

The Circle



The student newspaper of Marist College

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FOUNDED IN 1965

Thursday, January 26, 2012

Three perish in fire, cause undetermined

By PHILIP A. TERRIGNO
Editor-in-Chief

Town of Poughkeepsie officials have confirmed the identities of the three victims of a house fire that occurred early the morning of Saturday, Jan. 21, at 112 Fairview Avenue. The names of the deceased were not released over the weekend because not all family members had been notified.

The three victims of the fire have been confirmed by Town officials as: Eva R. Block, Kerry R. Fitzsimons and Kevin P. Johnson.

Block, 21, was a Marist College senior and Woodbridge, Conn. native. Fitzsimons, 21, was a Marist senior and Commack, N.Y. native. Johnson, 21, of New Canaan, Conn., was enrolled at Marist from 2008-2010.

Marist College students leased the rental property where the fire occurred. The residence was located a little more than a mile away from the Marist campus.

“Our police department responded to a 9-1-1 call of a reported working structure fire at 112 Fairview Avenue at approximately 1:33 [Saturday] morning,” Town of Poughkeepsie Police Chief Thomas Mauro said.

The Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department was the leading law enforcement agency in a joint investigative effort that included the fire districts of Fairview, Roosevelt, Hyde Park and Arlington.

SEE THE FIRST, PAGE 4



PHILIP A. TERRIGNO/THE CIRCLE

Firefighters from the surrounding area examine the remains of 112 Fairview Avenue.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLIE GOODRICH

Neighbors look on as the house is ablaze early Saturday morning.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHERINE BILSKY

From left to right: Kerry Fitzsimons, Eva Block, Katherine Bilsky and Kevin Johnson.



PHILIP A. TERRIGNO/THE CIRCLE

Fairview Fire Chief Chris Maeder at Saturday's press conference.

Editor's note: Join The Circle in an augmented reality

Take your iPad, iPhone or other iOS device (the Android app is still under development) and go to the app store. Search for “Marist” and download the “Aurasma@Marist” app. You now have the Marist branded version of Aurasma.

This free application puts you at the forefront of how we use our mobile devices. The company Autonomy has created Aurasma, a tool that brings the physical and virtual worlds together for the first time. Available on smartphones, the app was created out of technology that is “capable of recognizing images, symbols and objects in the real world and understanding them. It can deliver relevant content in real time, including videos animations, audio or web-

pages” (Aurasma).

All you need to do is look for photographs in any upcoming Circle print edition that have a caption that reads: “This photo is powered by Aurasmas@Marist.” Open the app and place your device over the photo. Enjoy the content that is loaded directly onto your screen.

The Circle would like to thank the office of Academic Technology (which is part of the Information Technology department) as well as their web services group for making this technology available to us.

It is our goal to submit the Marist Auras app as an official entry into the 2012 Campus Technology innovators awards. Academic technology specialists will be at newspaper kiosks around campus on Feb. 9 to show off this new technology—keep an eye out for them!

Aurasma @ MARIST

This photo is powered by Aurasma@Marist.



THIS WEEK

Thursday, 1/26

Love in the Afternoon Auditions

8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Student Center 349

Dance Ensemble General Meeting

9 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Nelly Goletti Theatre

Shred Foxes Meeting

9:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.
SC 155-Music Classroom

Friday, 1/27

Children's Theatre Auditions

3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Nelly Goletti Theatre

TBS Game Night

5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Student Center 349

Saturday, 1/28

Children's Theatre Auditions

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Nelly Goletti Theatre

Swimming/diving vs. Seton Hall

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
McCann Pool

Sunday, 1/29

SPC Broadway Trip: "Wicked"

9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Bus departs from Midrise lot at 9 a.m.

Monday, 1/30

Marist Democrats Meeting

9:15 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Hancock 2019

Tuesday, 1/31

RA Selection

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Cabaret Hallway

ELP Workshop: Joe Connell: Find Courage to Make Changes

12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
PAR 346

Marist Game Society Meeting

9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Student Center 348, 348A, 349

Wednesday, 2/1

ELP Workshop: ROTC - Military Decision Making Process

12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
PAR 346

SEED General Members Meeting

9:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Student Center 349

Letter from the editor

The Circle reacts to Fairview fire

After the news spread on campus of a fire engulfing a 99-year-old home where Marist students resided, the Marist community immediately came together as one.

On the early morning of Saturday, Jan. 21, around 1 a.m., three lives were lost in a tragic fire that brought the Marist community together to mourn the loss of fellow students.

