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NEW YORK'S NEXT TOP
SENATOR



Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand tries to appeal to Upstaters, Downstaters and everybody in between.

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THE CIRCLE

writethecircle@gmail.com

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Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Fitz surpasses all-time scoring record

By PHILIP TERRIGNO
Assistant Sports Editor

Rachele Fitz certainly didn't make it easy on anyone, including herself. In fact, eight Red Foxes would score a basket before Fitz did.

It would take nearly 23 minutes of play for Fitz to score her first basket of the game, but it was also one of the most important baskets of her career; one that has officially etched her name into Marist College Women's basketball history.

The layup that came at the 17:42 mark in the second half of Marist's 70-44 victory over the Manhattan Jaspers gave Fitz 1,589 points for her career and made her Marist's all-time leading scorer, passing Ursula Winter by two points.

Generally, when scoring and records are mentioned in the same sentence, especially in basketball, large numbers usually follow. This was not the case at all in Fitz's record-breaking night. The junior forward scored just six points in the contest, all of them coming in the second half. Fitz's six points marked the first time she has been held under double digit scoring since Nov. 11 2007, a stretch of 54 games. After picking up two personal fouls to start the game, Fitz would be forced to sit on the



JAMES REILLY / FILE PHOTO

Rachele Fitz's first basket in the Red Foxes victory over the Manhattan Jaspers Friday allowed her to eclipse Ursula Winter for the all-time scoring record. The previous record was 1,587 points.

bench just under two minutes into the game.

"It's frustrating because I'm not able to play," Fitz said. "I'm not able to help my team or do anything but sit there.

They did a really nice job, and our freshmen stepped it up and played well today."

From the bench, however, Fitz had an excellent view of

SEE FITZ, PAGE 16

Bracelet project raises eating disorder awareness

By KRISTEN DOMONELL
Staff Writer

In a country where an estimated eight million people struggle with eating disorders, one Marist student is making a

difference.

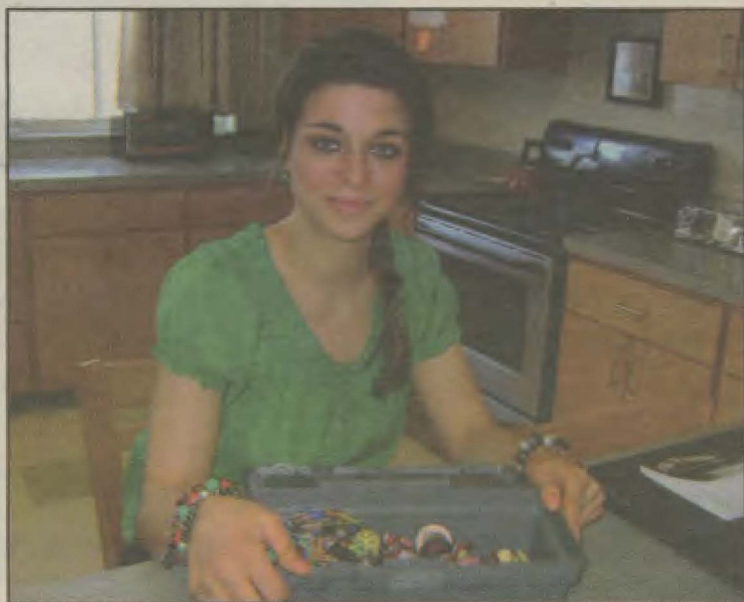
Junior Erika Giannelli makes and sells bracelets of colorful wooden, glass and plastic beads to raise awareness of eating disorders. She calls her bracelets "Freedom Beads" and the proceeds of

her project benefit the Renfrew Center, a residential eating disorder treatment facility in Philadelphia. So far, the project has raised almost \$1,700.

Having struggled with an eating disorder herself and having attended the Renfrew Center about two years ago, Giannelli said she started the project to bring more attention to eating disorders, what she called "the elephant in the room," that everyone sees but isn't sure how to bring up.

The proceeds will help the Renfrew Foundation start a private fund to support one girl's stay at the center. According to the foundation's Web site, www.renfrew.org, the Renfrew Foundation is a "tax-exempt, nonprofit organization advancing the education, prevention, research, and treatment of eating disorders."

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 3



Courtesy of ERIKA GIANNELLI

Junior Erika Giannelli displays a box of hand-made bracelets called "Freedom Beads." Each of these bracelets will sold as a part of a fund raiser for eating disorder awareness and rehabilitation.

Super Bowl ads costly in spite of recession

By JACQUELINE MONTI
Circle Contributor

Even with the athletic prowess displayed on the field at the 43rd Super Bowl, spectators often remember their favorite commercial rather than who scored the winning touchdown.

Despite current economic recession, advertisers spend up to \$3 million to secure a 30 second slot on Super Bowl Sunday, according to the *New York Times*. Junior Sean Fallon felt that Doritos spent their money wisely.

"My favorite commercial ke. Junior Max Carow enjoyed this commer-

SEE SUPER BOWL, PAGE 10

New scholarship fosters student body diversity

By GAIL GOLDSMITH
Staff Writer

The \$100,000 William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship recently awarded to Marist College will be given to students of underrepresented ethnicities, as part of the school's vision for a more diverse student body.

The scholarship will award \$5,000 every year to a student who demonstrates leadership skills and academic promise.

Kate Donham, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, wrote the grant proposal for The Hearst Foundations while she was the Director of Foundation & Corporate Relations. The Hearst Foundations are philanthropic resources for educational, health, culture and social services initiatives.

"We want to be able to help all students with financial need," Donham said. "This scholarship will help bring diverse experiences and perspectives into the student body."

According to Donham's research for the proposal, an increase in minority demographics, especially in the Northeast, is not reflected in institutions of higher educa-

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The Circle is the weekly student newspaper of Marist College. Letters to the editors, announcements, and story ideas are always welcome, but we cannot publish unsigned letters. Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the editorial board.

The Circle staff can be reached at 575-3000 x2429 or letters to the editor can be sent to writethecircle@gmail.com. The Circle can also be viewed on its web site, www.maristcircle.com.

Security Briefs

Student outsources alcohol smuggling to guest

By TYLER THURSTON
...funnier than you.

1/29 – Lower West Cedar

A fire alarm prompted further investigation by security once they noticed the pungent odor of marijuana protruding from the house in question. Further inspection revealed that the smoke detector was covered in plastic, with none of the residents knowing how that possibly could have happened. Really? That's the angle you're playing? That some random intruder ran in, leapt across the house in the dark of the night along with their trusty saran wrap, covered the smoke detector in plastic, and waited patiently for the exact moment to arrive when their clever trick would come to fruition. Better reason to lock your doors, mystery plastic men. Yup, that sounds reasonable.

1/30 – Midrise

One guest got the weekend off on the right foot, or at least attempted to, before security busted up that plan by confiscating 30 cans of Keystone in their luggage. Ah, the essentials of packing? Spare clothes, check. Towel, toothbrush, deodor-

ant? Check, check, check. 30 rack? Uh, somewhat check. Write-up? Oh, didn't come with that did we?

1/30 – Champagnat

Champagnat burst onto the scene with a noise complaint pre-empting, or stopping, a party occurring on one the floors. Two beers were confiscated, with six guest passes being revoked. Signs your party isn't going so well? You have more guests than beer. Pass it around, everybody, um, sip your beer. Hope you aren't too hungover for the drive home.

1/31 – Gartland

Gartland got to brave the temperatures for two fire alarms, both on the same day, both in the same hour, both due to food burned on the stove. Better grab your coats, because when something as simple as "package directions," goes right over your head, you're going to be in the cold for awhile.

2/1 – Leo Hall

One night ended oh-so-wrong for one gentleman, with a late night at a local bar resulting in a sleepover at St. Francis with a crew of

people attempting to wash the sickness he had, um, let's just say spilled all over himself. It starts off well, few shots deep, looking pretty fly with the popped collar and slicked back hair, thanks to enough product that proves no match for wind resistance. You're feeling good, maybe throw on a little T.I., because you know what ladies, you can have whatever you like, as long as it's under \$20. That's just the swagger of a college kid. Things are going well; maybe you won't even go home alone tonight. Turns out, you didn't, late nights with just you and your dry cleaning bill. Scrub all you want, there are some stains that will never come out – the stain of shame.

2/1 – Marian

Not to be left out, Marian fought their way into the briefs will an unregistered guest being found and subsequently removed from campus. Also being removed? Any interest in this story. Better luck next time.

2/1 – Campus

Recent security checks in Upper West Cedar and both

new and old Fulton revealed 30 doors unlocked and open, a serious security problem. Yeah, I know it's a pretty friendly campus, and everyone just wants to seem open and inviting. But open to friends is also open to strangers. More specifically, the strange guy in the last row of the movie theatre. In the trench coat, at a showing of "Hotel for Dogs." even though there aren't any kids with him. Think about it.

2/1 – Student Center

Another student bit the dust, as in we're going to need some saw dust over here, in the Student Center over the weekend, gracing us with the presence of what I can only assume was once a cafeteria creation. When I used to have to eat at the dining hall, I didn't even like to see what that food looked like going down, but I'm sure it looked better coming up. Great night for all.

