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WINS IN LAST SECOND



Friday night's Marist vs. Iona game ended in exciting fashion.

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THE CIRCLE

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Campus reacts to sexual assault

Fulton Townhouse invasion spurs safety concerns

By JOHN RODIÑO
Assistant News Editor

Sexual assault struck the Upper Fulton residence early Saturday morning, prompting Director of Safety and Security John Gildard to remind students of the importance of locking the doors of their residences.

"There are many, many people, especially in the townhouses, who keep their doors unlocked," Gildard said. "Students should remind each other before they go out and before they go to bed, to lock their doors."

The incident occurred Saturday at approximately 4:25 a.m. The suspect, a Marist junior, entered the Upper Fulton residence through an unlocked front door. The student entered a bedroom and sexually molested a female student, according to the e-mail sent to the entire student body from Gildard. The suspect fled when other residents returned. A Marist student followed the suspect and identified him. Marist security detained the suspect until local police arrived to arrest him.

The alleged suspect has been charged with misdemeanors of sexual abuse, and criminal trespass.

Tim Massie, Chief Public Affairs Officer at Marist, told



JAMES REILLY / THE CIRCLE

Marist security and Poughkeepsie Police worked together in capturing and detaining the suspect, a Marist junior. The suspect entered the Fulton residence through an unlocked front door and fled when other residents entered. He was followed and later taken into custody by Marist security.

the Poughkeepsie Journal that the junior from Rhinebeck who was arrested will be subject to an on-campus judicial process that will determine whether he can remain a student at Marist.

Gildard said he thinks that in spite of this weekend's assault, the on-campus crime rate has decreased since last year.

"I keep a rough track of the incidences - I don't do the statistics until the end of the year - but I think, for the most part, crimes are down," Gildard said.

Marist upperclassmen living in residence halls across from main campus have responded to this incident.

Pat Ahern, senior, said the incident was appalling.

"I was really surprised, disgusted actually."

Ahern also said that because he is a male, he feels more secure on campus.

"I don't want to sound sexist or anything, but as a guy I feel a little safer."

Dana Grimaldi, a Marist junior and a resident of Upper Fulton, said she was startled

by the incident.

"I guess I've always felt safe, but the incident was definitely shocking," Grimaldi said.

Kelly Lautner, a senior who also lives in Upper Fulton, said the college's security patrols make her feel more comfortable.

"I was a little scared after what happened, but I've seen security walking around and I actually feel pretty safe with them in control and making sure that everything is okay," Lautner said.

Marist rises in Kiplinger's "100 Best Buys"

By AMANDA LAVERGNE
Staff Writer

With the recent update to the Kiplinger's "100 Best Buy's for Private Schools," Marist jumped in rankings from 50 to 41 this year. According to Tim Massie, Chief Public Affairs Officer, Marist surpassed prestigious schools on the list such as NYU, Syracuse and George Washington University.

"Marist's move up the ranking of Kiplinger's best buys reinforces an important message during these troubled economic times," said Massie, "that by surpassing other great institutions this is proof that when based on quality and cost, Marist is a top tier national college."

Interest in Marist remains strong, according to Massie, as made evident by the number of high school students and parents that continue to visit. Sophomore Brittany

Blum, a tour guide, has also noticed this continuing trend.

"I just became a tour guide this year," said Blum, "and I have already been aware of the fact that I consistently get a large group of parents and students that have a keen interest in Marist and the education it has to offer."

The Kiplinger website offers personal financial advice and business forecasts. In addition to this, every year it releases "100 Best Buy's" for private and public colleges and universities. For criteria to rank each school, Kiplinger looks at undergraduate enrollment, admission rate, student faculty ratio and total costs, among other factors.

Massie also added that applications have increased by 2,000 in the past two years.

"When I started my career at Marist in 1994, the acceptance rate was 76 percent,"



From WWW.KIPLINGER.COM

Kiplinger, a business magazine that is known for its rankings in various criteria, releases an annual ranking of both public and private colleges and universities. Marist has risen in Kiplinger's ranks from 50 to 41 since last year.

Massie said, "and last year it was half of that at 38 percent."

According to the Kiplinger list this year, Marist has an acceptance rate of 41 percent. Sophomore Retta Byron expressed her enthusiasm for Marist's jump on the list.

"I think it's great that Marist is becoming better known and more prestigious," said Byron. "I think that it will look good for students who graduate from here in the coming years to be from a school on the rise."

Massie stressed that Marist is continually improving.

With the coming addition of the Hancock Technology Center, "it will create another iconic structure that will raise the stature of the college academically and further our reputation in the community as a driving force in the economic development of our county, region, and state," Massie said.

"It's gratifying that Kiplinger's and other ratings guides have noticed what Marist has already achieved and what will be accomplished in the years ahead," said Massie. "As a community we should be proud of that."

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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

Pre-owned 'gifts' at top of list this holiday season

By TYLER THURSTON
...funnier than you.

12/2 – Champagnat

Kicking December off with a bang, or at least a shot, one intoxicated student was found in Champagnat, with more probably just hiding their drunkenness better. The student was evaluated and allowed to return to their room; good news for the student and bad news for anyone who had hope this was going to get more interesting. Just hold on tight, there's plenty more intoxication where that came from. Champagnat, I mean.

12/3 – Campus

In two separate events, plants and trees were found dismantled on campus. Yup. Plants and trees, you read that right. Nothing shows the "big man on campus," syndrome more than a growing resistance to going green. Seriously, can't nobody hold you down. You do what you want, and if that involves tearing plants out of the ground, well, you go girl.

12/4 – Lowell Thomas Parking Lot

A hit-and-run occurred on campus, with one graduate student reporting a substantial dent found in their Audi. The lack of note or even an apologetic smiley face forced the student to report the event to security, and so far no suspects have been apprehended. See, now if this was me, two crimes would have occurred here. One would have involved driving away from the scene, and the other, well; you probably wouldn't be driving away from that one, if you feel me.

12/4 – Marian

Marian was once again the place to be, at least as far as illicit drug use is concerned, with the student suspected of smoking marijuana (gasp!) fleeing the room before the RD could put a stop to it. Once again, best strategy is probably not to run as fast as you can, but you know, whatever you want. At least you didn't hit a car and run. Although,

you might have, who knows? You probably forgot to pick up your 10 year-old brother at baseball practice too. Just tell your mom you were busy getting high. She'll understand.

12/4 – Leo Hall

Leo Hall got in on the action, with a bottle of vodka being confiscated from a student's gym bag. Gym bag, nice cover. Nothing takes the sting out of a fresh workout better than a nice dry martini, so at least you can forget any memory you had of ever working out. I know I did, but there was sadly no alcohol involved.

12/4 – Music Room

One unfortunate student reported the loss of their accounting book, valued at a good \$225, or at Marist, not even two classes. This is what the economy has done to us? Stealing textbooks? God, I know there's a recession, but aren't their better ways to make money? It's called selling your body, people. Work what you have.

12/4 – Upper West Cedar

The first towed vehicle of the year had the honor of being from the Upper West Cedar lot, with several prior tickets and a boot giving the owner fair warning. This sucks, but if you have several tickets on your car, doesn't it occur to you, "maybe I should move it?" It's like your own little countdown, just for you. Actually, if you can't notice that many tickets on your car, maybe you aren't so good with the whole "numbers" thing.

12/5 – Upper Townhouses

A usual noise violation was reported on campus, and upon further inspection, the noise in question turned out to be some housemates singing at the top of their lungs "Happy Birthday." I would print the lyrics to that little ditty right here, but I'm pretty sure you have to pay for that. Besides, who even knows if that was the version they were rocking? They could be dropping some mad freestyle jam; I'm not one to judge. I mean, when you're

singing so loudly that the neighbors are complaining, you're probably going to be judged enough.

12/5 – McCann Center

The Marist men's basketball game provided plenty of room for violation, with several alcohol confiscations being reported, and one lucky young winner being escorted out of the game. Also, two student workers reported money missing from their purses while they were off being productive. So basically, just a lot of things taken. Alcohol, money, that kid forcibly. You know, all one in the same.

12/5 – Campus

A grounds-worker make a startling discovering on Friday, finding a wallet on campus. Looking further into the matter, however, security soon discovered that said wallet contained two forms of identification, and one was not a library card. So, basically you lose both forms of identification all at once. How will anyone ever find you? Oh yeah, you're the kid on campus with a fake ID. That should narrow it down.

12/6 – Upper West Cedar/McCann

The larceny continued, with a student reporting her iPod missing from her vehicle. Later, another student reported her iPod missing from the McCann Center. Seriously, people? I know that holiday shopping can be stressful, but why resort to this? Aw, the best gifts of all – someone else's. Seriously?

Public Service Announcement

In light of recent events on campus, security has been checking doors on campus, making sure they are locked. In Lower West Cedar, 16 doors were found open, along with 6 in Upper West Cedar. Lower Fulton reported over 50% of all doors unlocked, along with 3 residences in Foy. Students are reminded to lock their door, at all times. There's nothing else to say.

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

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Jewish Students Group makes its debut on campus

Pioneer group looks to promote religious diversity as Hanukkah nears

By GAIL GOLDSMITH
Staff Writer

The Jewish Students Group is the first Jewish group on the predominantly Catholic Marist campus with a significant presence. The group has provided a place for Jewish spiritual expression and has become involved in the campus community.

President Aly Cariani saw a need for this on many levels: "I know a lot of [Jewish] people, who could have come to Marist, but didn't because they didn't think they would be comfortable."

The group was founded to address the needs of Jewish students and to strengthen and diversify the spiritual life on campus.

