



The Circle



The student newspaper of Marist College

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Marist sends relief effort to Breezy Point in Sandy aftermath

By BRENNAMCKINLEY
News Editor

Though Poughkeepsie was spared the worst of Hurricane Sandy, the Marist community has not overlooked the areas that were devastated by the storm. On Saturday, Dec. 1, 34 Marist volunteers—31 of them students—teamed up with Habitat for Humanity of Westchester and took a bus down to Breezy Point, Queens to aid in hurricane relief efforts.

The service trip was brainchild of Marist Habitat for Humanity and Public Praxis, and was organized with the help of SGA and College Activities. Both Marist Habitat and Public Praxis members wanted to do whatever they could to help hurricane Sandy victims in their relief efforts.

"This project became an idea after a discussion with one of the Public Praxis courses where students [decided they] would like to take up Sandy relief as their final project for the class," said Daniel Salamone, assistant to the Public Praxis minor. "I brought the idea to other classes who gave support, discussed it with our Praxis group and eventually established connections with locations on Long Island to help give our support."

While Salamone and the Public Praxis students organized their relief efforts, Marist Habitat for Humanity President Tom Plowinske began reaching out to volunteer organiza-



ASHLEY VOGEL / HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Thirty-four Marist volunteers visited Breezy Point, Queens on Saturday to aid in hurricane relief efforts. Tasks included sidewalk restoration and debris removal.

tions including Habitat for Humanity of NYC, Habitat for Humanity of Westchester, United Way, Habitat for

Humanity International Youth Programs and the American Red Cross.

"We were basically just looking for

an opportunity to help out in any way we could," Plowinske said, "but knew we needed a specific contact that would work in a specific area of destruction and had a specific project for our group."

Habitat for Humanity of Westchester ended up becoming that contact, and the collaboration between the three organizations allowed serious planning to commence.

"We approached Bob Lynch [of College Activities] as to what we could do about transportation," Salamone said, "and we all worked together to supply a bus to the site we knew of at Breezy Point."

SGA held a drive to collect toiletries, food and clothing, which the volunteers brought down to the Breezy Point site. When the Marist volunteers reached the work site, they saw just how necessary these donated goods were.

"It looked like we were in the middle of a warzone," said Michael Johnson, director of community relations for SGA, who attended the service trip as the SGA representative.

"Houses had been completely blown away, military convoys rumbled through the streets and a tattered American flag waved above a desolate field of debris that was once a row of seaside houses."

Senior volunteer Ashley Vogel was also shocked by how devastated

SEE SANDY, PAGE 3

"The Giving Tree" gives Christmas to families in need

By MELISSA CONLON
Staff Writer

In its 22nd year here at Marist College, the Giving Tree is a project that epitomizes the college's mission of the call to serve those who need it most. The project allows for the Marist community to provide holiday gifts to less fortunate local children and families.

Started in 1991 by a student named Michael Thompson, the seasonal service project was taken over in 1997 by the college's Campus Ministry department, and is now overseen by a Giving Tree Committee.

"A lot of work for this project is done on their part," said Brother Frank Kelly, director of Campus Ministry. The committee is in charge of creating all the gift tags listing desired items, setting up several "giving trees" around campus to display the tags for the Marist community to take, decorating the trees and taking them all down when the service project culminates with the Giving Tree ceremony on Dec. 9.

This year the trees held 908 gift tags, whose gifts will be spread among 28 families, including 107 children,

who the college will be helping this Christmas season. There are seven local service agencies from which the families were chosen this year. Each family is allowed to request four "household needs," and each of the families' children are allowed to ask for five "needs" and also make three "wishes." Students who have picked up a tag this year are not just buying a gift, but making Christmas possible for children who would otherwise not be able to celebrate.

This Sunday, Dec. 9, Marist will celebrate the Giving Tree and Christmas as a school community. At the weekly seven o'clock mass, Father Richard LaMorte will bless all of the giving tree gifts and afterward, "Silent Night" will be sung. Both Brother Frank and Father LaMorte have warned that the chapel will be packed, so students wishing to attend should plan to arrive early to get a seat. After mass, the gifts will be accounted for, and help will be needed to sort the gifts out to the seven service agencies.

What happens after Sunday is carefully planned out, Brother Frank noted. On Monday, "Grace Day" as

Brother Frank calls it, students who forgot to bring their gifts Sunday can drop them off at Campus Ministry in Byrne House. Then on Tuesday, the Giving Tree committee will go out to shop for as many outstanding gifts as they can.

"This leg of the effort is thanks to the generous donations of administrators, faculty, staff and alumni who give and say, 'Go out and get what you need.' These extra efforts really help to make up for gifts that were not bought," Brother Frank said.

Once all the additional gifts are bought, wrapped and sorted, Wednesday morning is then "Pick Up" day. Throughout the day, the seven agencies will come by the college to pick up the gifts for their clients. From there on, students can know that 28 Christmas miracles will happen for the families in need.

Brother Frank shared what he believes to be the true message of the Giving Tree project.

"The giving tree, I think, is truly the heart of what Marist stands for," he said. "It teaches our students to care for those who most need it, while also teaching them to be thankful for what

they have."

Gifts are still available to be purchased for the Giving Tree project. Interested students should stop by Campus Ministry in Byrne House.



BRENNAMCKINLEY / THE CIRCLE

"Giving Trees" with gift requests are located in buildings around campus.



THIS WEEK

Thursday, 12/6

HuMarist Big Show
9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Nelly Goletti Theatre

Friday, 12/7

Last Day of Fall 2012 Classes

SPC Movie: Lawless
10 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
PAR

Saturday, 12/8

National Eating Disorder Association Lecture
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
PAR

SPC Movie: Lawless
10 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
PAR

Sunday, 12/9

Giving Tree
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Chapel

Monday - Thursday,
12/10-12/13

Final Exams

Discover Marist Days for Adult Undergrad Programs
Dyson

Friday, 12/14

Final Exams

Residence Halls Close at 5 p.m.

Letter from the Editor

Thank you for picking up *The Circle*. This is our last issue of the semester, a semester that has been a busy one and I think a successful one for us. I would like to thank you for coming along for the ride as we covered campus life from the Student Center renovations to the Marist Poll's success, and other interests of the election, reviews of the latest movies, music and games, and things to do off-campus in the Hudson Valley. I would also like to acknowledge the staff of *The Circle* for all of their hard work, providing the Marist community with good writing, editing and reporting.

In this week's issue, our front page features a story on a group of about 30 Marist students who went to Breezy Point to help with Hurricane Sandy relief. Also in news, we have a story on the annual giving tree and our usual student government update.

In features, read about a pair of Marist fashion alumnae who have successfully started a jewelry store in New York City.

Lifestyles examines holiday gift ideas and the increasing acceptance of tattoos in the workplace, while opinion takes on the McCann fitness center and Black Friday.

Read a pair of reviews in Arts and Entertainment, one on SPC's trip to the Radio City Christmas Spectacular and one on Flight, the new

Denzel Washington movie.

In sports, the women's basketball team continued their tough out-of-conference schedule with a 68-55 loss at no. 12 Oklahoma on Sunday. The football team's season is over after a loss to San Diego on Saturday, but senior Mike Rios broke a couple program records, and the Swimming and Diving team came away from a MAAC meet with three wins.

To those graduating this semester, good luck in your future endeavors. For those going abroad, enjoy and safe travels, and for the rest of you, have a good break, and we will see you in the Spring.

Eric Vander Voort
Editor-in-Chief

Lindsay Lohan, Cinderella and a worried mom

By MICHAEL BERNARDINI
Staff Writer
@mrBERNARDINI

Well, that's it for 2012. If the world decides to keep spinning on its axis after Dec. 21, you can expect to hear from me next semester. If not, I thank you for allowing me to use your drunken, stupid antics as my own source of entertainment. Keep having fun, and stay safe over winter break!

11/30 1:40 p.m.

Security spotted three males transferring something from a brown paper bag to a backpack as they were exiting Campus Deli. They were stopped in front of Tenney Stadium where security confiscated three 40 oz. bottles of malt liquor and two cases of beer. I wonder why security was so suspicious. Everyone knows Campus Deli is a family-oriented delicatessen (specializing in two-day old sandwiches, rolling papers and discounted munchies).

