



Same-sex marriages continue in New Paltz

By SARA NYLIN & MICHAEL RISPOLI
Circle Contributors

Mayor Jason West made the decision to postpone marrying same-sex couples in New Paltz this weekend, but the ceremonies commenced without him.

The New Paltz Equality Initiative, along with two Unitarian female pastors administered 13 lesbian marriages during Saturday under a tent on a muddy green, despite the rainy weather. The ceremonies were just like other wedding receptions with gifts, family and friends sharing in the moment and the not so usual media presence, police, and over 300 townspeople watching the event.

Rev. Kay Greenleaf, Unitarian Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, not only performed several of the ceremonies; she and her partner were the first couple to exchange vows.

"Therefore in the name of love

and justice I declare that you are one, life partners, married to each other. May no one tear asunder what love has brought together," Greenleaf said as each couple was joined in matrimony.

Most of those in attendance supported the equal rights movement that has brought significant attention to the small college town.

Jamie Rotnofsky, married last week by West, held colorful signs to show her support along with her entire family.

"The village was always like this. We've started something great, and we'll have to wait and see where it takes us," Rotnofsky said.

Although most were applauding the newlyweds and joining the families in congratulations, a few came to protest.

Wayne Ackert, born and raised in New Paltz, arrived with a sign quoting the Old Testament to show his disapproval of the ceremonies.

"I have nothing against gay communities, but it's not normal, and our mayor is breaking the law because of it," Ackert said.

Both protesters and supporters said there has been a significant change in the surrounding area due to the gay marriage movement.

Heather Whitefield, a Poughkeepsie resident, was one of Saturday's newlyweds.

"This has given New Paltz a good name, and all the attention the town has been getting has been really good for local businesses and restaurants," Whitefield said.

New Paltz is one of the few areas that has begun marrying same-sex couples in the past few months. But with the upcoming decision on the amendment to ban gay marriages nationwide, towns may no longer have the right to make the decision for themselves.

Whitefield opposes the amend-



SARA NYLIN / THE CIRCLE

Individuals gather Saturday in New Paltz to support the continuation of same-sex marriage ceremonies.

ment strongly and said it is comparative to other controversial issues of people's rights, such as

abortion. "It's infuriating. I feel it's just a smoke-screen ... another issue to

divert attention away from real issues, like the economy," he said.

Missing Bard student found safe on Long Island

By COURTNEY KRETZ
Managing Editor

After two weeks of extensive investigation, the Melissa Kennedy case has now been closed.

The 21-year-old Bard student had safely been on Long Island since her disappearance Friday, Feb. 20.

Saturday, Mar. 6, Kennedy reportedly saw a news report that

her parents were offering \$10,000 for her safe return. Later that night, Kennedy turned herself in to the South Hampton Police Department, the town in which she had been staying.

Kennedy said that on Feb. 20, she boarded the 8:33 train to Grand Central Station in New York City. According to Detective Lt. William Siegrist, after departing from the train, she found herself on 37 Street

and hitched a ride with a bread delivery person. Kennedy then went on the man's delivery rounds, traveling to New Jersey, back to Manhattan, and then asked if she could stay with him at his home.

Once Kennedy was in the custody of the South Hampton Police Department, her name was run through the computers to confirm she was a missing person. The Poughkeepsie Police

Department was called, and Kennedy's parents drove to Long Island to pick her up.

Kennedy vanished the night of Friday, Feb. 20, after being dropped off at the Poughkeepsie train station. Authorities from nine police agencies had been searching for clues to her whereabouts ever since her disappearance. Even the FBI had been in contact with local police departments regarding Kennedy's dis-

appearance.

The Poughkeepsie Police Department is happy that Kennedy's case ended well, and that they are now able to focus their efforts on other chief cases.

"A lot of time, energy, and manpower went into this investigation," Siegrist said. "The bottom line is that she is home safe and nothing has happened to her. All's well that ends well."

The Police Department's

attempts at contacting Kennedy and her family for interviews have been unsuccessful, with the family not returning phone calls.

The only explanation that Siegrist could give on Kennedy's motivation for running away was that she was under a lot of pressure from school, as it is her senior year of college.

Any further motives will not be disclosed until Kennedy is interviewed by authorities.

Women win first ever MAAC championship title in Albany



ERIC KIMMEL / MCTV

Shown above the team celebrates their victory, showing off the championship trophy.

Women's basketball team made history capturing their first ever MAAC championship title. They will be making an appearance in the NCAA tournament, a feat that has not been accomplished in 22 years. See back page complete coverage.

Sniper sentenced to death penalty

By KATE GIGLIO
A&E Editor

A wave of satisfied relief washed over most people involved in the sentencing of Washington D.C. area sniper John Allen Muhammad Tuesday, March 9.

Prince William County Circuit Judge LeRoy Millette Jr. sentenced Muhammad, 43, to the death penalty in Virginia. He made the decision after reviewing a jury's recommendation.

Millette said the jury correctly found that Muhammad would be a "continuing, serious threat to society" if allowed to live.

The Oct. 14 execution date, which Millette set, will likely be delayed by an appeal.

Throughout the trial, Muhammad maintained his innocence. In addition to trying to overturn the verdict and sentence, Muhammad's lawyers have laid the groundwork for appeal.

Before Millette announced the sentence, Muhammad still showed no evidence of his guilt.

"I had nothing to do with this," Muhammad said at the sentencing.

Last week, defense attorneys tried to reduce the verdict by filing a six-page document on Muhammad's behalf. The court filing, by attorneys Peter Greenspun and Jonathan Shapiro, said that along with having no previous criminal record, Muhammad was "a proud member of the ROTC" serving in the Louisiana and Oregon national guards, as well as the U.S. Army. The filing also said that the state would be wrong to sanction another killing and that it would serve only to make Muhammad's children fatherless.

However, prosecutors said Muhammad's actions were motivated by a bitter divorce from his wife, Mildred, and the resulting custody loss of his children.

Prosecutor Paul Ebert said Tuesday's outcome satisfied him.

"We are, of course, pleased with the verdict," Ebert said.

SEE SNIPER, PAGE 3

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ARTS: IRISH ROCK BAND CEILI RAIN STORMS THE THEATER.

Ceili Rain rocks the Nelly Goletti theater with a Saint Patrick's day preview.

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OPINION: FOR MONEY, OR FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME?

Pinstriped pride is looking a lot more green as the Yankees pursue another championship run.

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THE CIRCLE Campus

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2004

maristcircle.com

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Security Briefs: March madness has just begun, baby!

Compiled by DAN ROY
Campus Editor

3/1 — Security received a call around 5:30 p.m. Monday that someone was breaking the lights in the Champagnat courtyard. When security arrived, they noticed the lights on the stone benches had been kicked in. And speaking of kicked, I have personally kicked four dogs, three habits, and one keg in the past week ... well, to clarify, it wasn't really a keg. It was more a girl that looked like a keg. So I guess change the count to five dogs.

3/3 — A group of students were found in the woods north of St. Ann's at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday. They couldn't figure out how security noticed them all the way out there. Hmm, maybe it was the large amounts of smoke rising in the air from the bonfire you made! Security, along with the town police, put out the fire, and confiscated the refreshments on hand as well. Next time you guys want to roast marshmallows and tell ghost stories, do it around a Foreman.

3/3 — Security rolled up on a sick student outside Benoit at 3:20 a.m. She had been drinking the night away and was in the process of vomiting the morning away. The student was evaluated and taken to St. Francis by Fairview. You know, this never would have happened if she watched According to Jim with my friend from last week. That's what I do on Tuesday nights, and you don't see me going to St. Francis.