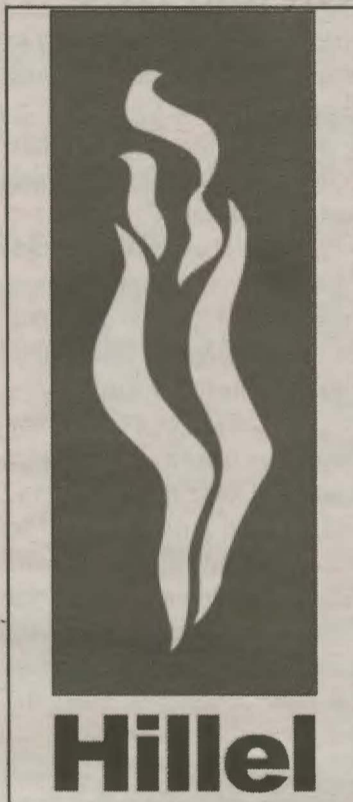
The group meets weekly for discussion and to plan activities, like the upcoming Jewish Film Festival and the Passover Seder. Freshman and newly elected Co-President Joanna Weiss feels

that the Jewish Students Group helped ease her transition to college.

"It was good to find people with similar interests. The group was an instantly familiar setting with like-minded individuals," she said. "It is important to have a Jewish students group in such an overwhelmingly Catholic school. It makes Marist more welcoming."

Since such a large number of Catholic students here have come from firmly grounded Catholic backgrounds, there is a certain level of ignorance about the Jewish faith.

"Nobody really knows much about being Jewish," said Cariani, "When I was told multiple times that I was someone's 'first Jewish friend,' I realized how difficult it could be for a person who identifies with Judaism more than myself. We have come together and we have made friends in the process



From JEWISHJOURNAL.COM

The new Jewish Students Group hopes to collaborate with Hillel, a Jewish campus organization that stresses social justice and Jewish education.

as well."

With the establishment of Muslim Students Association and the Jewish Students Group, more faiths are becoming meaningfully incorporated in to campus life. The Jewish Student Group has 27 members. Out of the 27, eight are fully Catholic.

"I joined because I wanted to learn more about Judaism," said Mia Silverman.

Although Hanukkah begins on December 21, the Jewish Student Group will celebrate Shabbat, a weekly time of rest and spiritual enrichment, and Hanukkah, the celebration of the miracle of the oil, on Friday, December 12, together as a community.

"We want to incorporate all the members' traditions," said Cariani, "I think it will make life easier on campus; students can feel more at home, especially during the holidays."

The Jewish Student Group has participated in several campus charitable events, such as the Giving Tree and Hunger Month programs. The organization also plans to expand their community service by partnering with area temples.

The group is moving towards SGA affiliation and hoping to join Hillel, a Jewish campus organization that emphasizes a commitment to social justice and Jewish learning.

"We want to make this a bigger deal," said Cariani.

If interested in the Jewish Students Group, contact Aly Cariani at Alyssa.Cariani@gmail.com.

Meetings are Thursdays at 9:30 in the Commuter Lounge.

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Students debate the "24" effect

TV show addresses torture, terrorism and race

By HEATHER STAATS
Staff Writer

On FOX's hit drama "24", black President David Palmer is a charismatic man who makes difficult decisions on a moment's notice. As a strong leader, could the character of Palmer have helped Americans to find confidence in a black president in real life?

The plot of "24" revolves around agent Jack Bauer, played by actor Kiefer Sutherland, and the Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU). Each season is the course of one day, and in each of these seasons, various threats are made against the United States and against President Palmer, depicted by Dennis Haysbert. It is Bauer's job to locate the terrorists behind the threats and stop them before it's too late.

In Season Two, after an attempt had been made on his life, President Palmer made an announcement to the American people. Yet, with his strong façade and charisma, he was able to assure the people that everything was fine.

"I don't think that President Palmer has had an effect on public opinion," said Joe DeLisle, president of the Marist College Republicans. "People watch TV for entertainment, to get away from the real world."

TV Guide's Matt Roush feels that it's important to put political opinions aside and remember that "24" is a TV program that is meant to entertain its audience.



From GOOGLE.COM
President David Palmer (Haysbert) portrays a strong and charismatic leader on FOX's drama "24."

"Frankly, much of the political content being discussed by reviewers (the torture theme, the fact that Jack is being sought to testify and justify his actions before Congress, the sniveling portrayal of the token U.N. weasel, even the swearing in of a new female president) was embedded in the show itself," Roush said on the company's Web site.

"I disagree," said Christopher Waters, a fellow Marist College Republican. "It has an effect on how people see a black president. You're able to trust Palmer. It doesn't matter who it is; as long as the President can be 'presidential,' the people will be able to follow and support him."

Bauer's job in CTU is to hunt and stop terrorists from committing heinous acts.

"The show '24' doesn't stereotype too much with who the bad guy is," Waters said. "The different terrorists on the show

span the globe from America to Spain. It's not just Middle Eastern terrorists."

But does this help to create better race relations or promote racial tolerance?

"It's a TV show," DeLisle said. "It's not going to improve race relations, but it's also not going to make people think that Spanish people are terrorists."

Another aspect of the show centers on torture. When Bauer captures a terrorist, he has a crucial decision to make; should he use violence against them? Having the protagonist of a hit show committing acts of torture could potentially have an effect on how Americans view the subject.

"Every time Jack tortures someone, something bad happens to him," DeLisle said. "It certainly doesn't glorify acts of torture."

"The show has an element of realism," Waters said. "Torture happens in real life. Jack does the greatest good for the greatest number of people. But is that right? This is the question the show poses."

While it's unclear whether or not this show has the ability to sway the general public, it does pose some deep ethical questions. Given the U.S.-led War on Terror, the events of the show hit close to home.

"Whenever you're watching something realistic, you put yourself in that situation and question what you would do," said DeLisle. "You try to justify your position based on the events of the show."

Obama weighs nuclear weapon rhetoric

By ANDREW OVERTON
News Editor

Throughout his campaign, President-elect Barack Obama displayed mixed messages about his stance on nuclear arms. However, when Obama takes office in January, he will need to clarify where he stands.

The Bush administration sought to build the first new U.S. warheads since the end of the Cold War, but Congress has decided to defer any decision on the matter to next year when Obama is inaugurated.

During the campaign, Obama said that he seeks "a world without nuclear weapons," but he also added the United States

must "always maintain a strong [nuclear] deterrent as long as nuclear weapons exist."

According to Clark Murdock, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, these challenges have been growing for some time and the Obama administration will have to eventually face them.

"This is not just a decision about the future of U.S. nuclear weapons, but about how the United States will address the challenges of...nuclear terrorism, nuclear proliferation and our entire 21st century nuclear strategy," Murdock said.

Bush's nuclear arms agenda

focuses on producing a "Reliable Replacement Warhead," which the administration says is a better, more durable substitute for warheads. In addition, the new warhead has a feature that would ensure it could not be detonated if stolen by terrorists.

Junior Chris LaFleche though doesn't think it's pragmatic for America to stop updating its nuclear weaponry.

"While Obama's idea to stop the development of new nuclear weapons and to place a global ban on production is ideal, it is not necessarily safe to stop while others still have them," LaFleche said.

On Marist's mind

By ROBIN MINITER
Circle Contributor

"Do the terrorist attacks in Mumbai have you concerned about domestic security here?"



Mike Quinn
Freshman
Sports Communication

It acted as a reminder that terrorism here is still a real threat. It didn't necessarily make me any more fearful than I was [about our domestic security], but if they can pull it off in India, they can pull it off here.



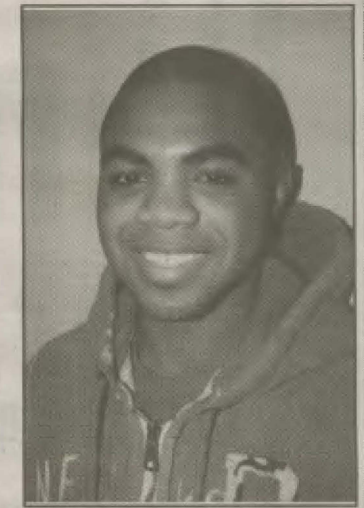
Kira Broganer
Senior
Advertising

Not necessarily. I feel that we are as prepared as we can be with new technology and our new leadership. We made a lot of enemies with Bush as president. The best thing we can do is brace ourselves.



Kate Malloy
Sophomore
Business

I heard about these attacks and sympathize. But regarding our own domestic security, I don't fret about it because there is nothing personally I can do. It's out of my control.



Brandon Brooks
Sophomore
Biomedical Sciences

Honestly I don't fear being hit by another terrorist attack. I feel the government has stopped so many attacks and that they are doing the best to protect us. It shows.

Write-winger?

**Contribute to the
Politics page for
next semester!**

Contact writethecircle@gmail.com

Wishing you a very un-Kosher Christmas

By JOE GENTILE
Politics Editor

With two ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, a comical third front emerges this time of year, as usual, in the form of a swaddled babe. He is named Jesus, and this most famous Jew in history does not enjoy competition. But, for those of us too distracted by the Code Blue Special, any discussion about a "War on Christmas" is about as real as Santa Claus.

However, Dale Kolarek and a chapter of the Catholic Daughters, from Rockland County, are having a very green holiday through the sale of their "It's OK to Say Merry Christmas to Me" buttons and magnets. With buyers in 49 states, these ladies made the Pieces of Flair Facebook application a reality by profiteering off the fear that, somehow, the first five letters of "Christmas" could be suddenly erased.

Yet, as fact has it, these folks can rest easy as more than three-fourths of the United States still identifies as

Christian, according to this year's U.S. Religious Landscape Survey by the Pew Forum. Still, I can understand why they must be afraid, particularly of Jews (such as myself), that represent little more than a single percentage of the entire population. Hanukkah is a violent holiday.

Not to be rivaled by Black Friday, or Cyber Monday for that matter, the eight days of Hanukkah embolden Jews to play with matches, eat foods of an incredibly high-cholesterol count and display our religious symbol that is reminiscent of a ninja throwing star.

But, I would be upset too if I could not light something on fire for eight days, or receive a pair of incredibly comfortable socks instead of an Xbox 360. But, all joking aside, I am going to declare victory in the "War on Christmas." My justification for this is the fact those "Christmas" buttons and magnets, not to mention the Star of David, are symbols.