Students have become compelled to promote togetherness in a time of great tragedy.

Social networking has become a significant source of remembrance for senior students Eva Block, Kerry Fitzsimons and former Marist student Kevin Johnson who attended the College from 2008-2010.

On Facebook, many students and alumni adopted the symbol of a red ribbon and the Marist Red Fox as their profile picture.

Twitter is being used to show

support for the friends and family greatly affected by the fire.

Members of the community have been posting their condolences using the #PrayForMarist hashtag.

Marist's Twitter stated on Jan. 21, "Marist. One campus, one community, one family."

Student Body President Andrew Paulsen later tweeted on Jan. 22, "Life's too short. Let everyone you love know you love them. Keeping every family affected by the fire in my thought and prayers."

As a small campus, The Circle is here to provide extensive, thorough coverage of the fire, including reactions from the students.

The front cover story written by Editor-in-Chief Philip Terrigno, provides our readers with the full story of Saturday morning's incident, while our News Editor Jenna Grande has a reaction story on how the fire specifically affected

the campus and individual students.

We also have a story on how students on and off campus are now taking extra precautions in their homes to prevent future danger. Students were contacted who live off-campus by their landlords to discuss how they could feel safer.

Many students on campus are said to have thrown out candles or take down anything that could be a fire hazard. Our campus has been pushed into realization of how short life is and how we should appreciate everything we have today. The Circle would like to share our condolences with the families and friends who have been directly affected by this tragedy.

Emily Berger & Ryan Rivard
Managing Editors

Dear students,

Below are the wake and funeral arrangements for Kevin Johnson and Kerry Fitzsimons.

The Block family has also extended an invitation to the Marist Community to sit shiva with the family in the evenings starting at 6:30 p.m.

The family will be sitting shiva Thursday and Saturday. The family address is:

8 Beechwood Road
Woodbridge, Conn. 06525
(203) 387-9352

Kevin Johnson:
Wake
Thursday 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Hoyt Funeral Home

199 Main St
New Canaan, Conn. 06840-5601
(203) 966-0700

Funeral Mass:
Friday 11:00 a.m.
St. Aloysius Church
21 Cherry St.
New Canaan, Conn.
(203) 966-0020

Followed by a reception. Burial will be private for the family.

Messages of condolences may be sent to:

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Johnson
482 Main Street
New Canaan, Conn. 00840

Kerry Fitzsimons:
Wake
Thursday, 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.
Commack Abbey
96 Commack Road
Commack, N.Y. 11725
(631) 499-4422

Funeral Mass:
Friday 9:45 a.m.
St. Matthew RC Church
35 North Service Road
Dix Hills, N.Y. 11746
(631) 499-8520

Messages of condolences may be sent to:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fitzsimons
98 Marie Crescent
Commack N.Y. 11725



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Students honor Block, Fitzsimons, Johnson

By JENNA GRANDE
News Editor

This past weekend, two current Marist students and one former student died in a house fire on Fairview Avenue. The two current students were Eva Block and Kerry Fitzsimons, 21, and the former student was Kevin Johnson, 21.

The fire took place on Saturday night around 1:30 a.m. on 112 Fairview Avenue at an off-campus residence. Though the details about the fire have not been released, there is an open investigation as to what may have caused the blaze.

The loss of the three young individuals has rocked the Marist community. Students have been grieving from early Saturday morning, and the campus continues to mourn as more details are released and events are held in the deceased's honor.

Students on Facebook have been sharing status updates made by the school and the Student Government Association. The hashtag

"#prayformarist" became a popular trend on both Facebook and Twitter. The phrase "Marist. One College. One Community. One Family." has become popular on Facebook as well as profile pictures of the red ribbon adjacent to a Marist Red Fox.

Students and faculty that knew Block and Fitzsimons understood what made them so special and unique to the college campus. Block was a fashion design major, heavily respected by both her peers in the fashion department and in other courses as well. Block always added her own signature and flair to her work, using her own photography as motivation and insight for her creations.

"The fashion program will miss Eva very much. She was an extremely creative student who brought very positive energy to her classes. Every time I met Eva in the studio she had a smile to offer," said Randy Cramer, the director of the fashion program. "She will be remembered for the uniqueness of her work as a fashion design student—her talent in photography and textile design,

and the inspiration she found in all forms of art. Our hearts break that such a talented designer's life has been cut short."

Kristin and Shannon Vogel had a class, Hudson Valley Literature, with Block. When they heard the news about her passing, they were visibly shocked and upset. Neither one could think of anything negative to say about the budding fashion designer.