11/30 12:49 a.m. Upper West Cedar

A cab driver reported an intoxicated student to security. Security found a female student, who claimed to

have been at River Station earlier in the evening, vomiting by the dumpsters in between Upper West Cedar and Middle Fulton. Later, she was cleared to return to her residence. Are we sure it was a Marist student or was Lindsay Lohan celebrating the premiere of *Liz & Dick*?

11/18 4:30 a.m. McDonald's

Fairview responded to an intoxicated student at McDonald's. Security was contacted, and the student was sent to Saint Francis. That awkward moment when you pass out waiting for the breakfast sandwiches to become available. If this isn't a sign the fast-food chain needs to change its policies, I don't know what is.

11/18 2:04 a.m. Champagnat Hall

An intoxicated student was found passed out on a table in the breezeway. We get it. The beds here aren't comfortable.

11/18 2:01 a.m.

A female student was taken to Saint Francis after reporting she had gotten glass in her foot while dancing earlier in the evening. It truly is a modern day version of

Cinderella. In this case, the pumpkin-turned-carriage is a utility van past inspection date-turned-cab, and Prince Charming is a Marist guido wearing Ed Hardy.

11/18 12:35 a.m. Champagnat Hall

After jumping out of a cab on the highway, a freshman student returned to his residence hall. There literally is nothing for me to say here. The fact that a freshman jumped out of a cab is the punchline.

11/12

A female student was scheduled to arrive in Poughkeepsie by train at 1:30 p.m. After not responding to several phone calls, emails and text messages, the student's concerned mother contacted security at 9 p.m. that evening. A search was conducted and the student was found giving a presentation in her night class. Coincidentally, this is also the plot of the most boring episode of *Law & Order: SVU*.

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

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From page one

Student volunteers aid in on-site Sandy relief efforts

the area was.

"One of the most challenging parts of this service trip had to be seeing the houses that were burned down from the fire," Vogel said. "We walked around that area, and I was caught off guard. I understood that houses had burned down, but to see it firsthand...was a very challenging aspect of the day."

The volunteers' main task was to clean up the sidewalks and parking lots on either side of the main road, which was polluted with sand, garbage and other remnants from the homes that fell victim to the storm. However,

volunteers also offered aid to families working to restore their own property.

"Once we arrived, we were given a specific stretch of land, all the necessary tools and directions for general clean up," Johnson said. "The goal was to clean up sand, garbage and debris from public spaces to boost local morale and deter vandalism and looting. A couple of times, however, we would see families out working in their yards and offer to help them."

Breezy Point residents were unanimously appreciative of the volunteers' help, which many

Marist volunteers found to be the most rewarding part of the trip.

"A lot of people as they were walking on the street would stop and speak to our students," Vogel said. "I had stopped to talk to an older man and he was saying it is people like us that will help them get back on their feet and restore what they use to know as a beautiful area."

"There were people coming out of their houses with trays of food," Johnson added. "People were constantly thanking all of the volunteers, [and] cars would pass our group on the street and yell 'Go Red Foxes!'"

This volunteer service trip is the last of its kind for the semester, but Marist Habitat for Humanity plans to utilize its new contacts in Westchester for future service projects.

"We will definitely do our best to pick things right back up at the beginning of next semester," Plowinske said. "We will keep an eye on collection and donation opportunities, rebuilding opportunities, and even relief opportunities if they are still going on when we return from break."

Salamone also intends for further collaboration among Public Praxis, Marist Habitat and SGA.

"The group who helped form this trip definitely wants to continue our efforts with Sandy Relief," he said. "Between myself, Tom and Michael, we are definitely in process to make consistent trips to different locations who have suffered from Sandy."

Plowinske agrees, acknowledging that there is, indeed, still much more work to be done.

"Our trip to Breezy was a tremendous success," he said, "but I consider it the start of our assistance rather than the end."

Photos by Ashley Vogel



At left: Storm and fire damage devastated most of Breezy Point, Queens. Entire blocks of houses lay in ruins following the superstorm.

At right: Students work with volunteers from other organizations to unload supplies for hurricane relief efforts that included cleaning garbage and debris from public spaces and helping families with individual restoration projects.

SGA update: Class of 2015 sponsors Mr. Marist competition

By KATHLEEN O'BRIEN
SGA Reporter

For the past few weeks, the Student Government Association has been hosting events and fundraisers to benefit the Marist and Poughkeepsie communities.

SGA participated in the Hunger Walk sponsored by Campus Ministry on Nov. 3; a total of 917 students participated in the walk, which broke last year's record.

From Nov. 26 to Dec. 3, a fundraiser was held by the Student Life Association, which oversees all Resident Hall Councils, to benefit two Poughkeepsie families. All Resident Hall Councils held fundraisers, including selling candy cane grams, pictures with Santa, pizza and wall decorations. The money raised was used to buy an Xbox 360 and two Nintendo DS consoles for the families in need. The gifts will be brought to the Chapel for the Giving Tree Ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 9.

"With these events, we wanted to promote attendance among RHCs, so people from different areas could get to know each other while raising money for a good cause," said Vice President of Student Life Association Courtney

Lawlor. "The RHCs did a great job this year, and I speak for the Student Life Association as a whole when I say that we are happy to help these families during the holiday season."

On Nov. 17, the Red Fox Den was held in the Student Center. The event ran from 8 p.m. to midnight and was hosted by SGA in coordination with the Gaming Society's Gaming Day. A large number of students attended both events; Gaming Day activities included Rock Band, Dance Connect and Basketball Connect. In the alcoves, face painting, henna tattoos and friendship bracelet stations were housed. Overall, students who attended both the Gaming Day and the Red Fox Den found it to be an enjoyable experience.

"[The Red Fox Den] was lots of fun," freshman Dani Schotz said. "The activities were easy and different. It was a great way to start off a Saturday night."

The coordination between the Gaming Society and SGA helped to make the night both fun and accessible for the student body as it provided them with many alternative activities all situated in one area.

"It's so convenient how you can

go inside and outside and find activities everywhere," junior Paul DeRubeis said.

The SGA-sponsored Academic Bowl was held on the afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 1. The event consisted of different clubs competing in various academic challenges. Alpha Phi Delta was the winning team, and Kappa Kappa Gamma finished in second; 12 clubs participated in all.

In upcoming news, the Class of 2015 is sponsoring the Mr. Marist competition, which will be held on Feb. 27, 2013. From December 3-7, applicants can nominate themselves to be entered into a drawing. On Dec. 8, 21 students (six freshmen, six sophomores, six juniors and seniors and three commuter/Resident Inn students) will be randomly selected from the drawing. Over winter break, the candidates will create and submit a two-minute video detailing why they should be chosen as Mr. Marist. From that pool, the Mr. Marist board will choose 10 people to compete in the event on Feb. 27. The contestants will compete in categories such as most school spirit, talent, formalwear and a surprise category.

On Monday, Dec. 10, the class of

2013 is sponsoring an event for seniors at Jazzman's Café. From 10-11 p.m., seniors can drop by the café for a "Seniors Final Study Break." Free Dunkin' Donuts food and drinks will be provided. In addition, for a donation of \$10 to the Senior Class Gift Fund, seniors can acquire a "Class of 2013" pint glass.

SGA would like to remind student that the initiative to have library hours extended during finals week has been approved. Therefore, the library will be open for 24 hours from Sunday, Dec. 9 to Thursday, Dec. 13.

Student Body President Paul DiBlasi saw library hours as an important issue and is pleased with the results.

"Student Government saw a need for students to have the best academic services, especially during finals week," DiBlasi said. "We thought that the library should be open 24 hours a day during finals week to provide the best opportunities. We worked with Academic Affairs and Security to realize this goal, and this semester it will come to fruition."

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A “splendid” business endeavor amongst Marist alumni

By MELISSA CONLON
Circle Contributor

Entrepreneurship is a dream of many, but what happens when two Marist graduates actually make creating a company a reality? Recent 2010 graduates Victoria Azzopardi and Marwa Saadawi did just this when they began their very own jewelry company, “Indira.”

After graduating from Marist College, the two friends decided to backpack through South East Asia. During this trip, they were motivated to find something that would keep them connected to each other now that they would no longer be attending Marist together.