Even though the intentions of Kolarek and company might be to include others, it is



From 1STARMY.COM

Jewish student is offended by politically-incorrect paraphernalia.

an exclusive emblem that smacks not only of anti-Semitism, but ostracizes other non-Christians alike for simply asking to have their heritage respected.

Growing up as the child of an interfaith marriage, to a last name that stands for "non-Jewish" in the dictionary, the month of December has always reminded me why I'm special. Nobody else at George Washington Elementary could say they placed the topper on the family Christmas tree

(albeit with a little help from my Dad) and held fire in their hands.

Yet, as I reflect on the lighting of the Hanukkah menorah, and the visits to the Nativity scene at the church our street is named after, I didn't feel different from everybody else - only rarer. The Gentiles had been the only interfaith family at George Washington, at least temporarily, so I didn't anticipate a single Hanukkah greeting from my classmates out-

side the litany of "Merry Christmas."

But, to be perfectly honest, I did not mind - and I do not much to this day. The cherished holiday of "Chrismukkah" at the Gentile household has been alive and well for the more than twenty years of my parent's marriage, so I do not anticipate it disappearing.

However, the religiosity of the holidays, from Jewish Orthodox and Christian ideologues on both sides of the aisle, still relegate my interfaith family and me to a realm of soulless secularism. What's amoral, though, about educating myself? Personally, my heritage does not need to be rooted in tradition, so long as it is rooted in love.

So, Marist College, I ask you to be merry this December as we celebrate our triumph in the "War on Christmas." But, if somebody shoves that button in my face, they better be ready for a "Shalom, goysche," or "Hello, non-Jew."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

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

Letters without these requirements will not be published.

Letters can be dropped off at The Circle office or submitted through the 'Letter Submission' link on MaristCircle.com

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

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The Circle is published weekly on Thursdays during the school year. Press run is 2,000 copies distributed throughout the Marist campus.

To request advertising information or to reach the editorial board, call (845) -575-3000 ext. 2429.

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

Letters to the Editor

Marist Football: Would anyone miss it?

For years on end the Marist football program has struggled through a woeful existence. From going down with the ill-fated MAAC football conference to now joining the non-scholarship Pioneer conference, the team remains at the bottom of the barrel of NCAA Division I competition. Campus excitement surrounding the team is nonexistent. The noncompetitive nature of the games is the prime culprit. The profitability of ticket sales can only decrease as the team continues to be mauled in unimportant games. How much will fans pay to see blowouts or non division I quality contests? To end the football program would present Marist with fiscal, athletic and academic benefits that can help move the college into the future.

Many would argue that we

cannot end football; we just built a new stadium complex exclusively for the football team. Yet Tenney Stadium is a multi-purpose facility that is utilized by soccer and lacrosse as well as intramurals. Marist without a football program would be a place where other athletic programs, such as lacrosse and basketball, flourish. Surely funds that are currently allotted for football uniforms, equipment, coaches' salary and airfare could be directed towards lacrosse or basketball scholarships. We are located at the doorstep of two of the most fruitful recruiting grounds for lacrosse, Long Island and Connecticut, as well as above New York City and New Jersey which could provide more basketball talent. Our supposed rivals, Loyola College and Fairfield

University have both done away with their football programs; shouldn't we be competing on an equal plain?

Ironically, football is a passion of many Marist students. Jets and Giants fans proudly represent their teams. But no one seems interested in Marist football. The problem is not that Marist students are disinterested in football; the problem stems from poor performance and lack of college involvement on the part of the football program. For the good of Marist College, the administration must make the hard but logical choice and start a new chapter for Marist athletics by turning the page on the football program.

- Matthew Kent

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From GOOGLE.COM

From all of us at
The Circle...

Happy holidays, and a
safe, relaxing winter
break

Campus Ministry participates in the season of giving

By MARY TREUER
Staff Writer

Throughout each holiday season people hear the expression, "In giving we receive." What better way to demonstrate this motto than to give to those who are much less fortunate and may not have the same opportunity to enjoy their holiday? That is exactly what the Giving Tree project does each holiday season here at Marist.

Brother Frank and the Campus Ministry advisory board take charge of this project, which involves setting up eight Christmas trees around the campus. Each tree holds various types of ornaments in three different colors that represent needs, household items and wishes for families

throughout Dutchess County.

This year, 753 gifts were requested. Of these, 79 were household items, 447 were needs and 257 of these requests were wishes for children. Five agencies collected these requests in order to better the holidays for 23 families in this area. There are 92 children among these families.

The ornamented trees were put on display in mid-November, and within two weeks they were nearly bare. This shows just how many Marist Students are dedicated to the project and have purchased gifts out of concern for the families. Many students have purchased their own individual gifts for the project, but students have contributed as a group also. Sports teams, certain floors of residence

halls, clubs, housemates or groups of friends have purchased the larger and more expensive gifts. The project has truly been a team effort.

"I think the Giving Tree is a very generous idea, freshman student and Campus Ministry member, Melissa Sonier said. "I've done the same thing every year at my church back home, and I've always felt this is a great way to give to people in need during the holiday season."

Through the project, students have learned the value of giving to those in need. During the holiday bustle and the anxiety of finals, the opportunity to make someone's holiday more joyful puts the stresses of this



MARY TREUER/THE CIRCLE

Presents are blessed at the Chapel before being distributed to families.

time of year into perspective. Before someone in need can cherish each of these gifts, presents will be blessed at a mass in the chapel on December 14 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend this ceremony.

The smart college student's holiday shopping guide

By MARISSA GUERCIO
Circle Contributor

With the holiday season in full swing, here are six tips and tricks to make holiday shopping affordable on a college budget!

Shop Online: Compare prices AND save money on gas – even if an item is on sale, driving across town to pick it up may outweigh the great sale price. Look for free shipping offers on your purchases; additionally, some stores offer in-store pickup after you place an order online to skip the hassle of holiday crowds.

Check out FreeShipping.org for the latest retail shipping incentives.

Look for College Discounts: Many retailers offer a discount on student purchases just by showing a school ID.

Sign Up for Retailers' E-mail Newsletters and Club Memberships: Many sales may only be offered to a retailer's most loyal customers. Search for holiday promotions in newspapers and on the store's Web site as well.

Subscribe to LeSportsac's newsletter and be the first to hear about their latest promotions and sales.

"Boots Club" members receive exclusive offers and special benefits for Boots' cosmetic and skincare lines (sold at Target and Target.com).

Make a List and Stick to It: Before you begin shopping, create a list of absolutely everyone you need to buy for and how much you plan to spend. This will help cut back on impulse purchases and extra spending.

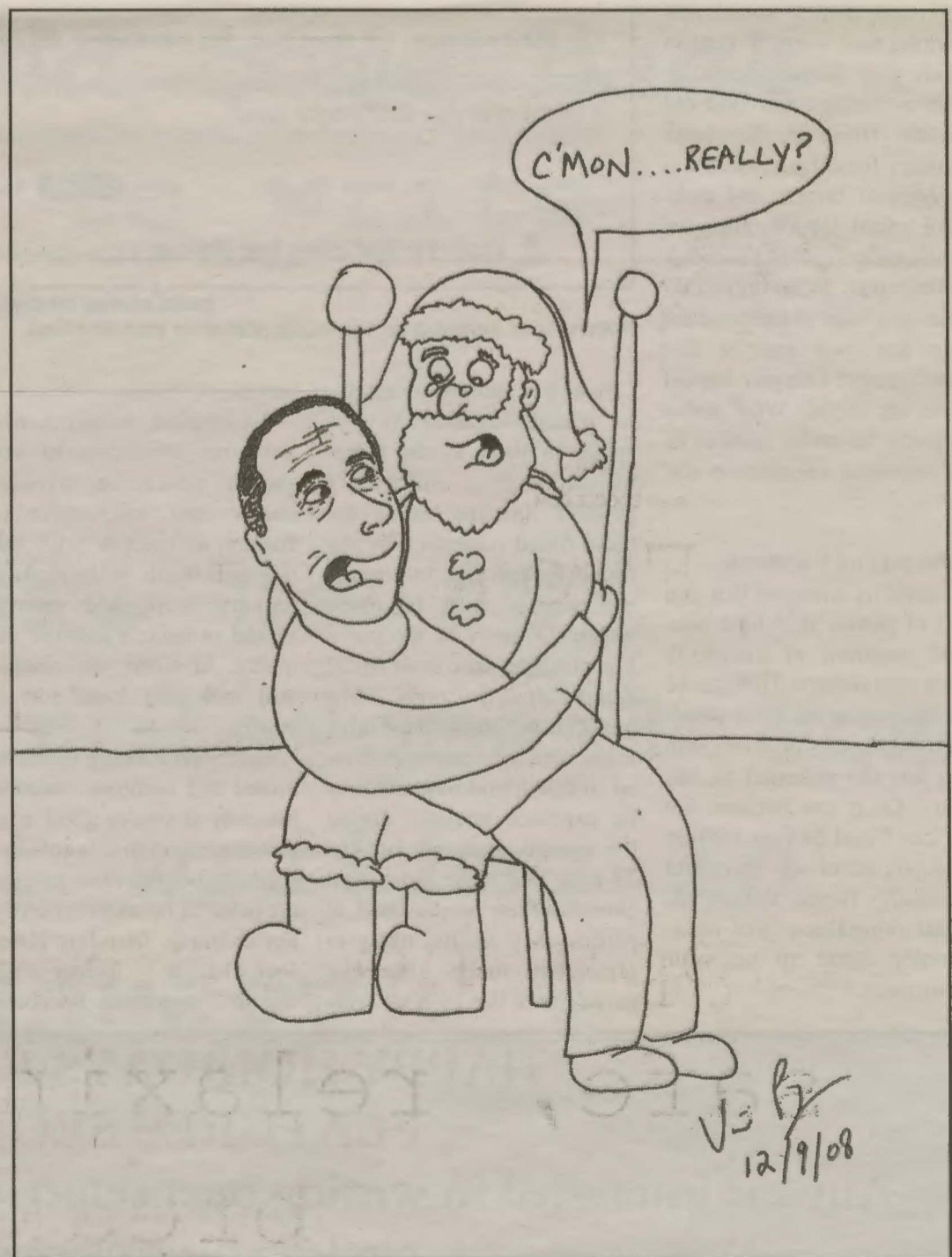
Do Your Homework: Explore a variety of online outlets for the best price. The word "sale" doesn't necessarily guarantee the lowest cost – use search engines such as "Froogle," and Web sites such as DealNews.com to compare items on your list.