3/3 — A housekeeper reported damage to the first floor bathroom in Dyson at 6:55 p.m. Apparently, someone kicked a hole in the wall. Geez, we really like to kick this week. I bet you guys are going to grow up and be soccer players! "Dude, they are in college. They are already grown up." Oh. Well, there you go. I stand corrected.

3/4 — Security spotted two students outside Marian with

some alcohol in possession at 2:50 p.m. Sixteen cans of an unnamed beer were in one of their book bags. Unnamed? Where the heck do you get unnamed beer? And then choose that over a named beer! "Maybe they removed the labels from the bottles themselves, so if security came, they couldn't prove it was really beer." Wow. I hope no one is that dumb. Wait, where did this happen again? "Outside Marian." Then again ...

3/5 — A guest attempted to swipe into Leo with a student I.D. at 1:19 a.m. Friday. When security stopped to question him, he and his friend took off and ran out the door like Joey in Friends when he had to teach the dance class. Sadly, a few minutes later these two were stopped by another security guard outside (Warning: Security guards have walkie talkies). The runaways admitted to drinking some beer that night, but nothing was confiscated. The guest was removed from campus.

3/6 — A real alcohol confiscation took place at 1:39 a.m. Saturday in Leo hall. A student and two guests were found with eight cans of Genny Light. One of the guests was sick and taken to St. Francis. I've never heard of Genny Light before, but that stuff must be pretty bad if one of you got sick splitting eight beers between the three of you.

3/6 — Leo, do you have a rotation for who's going to get written up each week? Like the first week of the month someone from the first floor has to take the heat. Because you guys really mean business this semester. Anyway, another student tried swiping into Leo at 2:00 a.m.; the key word being "tried." This intoxicated student was evaluated then shipped to St. Francis. This will be a trend for the remaining briefs.

3/7 — A ladies room in Champagnat is the home of our next intoxicated student. She was found at 12:30 a.m. Sunday along with two 14.9 oz cans of Guinness. The

beer was confiscated and the student was taken to St. Francis. That's what happens when you try to drink a drought for fun. Anything that is darker than asphalt should be relegated strictly to dinner beers.

3/7 — Security noticed another intoxicated student on the benches in front of Donnelly at 1:20 a.m. This person too was taken to St. Francis. Around that same time, a local Poughkeepsie resident was rushed to St. Francis, bleeding terribly from the head after a nail gun accident. Unfortunately, every room was filled with Marist students, so he was forced to stay in the waiting room. To learn more about this man's life, you can flip to the obituary section of this week's Poughkeepsie Journal.

Alcohol - related incidents this week

Leo - 2
Champagnat - 1
Marian - 1
Benoit - 1

Total alcohol-related incidents

Leo - 10
Champagnat - 7
Gartland - 3
Midrise - 2
Old Townhouses - 2
Upper West Cedar - 1
Sheahan - 1



Upcoming Campus Events

Wednesday, Mar. 24
Communication Alumni Panel
7 PM
Cabaret

Monday, Mar. 29
Alfred Kingon Guest Speaker
7 PM
PAR

Monday & Tuesday, Mar. 29 & 30
Resume Marathon
8 AM
LB 332

Wednesday, Mar. 31
Communication & the Arts March Expo
12 PM
McCann Center

Wednesday, Mar. 31
Blood Drive
12-5 PM
PAR

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6	Sunday	3/28	11:00am
7	Sunday	4/4	11:00am
8/Test	Sunday	4/18	11:00am
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11/Test	Sunday	5/16	11:00am
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Bush's plan to amend constitution causes social and political uproar

By KATE GIGLIO & NOEL VERCILLO

Homosexual couples hoping to say "I do" anytime soon may have to wait a while, as leading presidential candidates are saying "don't."

Bush's plan to amend the constitution to ban gay marriages is already creating controversy all over the country. Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe said opposition from the Democratic Party to the proposed amendment is imminent.

"It is wrong to write discrimination into the U.S. Constitution, and it is shameful to use attacks against gay and lesbian families as an election strategy,"

McAuliffe said.

Senator John Kerry, the leading Democratic candidate for the presidency, opposes gay marriage, but does not support an amendment to ban them. Kerry said he is against amending the Constitution because he believes the issue of marriage should be left to the states.

"I believe and have fought for the principle that we should protect the fundamental rights of gay and lesbian couples — from inheritance to health benefits. I believe the right answer is civil unions. I oppose gay marriage," Kerry said.

Ironically, Kerry voted against the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which holds that states need not recognize same-sex mar-

riages performed in other states. Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts said Bush was taking a step backward for civil rights.

"Bush [will] go down in history as the first president to try to write discrimination back into the Constitution," Kennedy said. "We have amended the Constitution only 17 times ... [It] has often been amended to expand and protect people's rights, never to take away or restrict their rights."

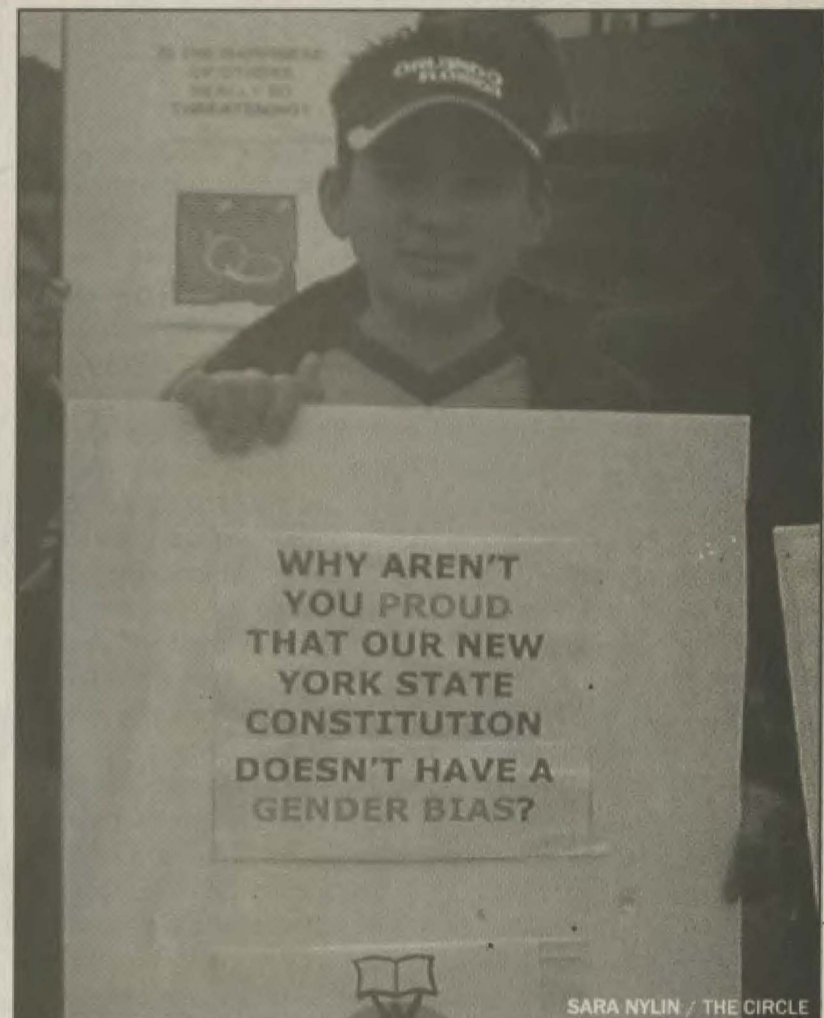
Bush, however, said he believes that marriage is a union between opposite sexes, and that there should be legislation declaring so.