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

Upcoming Events

Trip to see the musical *Shrek* - Sunday, Feb. 22

- ~ \$25, tickets go on sale Feb. 11 at noon
- ~ Bus departs from Midrise Lot at 9 a.m.
- ~ Contact SPC x2828 for more info

Shopping shuttle - Poughkeepsie Galleria and Stop & Shop

- ~ Friday, Feb. 13: 4 p.m.-12 a.m.
- ~ Saturday, Feb. 14: 12 p.m.-8 p.m.
- ~ \$1 day pass or \$5 semester pass
- ~ Bus leaves from Midrise Lot

Ski trips - Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28

- ~ Hunter Mountain, \$25 (includes lift and bus tickets)
- ~ \$29 ski/snowboard rentals, \$20 lessons
- ~ Bus leaves Donnelly at 7 a.m.
- ~ Contact SPC x2828 for more info

THE CIRCLE News

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009

www.maristcircle.com

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From Page One

Students get creative for Renfrew Center Foundation

The foundation provides financial assistance, and educates policy makers to remove barriers to treatment.

Giannelli said she was supposed to spend five weeks at the center, but her insurance dropped her coverage after only two weeks and without notice. She said this happens to patients all the time and that "no one gets their time."

"If I could help one person get extended I'd be happy," Giannelli said.

Debbie Luker, Foundation Coordinator for the Renfrew Center Foundation, said the donations from Freedom Beads will help fund a patient who needs an extended stay. The cost of treatment at the Renfrew Center is about \$8,000 per week.

"I'm glad she's able to give something back and help someone else," Luker said. "She's doing very well."

Senior Jilliam McPhail said she bought one Freedom Beads bracelets for herself and one to give as a gift last

semester.

"I think it is a wonderful fundraiser that Erika is doing to raise awareness about eating disorders while also raising money for someone who might otherwise not be able to afford treatment," McPhail said.

Sophomore Jen Espina said she bought a bracelet last semester.

"I wear it a lot and I've gotten a lot of compliments on it. It matches every outfit and I knew the money was going toward a really great cause," Espina said.

Senior Alida Elsbree has bought Freedom Beads earrings and said she has helped Giannelli make bracelets.

"I think it's an amazing project she's doing to really make a difference in someone's life," Elsbree said. "She's very dedicated to the scholarship fund and she makes beautiful, stylish jewelry."

Last semester, with the necessary club affiliation from the Dance Club,



Courtesy of ERIKA GIANNELLI

The Renfrew Center - a rehabilitation facility for those suffering from eating disorders - says that the bracelets, or "Freedom Beads," will help fund a patient who needs extended stay. Treatment at the center is hardly affordable for many patients - a week of treatment costs about \$8,000 a week.

Giannelli was able to set up

shop in the Champagnat Breezeway and Dyson about once a week. The Dance Club also donated \$500 to

Freedom Beads.

Giannelli also started a Facebook group where she has promoted her project and sold bracelets to people

across the country. Giannelli will continue selling bracelets for \$10 each this semester.

From Page One

William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship serves disadvantaged minorities



From HISTORY.SANDIEGO.EDU

William Randolph Hearst, pictured above in 1935, was a leading newspaper publisher. He fought against municipal corruption and sought civic improvement. Today his legacy lives on with the scholarship fund in his name.

tion.

Kent Rinehart, Dean of Admission, thinks this disparity should be corrected.

"The goal for every campus is to become a microcosm of the greater community. I don't know of any campus that has done it. I don't know if it is possible to achieve this, but we are working towards it."

Freddy Garcia, senior and president of Appreciating Races Creating Opportunities (ARCO), thinks that many kinds of diversity enhance the student experience.

"I think this is a great opportunity to grow," Garcia said.

Garcia thinks the buzzword 'diversity' is often misunderstood.

"I don't think people don't recognize all the different kinds of diversity," he said. According to Rinehart, students of Asian, Latino, African, or Native American ethnicity are all eligible for the scholarship.

He also contextualizes the

new scholarship within Marist's broad conception of diversity.

"We are focused on trying to bring in a diverse class. For us, diversity goes beyond race: diversity of experience, diversity of geography, religious diversity and diversity of sexual orientation."

The grant of \$100,000 was made to the endowment; the \$5,000 of interest earned yearly will fund the scholarship. This financial arrangement ensures perpetual giving, because the money will not be spent down.

Marist has agreed to match the grant 3 to 1, so after the initial award of \$5,000 is made to a student in their first year, Marist will award \$5,000 per year for the student's next three years.

Students will not have to complete separate applications—eligible freshmen and transfer applicants are automatically considered. As the scholarship is a new one, the selection process is still being tweaked; Rinehart is

unsure as to whether an interview will be required of finalists.

While the William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship and the Higher Education Opportunity Program, which serves New York State residents who are academically and economically disadvantaged, are mutually exclusive, both programs are support services for students. The success of Marist's HEOP program led to the formation of the Center for Multicultural Affairs.

The Center for Multicultural Affairs provides services like mentoring, support, and workshops to anyone under their umbrella. This network will also serve as a resource for the Hearst scholars.

"I wrote the grant, but the quality of the college is why we got it," Donham said. "It's the good work of others. To get a Hearst Foundations grant is an honor—it means they have a lot of confidence in us."

Gillibrand gets to work as New York's next senator

By HEATHER STAATS
Staff Writer

Stepping into her new role as New York's junior senator, 42-year-old Kirsten Gillibrand was sworn into office nine days ago with the hopes of revitalizing New York in a time of financial crisis.

Sen. Gillibrand, the youngest member of the Senate, had previously served one term in the U.S. House of Representatives as the legislator for New York's 20th Congressional District. This district stretches from northern Dutchess County, through the neighboring counties of the Capital District, and out into Delaware County. Now that she serves a much larger constituency, Sen. Gillibrand looks forward to the challenge.

"To have the opportunity to serve this entire state at a time of great economic crisis is an extraordinary responsibility," Sen. Gillibrand said, "and I take that responsibility very

seriously."

Liz Gray, an upstate New Yorker and junior, worked with Sen. Gillibrand in the summer of 2006 as well as this last summer.

"I have only gotten the opportunity to meet her several times, but I know how hard-working she is and how good she is to her workers," Gray said. "I think she is very qualified to be senator because she has a lot of experience, is an intelligent and strong woman, and really cares about New York."

However, according to Michael Powell of the *New York Times*, several downstate Democrats do not share Gray's enthusiasm. Sen. Gillibrand's affiliation with the National Rifle Association and strict views on immigration has made her unpopular with New Yorkers who would have preferred a more liberal senator.

"Ms. Gillibrand has an occasional stranger-in-a-strange-

land quality on her maiden voyage as New York's junior senator," Powell said.

Although some New Yorkers may be disappointed with Sen. Gillibrand's appointment, she promises to "get to work on behalf of all New Yorkers."

While Sen. Gillibrand holds some conservative views, she is much more liberal on issues such as the economy, withdrawal from Iraq and gay rights.

"I don't agree with everything Sen. Gillibrand supports (particularly her NRA affiliation)," Gray said, "but I think she is the best choice to be our new senator because she is hard-working, has a lot of energy, and really wants to help New York State."

Sen. Gillibrand has been

tapped to work on the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Agricultural



From GOOGLE.COM

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand is sworn in as New York's next senator, replacing Hillary Clinton.

Committee and Special Committee on Aging. Jennifer A. Dlouhy, Washington Correspondent for the upstate *Times Union* newspaper, says that these committees will allow Sen. Gillibrand to reach all parts of New York state.

"The assignments will allow Gillibrand to blend more tradi-

tional upstate interests – such as agriculture – with concerns that have statewide reach," Dlouhy said.

Sen. Gillibrand has taken over for Hillary Clinton, who recently retired to accept the job of Secretary of State for the Obama administration.

"Gillibrand is very similar to Clinton in that they are both very strong women. They both work to help middle-class families," Gray said. "I would say Gillibrand is more moderate than Clinton with her voting record, but both women share many of the same opinions on the issues."

In Gray's opinion, helping to create lower taxes for middle-class families and bringing new jobs to New York state should probably be among her top priorities.

Provincial elections test potency of Iraqi democracy

By JOSEPH GENTILE
Politics Editor

Still experimenting with democracy, the Iraqis revisited polling booths for a fourth time on Sunday, Feb. 1 and cast ballots for local elections. Provincial leadership has yet to be determined for 14 of the country's 18 territories, but preliminary reports favor the Dawa Party of incumbent Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and other secular groups.

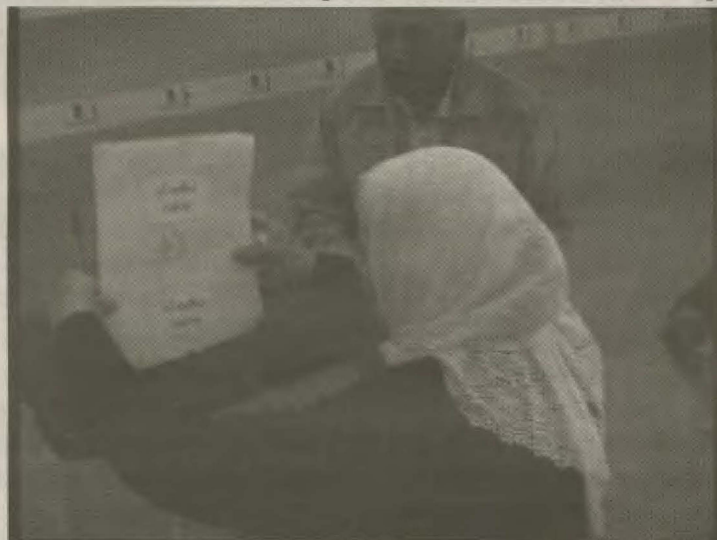
Whether or not these elections brought Iraqis closer to forging a singular, national identity though is up for debate. Regions that were formerly hotbeds of U.S.-involvement, like Anbar Province in western Iraq, are considered to be relatively stable. Even still, the Fallujah area of Anbar observed the lowest turnout, with estimates that only 25 percent of eligible Iraqi voters participated. Overall, 40 percent of Anbar Province cast their ballots on Election Day, despite anti-insurgent efforts by the Iraqi-led Awakening Council.