Shop Last-Season's Trends: Now's a great time to shop for spring/summer '08 items, as many retailers have excess inventory and need to make room for new products. Take advantage of this opportunity to find great merchandise that will be chic for seasons to come.

All items from the Spring/Summer 2008 Stella McCartney for LeSportsac collection are 75% off! Enter promo code "STELLA75" at checkout and capitalize on the amazing savings.

cartoon corner

By VINNIE PAGANO



VJ
12/9/08

From Page 7

McDonald's crosses cultural barriers, brings taste of home

By COLIN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Since my arrival in Dublin, even on multiple trips across the country and several more in mainland Europe, every place I have been contains either McDonald's or Burger King. The only exception to this was the Aran Islands; however they only got cable ten years ago so I'm not really including them.

Fast food in Europe is on a whole new level than what I was used to back home. The relatively small, dirty fast food restaurants of America are pretty small scale compared to some of the multi-floored burger palaces I have had the privilege of dining in over here. And I think it is possible, at least in Dublin, that there are more fast food places per street than in the states. I can literally stand in the front door of one McDonald's, and wave to the folks across the street

fortunate enough to be dining beneath the golden arches as well. During the first few weeks here, when McDonald's and BK saved me from being homesick, my friends and I would change up our lunch plans by walking to the BK that was a block away from the one we ate at yesterday.

One day as I bit into my third hamburger of the afternoon, I thought to myself, that this lifestyle would eventually be detrimental to my health. But then I thought about what fast food stood for in my mind. I mean, since arriving in Dublin my classmates and I had leapt into Irish culture as if it was a ridiculously oversized and completely unrealistic pool of jello (green jello of course). So it was nice to take that step backwards here and there and be reminded of the culture we had grown up in.

It was not until leaving Ireland's shores that I realized what places like McDonald's

and Burger King meant to society. They were a unifier. Not only are they everywhere, but they stand as a symbol of hope and relief. For example, after a two and a half hour flight to Barcelona, my buddy Graham and I were pretty hungry. However, instead of being met with sustenance, we were met with an hour and a half bus ride. Needless to say the sight of a McDonald's at the Barcelona bus station was comparable to finding the fountain of youth. We immediately set out running for it, knocking bags over and hurdling kids and chairs; in fact I'm pretty sure I heard "Chariots of Fire" playing somewhere in the background.

And then we hit it, that giant metaphorical wall: the language barrier. I immediately began combing my brain for every word I had learned in high-school Spanish. My thought process was something like "Hola, dos,

noche...alright I think I'm good." Little did I know that language would not be as much of an issue, because no matter what country you are in, one word in the fast food dialect is universal: M c N u g g e t . Immediately I ordered a bunch of those, and by sheer luck and excessive pointing I ended with a cheeseburger and fries as well.

Let me tell you, McDonald's tastes fifty times better when you have acquired it via successful navigation of a foreign language.

I have learned quite a bit during my time abroad. Every country, city, town and village is unique. That may seem like an obvious claim, but until I saw these places firsthand, I could not grasp how different



From HOMEPAGE.MAC.COM

The familiar McDonalds' arches helps students abroad with homesickness.

various societies are from one another. A lot of things are uncertain; I don't know if we will ever achieve world peace or if we will ever share any of the same universal ideals. What I do know is that we will always have the McNugget, and for now that is good enough for me.

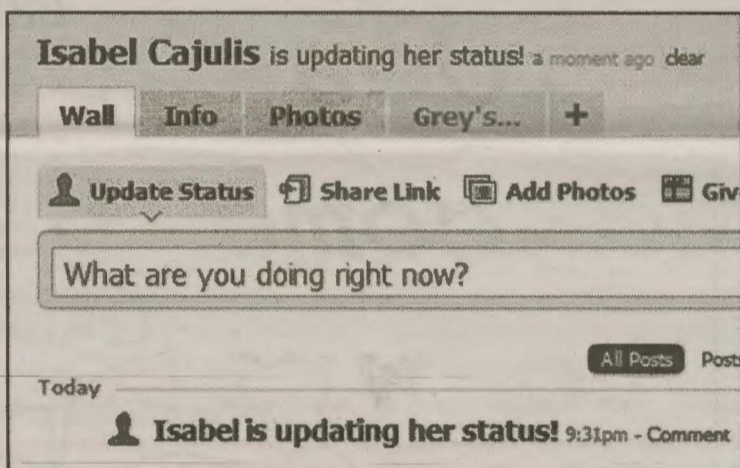
Column about nothing: The do's and dont's of using Facebook

By MORGAN NEDERHOOD
Staff Writer

To many, Facebook is nothing more than a social networking tool, a way to keep in touch with friends, socialize with coworkers and find old friends. However, Facebook counters these benefits with a plethora of bizarre and awkward social taboos, many of which are unique to Facebook communities. What do you do when you want to befriend the cute guy you met at last night's party? Can you request to be his friend? What is the etiquette for status updates or the infamous relationship status?

Strangers on Facebook

Friending strangers that you met at parties is a time-honored tradition of Facebook users everywhere. This can be the starting point for a possible relationship or friendship that has the potential to last years. Or it can become yet another friend on your account who you never see again and eventually forget, though his social information will occasionally show up on your home page.



ISABEL CAJULIS/THE CIRCLE

Nothing is as annoying as a pointless status on your mini-feed.

Now, it is entirely acceptable to friend someone if you spoke to them at the aforementioned party. However, a general timeline exists for these friend requests. For any friend request due to a party, the request must be made within 24 hours of the party. For example, Jane must friend Ken by Saturday night if she met him at a party on Friday night. This rule can be extended so that friend requests may be executed anytime during the current weekend, but the 24-hour rule is the most ideal choice. When people meet at parties, they are not likely to remember much after the party, hence the 24-hour limi-

tation.

Complete strangers who have no affiliation to you should never be friended under any circumstances. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the violator looking inept and poorly-versed in basic Facebook etiquette. At worst, the violator will look like some sort of stalker.

Facebook stalking is a celebrated and common practice, but only if you're good at it. The exception to this rule is a celebrity because their profiles are never to be taken seriously. For example, friending Haley Joel Osment - former child star and legitimate Facebook

user - is acceptable whether you do or do not have ties to him. Don't even bother friending Prince William, though, because he will only reject you.

Status Updates

While most people use their status updates in moderation, there is an increasingly large number of users who abuse this application. One's status on Facebook should not be updated more than once a day. No one needs to know what you are doing every half hour, nor do they care.

Also, it is highly improbable that you are actually doing anything of true importance with such frequency every day. Frankly speaking, your status updates are probably unnecessary and boring to those who are bombarded by them.

For instance, Matt's updates for Wednesday included an array of topics, like what time he was in the shower, what he thought of this week's elimination on American Idol, and what he was having for dinner. Lorraine, who received Matt's updates on her account's home page, was subjected to this

onslaught of information. Since identifying Matt as a constant status updater, Lorraine has ceased to take him seriously and has also concluded that he has no life because he seems to have infinite amounts of time to devote to his Facebook.

At most, Facebook statuses should be updated three or four times a week. As mentioned, anything else is deemed unnecessary by peers. You will also look like you have got nothing but time to waste, and your level of respect in the eyes of many people will drop. Only update your status more than a few times a week if there is some event of significant importance that needs to be broadcast. While finding \$100 on the street is an acceptable reason to update your status, burning the roof of your mouth on hot soup is not.

Now You're a Facebook Guru!

Go forth and conquer the world of Internet society. And please, please stop updating your Facebook status so much. Really.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE
FEATURES SECTION!

Anyone interested in writing next semester should send story ideas to
circlefeatures@gmail.com

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blues?*

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break and come back
ready to write.*

*E-mail us at
writethecircle@gmail.com
to start writing in
January!*

'Tis the season for top 10 lists

Holiday activities to boost your seasonal spirit

By KELYN BORTZ
Staff Writer

It's easy to get wrapped up in the stressful side of the holidays, so here are ten ways to enjoy the most wonderful time of the year:

Go to New York City for the day. There are many things to do in New York during the holiday season. The dazzling tree in Rockefeller Center is now lit and one of the most popular attractions for visitors and residents alike. You can also attempt to ice skate at Rockefeller Center or Bryant Park. If skating involves too many potential injuries for you, Fifth Avenue is packed with people trying to see the extravagantly decorated storefronts.

Decorate a Christmas tree with your family. Being in college may make family seem distant during the holidays. Nothing says family bonding time like fighting with your siblings over which tree you want. Do you go with the short, fat one or the tall, skinny one? Whatever the case may be, dec-

orating the tree will definitely put you into a good mood and may help you to appreciate your family a little more.

Watch as many holiday movies as you can. Many channels play holiday movies and specials the entire month of December, so no matter what your preference, there's surely something on that you'll enjoy. "A Christmas Story" and "Elf" are two movies guaranteed to make you laugh so much your stomach will hurt. "Four Christmases" has been released recently to great reviews and may help you to realize your family isn't so bad after all.