"The union of a man and a woman is the most enduring

human institution, honored and encouraged in all cultures and by every religious faith," Bush said. "Marriage cannot be severed from its cultural, religious and natural roots without weakening the good influence of society."

Whether the candidates' views on gay marriage laws will affect the upcoming presidential election remains to be seen. Ben Prota, 22, political science major at Dutchess County Community College, Poughkeepsie, NY, said this issue would definitely have an impact on the election, but not as much as some might expect.

"Kerry is against Bush's proposal to amend the Constitution, but he is against gay marriages as well," Prota said. "Their foundations on the issue are similar."



During the same-sex marriages performed in New Paltz many came out to support the cause, including this young man.

Mayor Jason West faces charges for same-sex marriages

By CHRISTINE CATARINO & CHRISTOPHER GARIBALDI
Circle Contributors

I now pronounce you lawfully wedded partners.

These marriage vows were repeated twenty-five times, one for each same-sex marriage ceremony New Paltz Mayor, Jason West, performed in recent weeks.

New York Attorney General, Eliot Spitzer later announced that the legality of same-sex marriages was in question. Now West may face up to five hundred dollars in fines and up to a year in jail for each marriage performed.

This controversial bond stretches beyond the borders of New York. President Bush has

endorsed the constitutional amendment that prevents same-sex marriages. This amendment, if passed, would be the eighteenth time in 215 years that the Constitution has been ratified since the Bill of Rights.

Spitzer provided an in-depth legal analysis of same-sex marriages. According to Spitzer, Article three of the Domestic Relations Law includes many references to the terms "bride" and "groom," "husband" and "wife." Spitzer contends that the history of New York State law says that marriage is inclusive of only one man and one woman.

Patrick Bean, undergraduate, Marist College, said the tax breaks of such a civil rights movement will become a nation-

al concern. "It might hurt the amount of money coming into the country if there are a lot of people getting married because of tax breaks," Bean said. "I don't know if it's bad for the country, but there would definitely be a lot of conflict."

President Bush has appealed to Congress for ratification of the marriage amendment that would protect the bond between only a man and a woman. In order to amend the constitution a two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate is required. The amendment will also require ratification from thirty-eight out of the fifty states. This is a complex process and the earliest that this amendment

could take effect is in 2006. President Bush vocalized support for allowing states to establish their own laws for same-sex marriages.

Robert L. Garibaldi, Jr. Esq., attorney, New Jersey, however, said that the legality of same-sex marriages should not be decided on a state-to-state level.

"Why should we allow each state to decide this issue?" Garibaldi said. "This is a basic human rights issue which should be guided by the U.S. Constitution."

The gay rights issue is not anything new to Americans. In the early 1970s same-sex couples applied for marriage licenses; by the mid-1980s, the same couples sought recognition of their part-

nership from private companies and municipalities. Gays seeking equal rights increased momentum through the 1990s, but it was only recently that the civil rights issues surrounding same-sex marriages landed at Congress' door.

Paul F. Callan, attorney, New York City, said he believes that this decision should be left on a state level.

"Society's attitude about gay unions has changed radically in the past 25 years," Callan said. "Since we allow elderly people who are incapable of having children to marry, we cannot say that the institution is based on the ability to procreate. It is, therefore illogical to prohibit gays from enjoying the legal pro-

tection and benefits that marriage creates."

Callan said gay marriage and divorce will continue to be debated until legal action is taken.

"Legally, it will cause an increase in divorce litigation, since gay marriage will in many cases lead to gay divorce," Callan said. "I think that for the next ten years, we should allow the states to experiment with this issue. In the long run, a federal approach may be necessary as married gays will travel from state to state and will want their unions recognized in all states," he said.

John Muhammad, sniper suspect, sentenced to death ... continued from page one

"It's not a verdict, like all cases, that we take any pleasure in, per say, but there are certain cases which deserve the death penalty and we feel that this was one of them."

A jury sentenced Lee Boyd

Malvo, 19, Muhammad's accomplice, to life without parole in a separate trial of another sniper shooting. His formal sentencing is set for Wednesday.

Most of the sniper victims were gunned down in areas of

Maryland and Virginia surrounding the nation's capital.

One prosecutor says that because Muhammad and Malvo committed their crimes in different jurisdictions, they can and should be tried elsewhere.

"There's always the possibility of appeal and reversal on appeal," said Douglas Gansler, state's attorney for Montgomery County, Maryland. "We should try these men in other states applying other laws to other

facts."

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said he hoped that the verdict would somewhat assuage the pain of those whose loved ones were killed or affected by the killings.

"The jury has spoken. Hopefully, the jury's decision will help bring some comfort to the families of those whose lives were taken and those who were injured."

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The Tradition Starts Now!

THE CIRCLE Opinion

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2004

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For money, or for love of the game?

By ALEX PANAGIOTOPOULOS
Staff Writer

Sure, George Steinbrenner is following the rules...but is it really worth it?

The New York Yankees spent \$180,322,000 on payroll in 2003, and won 98 games. This means that they paid about \$1,840,000 per regular season win. Good for them. This is compared to the World Series Champions, the Florida Marlins, who won 89 games and spent a mere \$63,281,000 on payroll, which means they paid \$711,000 for each win. All Yankee fans won't even remember 2003 in their over-saturated, bloated memories, except maybe that it was the year Roger Clemens "retired". Marlins fans will remember 2003 as a miracle season when their underdog team of beloved, homegrown players stood up to a team of soulless mercenaries and shocked the world.

The Yankees came within two games of winning the 2003 World Series, and then signed or traded for Alex Rodriguez, Gary Sheffield, Kenny Lofton, Kevin

Brown, Javier Vazquez, Tom Gordon, and Paul Quantrill in the offseason. I know, Alfonso Soriano must have been KILLING them; thank God they didn't keep him. He was only a perennial 40-40 candidate who led baseball in extra base hits over the last two seasons. He was also one of the few players left on the Yankees who came up through the system and was there when the Yankees were still a legitimate "team", not the product of a fantasy draft. The same goes for Andy Pettitte and Nick Johnson, Pettitte being a playoff-tested 20-game winner who had been on the team since 1995, and Nick Johnson an exciting young on-base machine to back up Jason Giambi. What's the fun in watching your team win if half of your stars just got there? Where are the years of pain and sacrifice, or watching young rookies develop right before your eyes?

I used to at least respect the Yankees. During their 1996-2000 World Series run (except when they lost to the Indians in 1997), they won not by throwing money at the latest MVPs and

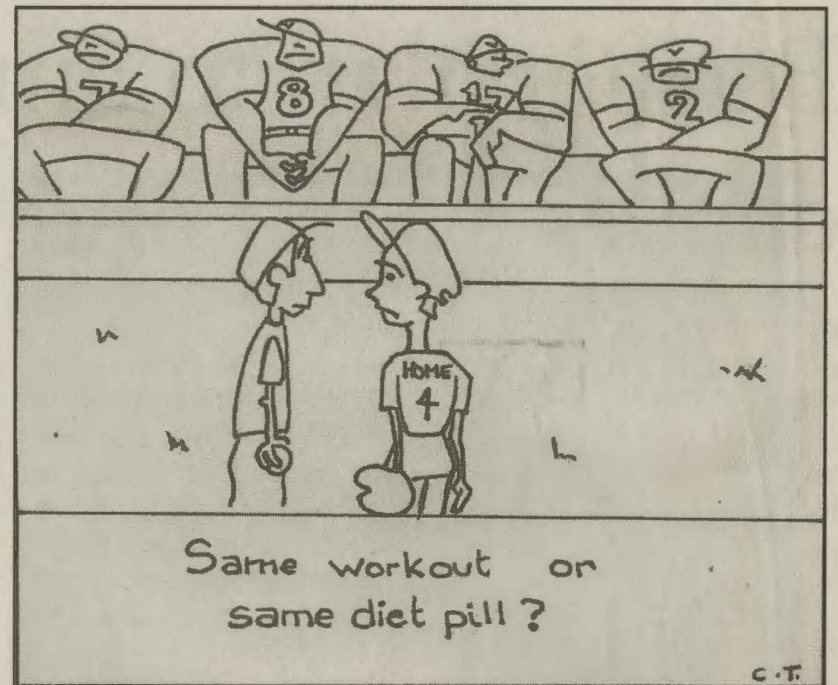
All-Stars, but by building a solid team whose foundations began in the early 90s. Paul O'Neill was on the team for eight years, Tino Martinez stayed for five years, Chuck Knoblauch, David Cone, David Wells, Joe Girardi, and Scott Brosius were all fixtures. Derek Jeter, Bernie Williams, Jorge Posada, Pettitte, and Mariano Rivera all came up through the system, and were the kids that grew up to shine in the New York spotlight. The team had its flaws, but they had chemistry and poise, and even I admit were a great dynasty.