Azzopardi and Saadawi, who spent all four years of college living together, seemed to always be complimented on their distinctive yet tasteful styles while away at school. Because of their similar styles, they enjoyed swapping fashion ideas with one another. It was from this simple concept that an idea was born: the creation of Indira.

The word “Indira” — which is pronounced in-deer-raa — means “splendid” in Hindu. Both women remarked on what the word really represents within the company. “Our jewelry represents the qualities of what we perceive to be in an ‘Indira’ woman. A woman that promotes boldness, individuality, conviction and confidence.”

Although the two women mainly run the company, they would not have been able to make it this far without networking and the assistance and support of their family and friends, as well as many other helping hands.

Indira Jewelry is a small, exotic jewelry company based out of NYC and was founded in 2010. Because of their travelling abroad, both in backpacking and during Marist Study Abroad short-term program

in South Africa, Saadawi and Azzopardi have gathered an array of ethnic jewelry. This jewelry has been meticulously hand-selected from all over the world because of its handiwork, craftsmanship and uniqueness.

All of the jewelry is set in sterling silver, featuring semi-precious stones, cubic zirconia or marcasite. It is something that sets their business apart and makes them stand out from most.

At first glance, it is both the name and their logo which will catch one’s

attention,

“Our logo represents the first two letters of ‘Indira.’ We wanted to create a logo that was simple yet eye-catching and would keep the customer engaged and interested in wanting to know more about us.”

However, it is not just their company’s characteristics that stand out. It is also their clientele.

“The jewelry is bought for a woman who does not want what everyone else has. Most of our jewelry is one-of-a-kind, so if you buy it you are the only one that has it,”

said the pair.

Each year the pair travels to Dubai and Egypt, as well as other small, exotic locations in order to obtain their entire inventory for the year.

However, the pair did remark that buying abroad can be overwhelming.

“Because there is so much talent and so many good quality pieces, we find it hard to not buy it all,” they said.

It can also be hard to buy for a full retail year and make their stock last until they can return to such exotic locations to purchase another inventory of uncommon, yet exquisite, pieces.

The company also collaborates with designers in order to allow for a constant flow of merchandise. Ultimately, they are giving their customers a chance to bring faraway cultures into their everyday lives.

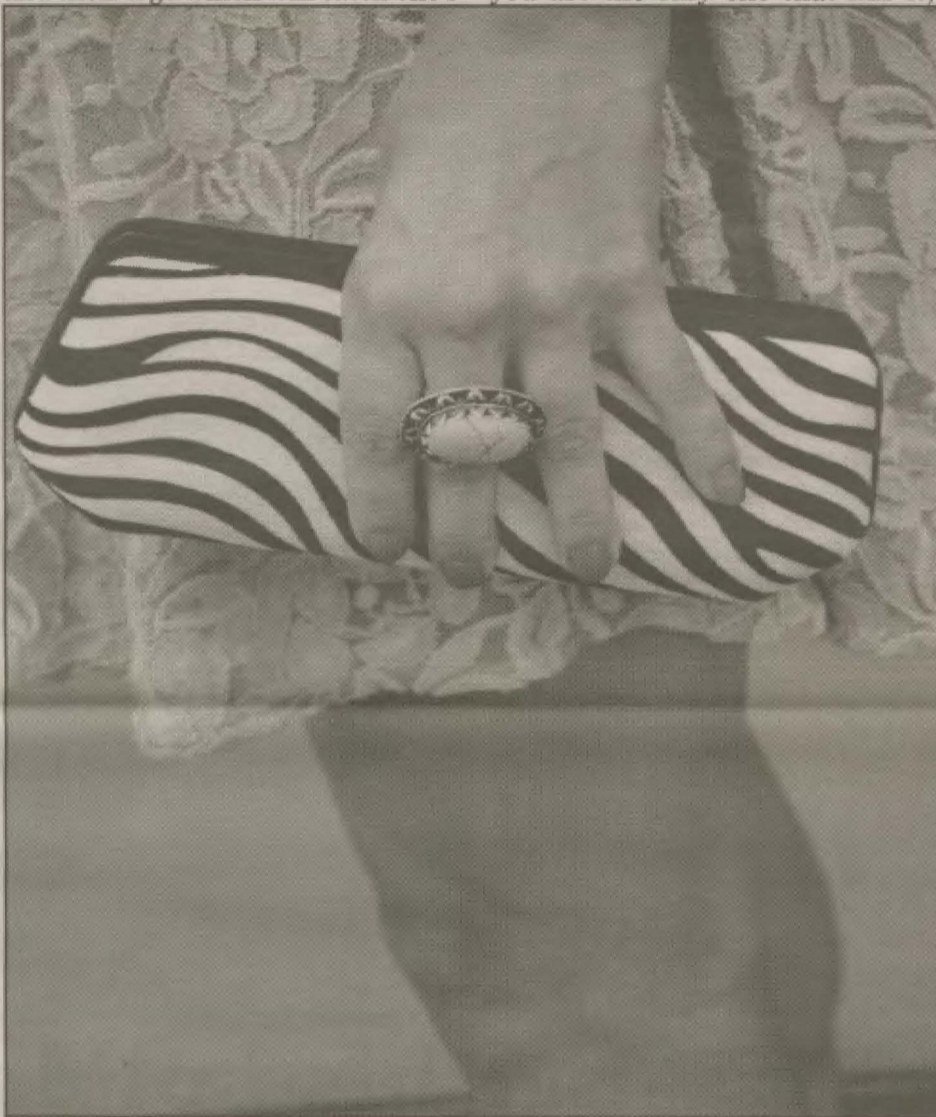
Both Azzopardi and Saadawi hope to eventually double their inventory and sell in more boutiques.

However, they did say that Marist was, and always will be, the foundation of their friendship and business.

“We hope that all our fellow Red Foxes will have the same enriching experience that we were blessed to have had,” they said.

Indira is currently sold off of their website and at local events.

For more information on Indira, visit their blog website, www.indirajewelry.blogspot.com. You can also check them out on Facebook and Pinterest (<http://pinterest.com/indirajewelry/>). Also, be sure to follow them on Twitter and Instagram (@indira_jewelry) in order to learn more about this interesting, exotic jewelry store.



FROM [HTTP:WWW.INDIRAJEWELRY.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://WWW.INDIRAJEWELRY.BLOGSPOT.COM)

The Indira jewelry store in NYC was founded by two Marist Alumni, Victoria Azzopardi and Marwa Saadawi.

Find us online!

www.maristcircle.com

Twitter: @maristcircle

Facebook: The Circle (Marist)

Transformation of the tattoo trend

By CATHRYN VACCARO
Staff Writer

Today, tattoos are more than just ink. More people consider tattoos to be a form of art. They are being accepted more in society and in the workplace.

"I, myself, am a heavily tattooed person. I still get that stink eye from certain people. Now, you see cops and paramedics with tattoos. More people today have accepted tattoos in general society and the workplace," said Jesse Van Note from Plant New York Tattoo, located right across the street from Marist College.

Van Note has tattoos all the way up to his neck and down to his wrists. Once he started working in the tattoo industry, and as times started to change, he decided to extend his tattoos because it was seen as more acceptable. Van Note also believes that television and media has influenced younger people to get tattoos.

Michael Dillaire, a sophomore at Marist, has a tattoo of his grandfather's fire helmet to honor and respect him.

"People still judge my tattoo," Dillaire said. "If they know the story behind it, then they respect it and feel that it is more artistic. It is definitely more common and popular amongst college students because it is on you forever."

The history of tattoos and perceptions of tattoos have greatly changed over time. Tattoos could be seen as a form of status or resemble different tribes in other countries. During the 1940s, many U.S. soldiers and sailors came home from World War II with tattoos. The traditional or "old school" form of tattoos originated from the

kinds of tattoos that these servicemen received after World War II. These tattoos consisted of pinup girls, red and blue ink and heavy, dark outlines. People used to associate tattoos with prisoners and sailors. Today, the art of tattooing is a big part of American culture.

According to CBS News, research has shown that "23 percent of college students have one to three tattoos." Some believe that once you get one tattoo, there is a sudden urge to get more tattoos. It is much more common today for younger people to get tattoos and have more than one. At Planet New York Tattoo, there is a wide age range of people that come in to get tattooed. Usually, clients fall within the ages of 18 to 25 years of age. About 20 percent of clients at Planet New York Tattoo are Marist students.