"I did not vote because I could not find a qualified candidate that I can trust — all those candidates came for their personal benefits," Maher Naji, a day laborer in Fallujah, told a *New York Times* reporter.

To his credit, Naji had a sizeable field of candidates to select from — nearly 15,000 for the 440 available council seats of the 14 provinces. Elsewhere, other Iraqis were deterred by

strict curfews that kept them from getting to polling stations before they closed. Hundreds more were turned away after they did not appear on the voter roll.

Over the last five years, more than 1 million Iraqis



From NECN.COM

Iraqis voted in their fourth democratic election on Sunday.

were displaced by the ethnic and sectarian conflict that plagued their nation. While a small percentage returned to their homes, a vast majority is still internally displaced and cannot vote where they originally registered.

With a national turnout pegged at 51 percent, a lower-than-expected rate, this most recent election surpassed levels set by the 2005 elections that Sunni Muslims, a sectarian minority, previously boycotted.

Nevertheless, the success of Iraq's secular parties is considered a sign of Iraqis reject-

ing the religious groups that dominated Parliament, but failed to rebuild their infrastructure. The Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, a Shiite Muslim party, lost several of their provincial seats. This is somewhat credited to the triumph

of the secular Iraqi National List party, led by former Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, that campaigned to end corruption at local levels of government.

"This really reflects that Iraqi society is looking for alternatives — they do not necessarily believe that the Islamists should lead the country," Qassim Daoud, a member of Parliament and secular party leader, said to a *Times* reporter. "The public are interested in services, and this election has shown them that they can change anything by democratic means if they are not satisfied."

But, religious leaders did not disappear from the scene entirely, as exhibited by the Sunni-dominated Iraqi Islamic Party that opposed the efforts of the Awakening Council to combat religious extremism. Ahmed Abu Risha, a leading tribesman in Anbar Province and brother of an Awakening Council founder, believed the Iraqi Islamic Party suppressed voter turnout in the region.

"If the Islamic Party wins, it will be another Darfur," Risha told the *New York Times*.

The future of U.S.-led coalition troops, and their role in the fledgling democracy, also has yet to be determined. Regarding the ethnic and sectarian divisions of Iraq, Prof. Jerry White of the history department cautioned the breakup of Iraq is still a possibility.

"The trouble is I don't believe the Sunnis trust al-Maliki, and al-Maliki doesn't trust the Sunnis," White said. "How are you going to get the Sunnis to work with the Shiites, the Shiites to work with Sunnis, and all of them to work with the Kurds of the north?"

Ultimately, "this Mickey Mouse-idea of Bush's that if we hold elections, everything is going to be solved," White said, did not consider that theocratic tribalism is already so ingrained in their lives.

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Opinion

Students should stand united, not divided

By **BILLY BURKE** and **MELISSA GRECO**
Circle Contributors

In the Op-Ed piece that appeared in last week's edition, the claim was made that "very few people who care about their country" were present among those who attended Obama's inauguration. This is among the many hasty generalizations made in the piece.

I agree that the outgoing president should indeed be respected and not booed during the formalities of inauguration day. However, I would respectfully argue that many more attendees "care about their country" than the article asserts. The spirit that led them to attend the inauguration no doubt entailed a certain degree of patriotism and pride for their country.

The spirit of caring displayed by most Americans

also stems from a plea for stability. Americans do care, with the hope that President Obama can overcome the empirical failures of the preceding administration, whether at war or at home.

Obama not a cure-all

As for the liberals who are allegedly relying on Obama to instantly solve their problems, those parties represent an uninformed segment of the citizenry. Far more Americans, regardless of party affiliation, are accepting personal responsibility for our current condition by striving to remain informed and realistic about the acknowledged long road ahead.

Furthermore, many conservatives and moderates have declared their approval of Obama's beginning steps, especially the appointment of a relatively moderate cabinet. In selecting his appointees, Obama heavily considered capability, experience and



From LATimes.com

In the wake of the Inaguration, students make a case for national unity.

intelligence, not political ideals. The focus has shifted from personal agendas and party goals, to a focus on collaboration and problem-solving, both in Washington and among average Americans.

The country has responded to the call for national unity in a time of crisis, bonding as Americans and setting aside political difference. With a

supportive electorate behind him, there is very little immediate evidence that Obama will "fail," and cause us all to fail, as the article implies.

Don't always believe what you read

While the YouTube video might have presented the taunting as being prominent among a majority of the crowd, I prefer to trust the per-

spective of Marist student, Christina Tello, who attended the inauguration.

"Some booed, most were quiet, there were half-hearted claps," Tello said. "The group I was with, as well as a majority of the people in the crowd, was telling people to be quiet because it was disrespectful in general. I feel like we can't accomplish very much in the future if we're dwelling on the past."

The small group that jeered former President Bush was unfortunately lacking this sense of unity. However, I am thankful that most Americans have acknowledged our need for unity, even if divisive commentary still exists within the original article and others like it. In contrast, a nationwide tone of unity and faith in our leadership will support Obama in tackling a large plate of challenges left behind by his predecessor, and surely save him from failing us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

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

Letters without these requirements will not be published.

Letters can be submitted through the 'Letter Submission' link on MaristCircle.com

Letters are the opinions of their authors and do not reflect the official position of *The Circle*

Letters to the Editor

Tkazyik calls Poughkeepsie to action

I am writing in response to the question regarding how we should respond to President Obama's national call to service. His call goes beyond just social services and donating to the Salvation Army at Christmas time. It's a call for our nation to gather together and become a united country. A call to lend a hand to those that need help.

I believe this call has been made in the City of Poughkeepsie. On Monday Jan. 26, Mayor Tkazyik of Poughkeepsie held a meeting at the Poughkeepsie Middle

School regarding the increase of youth violence in the city. The open forum discussed the possible causes and the possible solutions, but above all expressed frustration at the rise of gun violence. The call to service in Poughkeepsie aimed at helping the youth.

We need to help the youth seek positive role models, give the youth activities to get them off the streets, teach them that violence solves nothing and most importantly, that violence only breeds more violence. Our student body can answer the presi-

dent's call to service by developing after school programs, becoming mentors and giving the youth other options, than drugs, guns and violence. I challenge the student body to break out of the Marist bubble and become a part of the Poughkeepsie community. Once you see the problems we are facing and the frustration of the community, then you'll fully understand the president's call to service.

- Chris Cardella, Senior

THE CIRCLE

MaristCircle.com

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To request advertising information or to reach the editorial board, e-mail writethecircle@gmail.com.

Opinions expressed in articles do not necessarily represent those of the editorial board.

Correction to 1/29 issue

Editor's Note: Last week's edition of *The Circle* contained a letter to the editor entitled 'Football necessary to maintain balance.' Due to an unintentional error by *The Circle*, the author's name was cut off after the body of the letter. The author's name Kelsey Schaefer. We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this may have caused.

Got an opinion?

Want everybody else to know about it?

E-mail circleopinion@gmail.com

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Features

Blackberry storms through with a new smartphone

By GREG SAPERSTEIN
Circle Contributor

Sleek. Convenient. Stylish. This describes the world's first touch-screen BlackBerry smartphone. It is a handheld computer that can make phone calls.

Released in November of 2008, the BlackBerry Storm is a truly remarkable phone. As a Storm owner, I am quite impressed with Verizon's phone.

Competing with Apple's iPhone will be tough for Verizon. Freshman Nelson Benitez states, "I wouldn't buy [the Storm] because I like my iPhone."

The phone has many applications available, and can even open and edit Microsoft Office documents. The phone is Bluetooth capable and has a battery that can last over 24 hours on a full charge. Featuring a 3.2 megapixel camera, which is better than some digital cameras, it can

take still photos in addition to videos.

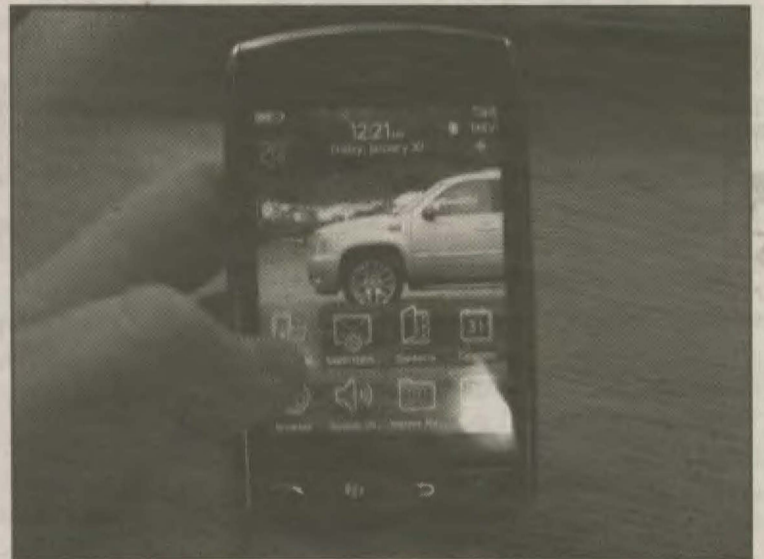
The phone only has four buttons on its face and the remainder of the phone is a four and a half inch screen. When you want to select an icon, such as Browser, Instant Messaging, or Games, you simply place your finger over the icon and press down on the screen to open that application. There are no "keys," but simply "buttons" on the screen. When held in a vertical position, the keyboard has two letters per "key," however, when held horizontally, the keyboard switches to a full QWERTY one, which is the format on most laptop and desktop keyboards. Nelson Benitez says, "I think it's weird how you have to push the screen down."