"She was really creative," Shannon Vogel said. "She was into fashion, and I would compliment her outfit every day. She was really insightful, and I always loved hearing what she had to say about whatever it was we were discussing. She would make me examine different perspectives in new and exciting ways. She was always looking at things through a different perspective."

Kristin Vogel added to her sister's statement, explaining how much she enjoyed working with Block on group projects.

"She was always the first one to class, always next to the teacher in the front, and always engaging in the conversation. If you were in

her group, you would always learn something new," she said. "She had great vocabulary and listening to her talk could change your perspective and mind. She was amazing, and I knew she was going to go places. She was a design major and her potential was obvious. I feel fortunate to have been in her class and to have known her."

As for Fitzsimons, her presence in the School of Science will be greatly missed. A biomedical science major and chemistry minor, Fitzsimons worked as a laboratory assistant for multiple science classes, and had made arrangements to conduct scientific research while on campus this coming semester. The School of Science is mourning the loss of a great student.

"Kerry touched the lives of many science professors," said Neil Fitzgerald, the interim dean of science and associate chemistry professor. "Personally, I knew Kerry as a student in my Analytical Chemistry class. She was an

SEE OUTSTANDING, PAGE 4



EMILY BERGER/THE CIRCLE

Friends and classmates place posters and flowers in front of where the house once was. This temporary memorial site is just one of the ways the Marist community is honoring the loss of the students.



EMILY BERGER/THE CIRCLE

The Fairview house had to be demolished because it was too unstable. The surviving residents lost all their belongings and only had the clothes on their backs. The Red Cross is providing financial aid for food and clothing.

Off-campus residents focus on fire safety

By BRENNA MCKINLEY
Staff Writer

As Marist continues to remember the victims of the recent fire, Marist students and their landlords have been taking steps to ensure that the incident cannot be repeated. Following the fire on Fairview Avenue early last Saturday morning, many Marist students living off-campus, with the help of their landlords, have been making sure fire safety regulations in their houses are up to par and that no detail is overlooked.

Melissa Generoso, a Marist senior who lives on Lake Street, a few houses down and across from the Fairview Avenue house that was taken by flames this weekend, explained how living so close to the

fire has made her think twice about fire precautions.

"Living so close to the house, my roommates and I all saw the fire before any other police or fire trucks had arrived," Generoso said. "It is sad that something so tragic like witnessing the fire the other night was what it really took to open our eyes and be aware just how dangerous fires are."

Though Generoso said that she still feels completely safe living in her house, it has not deterred her and her housemates from taking extra fire safety precautions.

"As a house, we were all very upset and spent a great amount of time this past weekend not only reflecting on what had happened but also what we would have done

or attempted to do in this exact situation," she said. "After the scare of the fire we also took every candle out of the house; none of us even felt comfortable having them in our house anyway." Generoso and her housemates have also purchased a fire ladder and have made sure there is a fire extinguisher on every floor of their three-story house.

Landlords, too, have taken initiative in aiding with precautionary measures.

"Our landlord has been over to the house to talk to us and make sure we were all okay and that the house was still keeping up with its fire safety," Generoso said.

On-campus students are also taking the threat of fire seriously. Samantha Sauro, a junior living

in Lower West Cedar, said she occasionally feels uneasy about living on the top floor if there were to be an emergency.

"I spoke to my mom on the phone this weekend and she said she's sending me a rope ladder," Sauro said. "At first I thought it was a little extreme, but I realized that it really is important to have a way out in an emergency."

The forward-thinking precautions taken by Marist students and their landlords in this difficult time display a sense of unity across campus.

"It makes me so proud to say that I am a part of the Marist family," Generoso said. "The support Marist has provided to its community on and off campus has truly touched me."

From Page 1

Marist reacts to tragedy, remembers victims

"The first arriving unit did try to make an interior attack into the building," Fairview Fire Chief Chris Maeder said. "They were forced back by heat and flames due to the overwhelming involvement of the structure and they had to back out. We were able to get the fire under control within about 90 minutes of arriving on the scene."

When *The Circle* went to press on Tuesday evening, the cause of the fire had yet to be determined.

Maeder was quoted in Tuesday's *Poughkeepsie Journal* as saying that there was "no indication whatsoever" that the fire was set intentionally.

Six female Marist students leased the property, four of which were present in the home at the time of the fire. In addition to the four residents of the house, three additional guests were present, totaling seven individuals that were in the house when the fire occurred.