Listen to holiday music non-stop. If this doesn't put you into a holiday mood, then nothing will. Classical versions of the traditional holiday songs are nice to listen to while decorating the tree or opening presents on Christmas morning. Modern and upbeat songs are good to listen to while decorating your room or while studying for those dreaded finals. 'NSync's holiday album is a fun pick.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Tired of 'Jingle Bells?' Check out ten modern alternatives to holiday standards

By MARY TREUER
Staff Writer

"Last Christmas" by WHAM! : Who knew a broken relationship could lead to such a fun dance song? When even the most heartbreaking songs have '80s pop flair, they probably can't be that saddening. If you want to delve into the deeper meaning of the song, it is about correcting past mistakes and a new beginning as the lyrics go. "This year, to save me from tears/I'll give it to someone special." Forget about the analyzing though, and just enjoy the song.

"Christmas Won't Be the Same Without You" by the Plain White T's: The holiday season is a time to share with friends, family, and significant others, but unfortunately, not everyone is lucky enough to be with the ones they love this time of the year. If the holidays are getting you down, you can identify with these

lyrics. The Plain White T's are sympathizing with those who don't enjoy company on Christmas, but with all their fame and glory; why are they complaining? Maybe Delilah can't make the celebrations this year.

"Santa Baby" by Kylie Minogue: A remake of Eartha Kitt's song, "Santa Baby" shows that kissing up really is the way to get what you want. How often does a fat man in a red suit with a long beard receive endearments such as, "honey," "baby," or "cutie," by a seductive young woman? Probably never, unless of course, it's Mr. Claus taking bribery in exchange for exclusive presents. Take the song's advice: if you want someone to give you nice things for Christmas, you should probably butter them up.

"Baby It's Cold Outside" by Bobby Caldwell and Vanessa L. Williams: As the song says, the weather in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

currently singin'
A weekly review
of the latest songs



From NYMAG.COM
Pelle Almqvist, Hives singer, and Cyndi Lauper join forces on a classic holiday song.

By RYAN RIVARD
Co-A&E Editor

The Hives & Cyndi Lauper "A Christmas Duel" – What do you get when you mix the frontman of a garage rock band and an '80s icon? Beautiful holiday music. As odd as it looks on paper, Lauper and Hives singer Pelle Almqvist surprisingly go together like peanut butter and jelly.

Animal Collective "My Girls" – A shimmering '80s echo is the backdrop to this melodically pleasing tune. The glorious vocal melodies are soothing and undeniably pleasant. As the track progresses electronic beats and claps kick in which elevate the track to sonic bliss.

Fall Out Boy "Tiffany Blews" – Fall Out Boy's new album "Folie a Deux" drops next Tuesday and on this electro pop-rock gem Stump sings "Oh baby you're a classic like a little black dress." Lil Wayne makes a guest appearance in barely-audible singing form drenched in vocal effects.

The Raconteurs "Old Enough" (Bluegrass Version) – The reworking of the track off their most recent album, "Consolers of the Lonely," features country singer-songwriter Ashley Monroe and bluegrass artists Rick Skaggs. The new version sounds warm and very Led Zeppelin, swapping out the original's organ for Skaggs' mandolin.

Weezer "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" – "Christmas With Weezer," the special Christmas edition of the iPhone/iPod Touch "rhythm game" Tap Tap Revenge, features six Christmas carols recorded by the band. Unsurprisingly, this one sounds exactly like any old Weezer track with a little holiday spirit added.

Ten movies that shined on the silver screen

By KELLY GALLUCCI
Staff Writer

Whether you recall 2008 as the year Britney Spears started to put her life back together, the year Paris Hilton sought a new BFF or as the first year you were able to vote, you can't deny that it has been filled with action and excitement. It's no surprise, then, that it's also been a year packed with some pretty amazing movies. Here is my top 10 list of the best, or at least most memorable, movies from 2008:

"27 Dresses" – This film is a classic chick-flick starring the lovely Katherine Heigl opposite the charming James Marsden. It tells the story of Jane, a woman who is quite literally always the bridesmaid but never the bride. Kevin (Marsden) meets her, expecting to write an expose about the ridiculous wedding industry and is shell-shocked when



From SUPERHEROSTUFF.COM

Robert Downey Jr. stars as "Iron Man" in one of 2008's best films. he realizes he is beginning to fall for Jane. The tale's been told a thousand times but it doesn't make this one any less engaging.

"Burn After Reading" – George Clooney, John Malkovich, Brad Pitt – what could be wrong with this movie? It's a Coen brothers classic that revolves around a disk of CIA memoirs that end up in the hands of two gym employees eager to pawn it off

for some quick cash. The film meshes violence with comedy and leaves the viewer thinking.

"Cloverfield" – The set up for this movie is "The Blair Witch Project" meets monster movie. Shot through a handheld camera, the storyline centers around Rob (Michael Stahl-David), who had planned on leaving New York to go work in Japan, but is held up with his friends when

something unknown begins attacking the city.

"Forgetting Sarah Marshall" – Jason Segal stars in and wrote this coming of age comedy. The film begins with a breakup that leaves Peter (Segal) devastated and longing to get Sarah Marshall (Kristen Bell) back into his life. After moping and crying, he drags himself to Hawaii to forget about his lost love, but when Sarah and her new beau end up at the same resort, hilarity ensues. It's a comedy that's relatable in a "that could never really happen."

"Wall-E" – While Disney and Pixar films are always instant classics, this one takes the usual cute storyline and predictable lesson and morals a step further. Set in a futuristic world where everyone has had to leave earth because it's so polluted. Wall-E was a robot created to help clean the place up and is sadly the last

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Fashion Watch

Bring some sun to your winter wardrobe with floral prints

By ELORA STACK
Staff Writer

It might feel like seven below zero outside and flowers may not be in bloom anymore, but that doesn't mean that you can't keep their memory alive.

Spring and summer don't have to be only seasons out of the year when you incorporate florals into your wardrobe. A pretty pastel shade in a floral print will stand among the overcast and cloudy grays and blacks of winter fashion. Buy a floral dress and pair it with dark stockings. If you are daring, the stockings can also be a floral pattern. Throw on a pair of heels as the perfect stem to your flow-



From URBANOUTFITTERS.COM

Rebel against the gray, wintry weather with cheery floral prints.

ery ensemble.

The fact that it is 30 degrees outside cannot be ignored, and no matter how many flower prints we put on ourselves the sun alone won't keep us warm. Instead of hoping to be warmed by the powers of nature, bundle up in a tweed jacket. Florals and tweed are the perfect start for the makings of a trendy outfit.

Dresses aren't your only option; any floral attire will do. Dress up in a tweed skirt and a floral blouse, or keep it casual in tweed pants and a floral top. Either way you go, you can't go wrong. Brighten up the campus with your floral motif. Step out in style and let your inner fashionista bloom this winter!

Rebel against the gray, wintry weather with cheery floral prints.

From Page 10

Best movies of 08

of his kind. This film is quirky and funny in a way that kids and adults can appreciate, while still managing an eco-conscious message.

"Iron Man" – This film took a relatively unknown superhero and paired it with an unproven director, a formula that seemed doomed to fail yet managed to attain unthinkable success. Robert Downey Jr. stars as Tony Stark, a genius who is captured and injured in Afghanistan. Using a self-made armor suit to escape, he soon finds that he has to return to stop his second in command from taking over his company and using his research and talents for destructive reasons.

"Changeling" – Clint Eastwood directs and Angelina Jolie stars in this thrilling drama about a mother in a desperate search for her lost son. Based around true events, this film is sure to chill audiences to the bone and should be a must-see for any film buff.

"Quantum of Solace" – This Bond film picks up only hours after the previous one

left off. Olga Kurylenko stars as Camille, a woman who leads Bond (Daniel Craig) to the leader of Quantum, a criminal organization that Bond travels all around the world to stop. "Casino Royale" was a little too chatty, this one tones down the dialogue and amps up the action in a way that is sure to please.

"Sex and the City" – This new-age, classic tale of friendship revolves around four women whose bonds with each other are only rivaled by the breathtaking clothes, shoes and bags. No prior knowledge of the show is necessary to enjoy this one and it is guaranteed to make you laugh, cry and appreciate those stick-through-it-all friends in your life.

"The Dark Knight" – Are you surprised? Christian Bale stars as Batman and the late Heath Ledger stars opposite as the show-stealing Joker. It's a classic battle between good and evil, right and wrong, sane and insane. The film was chilling, surprisingly psychological and definitely unforgettable.

The albums that made '08 great

By RYAN RIVARD and
ANDREW OVERTON
Co-A&E Editor and News
Editor

Ryan's picks:

White Denim "Explosion" – Properly titled, this first U.S. full-length debut from a band hailing from Austin, Texas displays their explosive raw rock sound in tracks like "All You Really Have To Do" and "Shake Shake Shake." The sound softens slightly on "Sitting," one of the best tracks, which still has the rock but is accompanied by an elegant horn section.

Lykke Li "Youth Novel" – The debut album from Sweden's Lykke Li is laptop indie-pop. The minimalist sound combines smooth bass lines and synths to create some of the most interesting pop songs like "Little Bitt," "I'm Good, I'm Gone," and "Dance Dance Dance."

No Age "Nouns" – This duo masters the art of lo-fi noise pop in the vein of bands like Sonic Youth. Somehow these guys make loud, obnoxious noises that sound melodically pleasing. "Teen Creeps" is as close to a pop song as it gets on this album.

Lil Wayne "Tha Carter III" – "Tha Carter III" proved to be the backbone support for Wayne's claim of being the

greatest rapper alive. Besides receiving a Grammy nomination for Album of the Year, "Tha Carter III" was one of the hottest selling albums of the year, and well deserved.

Santogold "Santogold" – Santogold explores all kinds of genres, whether it be '80s surf pop on "Lights Out," electronic hip-hop on "Creator," or just pure pop on "L.E.S. Artistes." The album stands out as one of the most creative and exciting debuts this year.