Today, the Yankees are strangers even in the Bronx, and the entrance to Yankee Stadium's locker room has become a revolving door. I'm sure you'll be able to spot a lot of Pettitte, Clemens, and Soriano jerseys at Yankee Stadium next year. How can the fans be expected to keep up?

Will Yankee fans even enjoy 2004? They will expect to see a victory in every single game that they watch, and every loss, every stumble, will bring ridicule and jubilation from a nation of

Yankee-haters. Even the wins will seem hollow, because how can you gloat if you beat a team that only has \$50 million to spend? And although the Yankees have a bona fide star at seven out of eight positions on the field, will the fans still complain and whine when Miguel Cairo, Enrique Wilson, Luis Sojo, or whatever other jobber they put at second base screws up?

In Las Vegas, the Yankees are listed at 2-1 odds to win the World Series. What if they make it all the way and lose again? If the Mets even made it to the playoffs, I would be ecstatic. For Yankee fans, making the playoffs is like breathing. Anyway, be sure to thank "Big Stein" for following the rules and charging exorbitant ticket prices to build a winner. After a whole season of stressing over whether or not your beloved Yankees are establishing themselves as the greatest team of all time, winning the World Series won't even bring happiness; it'll bring a vacation.



Letters to the Editor

To whom it may concern:

Reviewers of books, movies and plays are entitled to their opinions. They often hold firmly to the belief that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. On occasion a reviewer's myopia may be at odds with the assessments of readers, viewers or audiences. That's the way the story goes. And so it was when the Circle's reporter concluded her review (03/04/04) of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" with the statement "(Charlie Brown)" left the audience unsatisfied and disappointed." It's a summary statement based on?

This small musical, a slice of cartoon life, was a modest college production that drew good size audiences. At most of the performances, members of the audience stood in their places

and cheered for the cast as the final curtain fell. The audiences did not appear to be "unsatisfied and disappointed." The reviewer may have felt that way, but there's insufficient evidence to support her conclusion about the audience. Those members of the audience who generously gave standing ovations to the cast would not agree. Feedback from faculty, administrators, and students since the close of this show has been by far more positive than negative.

Let's work to develop more hits than misses in what takes place both on the stage and in our media reviews.

Gerard A. Cox
Associate Professor
Faculty Advisor to MCCTA

To whom it may concern,

My name is Eddie Grosskreutz, and I had the honor of playing the character of "Pig Pen" in MCCTA's recent production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." Raised on watching the peanuts gang, I have always loved the world and characters that Charles Schultz created. The ability to bring one of those characters to life helped me to find happiness, on which the theme of the production is centered around. I was, however, disappointed when I read the review of the production, written by Sarah Gunner, in the last issue of The Circle.

I would first like to say that MCCTA does not look to capitalize on any production it does. MCCTA is an organization made up of students with a profound love of the theatre arts, and it seeks to share that love with its audiences. To quote the character Schroeder, "Money? Money? Who cares about money! This is ART you blockhead!"

As Ms. Gunner stated, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" is a Tony Award-winning production, with its book, music, and lyrics written by Clark Gessner and revised by Andrew Lippa. All vignettes are taken directly from the original Peanuts comic strip, and the songs are used to emphasize a certain character's personality traits. The Peanuts characters are all extremes of certain psychological behaviors. Charlie Brown is depressed, yet always hopeful. Sally is bi-polar. Snoopy is schizophrenic. Schroeder is obsessed. Overacting is required for a

production such as this. Children are loud and overdramatic.

Also, Ms. Gunner expressed that many songs and actor's voices were, like MCCTA's production, "mediocre." I am not saying that you must love every song, but each song is a platform for that character to convey their one goal or desire. Charlie Brown wants to get his kite to fly. Lucy wants to marry Schroeder. Schroeder wants Beethoven to be recognized above all others. Yes, the songs are cheesy, but that is the essence of Peanuts. Finally, the characters onstage are children. Children do not sing with professional Broadway or operatic voices. Ms. Gunner seems to think otherwise.

This production centers around the imaginary world of five-year-old children. The beauty of this world is that it reminds us of our childhood, and we remember how the world is seen through the eyes of children. This show can be enjoyed by audiences of all ages. "Charlie Brown" is one of the most popular musicals in the world, and is played across the globe to audiences on every continent. Everyone can identify with Schultz's characters, and in this way, Schultz has achieved bringing happiness to people of the world.

MCCTA succeeded in bringing Schultz's happiness to four audiences, all who applauded the actors, directors, and crew with a standing ovation each night. To make people happy is a gift, and I cannot begin to describe how many audience members expressed to me how

SEE ART, PAGE 3

It's all over now but the drug testing

By JOSH IANNUZZI
Staff Writer

For so many years, we have questioned; is it the smaller ball-parks, tighter sewn balls, size and make of the bats, or merely just the fact that ball players are more in shape than they were 20, 30, or 40 years ago?

Yet who would have guessed that the reason for so many shattered records in one of America's favorite past times, is due to cheating?

After Barry Bonds' personal trainer, Greg Anderson, was indicted for illegally distributing steroids to athletes, a whole investigation is underway, in efforts to uncovering any cheaters and drug users in the

major leagues.

Currently Barry Bonds holds the all-time single-season home-run record (73), which was previously held by Mark McGwire, ironically who at the time was a known androstenedione user. While androstenedione, a type of steroid, is still legal in Major League Baseball, it is outlawed in most other professional sports, including the Olympic games.

Anderson was busted when the FBI raided the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative (BALCO), a nutritional supplements lab located in San Francisco, California. While no athletes were charged or named in the indictment, Bonds, Jason Giambi, Gary Sheffield, and NFL's Bill Romanowski are all

rumored to be linked to accepting steroids from BALCO.

Many people are saying this could be the biggest crisis in Major League Baseball, since the Black Sox threw the 1919 World Series. If the information is in fact true, the ball players and Major League Baseball will have a lot of explaining to do. Not only will they have to clarify how steroids have / have not tainted the record books, but they will also have to come up with a new and stricter policy on drug testing in the major leagues.

"This is about performance-enhancing drugs capable of knocking baseball's essence, its most respected records, out of sync — not only Hank Aaron's 755 home runs, but the totals of

all those Hall of Fame sluggers with clean careers," said New York Times' Dave Anderson.

Out of all the current professional sports leagues, Major League Baseball is definitely the most lenient regarding drug testing. This is due to a strong players union that is against drug testing, since many individuals view it as a "privacy issue."