Chelsea Bennington, a sophomore, has her brother's name with a rose tattooed on her wrist because he passed away. She still thinks that some parents and older people view having tattoos as a rebellious act.

"More of our generation thinks it is more of an art, but some take that for granted by getting stupid tattoos," Bennington said.

A new fad in the tattoo industry is getting white ink. White ink has become so popular because it allows people to get tattoos without having the worry of constantly hiding the tattoo. This alternative from a black ink tattoo has been in high demand since Lindsay Lohan was spotted with a white ink tattoo.

"I would want a tattoo that says, 'Faith' because, not in the religious aspect, but it would be a personal motivation to keep having faith no mat-

ter how hard times get," sophomore Alessandra Gajano said. "I would only get one on my lip because my parents would kill me, and it fades away."

A problem with white ink tattoos is that they disappear quicker. Van Note says that about five people per week come in asking for white tattoos.

"We do not do white ink tattoos. We are absolutely against it. It is against our moral codes. Tattoos are meant to be seen," Van Note said.

Even though it is more common to see younger people with tattoos, there is a high percentage of people that go to certain tattoo shops to get their tattoos covered up or to get tattoos removed. Van Note explains that about 10 people a week come in to get cover-ups.

Venise Miles, a sophomore, has a multicolored butterfly with stars that trail to the initials of her name. Miles explains how she loves butterflies be-

cause they are so delicate and represent her transformation. Her tattoo of a butterfly was created to cover up her old tattoo. When she was in high school, she decided to get a tattoo with her best friends. She decided to get her school mascot of a bee. She later found out that she is allergic to bees.

"I really do think it is more common with our generation to get tattoos because it is like a show-off thing for some people," Miles said. "At the same time, it's a way to express yourself. It is not just art on a piece of paper, it's art on your body."

In the end, the final decision is up to the person who is getting the tattoo. Today's society is not solely based on judgments and negative assumptions when a person is spotted with a tattoo. Tattoos represent stories, memories and loved ones to certain people. People are opening up and becoming more accepting of this form of body art.



DAN QUIEROZ/FLICKE

More people are getting tattoos now that the perception of tattoos has changed.

Guide to gift giving this holiday season

By CAROLINE CROCCO
Web Editor

By the time the tests are over, the papers are written, and the coffee container is empty, most students will be on their way home, and some will realize they completely forgot to shop for gifts because they were so caught up in finals madness! Take a look at this gift-giving guide for ideas and tips to get all of your shopping done this season.

1. Know who you're shopping for. Make sure to write out a list well in advance of everyone for whom you need to buy a gift to avoid the awkward moment when somebody gives you a gift, but you have nothing in exchange for them. Take hints from your friends and family about things they might like. Even if they're not as forthcoming about their perfect ideas, try to be alert for signs of potential gifts like, "I have no more money left on iTunes," or, "It's so cold, my coat is too small!"

2. Brainstorming and bargain hunting. Create a list of things you should be on the lookout for as you shop. However, don't limit yourself to a single idea! Sometimes the best gifts are a random find at the mall or

from a major sale that you didn't know about. Take a look at coupons that come in the mail or online merchandising websites. Worst case scenario, you might get 25 percent off on your big purchases!

3. Communicate. If you're having trouble coming up with gift ideas, ask your friends! Chances are, they're probably doing holiday shopping of their own. Get a group of friends together to hit the mall, they can help you pick things out and give you advice!

4. Surf the Web. Interactive websites such as Yahoo Answers typically have good ideas for generic gifts you can get for loved ones. Sometimes simplicity is not a bad thing.

5. Personalize. Buying gifts for close friends, a significant other or parents can be tricky. Take advantage of the gift giving season to show them what they mean to you. Think of giving gifts that really mean something to that person or something that shows them that you truly know them well.

6. Suggestions.
Men/Fathers: In this category, the opportunities are endless. You can go with generic gifts such as gift cards to Home Depot, Best Buy or a family

restaurant. This way, they'll have the opportunity to spend at their own digression and pick out what they need. A more personal gift can be a trip for two, such as going to a local golfing range. Other possibilities include books, DVDs, speakers, fishing materials or tools. If you're interested in expanding your price range, keep wristwatches, cameras and tablets on your radar!

Women/Mothers: Shopping for women can be easy when you think of all the options! Gift cards, look for Macy's, William Sonoma or a salon are great options. If you're hoping to incorporate a bonding experience into your gift, take her to the salon with you, go out to breakfast or plan a trip. Head to the jewelry store, and you're guaranteed to find something in your price range. A popular pick is a personalized necklace or bracelet with representative charms. If you end up deciding against jewelry, take a look at shoes, purses and sweaters. Sometimes you can score great deals for a cheap price. Keep your eyes out for candles, incense, perfume, blankets, picture frames and CDs. Try to package a few together to create a nice, homey gift basket.

Siblings/Friends: Depending on the

age of the sibling or friend, some of the ideas from above can be recycled. For friends, an activity the two of you could do together can be fun. However, if you're shopping for a sibling of a younger age, look at gift cards to their favorite stores like Forever 21, H&M, Game Stop, Lids, Toys R Us, Target and iTunes. Taking them to a local baseball game or theater can be a great gift idea. If you're really stumped, Mom and Dad might be able to help on this one!

Boyfriend/Girlfriend: When shopping for a significant other, make the effort to show them how much you care. For girls, jewelry or perfume is great, and for boys, look for cologne or a jacket. To make the gift more personal, take advantage of your talents. Paint them a picture, sing them a song or write them a short novel. These gifts truly display your effort! Try to take them on a trip, perhaps to a basketball game, a Broadway show or on an exciting city trip full of their favorite activities. Top it off with a dozen roses and a homemade card and you're good to go!

Good luck with your shopping, and be sure to leave adequate time to be a smart shopper this season! Happy holidays!



McCann Center to update cardio equipment

By CATHRYN VACCARO
Circle Contributor

When you walk into the McCann Center, it is not unusual to see many machines on the top floor of the Fitness Center not working; it is also pretty common to see students standing around and waiting to use those machines that are.

The James J. McCann Center was first opened on April 17, 1977. In 1997, the McCann Center expanded 20,000 square feet to provide the students and student-athletes a better athletic facility. The Strength and Conditioning Center, which took up two floors, was created.

In June 2006, there were 38 pieces of Precor cardio equipment placed mostly on the top floor of Strength and Conditioning Center. According to the Marist athletics website, the Precor cardio equipment has been "all outfitted with the latest Cardio Theatre technology...Marist is the first institution in the Northeast to install this style of integrated Precor Cardio Theatre." Most of the TVs attached to the equipment rarely ever work.

"I think the hours are a problem, and the gym should open earlier than 9:00," sophomore Craig Soderholm said. "Another problem is that there should be better equipment."

Soderholm goes to the gym about five times a week. He has waited for a machine for about 15 minutes.

According to Darren McCormack, the Associate Athletic Director for Facilities and Operations, there is record of about 3,500 student swipes on a weekly basis. The week

from Monday, Nov. 25, to Dec. 2, had a total of 2,672 swipes during that time period. This does not even count the teams and clubs that use the Fitness Center during activity hour.

"Well, I think the workout area is a little small, but I also think dance classes shouldn't be held in the aerobic studio because that takes away space from everyone else," said Carli Jurczynski, a sophomore in the Marist Dance Ensemble. "They should create a second dance studio considering that dance ensemble is one of the largest clubs on campus."

McCormack explained that various pieces of equipment in the Fitness Center were purchased many years ago. For example, most of the cardio equipment, such as treadmills, ellipticals and stair climbers, were purchased between six to seven years ago by Marist College. Certain individual pieces of cardio equipment were put in three to four years ago. Also, there were more dumbbells added this past summer, and all of the benches were replaced four years ago.

Andrew Clarke, a sophomore, goes to the gym about four times a week. He usually waits around five to 10 minutes to use a machine at the gym.

"The main problem is that when something is broken it takes forever to fix," Clarke said. "The gym, at times, can be a little too small only for the reason that when the teams come in there is nothing for us to use."

He also thought that the gym should upgrade some of their equip-

ment. For example, there is no decline bench press machine, so students have to find alternative ways to work out due to lack of equipment.