Andrew's picks:

Vampire Weekend "Vampire Weekend" – It's clear that at some point at Columbia University this four-piece mastered how to write pop songs. Although their debut is only 38 minutes in its entirety, it packed a big enough punch to turn these recent college graduates into a musical leviathan in less than a year. What is most intriguing about Vampire Weekend is that they don't seem to try too hard, but Afro-pop songs like "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa" and "Oxford Comma" are perfect in every way.

Portishead "Third" – Portishead's aptly titled third studio album (and first in over ten years) is a departure from their trip-hop sound. Taking a cue from Trent Reznor, the band's sound has moved

towards the more haunting and industrial. Beth Gibbon's desperate lyrics only enhance match the bare, desperate sound of Third.

Fleet Foxes "Fleet Foxes" – The Seattle five-piece has mastered vocal harmonies that pop music hasn't seen since the Beach Boys, but the soft twang of acoustic guitars is reminiscent of Dylan's Nashville Skyline and Neil Young's Harvest Moon. "Winter White Hymnal" is the catchiest song of 2008—impossible to listen to just once.

Death Cab for Cutie "Narrow Stairs" – "I Will Posses Your Heart" is a 4-minute Phish-like jam that grows into a radio-friendly track. Death Cab tried to get creative on their seventh album and although their sound might not have evolved significantly, Ben Gibbard's song-writing supremacy remains clear.

MGMT "Oracular Spectacular" – Vampire Weekend aside, MGMT wrote the most powerful singles of the year—"Time to Pretend," "Electric Feel," and "Kids." If MGMT continues to crank out infectious psychedelic electropop then their dreams of a flawed rock star life from "Time to Pretend" may just come true.

From Page 10

The perfect playlist for the holidays

December is freezing, but it sure is toasty by the fire, especially the fire of love. Caldwell and Williams play off each other's voices in this jazzy rendition of a popular song that many couples have sang since it was written in the 1940s. Their sultry voices warm up the mood of the song and the dull and dreary mood of a long winter.

"Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah" by The **Barenaked Ladies**: The Jewish traditions of dancing the hora and eating potato pancakes by a menorah's light are given a whole new meaning in this upbeat song. It is a simple and brief song, but the Canadian band makes Hanukkah sound like a true party with a quick tempo and a lively rhythm.

"Do They Know It's Christmas?" By **Band Aid**: When a huge group of celebrities got together in 1984 to create a song to raise money for famine in Ethiopia, they created not only a humanitarian project, but also a musical sensation. Sting, David Bowie, Paul McCartney, and

Bono are just a few of the superstars that participate in this project. With its message to "feed the world," it helps people recognize those who are less fortunate on Christmas. Although it took over 20 people to make this song, it is proof the teamwork is key to make a successful holiday season.

"Feliz Navidad" by José **Feliciano**: This catchy tune with a hint of Spanish lyrics provides some of the lingo for los gringos, teaching people Spanish better than "Dora the Explorer." In addition to its multicultural flare, the song has an endearing dancing beat and the sweet sounding voices of children. It will warm your wintry heart faster than the weather south of the border.

"All I Want for Christmas is You" by **Mariah Carey**: This may be one of the most singable holiday tunes, as Carey's smooth voice croons about her Christmas desires. This song can be heard on the radio practically every hour during the month of December, since its release in 1994.

"Happy Christmas (War is Over)" by **John Lennon and Yoko Ono**: Although this song is not as old as other long-loved classics sung by Nat King Cole or Bing Crosby, it has become an all-time favorite. Written in 1971, during an era of war, the message still applies today to a world in need of peace. It bears the meaning of unity strong enough to keep peace-loving Lennon alive in spirit.

"The Hanukkah Song" by **Adam Sandler**: Actor Adam Sandler was feeling neglected when popular culture left out Judaism from the musical aspect of the holiday season. The novel idea of "The Hanukkah Song" changed holiday music forever, adding a special Jewish touch. As the tune opens with, "Put on your yarmulke/here comes Hanukkah," the Jewish and non-Jewish alike get a sense of excitement for the holiday. In the song, Sandler helps people of this religion celebrate by naming famous Jews and singing about his favorite customs for a holiday that has "eight crazy nights."

From Page 5

Letters to the Editor

A picture perfect *Circle*?

After carefully reading and observing many issues of *The Circle*, I realized how few pictures the newspaper contains and how, out of those few pictures, many are taken from the internet instead of by Marist students. That is not to say that the writers and contributors

that are working for *The Circle* are lacking in talent. However, I feel as though it is a shame that Marist students do not take time to contribute to their school newspaper that could take pictures for *The Circle* and put forth creative effort with each shot they

took. Participation is the best way to market and creative pictures would help change the image, feel, and overall quality of the school newspaper.

- Farah Moheet

Veto Freedom of Choice Act

President elect Obama has been promising a change in government. A government that protects the voiceless and downtrodden. Given his sweeping rhetoric one would expect him to care deeply about the welfare of the unborn child in the womb. He does not. Democrats in Congress are currently planning on passing a bill called the "Freedom of Choice Act". It legalizes late term abortions, federal funding of abortions, and would eliminate virtually all state level abortion restrictions. This includes parental notification of a minor who is raped and seeks one. It would forbid Catholic hospitals and doctors from refusing to perform abortions. Even late term proce-

dures which are too brutal and graphic to describe on the pages of the *Circle* would now be legal. Obama supports this bill. Science and Christianity both agree that human life begins at conception. At that moment a unique human being with his or her own DNA is present. At 6 weeks a heart begins to beat. At 12 weeks independent movement begins. At 20 weeks the unborn child can yawn and suck her thumb. Yet abortion is legal in New York up to 24 weeks. This is murder cloaked under the euphemism of freedom. The saddest part of the matter is that statistics say that 97 percent of abortions have nothing to do with the health of the mother or rape. They are cases

of an individual putting money and convenience over human life and responsibility. I wish I could count on change. I wish our government would be one that cared about the million unborn children who will be killed this coming year. A government that would truly stand up for them and be their voice. A government that would let them be born, grow up, have friends, fall in love, dwell among us, and die a natural death. But we have a government that simply does not believe that certain people count. Please Mr. Obama, bring the change we need. Veto the Freedom of Choice act.

- Matthew Reiman

From Page 10



From NYMAG.COM

Simple suggestions to keep you from turning into a Grinch this holiday season

Go Christmas shopping. Venturing to the mall on Black Friday is never recommended, but seeing all the holiday decorations at the mall will make it feel more like the holiday season. Shopping for your friends is always fun, especially if you're doing Secret Santa. With them, there's no pressure to spend a lot of money, but small, thoughtful presents are a way to show your friends that you care.

Be charitable. Most of us have a typical holiday filled with presents, food and family. Some people in the world are not so fortunate. Not every tree has a new Tickle Me Elmo or digital camera underneath it. Donating a present to a local organization or volunteering for a food drive may seem like a small gesture, but it does more good than you may realize.

Bake Christmas cookies.

Who doesn't love cookies? Even if your baking talents are limited to pre-packaged Tollhouse cookies, you'll be sure to spread the holiday cheer.

Decorate your dorm room. Walking into a room decorated with Christmas decorations is a way to instantly put you in a good mood. It may not be home, but at least you can relax before finals in a room twinkling with lights from the fake tree in the corner.

Take a picture with Santa. This may be a tradition you stopped years ago, but going with a group of friends puts a new twist on your childhood memories.

Make crafts with friends or family. Creating decorations for your dorm or crafts to give as presents will give you a chance to relax and spend quality time with loved ones.

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 - 6 Lg Pizzas + 60 wings
 - 1 Lg Pizza + 24 wings + 2 Ltr
 - 36 wings
 - 60 wings
 - 120 wings

Family Combo Prices May Vary With Menu Changes. Toppings \$1.50 extra. Above Valid on Pick Up, Delivery, or Dine In

1 Large Pizza, Baked Ziti, Large Tossed Salad, 6 Garlic Knots \$22⁹⁹
Expires 1/31/09

2 Large Pizzas, Large Tossed Salad, Order Garlic Knots \$19⁹⁹
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PIZZA PARTY SPECIAL
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Transitioning between fall and spring semester

By **CAITLIN NOLAN**
Assistant Opinion Editor

The fall semester of the 2008-2009 academic year is basically over, and as quickly as one semester ended, another will begin. It is completely understandable that the pressure of ending fall semester classes, while choosing spring semester classes, embarking on a month long break (which may also mean a month long break from a paycheck) and the general stress of moving closer towards graduation may take its toll on a student at Marist College.

The popular decision to study abroad will soon become a reality for Maddie Schiafo, who, come spring semester, will be traveling half way across the world to attend school in Australia.

"I'm excited to experience a different culture, but I'm afraid of how different it may be from the United States and to be so far from my family," Maddie said of the move.

"I realized for a split second how drastic the change may be, but it probably won't hit me until

I'm leaving for winter break."

It is only to be expected that such a drastic change in setting can cause some anxiety on the part of the traveler, but to keep sight of why one is doing this in the first place can put off those pending panic attacks that may sneak up on you during Christmas break.

"I'm really focused on doing this. It will help me grow and will help my major. If I keep thinking of that, I'll be fine."

Stress.mindtools.com echoes this thought, stating that in many scenarios, the reaction to a situation is worse than the reality of the situation itself. Negative

Negative thinking and an overly harsh self evaluation usually comes into play in large decisions and can cause stress and unhappiness.

thinking and an overly harsh self evaluation usually comes into play in large decisions and can cause stress and unhappiness. This combination of thinking can also damage your self-esteem, so it is important to keep a clear head when evaluating and

assessing the scenario brought forth. When deciding to study abroad, one should always keep in mind that they are doing this for the best experience possible.

"The good outweighs the bad for sure," Maddie said.

Emily Longhi, a sophomore at Marist, agrees. Departing for Spain in January to study for the spring semester, Emily agrees that if she did not truly want to have this experience, she probably would not be leaving.

"This is going to help my major, Spanish," Emily said. "I was hesitant and not completely sure while I was going through the actual process."

Having a familiar face along for the ride can also help matters.