Times have definitely changed in sports, especially in baseball. It used to be about heart, resilience, and pitchers duels, and now it is about money, fame, and long balls. Hopefully the players will realize this and bring America's past time back to the days of honest play and passion for the game, before the MLB turns into the WWE.

Where has all the housing gone for students?

By JONATHAN SUMLER
Circle Contributor

As the housing selection process approaches, the stress level for many students continues to rise. Unfortunately for juniors and seniors, the process presents a larger challenge because they are not guaranteed on-campus housing. Students are made aware of this, but many times the message relayed about housing selection is fuzzy.

The Office of Housing and Residential Life figures out who will be eligible for on-campus housing. I agree that this is a daunting task, but I do not think that they make a determined effort to inform juniors and seniors that they may have to live off-campus, due to the lack of beds. I have, however, noticed that the housing department does make it a point of receiving the \$200 room deposit in a timely manner.

Many sophomores, who currently reside in Gartland and Midrise, had no idea that they may have to look for off-campus housing. Many are under the

impression that it is the group average that determines whether they receive campus housing. However, it is the individual's personal point total that determines the outcome. If a student does not have enough priority points of their own, then they are ineligible to live on-campus. This could make future juniors' and seniors' lives quite difficult.

The housing office does make small attempts to inform the student body of the room selection process through campus mail and meetings with the RA's and RD's. Housing also posts the room selection information on their website that describes the process in some detail, but it does not spell out specific points. For example, there is a small section about the cut off for priority points that says housing will deny some students housing due to the amount of people requesting it. Housing then quickly explains the selection procedure and does not elaborate at all.

This topic may be the most important section in the entire eight-page document, but it is only four sentences long with no

heading. When a student locates this all important paragraph, he then has to understand its meaning. Once he fully comprehends that he may not have a place to live, emotions run high.

Suddenly, there is a panic that goes through the college with the common question being "Where am I going to live" with an expletive thrown in here and there. Frantic calls to parents are made at a record rate, and parents' bewilderment reaches an all time high. The parents do not understand why their child is not going to get on-campus housing for the upcoming school year, and as students try to explain, the parents either become more confused or increasingly angry. Some students are faced with the reality that they may not be able to come back to Marist next year because their parents do not want them living in a house in Poughkeepsie; all because their child did not get as many priority points as other students.

The way the priority point system is set up can make a student go insane. It forces us to become involved in things we have no

interest in, and to sacrifice our academics for clubs and activities. Current sophomore Dan Butler said, "I had to concentrate on my grades because I didn't do so great first semester freshman year. I just didn't have time to get involved in any clubs." He illustrates a prime example of a student who focused on his academics and is now in housing limbo because of it.

Attending the meetings for these clubs only gets you so far; getting the priority points credited to you for housing is another uphill battle a student must face. I personally had to call college activities at least three times in order to get credit for the activities that I had been involved in, and I am sure that many others had to do the same.

The housing process at Marist seems to be an overwhelming task for anyone who is not quite clear on the guidelines. For students who are paying upwards of \$30,000 a year we should be able to attain complete helpful information, not only with the housing selection process, but also with anything else that affects us.

THE CIRCLE Features

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2004

maristcircle.com

PAGE 5

College Life

Sick and homesick

There have not been too many times in college when I have been homesick, except for the times when I'm physically sick. It's these days that I long for the times when I was sick in high school: when my mom wrote a letter to the attendance office, I had about ten minutes worth of homework to make up (which my best friend conveniently brought home for me), and the fridge was always stocked with orange juice.



AUBREY
ROFF

Being sick at college is the worst. It's not like home when you get to take the day off, lay on the couch, and watch movies all day; your mom calling every few hours to check up on you. Sure, you could lie on the couch in your common room, but you're sure to be interrupted every ten minutes by ringing doorbells, microwave timers, and your housemates' daily life crises. Not to mention everybody complaining about you getting your germs all over the couch. And the only "check-up" you're going to get is your roommate's, "Feeling better, dude? Because I need a ride to campus."

And then there's the issue of getting better. Very much like my first grocery shopping experience, I was shocked to find out how expensive cold medicine is. The tree in my backyard must have either been growing twenty-dollar bills or Robutussin,

because the cabinet was always full of it. As you search through the aisles at Eckerd, trying to figure out what medicine will cover all your symptoms in the most economical manner, you realize that dropping ten dollars on Sudafed is making you feel even worse.

And then there's NyQuil. NyQuil in college has a whole different meaning. It's consumption is definitely not only restricted to the evening hours. If you want to catch up on your sleep, you can take the stuff during the day. The company is constantly trying to add extra flavors to make it taste better — no reason to. You'll be seeing your eyelids before you even taste it.

Then again, if none of these efforts are making you feel better, you could head over to Health Services. This is a desperate move, taken only by those who think something might actually be wrong; something that NyQuil and twenty hours of sleep can't cure. There's probably a ninety-percent chance that you'll get a general diagnosis; Robutussin, and Sudafed, but hey, at least it will be free.

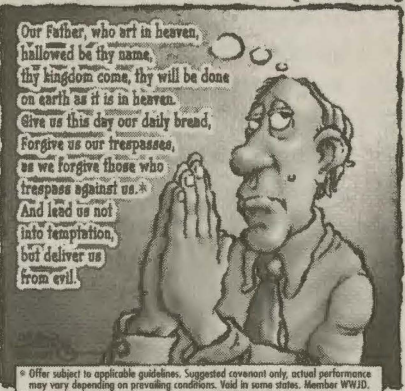
So, being sick at college is pretty bad, and it makes you wish that you could take back all those days on your couch with stacks of videos and leftover spaghetti in the fridge, and enjoy them a little bit more. It's the only time you can say, "I want my mommy" and really, really mean it.

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



"Concubine, Cleatus...I said we done needed a concubine."

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



"Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



"Printer's jammed."

Giggles & Bits

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



Piddles tips his hand.

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



Crossword

ACROSS

- Arrived
- Field measure
- Macho one
- Sharif of films
- Criscross framework
- Middle East gulf
- Stall tactic
- Pull on
- Mach-jet
- God of war
- Cheshire cat's trademark
- Always, in verse
- Doormen
- Commerce
- Inc. in the U.K.
- of Marmara
- Panama, e.g.
- Sound of heartstrings?
- Humane org.
- Singer Bonnie
- Snacks
- Pitiful cry
- Warlike women
- Jillian or Landers
- Intent
- Agenda details
- Galle's one-on-one
- O.T. book
- Cobbler's punches
- Milk of
- London subway
- Medical Mme.
- Violin stroke
- Kodak offering
- Vampire vanquisher
- Actress Sommer
- Burn balm
- Wedge-shaped mark
- Fewer
- Takes the odds

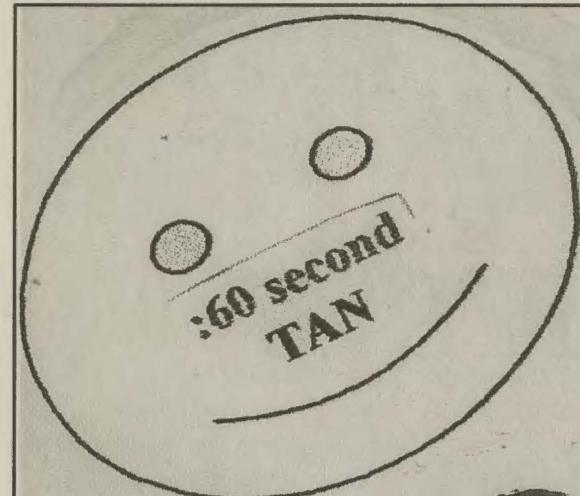
DOWN

- Functional undergarment
- Entertainer
- Mystical incantation
- Period
- Greek market
- Saled-service place
- Washer cycle
- Byrnes or Hall
- Abomination
- Outfit
- 11 Milk of
- Publishing grp.
- Columnist
- Hentoff
- Violent tirades
- Touche
- emotionally
- Butterfingers
- Tenant's expense
- Droops
- Rotary-phone feature
- Attributes
- Affectedly humorous
- Actress Farrow
- Relish
- Exchange
- Window unit
- Mercury ore
- Fertilizer
- Ripped off
- Totally wrong
- Store, as fodder
- Dry red wine
- Disgraces
- Returned from dreamland
- Shipyards relics
- Hauboyes
- L.A. home of the Trojans
- School grp.
- Animation art
- Adjective for the Beatles