Replacing equipment is somewhat of a long process because some of the electronics in the cardio equipment need different tools that only a vendor would have. The equipment in the Fitness Center is expensive and is paid by the college's capital purchases.

Jon Clancy, who is the Fitness Center Coordinator and Strength and Conditioning coach, is mainly in charge of maintaining and repairing the equipment in the Fitness Center.

"He [Clancy] keeps a supply of some of the basic parts and an inventory of tools for the free weight equipment," McCormack said. "The electronics and complexity of the cardio equipment demand specialization, so Jon calls in the vendor who they have a service contract with. Some parts are not stocked by the vendor, so they must be ordered."

Alessandra Gajano, a sophomore, says that she once waited 15 minutes for a machine.

"I do not think there are enough machines and room for people to work out," Gajano said. "There is a limited amount of machines and sometimes even half of the machines are broken. Even when the gym is busy, there should never be a time when machines are not available to use. It is also extremely hot in there to exercise normally."

The improvements that she would

like to see at the McCann Center would be to include more up-to-date machines, more space and more working machines.

Throughout the fall semester, the directors had the idea of replacing the old treadmills with 16 new Precor 885 Low Impact models. The directors also have decided to add seven new bikes in the Fitness Center. These new machines are the most up-to-date models, with iPad-touch-like screens and full Internet access.

"A lot of planning had to go into the infrastructure improvements and capabilities," McCormack said. "Unfortunately, this distracted us, and we took our eye off of maintaining the current machines. We've refocused now, and all but two of the machines are running."

The new treadmills and bikes are scheduled for installation in December, so the new cardio equipment will be ready for students when they return to campus in January.

"The college is always looking to improve its facilities. Additional TVs will be added to the Fitness Center Lounge soon," McCormack said.

Even though the directors have decided to finally update the old equipment, the gym is still too small. There is not enough space for Marist students and Marist student-athletes to share the same gym. Fixing this problem of limited space in the gym would benefit the entire Marist Community.

Black Friday materialism and the holiday season

By EMILY HOUSTON
Circle Contributor

Families who gathered around their tables this season were bombarded by persuasive ads promising spectacular deals that gave them reason to wait in line with crazy shoppers on Black Friday.

It is no secret that Black Friday is the busiest shopping day of the year. If shoppers are willing to withstand the weather and other pushy customers, they have the ability to save a respectable amount of money. Although this may seem like a good idea in theory, what people sacrifice in order to save money is absurd.

The holidays are about spending time with friends and family and being thankful for what you have, rather than spending time and money to buy what you want. The craziness and publicity that Black Friday brings defeats the purpose of everything that the holiday season stands for.

"Gift giving during the winter season often takes away from the traditional meaning of the holidays," freshman Sara Silverstein said.

On one hand, it is easy to see how

the deals may be too good to pass up. But unless you are willing to stand in line for hours on end to buy a high-end electronic device, it does not really make sense to wait all night to save a few dollars here and there on clothes. Except with electronics such as televisions, stereo systems or DVD players, the deals are not much different than an average day at the mall. Ultimately, the buyer has to choose between waiting in line all night or spending the day with family. The latter is how time is truly meant to be spent.

Even when the day is spent with family, the thoughts of having to leave later in the night to go to stores, or having to wake up at an ungodly hour to drag yourself to the mall or outlets, are constantly crossing your mind the whole day. Whether it be consciously or subconsciously, the consumerism involved in Black Friday is something that most people deal with each year.

This whole so-called tradition of Black Friday shopping unfortunately reflects how our society operates nowadays. Often times, Americans end up caring more about materialism and the frivolous

factors that are a part of shopping and that are glorified by Black Friday. When, in reality, people should be focused on what is important during the holidays, which is spending time with family.

"Individuals today are obsessed with finding deals, in turn they neglect the values behind the true meaning of the holidays," freshman Julianne Miller said.

It seems kind of ridiculous that when people have the ability to go to the mall any other time and day of the year, they choose Thanksgiving weekend to do their shopping. This contradiction makes it look as though Americans care more about fulfilling their wants rather than enjoying what they have, which sadly seems to be the case.

The purpose of Black Friday has snowballed to affect the rest of the holiday season, especially Christmas. Kids often expect larger amounts of expensive gifts than they did say when our parents were growing up.

"Each year people attempt to outdo their gifts from previous years thinking that the better the gift the more pleased the receiver is with it," Miller said.

It is sad to see a time that is meant for relaxing with your family, decorating the Christmas tree or making cookies has been completely overtaken by materialism.

Unfortunately, this may be the type of world we live in now. Some people do not have the ability to see their families over the holidays, so it is a shame that those who can take it for granted.

Every year the Black Friday discounts start earlier and earlier, and even begin on Thursday night. If Black Friday is as big of a deal as we make it out to be, it only makes sense that the deals and discounts should start on that Friday rather than the day before. In a way, it defeats the purpose of having a day solely meant for a discounted shopping experience.

Even though Black Friday has already passed, for the rest of this year and future Black Fridays to come, keep in mind that being appreciative and thankful for the people in your life means more than a materialistic present bought at a discount on Black Friday.



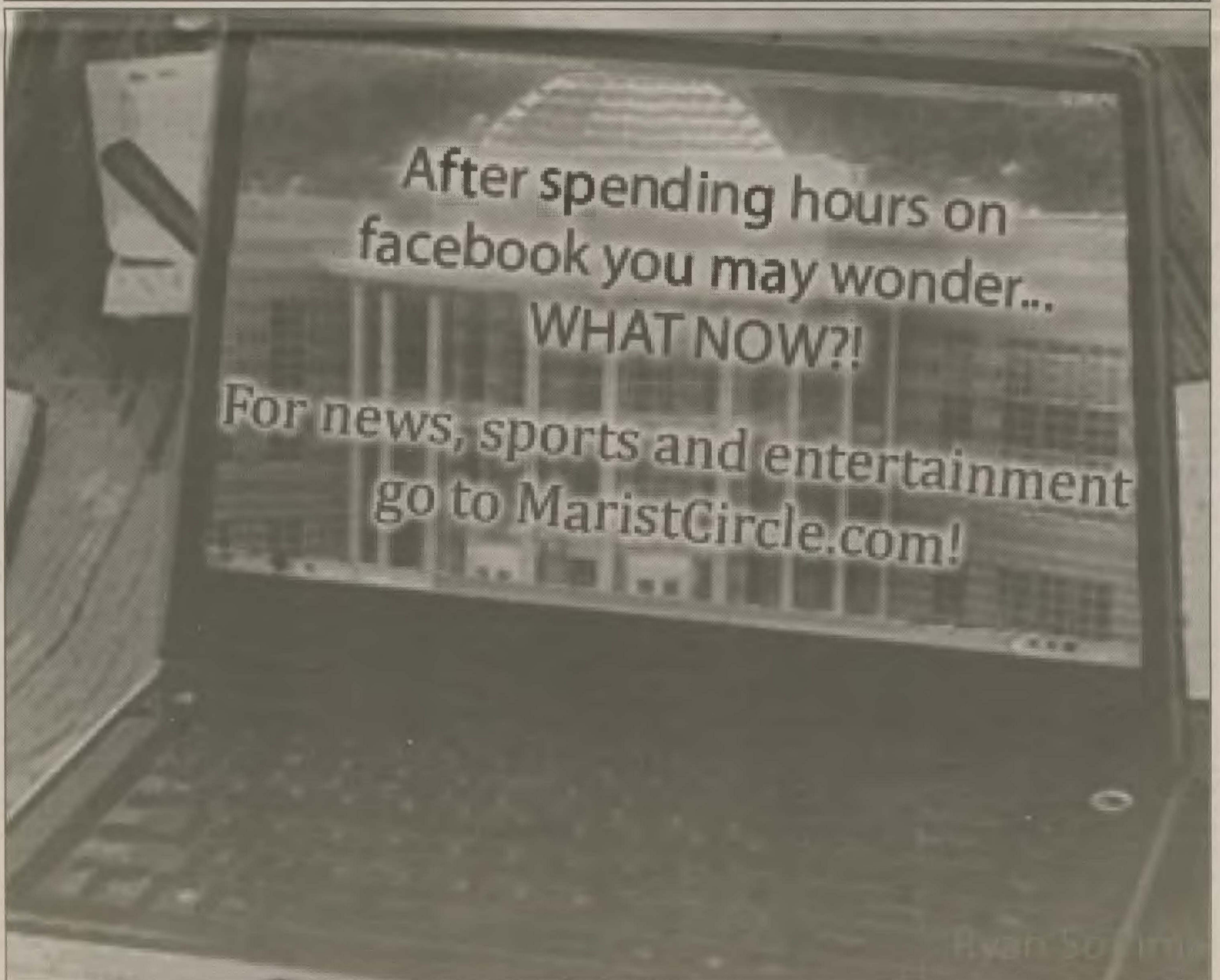
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Ryan So...