The new format may confuse previous BlackBerry owner because most owners are used to the trackball used to scroll through pages and select pages or contacts. Also,

previous BlackBerry owners may not be accustomed to such a large screen and such advanced features like their new Global Positioning System (GPS).

Despite the all-new phone with an all-new format, some old features like BlackBerry Messenger, or BBM as commonly said between teenagers, are still in place. In addition, our favorite game BrickBreaker holds its place, but a new game, Word Mole, is quite addictive as well. WordMole is a game similar to Scrabble placed under strict time constraints.

Based on my experience with the Storm, there are some pros and cons, as with any phone. Some positive aspects about the Storm are its long battery life (a day and a half under normal "student" use) and it's really cool design. Also, another great feature is the updated Browser, which can take you to webpages faster. I also found the price to



GREG SAPERSTEIN / THE CIRCLE

The Storm welds old features to smartphone technology.

be remarkable. For my first BlackBerry, I paid over \$300, whereas I only paid \$150 (with a \$50 Verizon rebate) for the storm.

As with everything out there, despite its coolness and advancements, there are some downsides to this phone. One thing that I find to be inconvenient about the phone is its susceptibility to getting scratched, though they do

make protectors, but not great ones. Also, because the phone was just recently released, there are some glitches that need to be worked out. I've had my screen turn fuzzy while I'm typing a text message. Finally, sometimes the QWERTY keyboard will not flip back on the screen.

...
Do you have something to share with the Marist community?

Feel like you have advice to give or want to highlight an interesting person on campus?

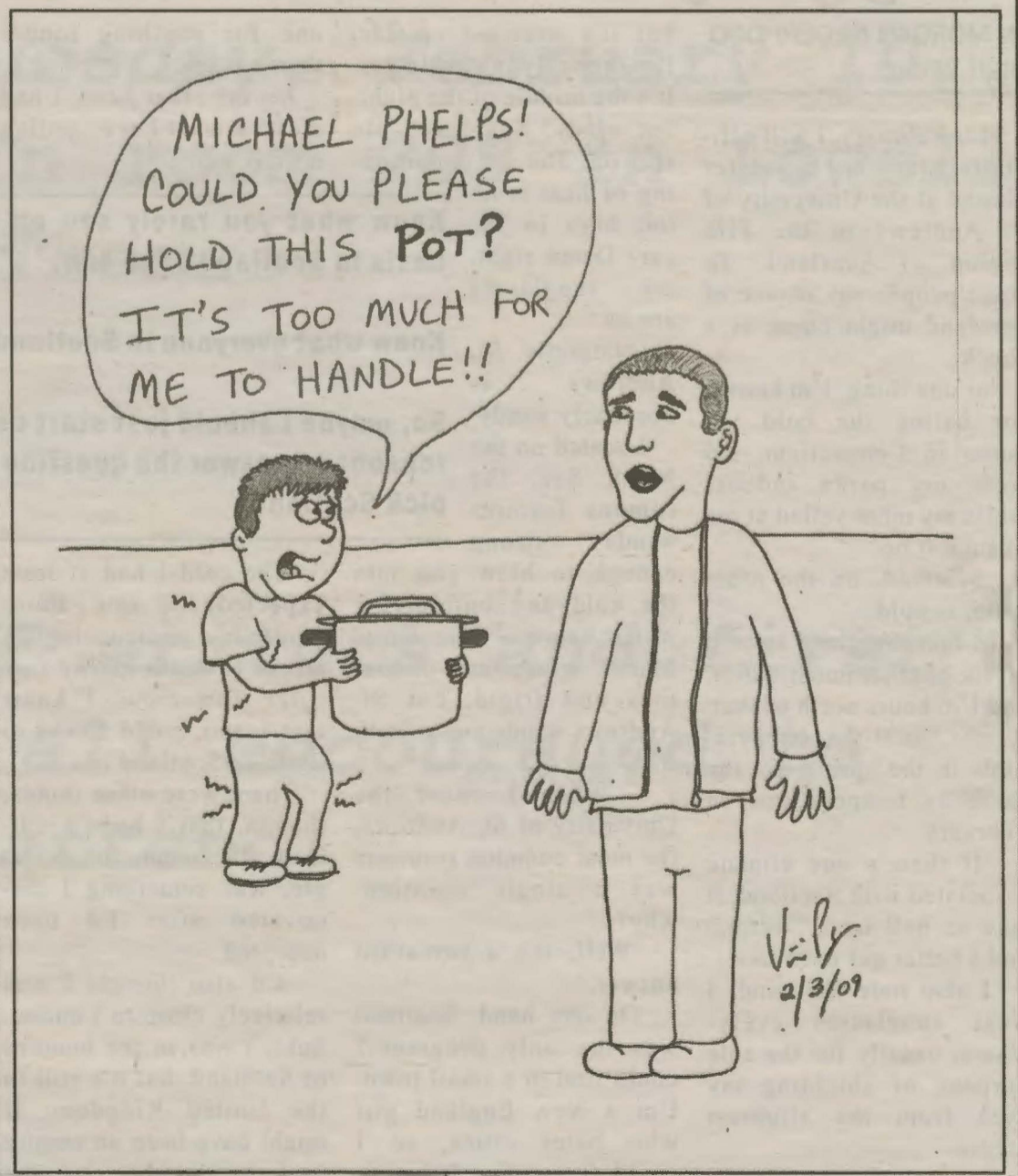
Have you discovered a new game or sport and want to tell someone about it?

**Send your ideas to:
circlefeatures@gmail.com**

...

cartoon corner

By VINNIE PAGANO



Senior spotlight: 100 days and counting

By CLARE LANGAN
Staff Writer

In 1932, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed he would bring change to America in the "First 100 Days" of his administration. His actions during this time led to many New Deal programs. FDR, our Hyde Park hero, set out to do something and gosh darn it, he did.

Now flash forward to 2009. It is a cold, blustery day in Washington D.C., and President Obama has just been sworn into office. The minute he takes his hand off the Bible, the clock starts ticking. His First 100 Days have started. Stimulus packages! Bailouts! The energy crisis...the list goes on and on.

The date: Saturday, August 27, 2005. The place: Champagnat Hall, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York. You kiss mom and dad goodbye, don your new photo ID lanyard and head to the McCann Center, hur-

ried along with the other freshmen. There is a nervous excitement in the crowd. Today is your first day at Marist. You make small talk with the kids on your floor. You see a girl you met at Orientation. You realize there were never so many ways to say the words "coffee" and "water."

Back in Champagnat, you are curious what everyone is doing that night. Is anyone going to see the comedian? Will there be a frat party? Do you need to wear a toga? Tonight is your first night at Marist. Freedom. You throw on your blue and white 'College' shirt and follow the crowd to catch a taxi.

On the evening of Thursday, February 12, 2009, you might find yourself, once again, low on cash. You decide to hit up the Donnelly ATM before heading out for the night. As you thank the Gods at Wachovia for not denying your card, you see it. -100. A shudder runs through your body as you race out the door, down the steps

and off into the night.

As freshmen we never think the day will come that we will have to leave this place. But ask any second-semester senior what is on their mind and chances it starts with a g- and ends with an -raduation. With only 100 days left, it is hard to run away from the reality that is about to hit us.

We may glance away, keep ourselves busy with work and other distractions, but on May 23 we will all be going out the same way we came in. Together. While the McCann Center has been replaced by the Campus Green, there will still be that familiar nervous energy. We may see someone we haven't seen since Welcome Week, or an old roommate we lost touch with. We might still be wondering why those New Jersey kids still can't say "water".

Have you ever had one of those semesters that

Hey Seniors,
Happy 100
days!

seemed to just fly by? The weeks are like a blur and before you know it, its mid-terms and then finals. A lot can happen in 100 days and it isn't until winter or summer break that we realize it.

I'd like to challenge you to something. Let's slow things down a bit. Marist isn't going to change the date of graduation (they have probably already started grooming the Green to prepare for it), but we can make our last 100 days something great. Sure, we have all got a lot to get done in these next few

months. Sometimes we would like a bailout of our own. We are feeling more "grown up" than ever before, and the carefree days of freshman year are a distant memory. But it's not over yet. There are still memories to be made, happy hours to attend and basketball games to cheer. We may have one foot in the real world already, but we still have a few more steps to take at Marist. Think of it as our new deal with one another. Are you in?

The column about nothing goes abroad: *Haggis for dinner? No, definitely not.*

By MORGAN NEDERHOOD
Staff Writer

This February, I will officially start my semester abroad at the University of St Andrews in the Fife region of Scotland. To some people, my choice of Scotland might come as a shock.

For one thing, I'm known for hating the cold. At home in Connecticut, I'd wear my parka indoors while my mom yelled at me to suck it up.

Scotland, on the other hand, is cold.

In fact, Scotland is cold at its southernmost point, and I'm hours north of that. Rumor has it that temperatures in the spring are the same as temperatures in February.

If there's one climate associated with Scotland, it sure as hell isn't "warm," and I better get used to it.

I also hate the wind. I wear sunglasses everywhere, usually for the sole purpose of shielding my eyes from the slightest breeze.

If there's a small breeze,

but it's overcast outside, I'm probably in sunglasses. It's the middle of the night, but windy? Sunglasses are still on. The air conditioning or heat is on too high in the car? Damn right, my sunglasses are on.

Naturally, St. Andrews is obscenely windy.

