuss and focus may be on the Valentine's Day dress, you don't want to cover-up looking frumpy; after all, it is the first thing people see once you arrive at the club or restaurant.

The Tahari 'Evelyn' Ruffle Front Satin Trench from Nordstrom is a moderately priced feminine coat that emphasizes the waist and gives a classy first impression. This trench allows you to take on rain, snow and eyes once you enter the door. Another wonderful treat when you purchase a coat or jacket this time of year is the sale you can hit! The red-hot Kristen Blake Wool Blend Walking Coat from Nordstrom is sure to take away that frozen look on your face, but gives others goose bumps...oh, and did I mention it's 50 percent off?

Whether you are free and single or "in a relationship," Valentine's Day can be as sweet as the candy that symbolizes it. Enjoy!

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AWARDED TO ALL MARIST ALUMNI

**GRADUATE
OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY
FEB. 26, 10 A.M.
DYSON CENTER**

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Accounting (M.B.A.)
- Business Administration (M.B.A.)*
- Communication (M.A.)*
- Computer Science (M.S.)
Software Development
- Education (M.Ed.)
- Educational Psychology (M.A.)*
- Information Systems (M.S.)*
- Mental Health Counseling (M.A.)
- Museum Studies (M.A.)**
- Public Administration (M.P.A.)*
- School Psychology (M.A.)

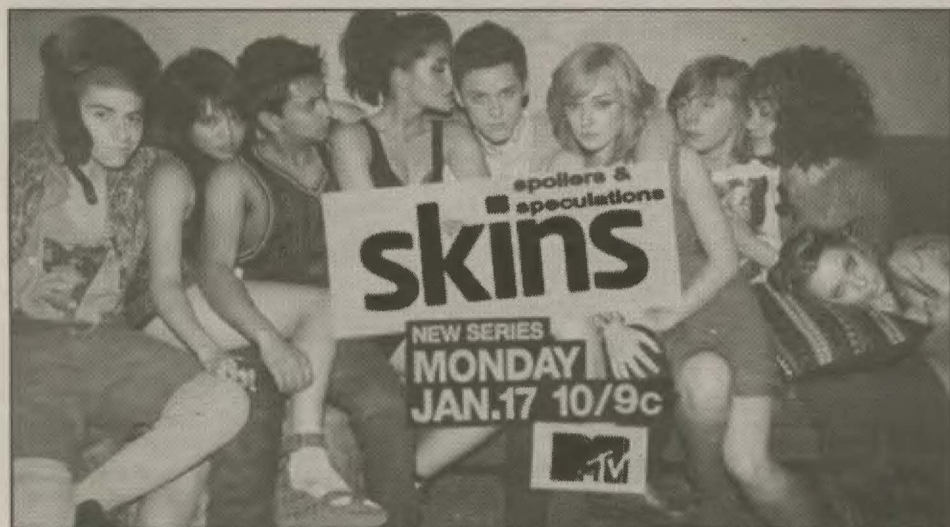
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MARIST

MTV's 'Skins' pushes the envelope



FROM TVBOXONLINE.COM

MTV's new show "Skins" has stirred up controversy among viewers, and has caused sponsors such as Taco Bell and GM to drop their slots during the show.

By **MELANIE LAMORTE**
Staff Writer

Step aside "Jersey Shore," MTV has introduced a brand new batch of characters that are creating quite a buzz.

Last month, MTV debuted its risqué new scripted teen drama, "Skins." The show, based on the British drama of the same name, follows a group of nine sex-crazed, pot-smoking, pill-popping high schoolers from Baltimore. What makes this show unique from your garden-variety teen drama is not the subject matter; all the bases are covered. In just three episodes, viewers are introduced to the popular boy, his pretty girlfriend, the virgin, the drug user, the gay friend and the girl with an eating disorder. However, it's the extreme raciness and boundary-pushing dialogue that makes "Skins" different.

"Skins," created by father and son writers Bryan Elsley and Jamie Brittain, originated in England and premiered in 2007. The show featured amateur young actors as well as teenage and 20-something writers. This allowed for a level of grit and authenticity as the show chronicled the darkest of adolescent issues. The British version, now in its fifth season, has contained relatively explicit sex scenes (for televi-

sion), profanity, full-frontal nudity and graphic drug and alcohol use.