Solutions

S	L	B	S	S	E	T	L	S	H	V	O
E	O	L	E	X	T	E	E	N	V	I	S
W	I	J	B	O	L	O	O	M	O	S	D
V	E	S	E	B	N	L	S	T	A	M	E
H	E	N	I	O	H	S	A	L	I	V	N
S	W	E	L	L	I	V	N	N	E	D	
S	N	O	Z	I	M	V	I	V	M		
S	L	I	Z	I	L	I	V	I	V	I	S
D	N	I	Z	S	O	N	H	L	S	I	
V	E	S	O	I	L	E	O	V	E	L	
S	H	E	X	E	L	E	V	O	R	E	
N	I	L	O	S	E	V	I	S	S		
L	V	O	L	O	N	N	O	E	V	N	N
V	E	V	O	V	G	I	B	E	S		
N	V	N	H	E	B	O	V	E	S		

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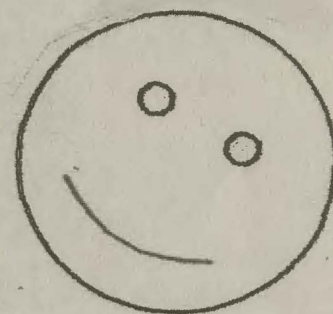
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Irish rock band Ceili Rain 'storms' the Theater

By **CAROLINE ROSS**
Opinion Editor

The sounds of step dancing and the Irish rock band Ceili Rain filled the Nelly Goletti Theater on Thursday, March 4.

Students from Marist and people from the surrounding areas gathered in the theater to enjoy the night and, if they were Irish, celebrate their heritage. An overall sentiment of anticipation and excitement emanated from the audience all the way through the performance.

Helen Bohan, a professor from Dublin, Ireland, introduced the opening act and Ceili Rain in Gaelic, the native language of Ireland.

Bob Lynch, Director of College Activities, helped Bohan introduce by translating her Gaelic introduction.

Bridget Burns, Marist freshman, sang and played the Irish

harp as the opening act for the band. Burns, trained under a renowned harpist, amazed the crowd with her performance.

Ceili Rain, led by vivacious lead singer Bob Halligan Jr., intrigued the crowd with their eclectic mix of rock and traditional Irish sound.

'Ceili is a Gaelic word that means party. Rain is stuff that falls from the sky. Thus, Ceili Rain is a downpour of heavenly partiness.'

— Bob Halligan Jr.

Members of the audience danced in the aisles and formed a conga line towards the end of the show. Each band member was spotlighted and performed a solo

highlighting their talent and unique instrument.

Shawn Jarecki, Marist frosh, attended the show with some friends and was impressed by the liveliness of the band.

"The combination pipes and guitar definitely make for a high-energy performance that just makes you smile," Jarecki said.

Buddy Connelly, the accordion player of the group, provided background music for a trio of young Irish step dancers from a local Irish dance school. They captivated the audience with their detailed footwork and synchronicity, under the watchful eye of their instructor.

Ceili Rain, founded in 1995, released their fifth CD, "No You, No Me," in September 2002 and has a new CD due out later this year. Halligan describes the band as a combination of Irish and American culture.

"Ceili is a Gaelic (Irish) word

that means party, specifically one with live musicians, dancing, general merriment, an all-ages crowd," Halligan said. "Rain is that stuff that falls from the sky. Thus, Ceili Rain is a downpour of heavenly partiness."

The members of Ceili Rain have undertaken the responsibility of donating money and time to Mercy Corp, a relief program that aids communities around the world depending on their needs.

Halligan traveled to Guatemala with Mercy Corp to aid with the distribution of food and build shelter for those in need.

Halligan explained that the title track off the new album, "Change in Your Pocket," makes an ambitious social statement.

"With the change in your pocket, you can change the world," Halligan said.



BROOKE HEITHOFF / THE CIRCLE

The Irish rock band Ceili Rain performs Thursday. The band intrigued the crowd with their eclectic mix of rock and traditional Irish sound.



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"This is art, you blockhead!"... continued from page four

members expressed to me how much they loved the show. Each person had a different favorite moment, in which they connected with a character through their action or behavior. I assume that Ms. Gunner left the performance in a hurry, because her comment that the production "left the audience unsatisfied and disappointed" is either a fabrication or

just the ramblings of a person that has no insight into the theatre.

In conclusion, my advice to The Circle is to hire a writer who has knowledge and a background in the theatre arts. Reading Ms. Gunner's review was "extremely annoying and insufferable." I have written to a periodical before, but I know I

could have done a better job than Ms. Gunner. This letter has not been written to defend a show that I was in, but instead to clarify the misunderstanding of a great theatrical work of American culture. Thank You.

Sincerely,
Eddie Grosskreuz

M

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Men place second at ECAC, women finish fourth

By MARK PERUGINI
Assistant Sports Editor

The Marist College men's swimming and diving team placed second at the ECAC Championships, and earned fourth in the ECAC competition on Feb. 29 in Pittsburgh, PA.

Larry Van Wagner, the coach for both the men and women's swimming and diving teams, indicated that the men were incredibly intense and competitive throughout the meet.

"The men placed third in the 2003 ECAC Championships, and this year, they placed second," Van Wagner said. "The men only lost by 28 points and it basically came down to the last event."

Junior Matt Castillo led the charge for the men's team, winning the ECAC Championship in the 200-yd IM with a time of 1:51.03. He also finished fifth in the 200-yd breaststroke and

seventh in the 200-yd freestyle with times of 2:06.12 and 1:42.97, respectively.

Freshman Nick Chevalier, junior Jeffrey Paul, junior Matt Castillo and senior Ray Ferranti captured the 400-yd freestyle relay, finishing the event with a time of 3:05.73.

Castillo and Paul were also an integral part in capturing the 400-yd medley with sophomores Kevin Connors and Joe Pilewski, completing the event in a time of 3:26.31.

This was the first time the Marist men's swimming team won at least one relay event, let alone two, at an ECAC Championship event.

Van Wagner said he is elated with the work ethic of the men's swimming and diving team, and he expects his athletes to maintain their success.

"We expect everyone to exceed his or her standards individually as well as a team," Van Wagner

stated. "Improvement is expected every year."

Junior Jeffrey Paul finished third in the 50-yd freestyle with a time of 21.04, while also placing fourth in the 100-yd freestyle with a time of 46.21.

Nick Chevalier had notable performances in both of his individual events.

Chevalier placed fourth in the 1,650-yd freestyle, finishing with a time of 16:10.62. Chevalier also placed fifth in the 500-yd freestyle with a time of 4:38.06.

Furthermore, the men's swimming team avenged their nine point MAAC Championship loss to Rider University, beating the Broncos by 123 points.

Women place fourth

Coming off an impressive Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship win, the Marist women's swimming and diving team completed their outstanding season by finishing fourth in the ECAC Championships with 369 points.