"I'm going with a friend so that makes it a bit easier. Also, my dad travels there and my mom may come for a visit."

Remember, taking good care of oneself can also play a crucial part in maintaining a positive outlook when faced with stressful scenarios. Make sure your health does not suffer attempting to get everything done during the



CHELSEA RICH / THE CIRCLE

A Grecian amphitheater, one of the many unique opportunities you can experience first hand when travelling abroad this spring.

end of the semester crunch. Ask yourself, are you getting enough sleep? Are you taking on a bit too much in an attempt to "get ahead?" Be sure to consider yourself first and balance your priorities.

Do not ignore the things you enjoy the most because during such stressful times, having something to look forward to can make the week bearable. Don't rely too much on that caffeine addiction because once you start to crash, you may not be able to come back from it for some time. Instead, be sure to make most of

the free gym membership all students acquire when signing on to come to Marist. Natural stress reducers released during physical activity may provide more of a salvation than any Venti fix from Starbucks.

For more information on how to better cope with stress and methods in which to improve your mental and physical well being, visit www.mentalhealth.com. If all else fails, take comfort in the fact that come the end of finals week, a month of relaxation can soon be yours.

Sex, love & relationships: Top 5 holidays firsts

By **KARLIE JOSEPH**
Assistant Health Editor

The holiday season is a time for sharing love with the people in our lives. In a relationship, the first holiday spent together is often seen as ample time to strengthen your bond. While this time can be the pinnacle of romance, certain stresses are inevitable, often making the pursuit of holiday perfection, a priceless memory. Here are our top five "Holiday Firsts."

First Family Party: You start a relationship, and you know how you feel about him, but the bigger question is: how will they? Bebe's family introduction to ex-boyfriend Cheeks was somewhat reminiscent of an Italian version of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." After the beginning blissful months, Bebe decided that an invitation to the annual family Christmas party was necessary. While Cheeks expected nothing less than an animated festival, what he did not expect was being horded by a scotch drinking Santa Clause, accompanied by a band of Bebe's drunken uncle's,

singing and playing accordion and mandolin. Cheek's appreciation for the light hearted gathering left Bebe both amused and satisfied with the family interaction.

First Gifted Holiday:

For her: Many would argue that there is no better way to say "I care" than with a perfect gift. My hometown friend Lauren's first gift exchange, hardly fits this description. After weeks of countless ideas and stressful searching, the moment of truth had finally come. In her own worrying, she had only anticipated the stresses of giving a gift, rather than receiving one. As her boyfriend eagerly watched her tear open the package, she was shocked to find herself holding a box "Pea in the Pod" and three oversized shirts. Apparently, her boyfriend's creative attempt to find a fashionable clothes store had accidentally led him into the world of maternity wear. Hopefully, it is the thought that counts.

For Him: My friend Sarah's gift giving experience was also of unparalleled embarrassment. After finding the perfect cologne to give her

boyfriend at his family celebrated Christmas, she decided to add in a little x-rated surprise for when the family wasn't around. At the family gift exchange, Sarah encouraged her boyfriend to open her gift first. To her horror the bottle



BRITTANY FIORENZA / THE CIRCLE
Counting down the holidays.

he held up wasn't Calvin Klein, but instead K-Y. Needless to say she never used matching wrapping paper again.

First New Year's Kiss: When the ball drops at midnight, most people want to start the New Year off right. No one's fresh start came sooner than my friend Clover's. After a

night of dancing, drinking games and New Year's celebrations, the party eventually crowded around for the typical midnight count down. Just as Clover was about to give her "Happy New Year" cheer, she was silenced when her long time crush, Wolfgang, leaned in for an unexpected kiss. Though Clover had always had similar feelings of her own, she was shocked when he pulled away and drunkenly expressed his love for her. This fairytale start marked the beginning of their two year relationship.

First Holiday Date: While family occasions are important, the holidays are also good for a little one-on-one time. Kristin's first holiday date was both sweet and cliché. As Connecticut doesn't have the benefit of Central Park Ice Skating, ex-boyfriend Chuck decided to use his hockey team connections to get them a little alone time on the ice. After hours of laughing and skating in the dark, things got a little steamy and they moved their Christmas time rendezvous off the rink and to the team locker room.

Although this was usually a no girl's territory, Kristen defied this rule and "de-virginized" the no chicks policy.

First Church Crisis: Though family parties and dinners are important, no relationship milestone shows closeness better than when you share sacred family traditions. On Holmes's and my third Christmas, we decided to split the day by attending both family masses. While I was always comfortable with his family in a casual setting, attending his church with his entire extended family was little more intimidating. Just when I thought everything had gone fine, I was briefed on the tradition of carrying candles as we exited the church. As luck would have it, I received the shortest candlestick in the entire mass and was forced to suppress a cry of pain as the scalding hot wax dripped onto my hands and wrists. As I looked up after finally blowing out the candle, I realized his entire family had been watching and laughing during my entire candle crisis.

Foxes 2-0 to start MAAC play

By PHILIP TERRIGNO
Assistant Sports Editor

A close score at halftime turns into a large margin late in the second half. This scenario has resulted in three Red Fox victories this season; two against Harvard and Tulsa, and most recently against the Niagara Purple Eagles. The Marist College Red Foxes closed out their road trip to western New York with two victories over Niagara and Canisius and became the third MAAC (Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference) team to go undefeated during the first weekend of conference play.

In the first game of the road trip, Marist struggled with their shooting from the floor, making just under 30 percent of its shots and connecting on only three out of 18 three point attempts.

"Based on what we knew about Niagara, we knew that they were going to be physical with us," assistant coach Keila Whittington said. "It's probably more of an adjustment and getting a feel for how they were going to play us. That was more first half. By the time we got to the second half, we didn't necessarily shoot the lights out from three-point range, but did get some things going inside. It's just a matter of making adjustments, and to see what's working."

The Red Foxes and Purple Eagles traded baskets to open the game, playing to an 8-8 tie. The Red Foxes maintained a slim advantage over Niagara until Jen McNamee hit a three pointer that trimmed the lead to just one point, but Niagara still trailed 21-20. Marist went on an 8-2 run to close out the first half 29-22.

With 13:34 remaining in the contest, a Liz Flocks three-pointer pulled Niagara to within three of Marist. However, that is the closest that the Purple Eagles would get for the rest of the game. Marist's 23-4 run ended the

game with a final score of 60-38. Marist held the Purple Eagles without a field goal for the last 11:16 of the game.

Since their shooting was lacking, the Red Fox defense truly kept them in the game, causing twenty-four turnovers and allowing Niagara to make just thirteen of fifty-five shots.

Canisius Game

Against Canisius, the Red Foxes would have to live up to their reputation of allowing their opponents to hit just twenty-seven percent of their three-point shots. The Golden Griffins had made 50 of 101 shots from behind the arc this season prior to playing Marist.

Sure enough, Canisius opened up the game with three, three-pointers from Marie Warner, Micayla Drysdale, and Brittane Russell to take a 9-2 lead with 17:10 remaining in the first half. After another Canisius lay-up, the Golden Griffins had an 11-2 lead, causing Marist to take a timeout.

"I think going into the Canisius game, we scored 90 plus points on them last season," Whittington said. "They were pumped up and ready to go after us. Four of the first five possessions we turned the ball over, so it's just a matter of settling the team down and getting some composure and getting things done correctly, getting the ball to the people who can score for us and breaking down better on defense. We were just giving up shots just by leaving people open."

Marist would take its first lead of the game following a Lynzee Johnson three pointer to go up 14-12 with 14:35 left in the first half.



JAMES REILLY/ THE CIRCLE

Senior Julianne Viani scored 16 points against Canisius and 18 points against Niagara during Marist's recent trip to Western New York. The Red Foxes opened up the first weekend in MAAC play with two victories, the third team in the conference to do so. Marist faces Boston University and St. Bonaventure at home before traveling to Florida International to play.

Heading into the locker rooms at halftime, the game was tied at 30 points apiece. Following the intermission, the Golden Griffins took another lead, 46-45 over Marist. With 7:13 remaining, a Rachele Fitz's jump shot ignited a 16-0 run that lasted just over six minutes to put the game out of reach.

The Red Foxes' shooting percentage improved in this game from the last few contests. They finished 54.2 percent in the second half and 46.2 percent from the field in the game.

"After adjusting to what they [Canisius] were doing, especially on the defensive end...we understood what we needed to do defensively," said Whittington. After that, she added, "we were able to

settle in offensively. We were able to execute."

Along with Loyola and Iona, Marist is the third MAAC team to have a 2-0 conference record after the first weekend of play. Although the Red Foxes did not play mistake free basketball against Niagara or Canisius, they were able to come away with two victories.

"In both of the games we had a difficult start, so for us we will be talking a whole lot about starting the game a whole lot better," Whittington said. "That's focus and executing offensively and getting some stops."

The 7-1 Red Foxes now turn their attention to the 3-4 Boston University Terriers, who come to the McCann Center on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Roarin' Red Foxes

Marist's top male and female performers of the week

Ryan Schneider
Senior
Basketball



Schneider recorded 10 points and 8 rebounds against the nationally ranked Memphis Tigers.

- Had game-high 17 points and seven rebounds in a 51-50 victory over Iona, including five three-pointers
- Averages 13.1 points and 9.3 rebounds per game this season
- Has started all seven games the Red Foxes have played

Rachele Fitz
Junior
Basketball



Fitz was named the MAAC Player of the Week. This is the second time she has been awarded that honor this season.

- Has scored a double-double in 42 straight games
- Is averaging 24.3 points and 8.37 rebounds in three wins against Lafayette, Canisius, and Niagara
- Shot 60% from the field and 85.7% from the free throw line this week

Late surge from Siena dooms Red Foxes

By GREG HRINYA
Staff Writer

Marist gave Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) rival Siena a scare on Tuesday night at the Times-Union Center, but preseason favorite Siena rose to the top.