The "Radio City Christmas Spectacular": A review

By AMBER CASE
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Dec. 2, Marist students traveled into the city to see the "Radio City Christmas Spectacular." Celebrating 85 years with the Rockettes, the holiday tradition at Radio City Music Hall was especially exciting. Students arrived in New York City shortly after 11 a.m. on Sunday for the 2 p.m. show, allowing a couple of hours to explore.

"We were given more free time on this trip, which was nice," said Ashley Hellberg.

Marist students were able to indulge in a delicious lunch and enjoy some shopping in the city prior to the show. The Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center was brightly lit and surrounded with people snapping pictures and ice-skating on the rink below.

The line to get into Radio City moved efficiently so that there was plenty of time to get to the reserved seats in the orchestra section. It is great that Marist was able to provide their students with discounted tickets in an area of the hall considered to be the best seats in the house. The show started promptly at 2:00 pm as the lights dimmed and simulated snow circulated across the walls. The audience did not have to wait long to see the stars of the show; the Rockettes appeared right as the curtain was raised, ready to begin a sleigh ride with Santa. When Santa was revealed, he invited the audience on a 3D journey through New York City. Scene two was an example of how far the Christmas Spectacular has

come after 85 years, fully utilizing the many technological advances that have been made over time. A second glimpse of the Rockettes came in scene three when the girls performed their own rendition of the 12 Days of Christmas. When the Rockettes took stage, they immediately captivated everyone's attention - watching them dance in perfectly choreographed unison was

out the years. In what can only be described as the most meticulous dance of the show, the Rockettes acted as Santa's favorite toy, nutcrackers. The women were able to make something as simple as marching like a soldier into an incredible performance. The nutcrackers ended their third performance by creating a domino effect in which each dancer melted

with them to the North Pole where he teaches the duo that love is the best gift of all at Christmastime. Another special part of the show is the special effects on the screen behind the performers. In addition to the thrilling 3D adventures, there are constantly changing visuals that enhance every performance. The sparkle of the Rockette costumes combined with the elegant props on the stage and screen created a wintery feeling perfect for the plunge into December. And, of course, the great singers cannot be neglected for their lively holiday songs. They really brought the show home with their original take on "Let Christmas Shine." The song led right into the final scene of the show, a true tribute to where Christmas started: the nativity scene.

The "Christmas Spectacular" should be praised for its great respect to the live animals used during the nativity scene. The symbolic Christmas scene was greatly improved by the presence of a live camel, donkey and sheep with their shepherds. The audience showed their enthusiasm for the show when the performance concluded by erupting into applause and cheers for all the members of the Christmas Spectacular cast. Murmurs of "that was great" could be overheard all around the orchestra section. Overall, the trip to NYC's Radio City was a success. It is a holiday tradition that can really get Marist students in the yuletide spirit.



FROM WWW.BROADWAY.COM

The world-famous Rockettes, as seen above, are one of the key components to the "Radio City Christmas Spectacular." They are one of the most memorable aspects.

truly mesmerizing. Their world-famous leg kicks will leave you in awe, which is not surprising due to the rigorous training that one must go through to be a Rockette. In the next scene, Santa presented a creative history of the Rockettes by displaying six women on platforms next to the stage in the costumes that the ladies have worn through-

into the dancer behind her.

Although the Rockettes are the true stars of the show, there are many other members of the Christmas Spectacular cast that make the show possible. In a later scene, a mother needs Santa's help to get her daughter the one present that she wants the most which has sold out in every store. Santa travels

"Flight": A not-so-happy contemporary drama

By GEOFFREY MAGLIOCHETTI
Staff Writer

In most contemporary dramas, if the protagonist happens to be a despicable human being, the film will usually go out of its way to rectify the situation and quickly assign some redeeming qualities. "Flight," a surprisingly depressing story of a would-be-hero pilot, makes no attempt at this. Dealing with a horrific plane crash where the drunken pilot saves most of the passengers and crew, and then the legal aftermath, "Flight" could have been the feel-good movie of the fall. The film instead travels down some dark territory not normally seen in big-budget releases.

The audience learns almost immediately that Denzel Washington's character "Whip" Whitaker is not exactly the Sullenberger type. Within the film's first five minutes, Whip awakens from what apparently was a wild night with one of his flight attendants. He promptly downs two beers, argues with his ex-wife and does a line of cocaine. Minutes later, he is out to fly a commercial airliner, where he's mixing



FROM WWW.TVNEWS.COM

"Flight," starring Denzel Washington, is a sullen, dark film that isn't afraid to make you dislike the main character. This gives the character more depth and feeling.

his vodka with his orange juice. Since Denzel is usually cast as calm and likeable good guys, one would think he'd falter when cast in such a loathsome role. Instead, Washington rises to the challenge and embraces the role. Once Whitaker is given a second chance and saves his plane from a major tragedy, he does make a small attempt at redemption by dumping all the alcohol he possesses down the drain. Once he finds out that he's being investigated for drinking during the infamous flight, next thing you

know, he's downing a case of Budweiser while driving. Several attempts are made at another redemption, but Whip only dives further into his problem, so credit "Flight" for not succumbing to the typical Hollywood drama. Washington puts on a fantastic routine, in what I would seriously call one of the best acting performances of the year.

You may not have heard of the name Robert Zemeckis, but you've probably seen his work. Helming such classics like "Forrest Gump,"

"Cast Away," and the "Back to the Future" franchise, Zemeckis finally returns to the live action circuit, after a five-year experiment with stop motion films, which ranged from great ("The Polar Express") to mediocre ("Beowulf") to dreadful ("A Christmas Carol"). When his films focus on one character's story, he usually succeeds. However, too many subplots hurt "Flight" and cause its running time to stretch over 2 hours, causing interesting characters played by acting veterans Don Cheadle, John Goodman, Kelly Reilly, and Bruce Greenwood to disappear entirely at the most inopportune times. An interesting character portrayed by Melissa Leo ("The Fighter"), is mentioned throughout the film, but doesn't show up until the end. A combination of the long runtime and numerous subplots make "Flight" seem more like a TV mini-series than a movie. Simply put, "Flight" isn't first class, but sometimes sitting in coach isn't so bad, especially when you're sitting next to Denzel Washington, one of the best actors of this generation.

Club hockey finishes strong semester

By JOE CALABRESE
Staff Writer

The Marist men's hockey team remains undefeated in regulation, carrying an 11-2-2 overall record through the first semester of the regular season.

Last season, crucial wins in divisional games against William Paterson University and New York University eluded the team. Last season, in the four games Marist played against these two schools, they finished with a 0-2-2 record.

So far this season, the script has been reversed. Over the weekend, in a pair of home games, the Red Foxes defeated William Paterson 8-7 on Friday night, overcoming a three-goal deficit in a third period, come-from-behind victory, and NYU handily 7-4 on Saturday afternoon in a game where they never trailed.

The Red Foxes improved to 7-1 in the SECHL, capturing first place in the SECHL.

The resounding theme of the first half has been the culture change in the locker room and the impact that it has had on everybody. The humble, workman-like nature of this team continues to win out in the end despite playing games that have

gotten pretty tense at times.

"We played a much more hard-working, aggressive game and applied a lot more pressure in the end," Marist head coach Bob Simmons said, immediately after the win versus NYU on Saturday night.

"Pressure on the forecheck was critical. We don't want to start lapsing into the mental game, the chirping and getting involved with the referees, so I try to get them refocused to play the game we know we can play.

With the team's strong first-half performance, every game has taken on that much more meaning, resulting in an increasing amount of in-game confrontations that are simply a part of the game. Last year, those confrontations came from frustration; this year, the frustration is coming from their opponents.