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* has reported that the four residents of the home present at the time of the fire were Emily Bodiford, Britney Sinha, Kerry Fitzsimons and Eva Block.

Of the seven individuals in the home at the time of the fire, three of which were guests, four managed to exit the residence safely.

"We have interviewed four surviving victims of this fire," Morrow said. "Two are residents of the house, renting the home. Two are their male friends or boyfriends."

It is now known that Sinha and a male friend escaped the home by jumping out a first floor bedroom window. Bodiford and a male friend escape by jumping out a second floor bedroom window to dodge the blaze.

The students said to Town officials that they went to sleep at around 12 or 12:30 a.m. after a social gathering and there was no issue in the home at that time.

Mauro explained at the press conference that between 1 and 1:30 a.m., Bodiford and her male guest jumped out of the second floor bedroom window after discovering that the bedroom door-knob was hot.

At roughly the same time, Sinha and her male guest escaped through a first floor window.

"The four survivors were transported to St. Francis Hospital where they were fortunately treated and released," Mauro said. "They suffered no significant injuries or burns. They were treated for smoke inhalation and minor injuries."

John Gildard, the director of safety and security at Marist, said that no similar incidents involving Marist students and fatal fires have occurred in recent years.

The home was demolished early Saturday evening.

"We don't typically knock down buildings after they are involved in a fire," Maeder said. "We made the decision in conjunction with the Town and using an engineer that the structure was not safe."

Many Marist students rent off-campus residences on Fairview Avenue and nearby Lake Street.

Melissa Generoso, a Marist College senior and 37 Lake Street resident, was an eyewitness to the blaze.

"We were in our house about to go to sleep and my friend came into my room and said, 'I hear broken glass,'" Generoso said. "We ran to the end of the driveway and we saw a big cloud of orange smoke. The entire house was on fire."

Remembering the victims

News of the tragic fire on Fairview Avenue was not delivered to anyone lightly, especially to two former roommates of Kerry Fitzsimons.

Ashley Corriss and Kat Leydon,

current Marist seniors, were roommates with Fitzsimons in Marian Residence Hall during the 2009-2010 school year.

"We were passing by [Fairview] and we saw the fire trucks. And I was like kind of joking around, 'Hey, my friend lives on that street,'" Leydon said. "I got back to my friend's house and one of them saw on the Internet that there was a huge fire. I was like, 'Oh my god, imagine if that was Kerry's house.' I glanced at the photo and saw that it was Kerry's house."

As Saturday progressed, the pair of friends searched frantically for Fitzsimons.

"Kat called Vassar [hospital] to see if Kerry was admitted. I went to St. Francis to see if she was admitted. The woman at the desk just looked at me. I asked, 'Are you spelling her name right? It's F-i-t-z. Are you forgetting a letter?' I could just tell the woman felt sorry for me," Corriss said. "I told Kat, 'She's not here.' I drove by the house and saw the firefighters with their ladders at the top floor. I just kept thinking, 'Please, please don't be in there.' The worst part was not knowing."

Leydon and Fitzsimons attended Commack high school together, but their friendship did not take off until the pair discovered that they would both be attending Marist.

"She's one of those girls that you know she was just going to go places. It's how she was," Leydon said. "She was so passionate about science. That's what everyone knows her as, we were like the science nerds. She wanted to go into marine science."

Corriss transferred to Marist at the start of her sophomore year and was randomly grouped with Leydon and Fitzsimons as roommates. She explained that Fitzsimons was extremely welcoming and helpful during her acclima-

tion process to the school.

"She was the most free-spirited person; she never got mad ever," Corriss said. "There was this one incident when she made Ramen noodles or something and she went to grab her computer and she spilled the Ramen noodles all over the computer. She was doing her homework and instead of getting mad, she just said, 'Oh, man!'"

Block was a senior fashion design student that was a "bright and creative designer, well-liked by her classmates and respected by her teachers," a Marist press release said.

Johnson was enrolled at Marist College from 2008-2010 and was a student at Dutchess Community College.

The *Circle* is still looking to build our tribute profiles of Kevin Johnson and Eva Block. If you or someone you know can provide us with information about these two individuals, please contact us at writethecircle@gmail.com.

Marist community reacts

An event initially planned to be held in the Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel, an interfaith memorial service in remembrance of the three students who perished, was held on Wednesday at 11:15 a.m. in the McCann Center.

The venue was changed to accommodate the large response from the Marist community.

On Tuesday, the Marist School of Communication canceled a school meeting planned for Wednesday and encouraged its members to attend the memorial gathering.