Located on the North Sea, the campus features winds strong enough to blow you into the cold and unforgiving water below - true story. Marist winds are obnoxious and frigid, but St. Andrews winds are a death trap.

When I chose the University of St. Andrews, the most common response was a single question: why?

Well, it's a two-sided answer.

On one hand, Scotland was the only program I could find in a small town. I'm a New England girl who hates cities, so I couldn't imagine being in

one for anything longer than a week.

On the other hand, I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

Know what you rarely see on a regular basis in Scotland? The sun.

Know what everyone in Scotland is? Pale.

So, maybe I should just start using those reasons to answer the question of why I'd pick Scotland

The cold I had at least expected: I saw those Scottish meteorologists freeze to death in *The Day After Tomorrow*. I knew that I, too, could freeze to death in Scotland.

There were other things, though, that I hadn't realized. The wind, for example, was something I discovered after I'd been accepted.

I'd also thought I was relatively close to London. Sure, I was in the boonies of Scotland, but it's still in the United Kingdom. It might have been an empire back in the day, but the

country's an adorably small island now, right?

Wrong, of course.

The United Kingdom is deceptively larger than it appears. Turns out, I'm not close to London at all. In fact, I'm an hour drive to Edinburgh and then an eight hour train ride from Edinburgh to London.

Figures.

Despite all the factors that are playing against me, I'm genuinely excited and happy in my choice of places.

My mom, too, is showing her support for Scotland, the land of her grandparents.

"That godforsaken place," she likes to call it. Conversations about Scotland tend to sound like I'm heading to Kuwait or something.

"What's the weather like in that godforsaken place?"

"I don't know if I'll visit you in that Godforsaken

place. You might just have to meet me in London."

At the same time, she and I both know that this godforsaken place will be perfect for me:

I'm pale, and I protect my pasty self by avoiding the sun like a crazy person. Know what you rarely see on a regular basis in Scotland? The sun.

Know what everyone in Scotland is? Pale.

So, maybe I should just start using those reasons to answer the question of why I'd pick Scotland:

"Why Scotland?"

"I'm pale. They seem to love pale. I don't like sunbathing. There's no sun in Scotland. I love the rain. All it does there in rain...all the time. I love winter because I can hide my winter weight in sweaters. The Scottish wear sweaters in the summer."

Yeah, I guess St. Andrews really will be perfect for me.

Haggis, though, might prove to be problematic.

***Interested in writing for The
Circle?***

Want to be a Circle photographer?

***Already a member and just want to
touch base?***

***Come to our general members
meeting on Tuesday, February 10,
at 9:30 p.m. in room 208 in Lowell
Thomas.***

***Veteran staff writers and first
timers are all encouraged to
attend!***

Artists featured in exhibit are source of inspiration

By JACEL EGAN
News Co-Editor

The aroma of wine and hors d'oeuvres filled the air as guests attended the opening of the "Tradition/Invention: 5 Emerging Artists" exhibit at the Steel Plant Studios on Jan. 26. Paintings, etchings and sketches covered the studio's walls, displaying the talent of various young and accomplished artists: Alfredo Grisholt, Lindsay McCulloch, Lorena Salcedo-Watson, Stephanie Somers and Kevin Kelly, the latter two being Marist alum.

The works in the exhibit were chosen upon criteria intended to inspire other young artists.

"I included young artists with solid achievements to show undergraduates here the importance of going to graduate school. I also wanted to provide role model figures for them to look up to," said Ed Smith, Art Gallery Director.

The artists in the exhibit have experience with teaching



From MARIST.EDU

"Rocky Colorado Mountainside" by Stephanie Somers is a piece featured in the "Tradition/Invention" exhibit at the Steel Plant Studio until Feb. 26.

opportunities, fellowships, museum exposure, and have displayed work in solo exhibitions.

Alfredo Grisholt, one of the artists in the exhibit, feels that his success is due to hard work and dedication. Several paint-

ings and sketches in his collection show masses of bodies fighting with one another, inspired by religious processions held in Mexico.

"I wanted my work to show the violence and sacrifice of human life through narrative finger painting," Grisholt said. "I connected with the beauty of the religious processions back in Mexico, which went from the center of town and ended at the church to make offerings to the Virgin."

Lindsay McCulloch, another featured artist, said that although her past works, such as the "The Prince" collection resulted from evoking strong memories of her past, her more recent paintings are based on more immediate influences and happenings.

"It's important to embrace where you are right now," McCulloch said. "To really get in touch with your own art,

you need time to allow your inner voice to cultivate and help you improve."

Many students that attended expressed their appreciation for the talent in the show.

"In just the collection displayed, one can see how Grisholt's style has evolved in such a short period of time," said sophomore Matt Faustini.

Faustini remarked that although the theme is the same between Grisholt's earlier and more recent work, the paintings he created later seem more defined.

Junior Andrew Gallagher expressed his amazement at how so many sketches displayed were so realistic, yet still captured so much emotion at the same time.

Smith hoped that undergraduate students find inspiration in the works displayed.

"Exhibits like this send such a positive message to students and hopefully get them going on the right track when thinking of what to do post-graduation," Smith said.

currently singing A weekly review of the latest songs



From STEREOGUM.COM

Coldplay is nominated for seven Grammys this Sunday.

By RYAN RIVARD
Co-A&E Editor

Coldplay "The Goldrush" – One of the many outtakes from the "Viva La Vida" sessions, this one has drummer Will Champion taking the center vocal spotlight, while Chris Martin adds some background singing on the side. Champion's gentle voice ideally fits the song. The gang vocals and stripped down folk feel with background mumbling shapes the music to sound like if the Beatles wrote a working song for gold miners as Champion sings, "I went digging for gold/ Down by the river/ Over by the mountain."

My Morning Jacket "El Caporal" – The light-hearted, horn tinged track is part of the "Dark Was the Night" compilation. The fun, mellow jam is rounded off with backing vocals and playful lyrics. El Caporal is a Mexican restaurant in MMJ's hometown of Louisville, Kentucky.

Mastodon "Divinations" – Banjo picking, rough group vocals, gargantuan drums, mammoth guitar riffs and solos – yep, it's Mastodon at its best. "Crack the Sky" is one of metal's highly anticipated releases this year, set to drop on March 24.

Smashing Pumpkins "FOL" – Billy Corgan and crew wrote a new song specifically to soundtrack the Hyundai Genesis Super Bowl ad. The rocker is driven at a speeding pace by thick crunchy riffs fueled by large amounts of tenacity.

Flaming Lips "Anything You Say Now I Believe You" – The song is a contribution to "Know Your Mushrooms," a documentary that raises the question whether mushrooms can save the planet. Regardless, the six-minute-plus psychedelic tune is acoustic with swelling waves of disorienting noises, beeps, and melodic ambiance.

From Page 1

Most Super Bowl commercials drop the ball this year

cial was the one where a guy asked his magic crystal ball if there would be free Doritos at work, and then hurled it through the vending machine," Fallon said.

Pepsi aired an amusing commercial marketing a new diet product made for men called Pepsi Max. The message was that men can handle anything from getting electrocuted to getting slammed in the back with a wooden plank, but they can't handle the taste of diet soda.

Coca-Cola aired a commercial in which animated nature creatures rob a napping man's bottle of Coke. Junior Max Carow enjoyed this commercial, but feels that Super Bowl commercials have become less entertaining.

"The Coke commercial was one of the only ones I thought was funny," Carow said. "In general, I think the

commercials are getting worse. I used to look forward to game breaks but now they're just disappointing."

Another Super Bowl commercial contender is the Budweiser Clydesdale horses, filling up 90 seconds of commercial time again this year.

However, Junior Jake Cawley thought that was a minute and a half too much. "The horses are boring. I think they should bring back the Budweiser frogs," Cawley said. Additionally, there were some celebrity appearances during the commercials breaks. Jason Statham from the "Transporter" movies was a daredevil for Audi, and Late



From NYTIMES.COM

Will Forte brought his popular 'SNL' character, MacGruber, to a Pepsi commercial during the Super Bowl.

Night host Conan O'Brien made an embarrassing Swedish commercial for Bud Light. Even childhood favorites Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head had their 30 seconds trying to promote the use of Bridgestone tires. Play-off defensemen Justin Tuck and Ray Lewis were also seen ballet dancing for Sobe Life Water, a commercial that could be seen in 3-D.

This was the first year that Super Bowl audiences could enjoy some of their

commercials in a new dimension. Dreamworks showed a 3-D commercial promoting the new animated movie "Monsters vs. Aliens." Junior Kevin Brown was not satisfied.

"I don't think the glasses worked.

There were only two little parts throughout the whole commercial that popped out at me," said Brown.

Junior Rich Mejia agreed that the 3-D was a tease and said that this year's Super Bowl commercials were the worst ones he's ever seen.

"They just weren't funny and there were a lot of repeats. I saw the Taco Bell commercial [shown during the Super Bowl] the other day."

This was the first year that Super Bowl audiences could enjoy some of their

Advice for students: LendAround, don't sleep around

The new 'Facebook meets Netflix' LendAround is gaining popularity

By KELLY GALLUCCI
Staff Writer

Well it's finally happened: this Jersey girl has, in spite of her best efforts, fallen victim to the cold and chill of Poughkeepsie. Armed with throat lozenges and ice cream, I trudged back from health services and resigned myself to a weekend tucked away in my apartment with my homework and current supply of Netflix to keep me company.