The show is frank, dark and ugly at times. Instead of portraying the glamorous side of a promiscuous lifestyle as seen in shows like "Gossip Girl," "Skins" feels real and surprisingly honest. Even if viewers can't directly relate to each character, they're believable and somewhat familiar.

Out of the nine main actors who star in the MTV version, six have never acted before. This, along with MTV's willingness to take a risk, convinced creator Elsley to agree to an American adaptation that would make a "commitment to the core values of the show." The first episode was nearly identical to the British premiere and the episodes that followed have begun to develop the main characters and establish a story line. Though the characters and stories are not entirely likeable or genuine, "Skins" is at least more intriguing than comparably tame after school specials like "Degrassi." It's certainly not the best show on television but there is something fun about watching the drama unfold.

"The show seems quite inappropriate," junior Angela Wrigley said. "But it was pretty entertaining and I wanted to watch more. It seemed like it could be addictive; I was getting hooked in the story."



While MTV's American adaptation rings true to the original in terms of character development, the script had to be watered down in order to be approved for television. This makes it slightly more appropriate for audiences, but fans of the original may be disappointed.

"When I heard that MTV was picking up 'Skins', and making their own adaptation of it, I was honestly heartbroken," said junior Alex Marino, a longtime fan of the UK version. "I think I'm also bothered by the US version of 'Skins' because American television and British television to me are very different. Censorship doesn't seem to really exist in British television, while in America everything is so highly guarded."

Even with the edited dialogue, however, American audiences and the Parents Television Council are shocked by the content performed by the underage actors. According to a Jan. 20 press release, the Parents Television Council has called to open an investigation on "Skins" and a possible violation of child pornography law. These parents are also outraged because the show sets a bad example for their teenagers.

"Since shows like 'Teen Mom' are on MTV, I'm not surprised that 'Skins' is on. It seems wrong because it's like telling teens that they should watch this and act like this," said Wrigley.

Additionally, Neilson ratings for the show have dropped significantly since the first episode. The premiere captured 3.3 million viewers, while the second episode only had 1.6 million.

"All I know," Marino said, "is that U.S. 'Skins' will probably never gain the same popularity here in America like it did overseas in the UK."

Declining ratings and legal troubles aren't the only hardships for the new show. After the premiere, at least six advertisers, including Taco Bell, Subway and GM dropped their slots for the show because the content was too inappropriate.

Whether or not "Skins" will stay on the air remains to be seen. If ratings continue to drop, advertisers continue to back out, or viewers lose interest, the show may have to be altered or even canceled.

You can catch the episodes on Monday nights at 10 p.m. on MTV. Plus, a British "Skins" movie is in production.

Ryan Recommends

By **RYAN RIVARD**
A&E Editor

The Pains of Being Pure At Heart "Belong" – The Pains of Being Pure At Heart have grown since their 2009 debut album. Their first single, "Belong," starts with a cascading swirl of fuzzy guitars that calls upon the Smashing Pumpkins in their most primal pop phase. The band fantasizes their own "Siamese Dream," sounding as fresh as a 90s alt-band in 2011 could ever sound. The band has crafted a beautiful song centralized around engulfing distorted guitars, which is no easy feat.

Toro y Moi "New Beat" – There's irony in Toro y Moi's second single from his sophomore album "Underneath the Pines." "New Beat" could be a long lost demo from the the 70s, as the jam is charged by funky basslines, watery guitar licks and hypnotic vocals. The collage of sounds, both nostalgic and modern, creates a portrait that is undeniably original and danceable.

Mister Heavenly "Mister Heavenly" and "Pineapple Girl" – The indie super trio, comprised of members from Modest Mouse, Man Man and Islands, often performing shows with touring bassist Michael Cera, offers a pair of songs to preview what the band is about. The self-titled song carries itself with a light, airy quality of pleasantries before grinding into an indie, punk-rock fest. The surfer guitar leads suck you in like undertow, and the best part is, you don't want to go back to the shore. "Pineapple Girl" is a short two-minute burst island pop that is the medicine for a bleak winter chill.

...And You Will Know Us By the Trail of Dead "The Wasteland" – Contrary to what the band name and song title implies, this band hailing from Austin, Texas is set to tour with Surfer Blood, and fits comfortably with their brand of upbeat, alt-rock that would soundtrack daydreaming of a summer warmth and suntan lotion. "The Wasteland" alternates between soft acoustic melodies and power chord plunges. It's a magnificent ride, wading in and out with the song's structure.