One men's and one women's basketball game were postponed over the weekend.

Check <http://maristcircle.com> for further updates as this story progresses.

From Page 3

Marist community reaches out to remember students

outstanding young woman; enthusiastic, outgoing, positive, and generous. She always had a smile on her face. She will be remembered as a caring, joyful and committed member of our community with a love of music and a zest for life. She will be greatly missed."

The School of Science released this message to all science majors: "As you are no doubt aware, on Saturday the Marist community lost three members in a tragic house fire. One of those who died was Kerry Fitzsimons, a biomedical science senior. To remember her life we have placed a board in DN235 (the chemistry space) for students to post messages. The board will be available in the fashion office in the evening until mid-

night. A similar board has been placed in fashion for messages in memory Eva Block. Also, following the memorial service on Wednesday we invite you to join with members of faculty and staff (including representatives of counseling staff and campus ministry) for an informal get-together in the fashion foyer starting immediately after the service until about 2 p.m. to celebrate the lives of those lost in the fire."

Marist President Dr. Dennis Murray also addressed the community in an email and memorandum sent out to the entire campus. Murray informed everyone that the Counseling Center would be open this week from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., while also making

space available for students to gather and reminisce about the victims. Currently, an interfaith service is planned to honor the deceased on Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 11:15 a.m. in the McCann Arena.

As students continue to mourn, even those who did not personally know the victims could not help but stop and reflect on the tragedy.

"I was in the cafeteria with my two suitemates, and playing around on Facebook while on my Blackberry," Ariana Santana said. "One of my friends posted a story from the *Poughkeepsie Journal* with a caption that read 'Pray for Marist.' I was completely clueless, so I clicked on the link and read about it with my suitemates. At

first, there were minimal details about what exactly happened. It was really sad to read and see it all over Facebook. But, it was even worse as we found out more details like who passed away who knew the people. I never expected something like this would happen, especially at Marist and so close to the school. It was out of nowhere. It is so sad and I feel terrible for their friends and families, as these students were about to graduate and start their lives, and they were so young."

The Marist College community spirit continues to bring all those affected together and proves that even through difficult times it will always be there to pick you up.

Tell-all tips for impressive interns: Crucial preparations

By EMILY BERGER
Managing Editor

Interning should be a part of every college student's life in order to provide experience that cannot be acquired through any other medium. Your future employer is looking for an experienced employee, fresh out of college, who is enthusiastic about their work and willing to work hard—someone who has already been thrown into workplace situations and come out successful. Below are some tips I've accumulated to help you make your initial plans for an internship.

When coming into college, have a plan to give yourself time to intern.

In my college career, I have gained experience from four different internships. Each one was strategically fit into my schedule during my four years, in order to give myself time to gain as much knowledge as possible. Each experience gave me valuable insight into the editorial and TV production world of communications.

To intern at least two days a week, a student's schedule should include as few classes as possible. I recommend only taking three classes

while interning in order to not be overwhelmed. Remember, most internships during the school year do not allow you to work with them if you cannot work at least two days a week. If you are no longer a freshman and can map out the rest of your years here at Marist, pay a visit to your advisor. See if you can double up on any classes, or if you can play around with your schedule for next year or the year after, so you can find room to commute somewhere!

Once you have an internship, always make sure that you have the funds and capabilities to travel to your destination and arrive on time.

In most fields, the best jobs are in the big city. For us in Poughkeepsie, to get a great internship, New York City is where you have to travel. This means a two-hour commute! Waking up and leaving your dorm before the sun rises will become routine. Also, once you arrive at Grand Central, you must navigate the streets of Manhattan.

Internships are a big commitment and most certainly will take you far away from campus. I normally wouldn't get home from interning until around 8:30 or 9 p.m. I defi-



VITAMIN C9000/FLICKR

Long interning hours will help you discover your dream job and land it after graduation.

nately wasn't prepared to be spending so little time on campus.

Prepare for a long day.

No matter where your internship may be, being an intern means that you are there to do whatever your employers need, for as long as they need. Expect long days, and I recommend some therapeutic shoes to wear whenever someone's not looking, because heels are never meant to be worn all day long. You never know how long your day might be, so remember to choose comfortable outfits as well.

Know that no matter what, your priority is to be at your office until the

entire crew is done for the day. I have worked 11 hours straight, where I was one of the first ones in and one of the last to leave. But if you work all day without even realizing you have been working for 11 hours, then you know you are in the right place. I have been at internships where I am bored, or they don't know how much work an intern should have. Finally, I found myself at a place where I want to do more and come back every week. When you get that feeling, and you feel as if you aren't even working, then you know you're going in the right direction. Just be prepared to go in several directions to find the right one.