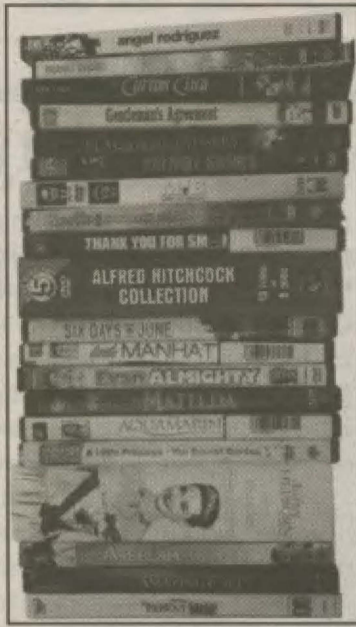
While listening to Madonna belt out "Don't Cry For Me Argentina" in *Evita*, I browsed through my staggering mass of emails and came across a forwarded article from my editor about an online DVD swap service that creator Tim Jackson describes as being "Netflix meets Facebook." My interest was piqued so I typed www.lendaround.com into my browser to see how this website would fit in with my current rental habits.

LendAround's idea is a simple give and take. After

becoming a member of the site you post a selection of DVDs (TV seasons included) that you own and are willing to lend out. Once your friends sign up they can ask to borrow any of your movies and then you may accept or deny their request with a quick click of the mouse. Jackson hopes that this will eliminate the awkwardness of asking to borrow a DVD, but I'm sure you'd still get a miffed look from a friend who's request you denied.

At the same time you can browse the vast selection and add any DVD you want to see to your 'wish list.' If one of your friends has something you asked for, a request will be sent to them. Once a member agrees to lend their DVD to another they can mail it (which will cost them the price of postage) or hand deliver it. There are no late fees and unlike Blockbuster and Netflix there is no membership fee.

When someone wants their



From LENDAROUND.COM

Share your DVD collection with all your close friends on LendAround, a fusion between Facebook and NetFlix.

movie back they simply send a virtual request to have it returned. LendAround also keeps track of who has what movie – something I would appreciate seeing as I spent most of my winter break trying to remember who had bor-

rowed my copy of *Garden State*.

"Can't you just ask your friend?" asked sophomore, Meghan O'Neill, after hearing about LendAround. She felt that it was much simpler just to call a friend up to ask to borrow a movie. On a campus as small as Marist's, O'Neill doesn't find it problematic to have to walk over to a friend's place. "It just seems silly to me."

Silly as it may or may not be, the LendAround server is bursting with members to the point where hopeful members are being asked to a waiting list until the server expands! And DVDs are just the beginning: Jackson expects that one day LendAround will be for anything and everything from bikes to guitars to books, and maybe even summer homes. Just keep in mind that LendAround has no responsibility should anything happen to your items; it's the classic 'you break it you buy it.'

"That's the one flaw I see,"

Sophie Ordway, another Marist sophomore, says. "I think it's a great idea. It's just different dealing with people – with Netflix if a movie is scratched you can say 'send me another one' but with this if someone scratches your movie then you might not want to lend to them again or what if they don't want to pay for it?" Still Ordway admits that she would be interested in a service like that; especially if they had a specific Marist campus branch that she could be a part of.

Weighing the pros and cons, this loyal Netflix user won't be canceling her membership any time soon. I admire Jackson's quest to stunt consumerism in America, and I think it will be interesting to see how LendAround plays out. I will wait at least a year for the company to iron out all their kinks before signing up myself, and my DVDs, for lending.

Album Review: Bruce Springsteen "Working On a Dream"

Springsteen and the E Street Band release their best album of the decade

By RYAN RIVARD
Co-A&E Editor

"Working On a Dream," the first album released during the Obama age, completes the trilogy of albums Springsteen and the E Street Band have made in the last decade, and this one is surely the brightest and finest.

The album builds from where 2007's "Magic" left off and grows into a swaggering, romantically euphoric display of music. The album opens with a sprawling epic western tale of "Outlaw Pete," which clocks in at eight minutes and is compacted with lush strings, galloping drums, multiple crescendos, and the occasional wailing harmonica.

The variation of sounds found on this album hit you from all different angles, from the bluesy megaphone vocal distortion and electric banjos of "Good Eye," to the stripped-down folksy two-minute piece "Tomorrow Never Knows," and the soaring and uplifting "Life Itself." The impressive wall of sound on "Surprise, Surprise" has remnants of '60s British pop.

Contrary to the heavy dosage of overdubs, the songs still retain the first-take, infamous live presence of the E Street



From AMAZON.COM

Band. "My Lucky Day" sprints out of the gate like a racehorse, trading along with the help of producer Brendan O'Brien (who also produced the previous two albums) embracing the freshly rejuvenated pop production sounds of Springsteen and the E Street Band that started with 2001's "The Rising." "My Lucky Day" is as upbeat and energetic as Springsteen's greatest '80s hits.

Another pop gem is the rough rocker "What Love Can Do," just barely under the three-minute mark. The vocal harmonies glimmer behind the layers of guitars.

The only minor nightmare on "Working On a Dream" is "Queen of the Supermarket," a song about having a crush on the girl at the grocery store

checkout. Although charming, the overly melodramatic approach and lyrics like "With my shopping cart I move through the heart" and "Where aisles and aisles of dreams await you," the song comes across as a satirical parody that could be one of Andy Samberg's "SNL" skits.

To top it off, the song includes cash register beeps and a piano outro. It ends up being a contender for the weakest song Springsteen has ever written. Fortunately though, this is the only blemish on the album.

Springsteen has already received well-deserved recognition for "The Wrestler" with a Golden Globe Award. The bonus track on the album has Springsteen singing about being a "one trick pony" and a "one-legged dog," but "Working On a Dream" has the magic to perform multiple tricks.

If you exclude "The Wrestler," the finale to the album is "Last Carnival," a somber elegy for Danny Federici, E Street Band organ player who died of cancer last year. The track opens with the lyrics "Sun down, sun down/

They're taking all the tents down/ Where have you gone my handsome Billy?"

Prior to the choir taking us out, Springsteen sings "We'll be riding the train without you tonight/ The train that keeps on chugging strong." (5 out of 5 Stars)

Bruce Springsteen at Super Bowl XLIII

After turning down the invitation to perform on the most-watched U.S. television broadcast for several years, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band put on a fiery energetic performance this past Sunday at Super Bowl XLIII

in Tampa, Florida.

Springsteen told viewers "I want you to step back from the guacamole dip, I want you to put the chicken fingers down and turn your television all the way up."

The setlist consisted of "Tenth Avenue Freezeout," "Working On a Dream," and "Glory Days."

Prior to the halftime show, Vegas had odds everything from the playlist of the 12-minute time slot, to will Springsteen bring Courtney Cox on stage. However bet-makers could never predict Springsteen's iconic slide crotch first into the camera with a smirk on his face.



From NYTIMES.COM

Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band performed a lively halftime show at Super Bowl XLIII in Tampa, Florida. The four-song set included the unexpected "Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out," the classic "Born to Run," "Working On a Dream," and "Glory Days," changing the lyrics to fit the occasion like the opening verse from baseball pitcher to football quarterback and "speedball" to "Hail Mary."

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009

www.maristcircle.com

Sex, love & relationships: Fight club for couples

By **KARLIE JOSEPH**
Web Co-Editor

We've all had the experience: you shout your final word of the heated exchange with your significant other and next thing you know you're murmuring passionate versions of "I'm sorry."

Fighting is a brutal, irritating and completely normal aspect of every relationship. Though clashing can cause strain, it provides a healthy outlet for expressing and confronting differences. While all couples experience tension, we all practice specific fighting habits which customize our relationships. The book *Turn on Your Inner Light* by Debbie Mandel defines a person's "fighting style" in four categories, exemplified as:

The Boxer: Gloves off to

Bebe, though she always tried to maintain a rational, mature mindset, she often found herself falling into the "tit-for-tat" approach Mandel so precisely describes. Though her conversations with boyfriend Cheeks always began in a calm manner, his hot temper and jealous nature sparked Bebe's equally feisty personality, resulting in a furious screaming match which usually left them wondering how the fight even started.

The Smiler: Mandel cleverly describes this fighting mode as "a person who smiles yet holds a dagger behind their back." No one better characterizes this category of sugar coating, grudge holding fighters better than Kristin. In the wake of ending her relationship with ex-boyfriend Chuck, Kristin used her clever tactics and acute sense to detect any

reason for their crumbling past. When her suspected fears led her to knowledge of Chuck's little Valentine's exchange with the not-so-good girl next door, Kristin bitterly added a post-it-note to her wall of breakup reasons and quietly filed it away in her distrusting mind. A few months later Chuck came crawling back, and while doubt still lingered, Kristin allowed him back. It was not until a later dispute that she ambushed him with shameful guilt, gaining back control in their ever-wavering relationship.

The Stone Waller: My friend Delilah's relationship seems to epitomize the passive-aggressive technique of a "Stone Waller." Though her past relationships had always been upfront, her new British beau had brought a little emotional

culture-shock to the table. While the Brit always claimed to be intrigued and flattered by her teasing flirtations, he wasn't finding her wit as "brilliant" as he once thought. After weeks of what Delilah thought was a light hearted joke about his receding hairline, she finally got a taste of her own medicine, when she referenced it in public, resulting in a harsh comparison between the size of her "arse" and her ego.

The Diplomat: Though we all aspire to play the diplomatic role, it seems no one can smooth things over better than my hometown friend Mooks. Even when things were going really bad with ex-boyfriend Lefty, it seemed her unemotional approach could always ease the tension. While many envied her seemingly easy-going relationship, I won-

dered: was her ability to always keep it even keeled rational or was she neglecting her feelings?