Red Foxes' losing streak extended to eight

By SCOTT ATKINS
Sports Editor

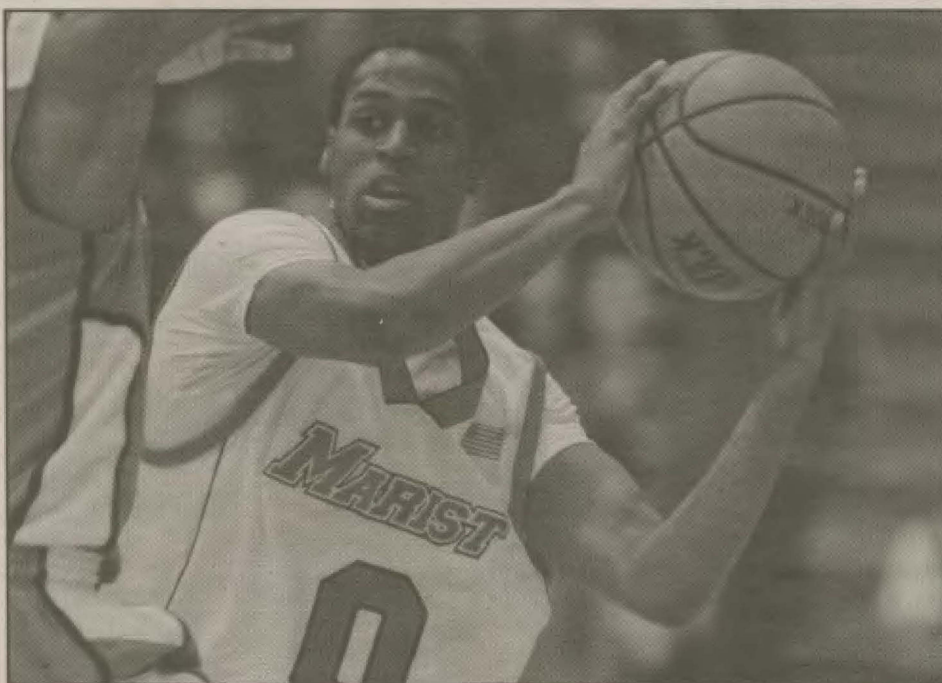
The Marist men's basketball team lost games versus conference rivals Canisius and Niagara this past week.

The Red Foxes traveled to Buffalo, N.Y. to battle a 10-11 Canisius team. Sophomore Candon Rusin shot 7-for-12 from the field and 6-for-9 from three-point range en route to a career high 22 points. Sophomore swingman Dorvell Carter added a career high six assists but the Foxes lost their 20th game of the season 75-60. Canisius shot .667 (20-30) from the field and .500 (8-16) from three-point range, leading from start to finish. Five Golden Griffins scored in double digits, and Canisius committed just five turnovers to the Foxes' 15.

Marist continued their road trip when they took on the Niagara Purple Eagles.

Niagara's Marvin Jordan led all scorers with 27 points, lifting his team to a 77-60 victory over the Foxes. Carter led Marist with 20 points while adding five rebounds. Marist took an early 7-4 lead in the first half, but the Purple Eagles took the lead back after a 15-1 run. The Foxes returned with a 9-0 run of its own to cut Niagara's lead to two, but were never able to catch up. Sophomore guard Sam Prescott chipped in with 13 and Rusin rounded out the three Foxes in double digits with 10 points. Marist has now lost eight straight and is 4-21 overall.

Marist (3-10 MAAC) will return home to host St. Peter's at the McCann Center on Thursday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m.



RYAN HUTTON/THE CIRCLE

Sophomore guard Devin Price (above) tallied six points and three assists as the Red Foxes fell to Canisius. Marist returns to action Thursday versus St. Peter's.

Indoor track squads compete in BU Invitational

By ERIC VANDER VOORT
Staff Writer

The Marist men's and women's indoor track teams have had success in recent weeks, participating in events in Boston and New York.

Two weeks ago, both teams competed at the BU Terrier Invitational in Boston. On the men's side, junior Matthew Flint, junior William Griffin, sophomore Arquimedes Delacruz and senior Adam Vess each recorded IC4A-qualifying times in the 3,000-meter run. Several other runners for Marist achieved personal-best times.