The women Red Foxes placed only behind Boston College, St. John's University and New Hampshire University.

Van Wagner said he is pleased with the perseverance and the effort the women's team showcased throughout the season, especially at the ECAC Championship.

"I don't think I can expect more of a successful outcome," Van Wagner said. "At the 2003 ECAC Championships, the

women placed nineteenth. This year's performance demonstrated a remarkable improvement for the women's program."

Freshman Lauren Malski was the stellar swimmer of the women's meet by winning the 100-yd breaststroke with a time of 1:03.46. She also captured bronze in the 200-yd breaststroke with a time of 2:22.62.

Malski was the first swimming athlete in Marist history to qualify for the NCAA Division One Championship meet, which will be held this year at Texas University and Texas A&M. Malski beat the consideration-qualifying time by .47 seconds.

"The addition of Lauren made a major impact not only on the breaststroke but on the medley," Van Wagner said. "Not only does it motivate me to continue to coach, but it also motivates the team to reach that type of success."

Freshman Anna Sanner, soph-

omore, Meghan Duffy and senior Amber Van De Carr were the anchors of the team. Duffy placed second in both the one-meter and three-meter dives, while Van De Carr placed fourth and fifth in both the one-meter and three-meter dives. Sanner was close behind, finishing sixth and seventh in the one-meter and three-meter dive.

This past weekend, Coach Van Wagner found out that Malski missed the NCAA 'B' cut in the 100-yd breaststroke by 34 one-hundredths of a second.

"I am still very proud of Lauren," Van Wagner said. "It will be fun to watch Lauren compete for the next three seasons. More importantly, expect the men's team to continue their growth as a team, and expect the women's team to make more significant strides over the next years to come."

From Page Eight

Women bring home first MAAC title, defeat Canisius

"I just feel so great for the kids, especially our seniors," he said. "What the five seniors have gone through for four years and to have their careers end like this with a championship, it is just a

tremendous feeling." Marist had previously defeated the Manhattan Jaspers, 60-49, in the quarterfinals, and the Saint Peter's Peahens in the semifinals, 62-54. The championship victory

is the Foxes' twentieth of the season, a new program record.

The Foxes have to wait until Sunday, Mar. 14 to find out where, when, and who they will be playing in the NCAA

Tournament. The Tournament seedings will be announced live on ESPN.

Fans gather to cheer on Men's team as they face rival Siena

saw our school spirit. While Marist may not have won the game (an exciting close game however), those students who made the trip made it worthwhile. The Saints' fans did not have set chants.

The Saints' fans lacked the Red Foxes' intensity on and off the court. The Saints' fans did not show appreciation for the team

quite the way the "sixth man" did for the Red Foxes. When I finally left the Pepsi Arena after the game, those who stood around began chanting for Marist, showing that no matter the outcome of the game, our school will not stand around and watch Siena push us around. At that point, I was never more proud of the team or our school.

So, despite the result of the game and the season, the support is there. Our voice was clearly heard throughout the Pepsi Arena. And while we may not have beaten Siena this year, at least our 100 or so fans proudly stood up to the likes of the high school kids and 30-something drunken fans.

For the Saints high school fans,

they will go home and look forward to their junior and senior proms, while sneaking beer behind mommy and daddy's backs. For the mid-aged fans, they can laugh and reminisce about the good old days.

For me, I'll drive back to Poughkeepsie waiting for our team to destroy Siena next year.

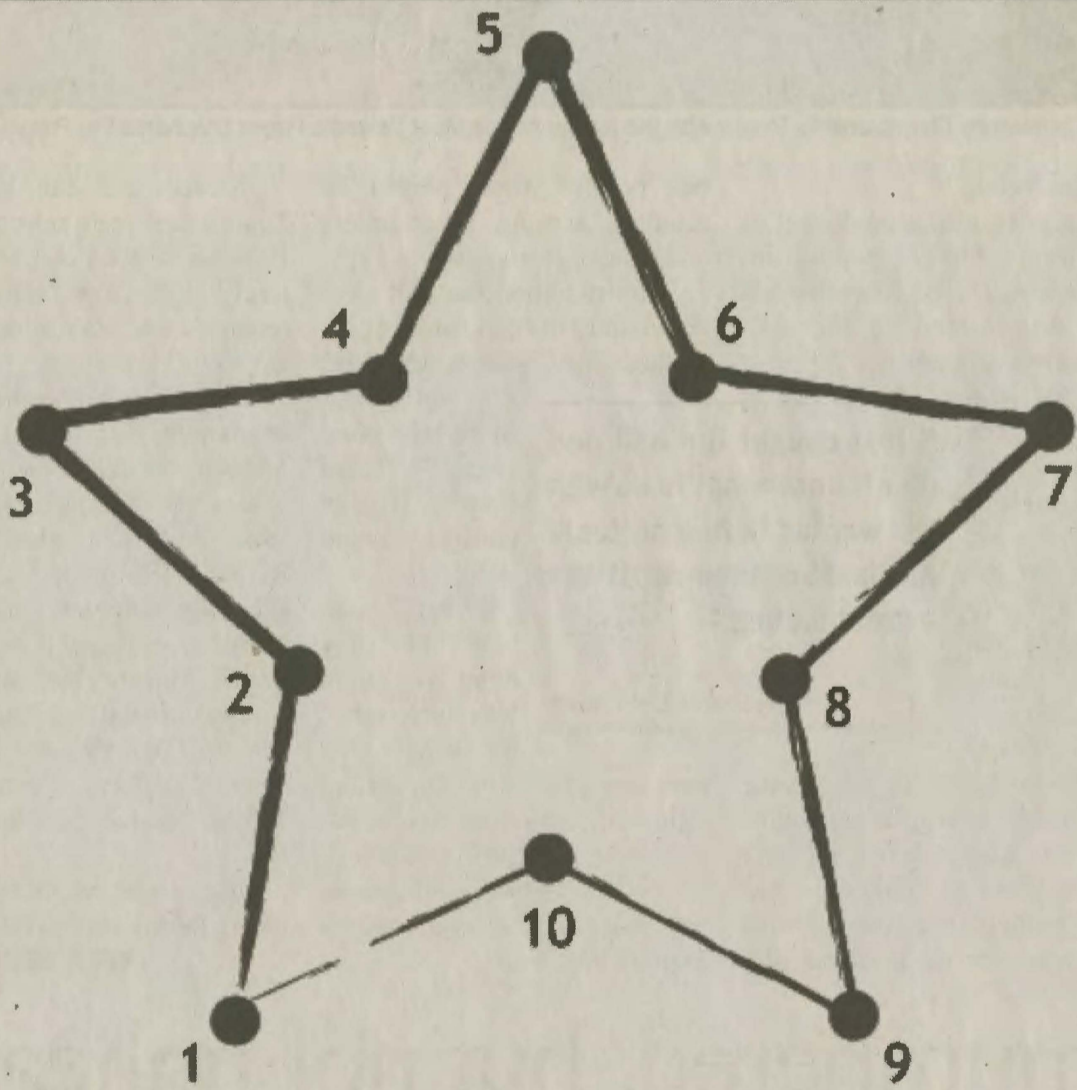
Intramural Basketball Results

Monday Results

- Johnsons 24 - 2 Nice on Natty Ice 23
- ATF 42 - High Fives 33
- Poop 42 - Coalition 34
- Hot 22's W - Old School no show
- FIST 52 - The Deadheads 30
- Cool Kids 39 - Baby Beluga 31

Wednesday Results

- The 44 - Cleveland Steamers 29
- Son's of Liberty 42 - Lights Out 26
- Winterfresh 48 - Ground Zero 40
- Money Shot W - Busch Boys L no show
- Muddy Bears 48 - We Hate Roach 45
- Old English 46 - Never Was 32



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THE CIRCLE Sports

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2004

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PAGE 8

Women make history by winning first MAAC title

By MIKE BENISCHEK
Staff Writer

Do not adjust your Internet connection and don't go to the optometrist; you weren't seeing things.