Personally, I find that I vary from each end of the spectrum. While my logical approach has often brought peaceful success and practical breakthroughs; vivid memories can bring me straight back to a rage where ripping the keys out of the ignition of my ex-boyfriends Pathfinder was not out of the question. While striking the balance can be difficult, both aspects of arguing are crucial. Of course you need that diplomatic side to have a mature relationship-but unless your anger has ever ignited a fire great enough to fight like a boxer, you'll never experience the pure bliss and raw passion of making love in the back of that very same Pathfinder.

Walks of Life: Unexpected life lessons abroad

By **ROBIN MINITER**
Photography Editor

Waking up in another country is exhilarating, invigorating and a bit alarming (I like to call it the *Wheretheheckam!?* syndrome). For those of you who plan to study abroad, or for those of you who already have, such a sojourn is as much an academic experience as it is a practical life lesson. Half the adventure is as literal as it figurative – "spreading your wings," and "taking flight," come to mind – along with taking a nose dive or two in the process (but please kids, let's try to avoid the literal latter). Of course you'll encounter some snags and snafus along the way, but they only lend themselves to a more colorful recollection of your time gone. After all, it's not as much about the destination as it is the journey. So, kick back, relax and grab a cup of that mint tea you acquired a taste for while traipsing through Morocco. Here are a few unexpected things learned while living the life of a Marist College expat.

1. How to sleep anywhere: Barcelona, 2008 - It wasn't until after I had taken up residence under an airport bench à la Wicked Witch of the East style or slept in a room with 25 other people that I realized how much

I miss slumber parties. My personal favorite is the sleeper cars for overnight train rides: so cozy, so intimate and you never know what nationality of feet may end up in your face.

2. How to effectively shake up your palate: Let me just start off with a disclaimer that wherever the winds may take you, a plethora of delightful, affordable edibles will most likely be available. Whether you choose to visit the local street vendors, markets, or mom & pop stores, you'll be overjoyed at the novelties you'll find. If you are like me, you'll abuse this liberty and end up with concoctions encompassing the entire food pyramid in one bowl...and eat it anyways (most likely thinking it's delicious).

3. How to become well acquainted with airport security: By the time you catch your final flight, you'll be able to disrobe all offensive articles with such accuracy and deft precision that they'll most likely secretly wonder if you are just returning from Amsterdam.

4. How to enjoy alternative modes of transportation: Rickshaws, mopeds and water taxis may not be part of your normal school commute here in Poughkeepsie, but before you know it, you'll no longer miss riding your Razor to Donnelly.



ROBIN MINITER / THE CIRCLE

Making friends with the locals: a gypsy and his dog.

Instead, make friends with the locals and enjoy the wild ride.

5. How to be comfortable reveling in your own filth: One time my dread-headed friend, Soph, elected not to shower for 11 days while on a group backpacking foray. Why? What started as a friendly jest of machismo vs. girl ("We bet you won't...") turned into a test of will, grit and olfactory glands. By the end of the trip, the boys called off their bet, Soph finally bathed and we all literally breathed a sigh of relief. The lesson? Sometimes it's fun to get down and dirty.

6. How to become a pro at the 100M dash in an effort to catch your departing transportation: Usain Bolt, hear me roar.

With less than 15 minutes on the clock to catch our departing flight (life skill: read calendar correctly), the Madrid airport could have been the scene of the next Olympic trials. Never before have the Spaniards seen two teenage pack mules surge so quickly through their terminals.

7. How to relive your glory days with N*Sync at the discothèques: Chances are that if you are in the market for a bit of nostalgia, you're in luck: since some of the European discos are still partying like it's 1999 where there is no lack of your 5th grade favorites (or hair gel for that matter). However, there is only so much one can take. Next time you're drawn like a mosquito to the beckoning of the flashing neon lights in the distance with a hoard of drunken Americans clawing their way in, opt to sidestep and check out the neighborhood nightlife instead.

8. How to non-verbally convey that you need a bathroom and still keep your dignity: Ah, you lucky Communications majors you! Fortunately for you guys, the body language aspect of Communication Principles will come in handy – and for those of you who are fluent in the art of charades, that will benefit as well. If all else fails, please promptly smack your forehead and ask yourself: "Why, oh why

did I not bring my dictionary?"

9. How to make friends with strays along the way: Whether you come across a hungry looking puppy in Bangkok or a fellow traveler who somehow managed to lose their 100 person tour group at Oktoberfest and can't remember the name of their hostel (it happens), remember that they both probably have something in common: all they really need is a snack and a little TLC.

10. How to crowd 12 people into a photo with simultaneously NOT obscuring the monument of historical importance that is the real subject of the photo: This one speaks for itself. Though you may not be a trained photographer and your subjects may not be contortionists, I am a firm believer that where there is a will, there is most definitely a way. Machu Picchu has seen its fair share of high-fiving travel bugs while the Sydney Opera House's grandeur allows for primo group photo-ops. I suppose it helps that both are quite large in stature as well.

So while you're out wandering, remember to roll with the punches and see where your MAP adventure takes you. There is a lot to learn out in the wild world of ours and not all of it can be found in a textbook..

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Swimming and diving set for MAAC's

By MIKE WALSH
Staff Writer

The athletes of the Marist swim teams are much more than a bunch of kids with crazy haircuts. They are part of one of the most successful programs in Marist history. Coach Larry VanWagner, who has been with the men's teams for the past 32 years, has a record of 204-84 in dual meets. That is good for a staggering .708 winning percentage.

After a slow start to the 2009 season, the men have won three of their last four competitions heading into the MAAC Championships. The girls have a 5-5 record thus far, but still look to cause trouble in the championship, February 12-14. If the ladies can pull out a victory then, it will be their sixth consecutive conference championship.

Both teams were in action this past Saturday at Seton Hall in South Orange, NJ. It was their final test of the dual meet season. With a handful of singles victories against the Pirates, the women pulled

close but ended up falling by a score of 158-142.

Senior Captain Sandra Bujalski had two first place finishes as well as a couple of second place times. She won the 200 and 100 yard butterfly with times of 2:09:13 and 1:56:31, respectively. Jenell Walsh-Thomas, a junior from Medford, NJ won the 500yd freestyle with a time of 5:11:28. Freshman phenom Michelle Fountain emerged victorious from the heated 200yd freestyle. She won with a time of 1:56:31. On the diving side of the meet, the one bright spot for Marist was another freshman, Meredith Michl. She was able to win the 3-meter board event, earning a 250.38 for her dives.

There have been close battles between Marist and Seton Hall in the past, and this year was no different as the Red Foxes won a tight match, 153-147. This meet was equally as competitive as last year's 150-148 loss to the Pirates. With the victory, the men improved to 6-5 on the season and have now finished with a record of .500 or above for 18 consecutive seasons.

It proved to be a banner day



JAMES REILLY/ FILE PHOTO

The Marist men's swimming and diving team swept this week's Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference weekly awards. Sophomore Brian Bolstad was honored as MAAC Diver of the Week for the third time this season, and freshman Patrick Shea was named MAAC Swimmer of the Week for the first time in his career.

meter dive. With a score of 371.25, Brian blew his old record of 335.33 out of the water.

In swimming events, Marist had several first place finishes. The 400yd freestyle relay team finished first with a time of 3:09:66. Freshman Patrick Shea won the long 1,000yd freestyle race with a career best time of 9:32:40. Spencer Hartmann, a member of the first place relay team with Steven Vendetta, Keith Miller, and Josh Sklanka, was also able to win the 200yd freestyle in 1:43:70. Kevin Shoemaker, a freshman, finished first in the 200yd IM and junior Kevin Quinn won the 200yd backstroke.

Both teams will now be practicing hard these next few weeks to get ready for the Conference Championships at Loyola. Like the women, the men have an impressive streak of their own to defend. While the women will be going for their sixth championship in a row, the men will be in search of their fifth consecutive win at this event.

From page 16

Foxes searching for answers after loss

"just one of those nights."

Marist vs. Iona Part II

Marist's win against MAAC power Niagara was the most impressive, but the Red Foxes' last-second win on Dec. 5 against the Iona Gaels proved to be the most exciting.

Marist sophomore Dejuan Goodwin hit a fadeaway jumper with 1.4 seconds left in regulation to give Marist a 51-50 win in both teams' first conference game of the season.

Ryan Schneider scored a game-high 17 points and grabbed seven rebounds to lead Marist. Marist held Iona to 34.5 percent shooting from the field and 0-for-10 on three-point field goals.

The two teams will look to build upon last game's theatrics on Saturday, Feb. 7, in New Rochelle, NY in a 2 p.m. tilt.

Marist is now 3-9 in MAAC play while Iona is 5-7. Iona was once at the bottom of the

conference standings, but recent wins over Niagara, Manhattan, and Canisius have propelled Iona. Iona has lost three straight games, but the team has jumped up in the standings.

Iona has played stout defense all season long and ranks second in the MAAC in scoring defense, and only allow 63.7 ppg and hold opponents to 41.8 percent from the field.

Drummond enrolled and

BracketBusters

Villanova forward Casiem Drummond, officially transferred to Marist and has begun classes here at the school. The 6-foot-10 force will be eligible to play in the spring semester next season.

Drummond is the second Big East player to transfer to Marist, joining former Boston College product Daye Kaba on the roster.

Marist also found out Monday night that it will play

Hartford in the ESPNU BracketBusters game on Feb. 21 at the McCann Center. Marist fell to Cleveland State last season in the BracketBuster's game. The games are designed to showcase teams that might be eligible for postseason tournament play. The games help voters decide seeding for teams on the brink of playing in the postseason. All 10 MAAC teams will take part in the BracketBuster's games.