"The team's looking great," Delacruz said. "We'll probably have the most qualifiers in school his-

tory."

Delacruz continued his success this past weekend at the New Balance Invitational in New York City. He completed the 5,000-meter run in a time of 14:43.79, earning fourth place and another IC4A qualification. The time was a personal record by 20 seconds.

Delacruz is the third runner in school history to qualify for the two longest indoor IC4A events in the same season. His efforts earned him this week's honor of MAAC Track & Field Performer of the Week.

The Red Foxes also qualified for IC4A in the distance medley relay. The team featured Griffin, sophomore Matt Panebianco, junior Thomas Lapari and Flint. They placed eighth overall in a time of

10:08.05.

The women's side is highlighted by grad student Brittany Burns, who set a school record in the mile run at the BU Terrier Invitational. Her time of 5:04.30 edged out the previous school record of 5:04.33, and was a personal best by three seconds.

At the New Balance Invitational, the Red Foxes were represented in the distance medley relay. The team consisted of Burns, freshman Colleen Meenan, junior Briana Crowe and sophomore Jackie Gamboli. They finished in ninth place, with a time of 12:15.29.

"We're setting ourselves up well for MAAC's" Burns said.

The team's success comes despite having to deal with many weather

issues. Because of the snow and ice that have caused several class cancellations at Marist, the teams are forced to train inside.

"It's been very rough," Delacruz said. "A lot of time on the treadmill."

Men's team coach Pete Colaizzo understands how hard it can be to prepare for a race without being able to train outside.

"I'm really proud of these guys," Colaizzo said. "For them to be able to perform like that with this weather is pretty good, it really shows how hard they've been working."

Both the men's and women's teams will travel to Boston again this weekend to compete in the Valentine Invitational, a two-day event.

From Page 12

Foxes overcome eight-point halftime deficit at Fairfield

by 20 points, and this serves as a reminder," Yarde said. "Like coach said, there's a misconception that if we don't beat a team by 20, something went wrong. Every team is giving us their best effort."

Although Marist has dished out a number of blowouts this season, the group has been in a number of close games in the past. According to point guard Elise Caron, the Red Foxes called upon those experiences on Sunday.

"[Losing] crossed my mind," Caron said, "but there was no point in the game when I was scared. It [trailing in a game] has happened before, and I didn't think any of us would give up."

Although Caron scored just four points and amassed zero assists, her defensive persistence over the 37 minutes she played was instrumental in maintaining Marist's undefeated conference record. For much of the game, coaches put her on Fairfield's Katelyn Linney, a potent outside shooter who has made 59 three-pointers this season. Linney shot just 1-for-9 during the game.

After learning Marist's entrance into the top 25, Caron sent a text to her teammates reading: "Good job, we're in the top 25, but we still have more games left."

Caron said she sent the text for one reason.

"It's nice, especially after being very close [to entering the top 25] in the weeks before," Caron said, "but it doesn't really mean anything and I wanted to make sure they knew that."

And with their official ascension into the group of the top women's programs in the country, the bull's-eye on Marist's back will just get bigger.

"Teams now can beat not only the best team in the MAAC," Leger said, "but also put a top-25 team on their resume."

The no. 25 Marist women's basketball team will return to action on Friday, Feb. 11 for a MAAC contest at Iona. Tip-off at the Hynes Athletic Center is slated for 4:30 p.m. The game will be televised nationally on ESPNU.



AP Top 25

Rank	Team	Record	Points
1	Baylor (23)	21-1	981
2	Connecticut (16)	22-1	973
3	Stanford (1)	20-2	914
4	Tennessee	21-2	871
5	Duke	21-1	825
6	Texas A&M	19-2	815
7	Xavier	19-2	763
8	Notre Dame	20-4	719
9	UCLA	19-2	666
10	DePaul	21-3	614
11	Michigan State	20-3	565
12	Maryland	20-3	562
13	North Carolina	20-3	510
14	Oklahoma	17-5	472
15	Kentucky	18-4	442
16	Georgetown	19-5	403
17	West Virginia	20-4	325
18	Green Bay	22-1	296
19	Florida State	18-5	273
20	Miami (FL)	20-3	267
21	Marquette	19-4	173
22	Iowa State	16-6	150
23	Penn State	20-5	121
24	Georgia	18-5	107
25	Marist	21-2	47

Pack the House: Marist's Super Bowl?