Walks of shame not just for racy dames

By RACHAEL SHOCKEY
Lifestyles Editor

Whether you have been at Marist four years or four months, chances are, while on your way to class, you have seen a female student tiptoeing through the Rt. 9 underpass surrounded by 8 a.m. fog, trying hard not to be seen. She walks apprehensively, stilettos in hand, clad in a dress of Snooki-approved length, possibly sporting a hickey or a beard rash.

She, and others who have traversed the "walk of shame," provide endless fodder for college jokes and Saturday morning storytelling. Though we usually argue that these jokes are all in good fun, we know that the walk of shame does threaten to represent a negative way of looking at (mostly heterosexual) one-night-stands, and, culturally, it tends to be exclusively associated with women. No longer restricted to college lexicon, women in the real world, of a wide range of ages, can be accused of committing this act.

A basic Google search of the phrase yields a host of diverse, intriguing and often bizarre results. Among them are posts from sexy college blogs like <http://collegecandy.com> on how to class up your trip home from your one-night-stand; breaking photos of actress January Jones doing a "walk of shame"; discussion boards on which women are invited to share their own horrific WOS stories with each other; and a website on which you can purchase a spunky, com-

pactly packaged "Walk of Shame Kit"...whose profits help support breast cancer research.

The walk of shame is huge on college campuses and popular culture. Despite the growth of the joke, men making the same morning trek are virtually never said to be doing the walk of shame. The phrase blatantly denigrates female sexuality, and while many women laugh about their own morning-after offenses, does that make it acceptable to celebrate this term?

In the walk of shame's defense, we might credit its targeting of women to some relatively inoffensive facts, like that college women's evening-wear tends to look much more out of place in the morning than men's eveningwear does. This was the basis of a commercial for Harvey Nichols cocktail dresses that aired last month.

"Harvey Nichols has decided to promote its Christmas wares in the form of a faux PSA. The tagline? 'Avoid the Walk of Shame this season.' The British retailer shows woefully familiar shots of gals toddling home in the wee hours of the morning, wearing their metallic mini dresses from the night before," said Ellie Krupnick at <http://huffingtonpost.com>.

But the difference in drapery does not offer a satisfactory argument that the walk of shame is not harmfully sexist. Consider what else may be implied: The phrase and its cultural associations suggest that women more frequently go home with men than men go home with women (see-



STRIATIC/FLICKR

It's about time we ditched the term "walk of shame" in the gutter for "stride of pride."

ing as they must have a place from which to do "the walk"). This contributes to an expectation of women to spend the night at someone else's place more often than men are expected to bear the inconvenience.

The other, most obvious double standard implied is that there is shame associated with a young woman's one-night-stand, but not with a man's. This tired stigma often succeeds in limiting people—women especially—in their sexual expression.

We are all—on some level—conscious of the presence of this double standard represented by the walk of shame. Yet, more often than not, it goes unchallenged. There are a lot of funny things about a female student

walking home Saturday morning barefoot and covered in sequins; or a male student stumbling home with sex hair and his shirt on inside out. The fact that they had sex last night is not one of these things. Provided that the encounter was wholly consensual and properly protective, it is a healthy choice that merits a high five rather than a snicker.

One might even consider making a late resolution to high five at least one morning campus walker this year, and to laugh about morning-after awkwardness under a different moniker than the "walk of shame." Kira Sabin at <http://collegecandy.com> recommends a much more agreeable alternative phrase to try out: the "stride of pride."

Dating website caters to college students

By BRITTANY OXLEY
Circle Contributor

College students are extremely busy with hours of homework, multiple extracurricular clubs and organizations, part-time or even full-time jobs, and planning for their future careers through internships and other activities. With all of that work, one can only imagine just how hard it may be for college students to find a potential boyfriend or girlfriend at the same time.

Sites such as eHarmony, Match and Zoosk are only a few of the many dating websites available on the Internet today. However, these websites are not exactly helpful for college students looking for relationships because they do not target university student users.

It was not until Aug. 17, 2011 that a brand-new unique dating website called DateMySchool was created by Columbia University students Balazs Alexa and Jean Meyer.

According to the DateMySchool representative Melanie Wallner, Alexa and Meyer initially got the idea for the website in Nov. 2010.