Women's basketball looks to "Pack the House" again

Marist is urging students to come support the women's basketball team by "Packing the House" on Friday, February 6 at the McCann Center against Canisius as they gear up for a run at their third straight NCAA Tournament appearance. There will be many activities set up for students who come and as usual, tickets are free with a school I.D.

The goal of "Pack the House" is to sell out the stu-

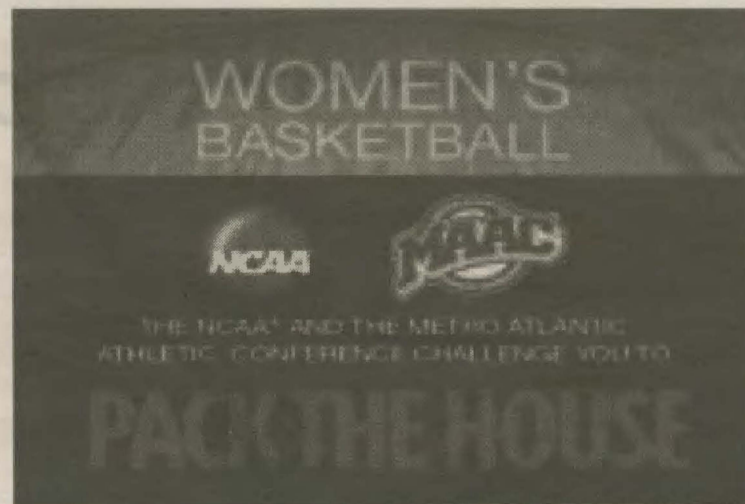
dent section and break the attendance record of 2,239 that was set last year during the same promotion.

There will be a number of prizes and giveaways, including \$150 for the small and large club with the most members in attendance, a freshman dorm challenge and raffles for a \$500 gift card or possibly a Pontiac Vibe.

There will also be activities, free food, and music during the pre-game festivities that

will be held in the grey gym, so get there early. Raffle tickets will be handed out to everybody that wears a Marist Basketball shirt or paints their face. There will also be a free throw shooting contest for raffle tickets.

More information is posted on www.Facebook.com. For any questions, contact Allen MacSaveny at (347) 752-0716, and also by e-mail, Allen.MacSaveny1@marist.edu.



The Marist athletic department is participating in the "Pack the House" campaign on Friday, February 6, for the women's basketball game against Canisius. The goal of the NCAA initiative is to sell out the student section at the McCann Center.

From page 1

Red Foxes dispose of Jaspers

the offensive clinic that the Red Foxes were putting on against the Jaspers. Marist opened the game on a 5-0 run after a Julianne Viani three-pointer and a Brandy Gang layup.

An Abby Wentworth jump shot put the Jaspers on the scoreboard at the 17:20 mark in the first half, but it would become the last bit of offense that Manhattan would see for quite some time.

The Red Fox lead quickly ballooned to 22-2 at the 11:59 mark in the first half. Head Coach Myndi Hill's squad looked out of place and overwhelmed in the confines of the McCann Center. Her team shot just 20 percent from 3-point range in the first half, including several shot attempts from well beyond the arc.

Manhattan was just one for 14 on shooting attempts before a Kelly Regan lay up gave the Jaspers just their second basket of the game.

Regan, a 6'3" senior, came into the game averaging 12.8 points per game and 7.0 rebounds per game. Against the Red Foxes, she managed just 3 points and eight rebounds in 23 minutes on the floor.

"The main thing we wanted to do was when she got the ball inside, was to contest

shots," coach Brian Giorgis said. "I thought we did a very good job of that. It's not often that she goes up against a fellow 6'3" kid like Maria Laterza."

"When Maria wasn't in I thought the kids did a nice job of making her looks at the basket difficult. We swarmed her, and that's what we need to do to stop a player like that. It takes really, really good team defense."

The young Jaspers squad responded however, and went on an 11-2 run over the next 7:26. Lindsey Loutsenizer, who had a team-high nine points in the contest, made a layup that made the score 24-13 with 4:33 remaining in the first half.

Marist went into the locker room at halftime leading 33-17 after an Emily Stallings jump shot.

Early on in the second half, several tipped balls led to players from both teams diving on the court in order to try and salvage passes that may have been broken up.

"It's always going to be physical," Viani said. "It frustrates the other team if we're winning. They'll do whatever they can to come back, and that's kind of the way it was. You get used to it."

Viani led the Red Foxes in scoring with 23 points, includ-

ing going five for five from three-point range.

Marist never came close to relinquishing its lead throughout the second half, as the Red Foxes shot 41% from the field and 45.5% from 3-point range.

The Jaspers had 17 turnovers in the contest, and were out-rebounded by Marist 47-40 in the game.

"I thought we came out with a lot of energy and we were very efficient on offense," Giorgis said. "We had a lot of tenacity defensively, and we forced them to react to us. I think we made them play a little faster, a little quicker than they wanted to."

It was a heart-warming affair for the 2,606 fans in attendance at the McCann center. In addition to Fitz's record breaking evening, the Red Foxes donned pink uniforms in an effort to support the WBCA (Women's Basketball Coaches Association) "Pink Zone" initiative in order to



JAMES REILLY/FILE PHOTO

Julianne Viani led all scorers with 23 points against Manhattan. The senior guard shot 5 for 5 from 3-point range in the 70-44 victory.

raise awareness about breast cancer. Breast cancer survivors were honored at halftime, and donations and proceeds from raffles were donated to the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation.

The 19-2 Red Foxes hit a patch in their schedule in which they play four consecutive MAAC (Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference) opponents, before facing out of conference foe Hartford on Feb. 15.

Tennis wins first dual match in thriller

BY JIM URSO
STAFF WRITER

The Marist men's tennis team continued its strong play in its first dual match of the spring semester at West Point on Saturday. By overtaking UMBC 4-3, the Red Foxes improved their undefeated dual match record to 3-0 on the season.

The day began with two electrifying doubles matches which would eventually give Marist the doubles point. For first doubles, Christian Coley and sophomore Rhys Hobbs defeated Nick Savage-Pollock and Fredi Voorman 9-8 (7-5). The second doubles pairing of junior Loic Sessagesimi and freshman Matt Himmelsbach overtook Chris Meyer and Allen Tsang by the same score, 9-8 (7-5).

"Even if we lost, it would've felt good," coach Tim Smith said regarding the hard fought doubles matches. Admittedly, 'their lunch tasted much better' Saturday with the win.

"I've gained a lot of confidence in my doubles play with

Christian," Hobbs said. "In past matches we haven't been able to make up a 0-3 deficit, but we pulled through without being faltered by the score line."

Up 1-0 after it captured the doubles point, Marist needed to win just three of six singles matches to get the win, a feat it was just able to accomplish.

In the deciding match, Captain Christian Coley once again epitomized the team's ability to make adjustments between sets in order to win. After losing the first set 3-6, Coley took on a more forceful style. He abandoned his usual baseline game and began to serve and volley much more. His attack overwhelmed Chris Meyer 6-0, 6-0 in the next two sets, denying him a victory in a single game throughout. The win was Coley's second consecutive singles victory.

"Coley played big in doubles, and even bigger in singles," Smith said.

Striking sophomores Landon Greene and Nicolas Pisecky extended their winning

streaks to six and eight, respectively. At third singles, Pisecky defeated Voorman 6-0, 6-3. From the fifth singles position, Green beat Tsang 6-3, 6-4.

The win is even more impressive considering opponent UMBC went on to defeat Army, a high caliber team in the East region, 4-3 on Sunday.

Dual match play adds a dimension of pressure to each match. Wins are totaled to declare a team winner, whereas in tournaments individual performances do not directly affect the success of the team.

"The match at UMBC I think shows why Marist is a tough team to beat," Himmelsbach said.

"Many other colleges have more resources but when it comes down to the matches our team is very serious. We are like a family and we fight hard to win."

Smith's active and aggressive coaching style may stifle younger plays like Himmelsbach. Himmelsbach fell to Logan Bricker 7-6, 6-4 in the sixth singles spot. After

losing a match Smith thought he could've won, his coach made it quite clear how he felt.

"We need strong play from our front six guys all the way down," Smith said in reference to their chances in any dual match.

He's the first to admit that the defending champs are no lock to even advance in the MAAC (Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference) tournament.

"There's a ton of guys in a good physical condition and a ton with a good backhand," Smith said. "However, there are many more variables to winning a tennis match."

Smith's job is to manage and control these mental variables, one which requires constant assessment.

This critique will continue Friday, Feb. 6 at 5 p.m. at Brown University. Marist will compete with an Ivy League powerhouse who captured four dominating victories a few weeks ago in Providence, and have five consecutive dual match victories. Smith and his team still expect to be competitive.

Roarin'

Red Foxes

Marist's top male and female performers of the week

Ryan Schneider
Senior
Basketball



-In the Red Foxes 67-48 home loss to conference foe Manhattan, Schneider scored 16 points, five rebounds and three assists.

-Schneider is averaging 16.5 points per game and 8.7 rebounds per game so far this season.

-Leads the team in minutes played per game with 37.8.

-Has led the team in scoring in 14 of the team's first 24 games.

Rachele Fitz
Junior
Basketball



-Fitz is now the all-time leading scorer in Marist women's basketball history.

-Fitz passed Ursula Winter for the all-time record. Heading into the Red Foxes recent game against Manhattan, Fitz and Winter were tied with 1,587 points apiece. -Fitz now has 1,619 points in her career, and is averaging 20.5 points per game.

-The Red Foxes now hold a 20-2 record.



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