By PHILIP TERRIGNO
Managing Editor

Instead of two weeks worth of build-up and excitement, this game had just one.

There was no official media day with unlimited access to players and coaches.

Instead, in the week leading up to Friday night's women's basketball game, a pudding-eating contest was held.

It also wasn't the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Green Bay Packers competing, it was the Marist Red Foxes and Niagara Purple Eagles.

Pack the House—an NCAA initiative to increase attendance at women's basketball games—might just be the Marist Athletics Department's version of the Super Bowl in terms of pre-game hype, advertisement and fan intrigue.

The entire United States wasn't watching or betting on this game.

The similarities between these two contests might be subtle, but they're certainly present.

Terrible towels and Cheese heads? Nope, not in Poughkeepsie.

Superhero and villain costumes?

Yes, to match the event's theme.

How about controversy fueled by social media?

Aaron Rodgers and Nick Barnett weren't bickering here, but Erica Allenspach and Maria Laterza were hyping the game on Twitter.

And just like the Super Bowl, this game had its traditional stars, pleasant surprises and under-achievers in the Red Foxes 61-35 victory.

Leading like they seemingly do

automatically, Allenspach and teammate Corielle Yarde combined for 20 points, 10 rebounds, six assists and two blocks.

No one expected to see freshmen Leanne Ockenden and Emma O'Connor hook up on a well-executed back-door layup midway through the first half.

All three Marist freshmen combined for 18 points and five steals, highlighted by several vicious cross-over's from Casey Dulin.

You might even call that trio James Starks, after the Packer's sensational rookie halfback from the University at Buffalo.

In a disappointing showing that allowed Rodgers to throw for 304 yards and three touchdowns, the Steelers defensive unit was unable to rattle the Packer's signal caller.

Just as Troy Polamalu and James Harrison were ineffective for Pittsburgh, Marist witnessed a continued trend of minimal production from one name.

At 6-foot-4-inches and the team's tallest player, Kate Oliver is its fourth leading rebounder.

In 23 minutes on the floor, Oliver tallied six points while collecting three rebounds and committing one turnover.

With the Black Eyed Peas nowhere to be found inside the James J. McCann Center, the half-time show was certainly lacking.

The Marist College dance team and two local peewee girls hoops squads — whose brief contest can best be described as watching 10 Chihuahua's chase a basketball — were the night's intermission entertainment.



RYAN HUTTON/THE CIRCLE

Marist became the only school in the nation to sell out all four years of Pack the House, an NCAA-sponsored initiative to increase attendance at women's games.

Although she didn't injure her collarbone like Charles Woodson, O'Connor aggravated her ankle after taking a spill underneath the basket and was forced to leave the floor.

The real difference between these two games — and the most important — is that no championship was won on Friday night.

For that, the Red Foxes will have to wait until March.

All in all, the game was a two-fold victory for the Marist Athletics Department.

A capacity crowd of 3,200 helped Marist become the only school in the nation to sell out its Pack the House initiative in each of the four years that the NCAA has sponsored it.

Secondly, as rough as winters in the Hudson Valley can be, no seating areas were closed due to safety concerns and all ticket sales were final.

Not a single Niagara fan was offered a refund worth triple the face value of their ticket or guaranteed a seat at next year's matchup.

Student Booster Club seeks to curb inappropriate behavior

By JIM URSO
Sports Editor

For Friday night's Pack the House Challenge, the Marist Athletic Department filled the bleachers of the student section for the fourth consecutive year. For the most part, an arena full of enthusiastic 20-year-olds creates a positive environment

for all involved. Opposing coaches and writer Graham Hays of ESPN have even commented on the exciting atmosphere the McCann Center offers.

At other times, though, students partake in immature and offensive behavior that degrades Marists' opponents and reflects negatively on the entire institution. Recently, an

article in The Circle detailed the potential negative experience at basketball games.

The Marist Athletic Department understands that potential risk, and is working with the Marist Student Booster Club to minimize it.

So if you are a student who's attended a Marist basketball game this year, you may have been handed out a folded over piece of paper listing a number of different chants and times in which these chants should be erected. Chances are if you received this document, Marist Student Booster Club President Andrew Paulsen handed it to you.

"By designing certain chants for certain situations, we can get the student section engaged in similar chants at the same time," Paulsen said. "The goal is to have more organized and clever chants."