The team's starting goalie, Zach Gomiela, has contributed quite a bit to those opponents' frustration. Gomiela, who started both games in net for the Red Foxes this past weekend, is quickly building an impressive resume that includes two victories versus defending division champion, William Paterson, Siena, Vermont and NYU.

"Today was more of a complete game. I felt like we played a full 60-

minute game here, and yesterday we collapsed in the second period," Gomiela said after Saturday's win.

"It felt pretty good to get a few big ones [saves] at the start to give me confidence. As a goalie, it's always better to get more shots and a lot of big saves."

Junior Steve Milanesi registered his third hat trick of the season. Milanesi is an outgoing personality off the ice, but remains all business on the ice. He understands how hockey games have the potential to get away from players.

"It was a little chippy, but we kept our composure," Milanesi said. "It was just an overall tough game."

Players like Gomiela and Milanesi have bought into the system that has helped Marist to one of the best starts in club history. Captains Pat Erstling and Chris Cerbino continue to provide the ample leadership necessary for a young locker room to thrive.

"We just tried to keep the bench calm," Erstling said, in response to the tension in Saturday's game versus NYU. "Everybody knows it's not worth at that point when we are up three or four goals. Try to keep your head in it, and it will be worth it in the end."

"Yeah, at that point we were

winning, so we didn't necessarily care about the stuff that was going on," Cerbino said.

From the start of the season until now, the team has kept its foot on the proverbial gas pedal, and they don't have any plan on stopping soon.

"The biggest positive we have going for us right now is we can play a pressure game," Coach Simmons said. "If we play 'our' game, we do well. So, when we have lapses away from that, whether their mental or physical, that's when we start having problems. If we stay focused and keep their pressure on, that's when we play well and that's what I'm focused on."

And in the back of their minds, those lofty expectations that seemed possibly a bit too lofty about three months ago have suddenly become much more reachable.

"I expect us to go nationals," Gomiela said.

The Red Foxes have taken care of business so far and will now get to enjoy a long month-and-a-half layoff between now and their next game. Their next game will be on the road at Siena College, Thursday night, on Jan. 17 at 8 p.m.



Men's Basketball

As The Circle went to the press, the men's basketball team lost to Army, 91-57, on the road at West Point.

The Black Knights snapped a six-game losing streak to the Red Foxes behind a strong offensive performance. As a team, Army shot .506 from the field, and .500 from three-

The Fox Trot

Quick hits of the week in Marist athletics

point range. They were led by Ella Ellis (21 points) and Kyle Toth (20 points).

Marist struggled offensively from the very beginning, and finished .333 in FG and .250 3FG. Devin Price scored 19 points for the Red Foxes, while Manny Thomas and Isaiah Morton chipped in 10 points apiece. Price now has 995 career points.

The Red Foxes were also severely outrebounded by the Black Knights, 53-24. Junior captain Jay Bowie, the team's second-leading rebounder with 5.8 per contest, missed the game after injuring his head in practice the day before.

Marist is now 2-5 on the young season. They will host Manhattan on Friday night in its first MAAC game of the season. Tipoff is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Track and Field

The men's and women's indoor track and field teams began their season over the weekend, at the Jay Carisella Invitational in Boston, MA. Both squads saw solid performances from several runners.

On the men's side, graduate student Will Griffin finished fifth in the mile race with a time of 4:18.00. Griffin also came in fourth in the

800 meters, completing the race in 1:59.07.

David Marthy had the best finish for men's team, as he came in second place in the 1,000-meter with a time of 2:32.40. Freshman Alex Cunningham finished eighth in the 60-meter hurdle finals.

Kathryn Sheehan had the women's best finish in the meet, as she ran the 3,000-meter race in 10:25.33, good for seventh place. Both teams now have off for over a month for the winter break.

The Red Foxes will be back in action on Jan. 11, when they travel to the Armory in New York City for the NYC Gotham Cup.

Student-athlete group makes strides

By ZACH DOOLEY
Sports Editor

A lot of times when you look at college sports on the national level, the term "student-athlete" tends to fall by the wayside. It seems, at least at big time programs, that athlete comes long before student, and that the ideals of being a student athlete are forgotten.

Here at Marist, however, the principles of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), seem to preserve those ideals. The SAAC does so much more than just perform on the field, but they perform in the classroom, they perform in the community and they develop the leadership qualities that the NCAA wants to instill in its athletes.

"Representing Marist athletics in that way was never something I ex-

pected to do, let alone become president of, but I wouldn't trade it for anything," SAAC Co-President Eleni Waskiewicz said. "Being a part of SAAC has presented me with such great opportunities to help so many people and gain more knowledge and leadership skills that aren't available to everyone."

One huge part of what the SAAC does is get Marist Athletics involved in the community. This past year, the committee participated in the Friends of Jacklyn Walk, Project Chem Pals at a local hospital, the CODE RED Initiative and the upcoming Giving Tree Program.

"I think the greatest event we've done in a while is the Friends of Jacklyn Walk," Waskiewicz said. "Athletes showed their support not just by donating their time and money, but by making special prayer posters that remembered those who have passed on already from pedi-

atric brain tumors, the horrible disease the Friends of Jacklyn raises awareness about."

The Friends of Jacklyn Foundation is an example of what the Marist athletics community can do when united as one, and the SAAC is a huge reason for that. The SAAC, despite being comprised of just two members from each Marist team, represents the entire student-athlete body, and it represents it in a positive light.

The CODE RED initiative, covered in the Oct. 18 edition of The Circle, was designed to generate support for Marist athletics, specifically targeting a Women's volleyball game against Iona. Under the slogan, "Whether you're on the field or in the stands, we're all Red Foxes," the SAAC showed that they put the student before the athlete in their titles, getting a big crowd mixed of all different types of Marist

students.

"CODE RED gave everyone a good chance to come together and support a well deserving team, while having fun and spending time with all of our friends, whether they are athletes or not," Waskiewicz said.

The SAAC will be running a similar initiative in the spring, once again trying to bring together the Marist student body as one. As a whole, the program had one of its most productive and eventful semesters, both on and off the playing fields.

On the field, Marist sports has won three of the last five MAAC Commissioners Cups, while placing third in this year's current standings, through the fall sports.

And clearly, through all of the club's initiative they have had the same successes off the field, truly representing what a student-athlete should be.

Swimming sweeps H2Ounds meet

By JOE FITZHENRY

Staff Writer

This past weekend was an extremely successful one for both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams. The teams swept the H2Ounds invitational, held at Loyola University.

"It was terrific. The women hit their mid-season taper perfectly, and we had 98 percent season best times, with over 75 swims," head coach Larry VanWagner said.

The most noteworthy performance of the weekend came from Kate Conrad, who set a new school record by capturing the 400-yard IM with a time of 4:25.84. Teammate Erica Vitale was second, just under six seconds back at 4:31.18.

"As a female athlete on the collegiate level, it's difficult to continue to show improvement over all four years as an undergrad, but Katie had three outstanding performances in the individual events," VanWagner said.

On the first day of the invitational, the Red Foxes swept all six events and as a whole, won 18 of the 20 events. The team defeated Saint Peter's 297-62, 280-90 over Loyola, and Iona by a score of 279-88. The three wins improve the team to 6-1 on the season and 5-0 in the MAAC.

The most exciting race of the day may have come in the 200-yd freestyle relay, where Bridget Curley, Emily Miles, Bonnie Orr and Maddie Arciello overtook Iona in the

final 50 meters.

Arciello and freshman Bethany Powhida also won multiple events for the Red Foxes on the weekend. Arciello captured victories in the 100 and 200-yd freestyle events, while Powhida took home wins in the 100 and 200-yd backstroke events.

Marist won the first 11 events of the invitational before Katie Larkin placed second in the 100-yd breaststroke, just getting edged out by Iona's Kerri-Anne Dodenhoff.

Vitale earned Marist's final individual win on the weekend with a one-second win over Miles in the 200-yd butterfly.

In diving action, sophomore Kimberly Tobias completed a clean sweep of the events with a victory over teammate Chelaine Eliazar by a score of 227.00 to 220.05.

On the men's side, the team managed to defeat Loyola 207-161, Saint Peter's 211-139 and Iona 210-145.