Siena forward Alex Franklin, a preseason first-team selection that always gives Marist headaches, poured in 22 points and hauled in eight rebounds to lead the Saints to a 77-60 win over the Red Foxes. Marist shot 46.2



percent from the field, while Siena shot 47 percent. The difference came in the turnover margin. Marist turned the ball over an unprecedented 26 times and Siena took advantage.

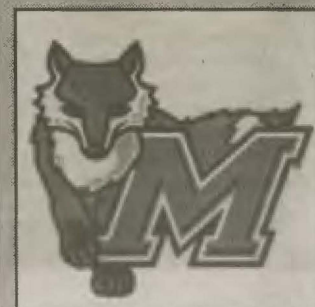
Marist led several times in

the second-half, but after Ryan Schneider canned a three-pointer to give Marist a 56-55 lead with 11:47 left in the game, Siena responded. The Saints held the Red Foxes to four points for the rest of the game and closed out the contest on a 22-4 run. Siena had 14 more field-goal attempts and 10 more free-throw attempts.

Schneider led the Red Foxes in scoring with 11 points and guard Dejuan Goodwin chipped in 10. Defensively, Marist held the MAAC

Preseason Player of the Year, Kenny Hasbrouck, to nine points and fellow first-team player Edwin Ubiles to 12 points. A combined 21 points from those two players should have figured for a better result, but early foul trouble for Lawrence Williams made guarding Alex Franklin a tough task for Marist.

The Red Foxes fall to 1-1 in conference play while the Saints move to 2-0. Marist's next MAAC game will come against Saint Peter's on Jan. 2, 2009.



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Men's Basketball vs. Cleveland State

Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008

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Goodwin sparks Marist to victory

Last-second shot seals deal against Iona

By GREG HRINYA
Staff Writer

Dejuan Goodwin started the season on the bench, but it's not how you start, it's how you finish that matters.

Trailing 50-49, the sophomore guard from Baltimore, Md. drained a fade-away jumper with 1.4 seconds left in regulation to propel Marist to a stunning 51-50 win over Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) rival Iona.

The Red Foxes, a team selected to finish last in the MAAC, opened conference play on a high note. Iona led by four points with 27 seconds remaining in the game, but three Javon Parris free-throws pulled Marist to within a point with six seconds left. Marist subsequently forced Iona guard Rashon Dwight into a travel. On the ensuing inbound pass, Goodwin nailed the game-clinching bas-

ket.

For Marist head coach Chuck Martin, there was only one player on the floor that he wanted to take the last shot.

"To be honest, [Dejuan] earned that shot two days ago," Martin said. "He's been in the gym working his tail off, and he didn't realize it two days ago, but he made that shot two days ago."

Marist led the game for 30 minutes until Iona's Rashon Dwight scored with 9:05 remaining. Dejuan Goodwin realized this was a game Marist could not lose.

"We played too hard to lose that game," Goodwin said. "We were up the whole game and we deserved to win that game."

Goodwin has emerged as a reliable offensive option next to David Devezin and Ryan Schneider. Goodwin scored 12 points on 4-of-6 shooting from the field and also connected on both of his three-pointers.

Ever since Martin chose to start Goodwin against Robert Morris, the guard has brought energy and toughness into the lineup.

"From day one I knew he was a tough kid. I always tell Dejuan, 'I know you, I grew up with you.' I know who he is," Martin said. "He's always been a tough kid from the very first day I met him, and he's a competitor... You just knew at some point he was going to do something special."

Goodwin currently leads the MAAC in three-point field-goal percentage. The guard is averaging 55.6 percent on three-pointers and leads Manhattan's Antoine Pearson and Fairfield's Jonathan Han.

Marist rebounded to win this game after a tough 100-61 loss to No. 15 Memphis on Dec. 2. Iona represented a formidable opponent coming off the loss. Iona took nationally ranked Wisconsin to overtime before eventually falling, 60-58.

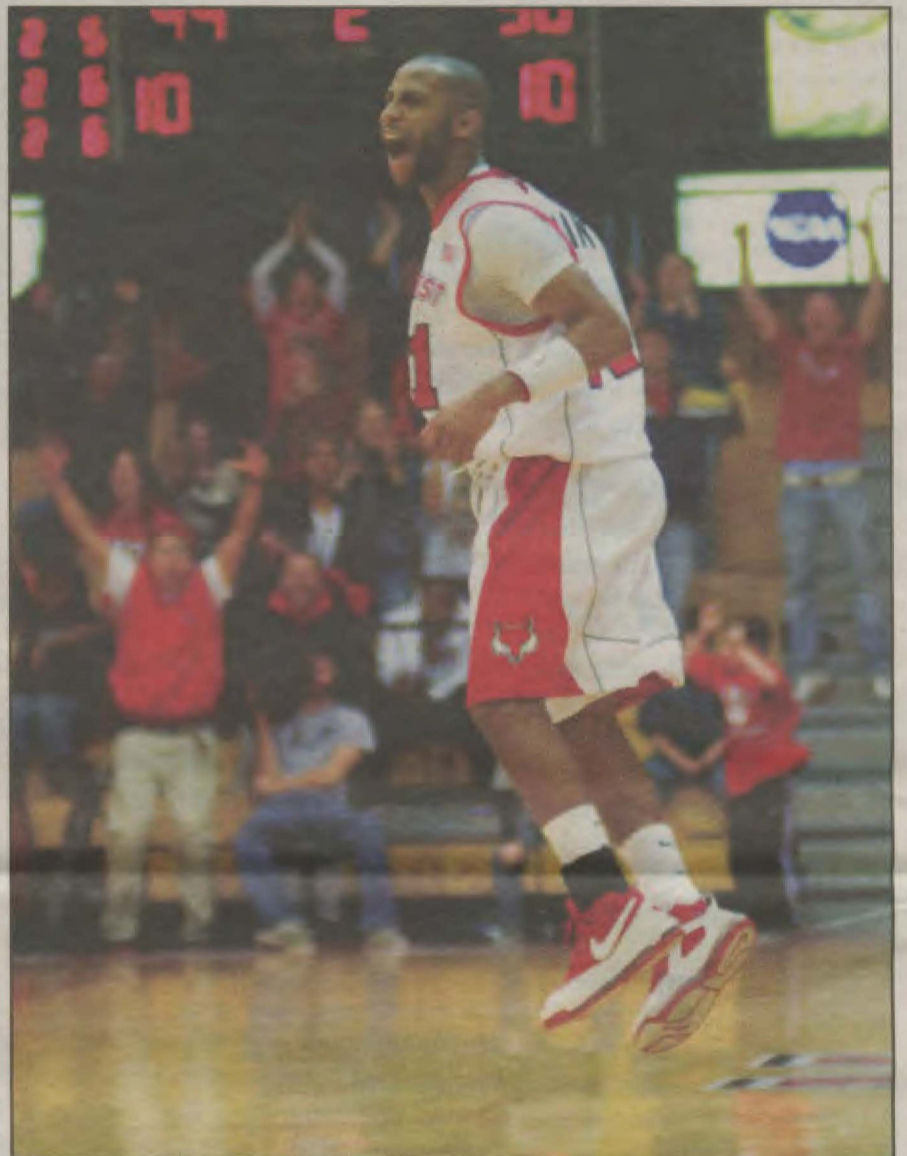
Coach Martin said the game against Memphis provided Marist with a blueprint for the type of game that is needed to win consistently.

"[The Memphis game] allowed our guys to experience that level of intensity," Martin said. "So when you come back and I'm demanding that you play harder or run harder, there's a point of reference now. I can always go back to the Memphis game and say, 'Do you remember how hard those guys played, do you remember how active they were?' and I think these guys definitely took something from the trip."

Cleveland State Game

Marist will now prepare for Horizon League opponent Cleveland State. The Vikings will come to the McCann Center to take on the Red Foxes on Saturday, Dec. 13. Cleveland State is 5-4 on the season and represents the second Horizon League team to come to Poughkeepsie in as many years. Marist beat Wright State last year on Dec. 1, 79-64.

The last time Marist faced



RYAN HUTTON/ THE CIRCLE

Redshirt sophomore Dejuan Goodwin celebrates after draining his game-winning jumper with 1.4 seconds left to down MAAC rival Iona, 51-50, on Friday. The win got Marist off to a great start in conference play. The team will try to continue its strong play in the coming weeks. Marist faces Cleveland State at home, then heads to Madison Square Garden for the Holiday Festival Tournament Dec. 20 - 21..

Cleveland State was in the ESPN BracketBusters matchup last season. The Vikings beat the Red Foxes, 59-44.

Cleveland State beat Valparaiso this season but fell to national powers Butler and Washington. Starters J'Nathan Bullock and Norris Cole are the biggest offensive threats. Bullock and Cole average 13.8 and 11.9 points per game (ppg), respectively. Bullock also leads the team in rebounding with 6.8 per game. Bullock has led the Vikings in scoring for three straight seasons. The 6-foot-5, 240 pound forward is a consensus all-league, first team selection.

Although Cleveland State will enter the game as the favorite, playing well in the underdog role is nothing new to Marist so far this season. Marist took Delaware to overtime and came within one possession of beating Big East opponent Rutgers.

Even though Marist was picked to finish 10th in the MAAC, the team has not bought into the rankings.

"Obviously [being] picked for 10th is motivation enough," Martin said. "The ceiling is high for these guys... We're not really motivated as much by being picked 10th, we just want to get better everyday in practice. We want to improve every day whether it's a win or a loss. As I've been saying from the very beginning, this is about four days, maybe three days in March [at the MAAC tournament]. Hopefully every experience that we have, we get better and learn, and we'll be ready in March."

For more information, check out the Circle's basketball blog at circleball.blogspot.com.



RYAN HUTTON/ THE CIRCLE

Senior Ryan Schneider pulls up for a shot against Iona. He had a game-high 17 points and seven rebounds in the victory. He also recorded 10 points and 8 rebounds in a loss against No. 15 Memphis.