More importantly, these chants are designed to help eliminate the use of derogatory and offensive language used toward players of opposing teams.

"We want this to be a difficult place to play, but we want opposing teams to want to come here to play," Paulsen said. "We want to be clever, but we want it to be in good nature."

Paulsen, a junior, said that there are growing pains with trying to cut down on derogatory language. Some of the chants the Booster Club has developed include "you can't do that

it," used when opposing players are whistled for certain errors and fouls. Another popular mantra is incorrectly counting down the shot clock on the opposing team to create a rushed shot. The cheer sheets idea was inspired by a similar idea enacted by Duke University. The cheer sheets have been handed out at bigger games over the past two semesters.

"The best thing to do is lead by example," Paulsen said.

Kate Tomaino, who serves on the Booster Club Committee, said trying to maintain control at events with verbal warnings happens occasionally, but it is usually ineffective.

"It's hard to tell people 'you shouldn't say that,'" Tomaino said. "People aren't there to listen to you. They will just think, 'who are you?'"

According to Tomaino, now that they club has gained popularity on campus, club officials are now focused on recruiting quality people, instead of simply a large quantity.

For the Marist Athletic Department, discussing initiatives with the Booster Club provides a channel for administrators to connect with students who can help achieve goals.

"We want to pride ourselves on not providing a fun atmosphere, but also having intelligent and respectful fans," Marist Athletics Director Tim Murray said.



RYAN HUTTON/THE CIRCLE

The Marist student Booster Club is working with the Marist Athletic Department to minimize inappropriate fan behavior at all sporting events.

Red Foxes crack nation's top 25

By JIM URSO
Sports Editor

While a promotional pudding-eating contest and an anonymous individual in red and white garb gallivanting through campus may have stolen most people's attention, the Marist women's basketball team's biggest accomplishment of the weekend came while most of us were making Super Bowl XLV party preparations.

The combination of Marist's come-from-behind victory over MAAC foe Fairfield with Syracuse's seven-point loss to Rutgers on Sunday afternoon propelled Marist into the 25th spot in the Associated Press (AP) Poll on Monday. In its history, the Marist women's basketball program has climbed as high as No. 20 in the AP Poll. Marist was ranked 20th on Jan. 19, 2009 after it broke into the poll two weeks prior on Jan. 5.

"I don't think our expectations were this high for any of the teams we've ever coached," assistant coach Erin Leger said. "This is the deepest team we have ever had."

Marist (21-2, 12-0) began receiving votes after winning the Duel in the Desert Tournament in December.



RYAN HUTTON/THE CIRCLE

Junior Corielle Yarde (above) led all scorers with 18 points against Fairfield on Sunday, including the game-winning basket with 27.7 seconds remaining. Marist will take on Iona on Friday at 4:30 p.m. The game will be televised on ESPNU.

The good news was not over for the Red Foxes, who are riding a 17-game winning streak, the second longest in the nation and in program history. On Tuesday, Marist learned of its 24th ranking in the ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Poll.

"I think they are really excited," Leger said. "But I think they also see that it doesn't guarantee us any-

thing. It doesn't guarantee us a spot in the MAAC tournament or NCAA championship."

While the ranking may not earn them the gold ball, Marist is accustomed to hoisting each March, major media outlets including the USA Today, the Wall Street Journal and ESPN picked up the AP article, re-etching Marist's women's basket-

ball program into minds of women's basketball followers throughout the country.

On Sunday afternoon, the Red Foxes faced a nine-point deficit with 13:55 remaining in a road contest against MAAC rival Fairfield. Marist, which entered the day having won each of its first 11 MAAC games by an average of over 26 points, found itself in unfamiliar position.

"It was a good test," Leger said, who handles much of the scouting for Fairfield. "It's something we needed. It's been a long time since our starting players had to play over 30 minutes in a game."

The Red Foxes battled back, and Corielle Yarde's left-handed layup with 27.7 seconds remaining clinched a 54-52 win over the Stags in the same arena that will host the 2011 MAAC Championship. Yarde led all scorers with 18 points.

"It boosts my confidence for the next game," Yarde said. "I am more confident that I can do the same thing again at the end of a game if I am called upon."

According to Yarde, winning a tight game provides an incentive to work harder in practice.

"We're not going to win every game

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