The students were "talking to a girl who was involved in the nursing program at Columbia. She had complained that it was a challenge to meet guys at the nursing school because the nursing school is 80 percent female," Wallner said.

This was the starting point for the network.

"The founders, who attended the business school that enrolled a majority of males, then decided that they should create a website to make it easier for girls and guys from different departments at college to meet each other," Wallner said.

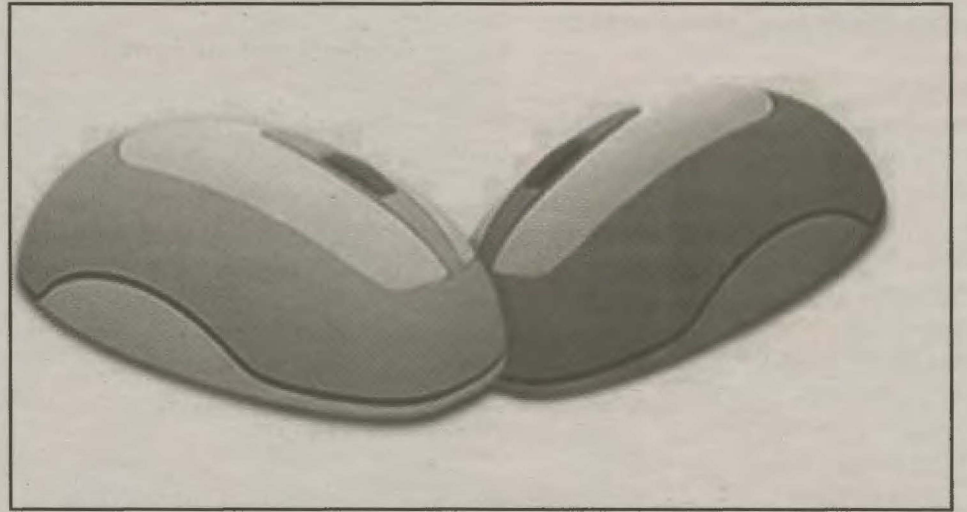
These two students believed that there should be a dating website that exclusively targets university students.

Since the creation of the site in August it has expanded to over 800 different colleges and universities nationwide, with 75,000 users.

"The website eventually expanded to New York University, causing the New York Times to write an article about the website in February," Wallner said. This "just launched the website's popularity."

When a student first enters the website, they are met with a tutorial video on the left-hand side of the screen that explains why the website was created, why it should be used, and how to use it.

In order to maintain the website's promise to only target university students, the video explains that a user can only sign up to the website with their college or university e-mail address. According to the video, "This requirement does two things: it ensures that people are who they say they are...and it keeps



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PHOTO COURTESY OF HTTP://DATEMYSCHOOL.COM

"[One] couple met on DateMySchool.com, and 10 days later decided to get a marriage license!" Wallner said.

out the creepers."

The video continues to explain that while creating an online dating profile, a student can narrow their potential relationship search by choosing certain schools in whichever areas they please, choosing which departments of the school they would like to find potential dates, choosing the age range of the person, and choosing anything else they wish to find in a potential lover.

The website is also extremely private. A student does not have to worry about being embarrassed for having a dating profile because it is unsearchable. A student's profile can only be seen by whomever the

student allows. According to the site's tutorial video, "not even Google can see it!"

DateMySchool is a new phenomenon that is sure to have a lot of users and expand to even more colleges in the nation. Despite the website's name however, it does not only have to be used for dating purposes.

Wallner said that she has "heard back from people who simply use the site to find good friends or study partners. This site is a great tool for college students because college is a time when you want to connect with people, and DateMySchool allows you to do just that."

Marist YouTube video surpasses 7,000 views



THIS PHOTO IS POWERED BY AURASMA@MARIST
JENNA GRANDE/THE CIRCLE

The video features multiple different Marist students at familiar campus locations.

By JENNA GRANDE
News Editor

At one point or another, many students have made sarcastic comments about the school they adore. It's so convenient that the cafeteria closes at 7 p.m., and that the writing center is not open during finals week. The gym is never crowded at the beginning of each semester. It's little things like this that students say, but mostly never mean.

This is why Student Government Chief Financial Officer Alyssa K. Bradt's YouTube video (or AKB as she is affectionately dubbed by her friends), is such a hit with the Marist community. Her video pokes

fun at all the little things that students comment on while spending their glory days at school.