On Sunday from 4:40 P.M. to 5:10 P.M. the picture prominently displayed in the center of espn.com's homepage was of the Marist women's basketball team.

The second-seeded Marist Red Foxes defeated the fourth-seeded Canisius Golden Griffins, 76-74 in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Tournament finals at the Pepsi Arena in Albany, N.Y. The team captured its first MAAC Tournament title ever, just one week after securing its first MAAC regular season championship ever.

Senior forward Stephanie Del Preore, who was named MVP, scored 30 points and nabbed 16 rebounds in the contest, said she was excited about the win.

"I am so proud of everyone on this team," she said. "We had confidence in each other and it is just a huge win; the biggest win of my life and a dream come true."

After leading 45-35 at the half, the Foxes slowly let its lead slip away. With 2:14 remaining in the game, a short jumper from the elbow by Canisius point guard Becky Zak cut Marist's lead to 71-69.

Following a Del Preore basket to put Marist back ahead by four, MAAC Player of the Year Jenel Stevens was fouled by Kristen Vilaridi while shooting a three-pointer from the corner.

Stevens, a senior and an 80 percent free throw shooter, made just one of the three shots to cut the margin to 73-70 with 1:32 remaining.

Up by just a point following Stevens' lay up, 73-72, freshman Shannon Minter was forced into a three-pointer with just three seconds left on the shot clock and missed long. The rebound fell straight into the hands of Canisius senior Lonnie Brown, but Alisa Kresge, playing with four fouls, knocked it out of her hands and onto the floor. Maureen Magarity ended up with the ball and was tied up for a jump ball — the possession arrow pointed towards Marist with 21 seconds left on the game clock.

The Golden Griffins were



All-MAAC team member senior Maureen Magarity (L) holds Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship Trophy with the tournament's Most Valuable Player Stephanie Del Preore (R).



For seniors Maureen Magarity and Nina Vecchio, the long road has come to an end. Awaiting them is the MAAC trophy.

forced to foul Del Preore after she received the inbounds. Cool and confident, the senior stepped to the line and knocked down both shots.

After Brown hit a lay up off an offensive rebound and sliced the margin back down to one, Nina Vecchio was fouled and sent to the line for two shots. Vecchio made the first and missed the second as Canisius grabbed the rebound.

With the Foxes up two with six seconds remaining, Zak had one last chance to tie. An open push shot from the elbow which fell woefully short and into the hands of Del Preore.

"I just caught the ball and didn't know what to do with it," Del Preore said. "I wanted to find my team and just hug them all. It was

a great feeling."

Magarity, who scored eight of her team's first 17 points, finished with 18 and five rebounds and was named to the All-Tournament Team.

Kristin Keller, the MAAC's sixth-player of the year, came off the bench to score 11 and grab nine rebounds.

The Foxes' freshmen backcourt of Kresge and Minter also gave big contributions. Kresge gave out four assists while not turning the ball over a single time, and collected five-rebounds to go along with

two points. Minter played 30 minutes, scoring seven-points and dishing five-assists.

Marist turned the ball over seven times in 40 minutes of play and just once in the second half,

'I just caught the ball and didn't know what to do with it. I wanted to find my team and just hug them all. It was a great feeling.'

—Stephanie Del Preore

a stat that Marist's second year Head Coach, Brian Giorgis found ironic.

"When I came here the only thing we led in was turnovers," he said. "It's hard to express what I'm feeling right now, to go from there to sitting up here; its just incredible."

Earlier in the weekend Giorgis was named the conference's Coach of the Year.

Stevens and Zak, both All-Tournament Team selections, led Canisius with 24 and 14 respectively. Stevens added 11 rebounds and Zak added seven assists.

Following the game it was announced that Marist captain Magarity would be the player to receive the championship trophy from MAAC Commissioner, Richard Ensor. In a gesture showing both how united the Marist team is and how classy a person Magarity herself is, the captain insisted that four fellow seniors, Del Preore, Vecchio, Kerry Sullivan, and Vicki Wancel receive the trophy with her.

Giorgis said he felt especially happy for his senior class.

SEE WOMEN, PAGE 7

Foxes fans may have been outnumbered, but not unheard

By PAUL SEACH
Sports Editor

There were roughly 5,400 people spaced out at the Pepsi Arena for Friday night's Marist-Siena matchup. Of those 5,400, maybe 100 were Red Foxes' supporters. For the "sixth men," it was going to be a long night.

Sitting in section 102 before the start of the game, the Marist faithful — with their "sixth man" shirts — felt section 102 was not good enough to combat the Saints faithful fans (coincidentally supporting their home team in their home court in a supposed "neutral" site). The empty floor seats next to the Marist band were too tempting to

pass on filling.

As everyone crowded down to the floor seats, the "sixth men" began what then might have been their final game of the season for chanting on a team that did not meet preseason expectations.

As for the game, it was much closer than some expected, especially for a team that has been knocked out by Siena for the past two seasons. For Marist, there was nothing to lose. Save for a few bad calls falling Siena's way, the game was close.

Powered by frosh guard Will Whittington, whose career night left Red Foxes fan with something to look forward to next season, Marist gave everybody reason to believe the Saint's jinx

may come to an end.

Sadly this was not the case.

After jumping out to a quick 4-0 lead off jumpers by Dennis Young and Will McClurkin, the Red Foxes were moving up and down the court with great confidence.

Hopefully it wasn't that small boost of confidence that got to the Foxes' heads as they quickly lost the lead and had to play catch-up the rest of the way.

The final blow came with 2:07 left in the game and Marist trailing 64-62 after Whittington drove to the basket on a quick lay-up causing Siena to call a timeout. On their next possession, Saints' Antoine Jordan missed a jumper, but it was

rebounded by Michael Haddix, resulting in a Jamal Jackson lay-up that extended the lead 66-62 with just a little over a minute remaining.

Suddenly, the Siena Saints fans showed up. Chants of "warm the bus up" filled the arena. Siena fans started jumping into the Red Foxes' section talking trash. Once again, the joke was on Marist as Siena fans felt great pride in a bittersweet victory, knocking Marist out for the third straight year.

Walking out of the arena was not easy. Everywhere the sixth man went, two times the number of Saints fans were readymade with chants. The only positive thing came from a guy who

humbly asked what year Whittington is. One razor sharp genius proudly asked me, "What year is Rik Smits?" in which I replied "a redshirted freshman."

I suppose he thinks Smits was some kind of fluke or something. What would he know anyway? He's too smart for the likes of Marist.

Most of the trash talk came from 30-something fair-weather fans who decided to make their presence known in the final 60 seconds. That caught the attention of the authentic Marist fans who in defense began chanting "Mid-life crisis" while pointing around to the "clinging to their college days" men that Siena drags into the Albany arena.

Aside from a rousing cheer for graduated Saint Prosper Kwanga (in which Marist chanted "I hate Prosper") in the second half, the Saints' fans did not become a force until the game was wrapped up and decided.

The Red Foxes fans', on the other hand, are a far different story. Those who drove through the thickest fog this side of the Atlantic Ocean showed up and stayed the entire game as their voices did not go unrecognized.

For nearly three quarters of the game, the Saints' fans sat back like college students in the library and watched quietly. They heard all of our chants, our complaints to the referees and

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