"The men hadn't defeated Loyola in four years, and Loyola was a three-time MAAC champion in that span. Winning this weekend by 41 points is a major step forward for us," VanWagner said.

Junior Nick Spinella led the way for the Red Foxes by sweeping the backstroke events with times of 51.72 and 1:53.44, respectively.

Senior Danny Collins recoded the most lopsided win of the event for Marist, as he took home the 1650-yd freestyle in a time of 16:40.62, good enough for a 17.62-

second victory.

John Spitzer also captured a victory in the 50-yd freestyle.

The Red Foxes took home their final win on the weekend with a very close race in the 200-yd butterfly, as Jason Ruddy out-touched Valerij Lebedevs for a 0.34-second victory.

On the diving boards for the men, Jacob Baker earned a sweep as he took both diving competitions.

On Tuesday, three Marist swimming and diving members were named as MAAC weekly award winners. After her new Marist record, Conrad was named women's swimmer of the week, the ninth time she has been given that honor

in her prestigious career.

On the diving side for the women, Tobias earned the diver of the week award, also for the fourth time in her stellar career as a Red Fox.

Breaking into the weekly awards for the first time in his career was Baker, who earned victories at Loyola in both the one and three meter competitions. The award was the first of the career for the sophomore diver.

As the Red Foxes enter a six-week break before their next meet on Jan. 12 against Southern Connecticut State, the team will depart for their annual week-long training trip to Puerto Rico on Dec. 27.



JOSEPH S. MILLER/ THE CIRCLE

Kate Conrad swims the 400-yard IM during last weekend's H2Ounds Invitational, held at Loyola University. Conrad set a new Marist program record in the event.

The Circle is looking to fill the following positions for next semester:

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Contact us at writethecircle@gmail.com if you are interested.

Football drops final game of the season

By GARRIN MARCHETTI
Sports Editor

Prior to Saturday's season-ending game against San Diego, the Marist football team had two goals.

The first would be to snap its seven-game losing streak to the Toreros, and record its first victory over their PFL rival in program history.

Second, the Red Foxes simply wanted to win their final game of the 2012 campaign, a season in which players and coaches both have said was "disappointing."

In the end, unfortunately, Marist would not be able to accomplish either goal.

Marist lost 34-10 to visiting San Diego and finished the year 4-7 overall, and 3-5 in the Pioneer League. The loss ensured the Toreros a piece of the PFL championship.

"They [USD] are a really good team, and we knew that coming in," Marist head coach Jim Parady said. "They have a great quarterback and make plays when they have to. There was a reason they won coming in to this game."

The Red Foxes had difficulty containing San Diego's offensive attack, allowing 550 total yards, 422 coming for Toreros quarterback Mason Mills. Mills led his team to four



JOSEPH S. MILLER/THE CIRCLE

Michael Rios set two program records in Marist's 34-10 loss to San Diego on Saturday. Rios set marks for most career receiving touchdowns (17) and most receiving yards (1,173) in a season.

straight scoring drives in the first half.

The Red Foxes' offense provided the bright spot for the home team, as receiver Michael Rios concluded his Marist career by setting two program records.

Rios, a fifth-year senior from Miami, Fla., set records for most touchdowns (17) by a receiver, as well as most receiving yards in a single season (1,173). He also became one of three receivers in

Marist history to have 2,000 yards in a career.

"It [setting the records] was really big for me, but this [game] hurts. We really wanted this win," Rios said. "Individual wise, this season has been great. But teamwise, it has been really disappointing."

Parady applauded Rios' accomplishments, especially after his receiver missed most of last season with an injury.

"I am so happy for him [Rios], to

be able to get those individual accomplishments. He made those records by how hard we worked to come back this season," Parady said.

Saturday's game marked the final game for the team's 21 seniors, including Rios. Parady talked about the group's impact on the program.

"I told all of them [the seniors] to leave the locker room with their heads held high," Parady said. "They accomplished great things here and will always be a part of our family."

This season proved difficult and frustrating for Marist, as four of their losses came by a total of 10 points. Parady acknowledged the difficulty of the season, but also made note of the strides his team made throughout the season.

"We've made so much progress as a program this year, and it wasn't reflected in our win-loss record," Parady said. "No one is happy with 4-7. But those guys, and especially the seniors, have fought hard all season, and have fought through a lot."

Rios echoed his coach's feelings after the game.

"I feel like there is a lot of momentum with the program right now," Rios said. "With these players, the sky is the limit for Marist right now."

Women's basketball splits in non-conference

By ZACH DOOLEY
Sports Editor

Last week was a big opportunity for revenge for the Marist women's basketball team.

Marist saw two opponents who had defeated them in nail-biting fashion over the last few years. They hosted Hofstra, who defeated them by just two points in controversial fashion in a tournament last season, and traveled to Oklahoma, who defeated the Red Foxes in overtime in front of a capacity crowd in Poughkeepsie back in 2009.

The Red Foxes were able to avenge the Hofstra defeat, with a 85-70 win, but fell 68-55 at #12 Oklahoma, in a game much closer than the final score line.

Casey Dulin, who saw her almost buzzer beater, game-tying layup disallowed last year at Hofstra, scored a career high 25 points to lead the charge against Hofstra.

"It kind of bothered me all Christmas," Dulin said with a laugh about the called-off basket from last season.

It was a high-scoring affair from start to finish, with both teams running from the get-go. Both teams shot 43 percent in the first half, and Hofstra took a one-point lead into the half. It was Marist, however, that seized control in the second half, hitting 58 percent of their field goals, including eight of 13 from three-point range.

"A great offensive effort tonight,"

Marist head coach Brian Giorgis said. "That's two games in a row now where I think we've shot the ball extremely well."

In a quick start to the game, Marist was able for the first time all season to get to the rim early on, with the Red Foxes' first eight points coming off of layups, which would open up the three-point shot as the game progressed.

"Early on we had some good layup attempts, and usually when you give up layups early on, people start to sag in more, and that opens up the three-point shooting," Giorgis said.

One of the biggest challenges for the Red Foxes was stopping Hofstra forward Shante Evans, who came into her senior season with several accolades to her name, including an AP All-American honorable mention from last season.

Although Evans finished with 19 points, the Red Foxes were able to keep her in check as her shooting percentage was under 50 percent for day, and, despite the high totals, the Marist defense did a stout job of not allowing her to singlehandedly beat them.

"We did as good of a job as we could on Evans and we held her to ten less than she had the last time we played her and about eight less rebounds and about half of the offensive rebounds," Giorgis said. "Where she actually hurt us was the perimeter, so we did a nice job inside."

Dulin's big night was especially important to her after last year's game at Hofstra and the events that transpired relating to Dulin.

"When we played them last year, they called my layup off at the buzzer, and it bothered me for a few days after that," Dulin said. "And there's a girl on their team, who I played all of high school with, which definitely brings some more passion. I just went out there, and our whole team went out there to show them we can win and beat them, that we're capable of it."

Marist was back in action on Sunday, when they traveled to Norman to take on 12th-ranked Oklahoma. Once again, a feisty Marist team gave the ranked Sooners all they could handle, before fading in the closing minutes, falling 68-55.

The Red Fox defense held Oklahoma to a tied for season low 68 points, but couldn't get that clutch basket down the stretch in the second half to keep the game close.

Marist fell behind in the first half, but used an 11-4 run into the locker rooms to sit just four points back of their ranked foes at the halfway mark. The Red Foxes continued their momentum right out of the games and even led briefly at two different points, off of an Emma O'Connor layup and a Beynnon free throw, respectively.

Oklahoma would regain the lead, but Marist kept the game close, trailing by just one point at the eight-minute mark, by a 51-50

scoreline. Marist offense would hit a cold spell, however, shooting 0-4 with three turnovers over the next four minutes, as the Sooners opened up the lead to double digits.

O'Connor continued her stellar performances against top teams, leading her team with 18 points, tying her career high. Beynnon added 13, and sophomore Natalie Gomez had a career-high six steals.

The Red Foxes are next in action this Saturday when they host the Boston University Terriers at 7 p.m. in the McCann Arena in the final home game of the semester, before a 12 day layoff.



JON O'SULLIVAN/THE CIRCLE

Natalie Gomez and a team and career-high six steals against #12 Oklahoma.