The idea started off as a joke between SGA members. During winter session, the SGA team went to the Eveready Diner together. While at the diner, the topic of the "Sh*t Nobody Says" videos series came up. The running joke was that Sophomore Class President Deborah Akinwunmi would never be Deborah.Akinwunmi2@marist.edu. Soon, the entire table was erupting in different things that nobody would say. What went unnoticed at the table, however, was SGA Senator Courtney Lawlor taking notes of what people were saying on her iPhone so they could be referenced

later on during the semester.

Gianathony Damasco, freshman class president, said "I didn't understand what this was at first, and then I started listening to what people were talking about, and I understood."

Even returning and veteran members of SGA had its doubts about how big a hit this video actually could be.

Meaghan Neary, president of the class of 2012, said that "Honestly, I thought it was not going to be as big a hit as it actually was."

Bradt explained that after reading the list, she decided to go ahead and make the video. She began filming on her Kodak Easy Share camera the first day of classes, and by 4 p.m., she had completed it. Using her friends from SGA and her Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority sisters to act in the video, she had all her scenes filmed only hours later. After uploading her first video to Youtube, she asked four friends to share the video, and later that night, there were already 300 views. The next morning there were over 3,000 views. By the time this issue was assembled on Tuesday night, there were 7,425 views.

The video was an instant hit with members of SGA. Bradt was worried about how her video may come across to different people who could be offended by some of the lines de-

livered in the video. For example, a communication major is seen saying, "Communications is the hardest major!" According to Bradt, this offended some communication majors who find certain aspects of their major challenging. However, this did not stop a majority of students and professionals from enjoying the light-hearted humor of the video.

"I just kind of did it, and I really hope no one was offended by it! I showed it to different administrators and they laughed, so I figured I was ok. After all, this video is not about making fun of Marist, but showing how good the school can be. Like, no one would ever say the underpass is so inconvenient, because it is simply not true!" Bradt said.

Neary admitted, though it was in good humor, that she did not like having to talk about graduation.

"I mean, I say I am happy about graduating, when I am really not! I would never say that!"

Would Bradt ever consider making a sequel to the video? Don't get your hopes up—she has already ruled out that possibility.

"I think the video is the perfect length and has just enough jokes about Marist to be appropriate and fun. If it were any longer, I think people would have lost interest."

Helpful reminders: Tips from campus offices and organizations

By MICHAEL GAROFALO
Features Editor

The following is a collection of tips provided by various offices and organizations around campus. When the semester's workload increases, it can be challenging to remember the diverse services offered on campus. This is a simple reminder of some of the lesser-known pieces of advice.

1. The Academic Learning Center offers drop-in sessions for proofreading, as well as math help, which is separate from the Hancock Center's Math Lab. Drop-in times are Monday through Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for proofreading, and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for math. They also offer online

proofreading for papers of five pages or less, and promise a 36-hour or less return time. Specific arrangements must be made for longer papers. – Jane Fiore, director of the Academic Learning Center.

2. Students seeking current event articles can borrow copies of the Wall Street Journal from the Cannavino Library for free. Articles must be photocopied, because all issues of the Journal are kept for the library's archives. – Junior Aileen Lamontagne, circulation desk.

3. The Office of College Activities operates not only to disperse existing event information, but also to collect new event informa-

tion. Members of campus clubs can contact the office to better promote their events. The physical calendar is already printed, but the web calendar can be updated. – The Office of College Activities.

4. Sleep better by avoiding strenuous exercise, large meals or bright computer lights before bed. – Office of Counseling Services.

5. Hydration is on students' minds in the summer, but can easily be forgotten in the winter – when it is still important. – Office of Health and Wellness.

6. Freshmen should begin to think about future jobs, sophomores should contemplate internships and career plans, juniors and

seniors should think about internships and graduate school or career plans, and seniors should have a job search underway. "Start to plan ahead" – Stephen Cole, executive director of Career Services.

7. Students with long names can save some time by logging in with their alpha accounts, which are shorter than the traditional "first.last#" accounts. Contact ResNet for more information. – Karyn Pierre-Louis, ResNet help desk.

8. Students are welcome to attend student government meetings at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays to voice any ideas or concerns. – Paul DiBlasi, junior class president.

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Grimmer releases new tracks for 'Regular Kids'

By MELANIE LAMORTE
A&E Editor

Almost a year after his hit song "I Love Marist" started a Marist phenomenon on YouTube, student rapper Johnny Grimmer is at it again. His newest mix tape, "Regular Kids" is more personal and inspired, marking Grimmer's shift as a musician.

"This stuff really hits home," Grimmer said. "It's from the heart."

Set to release on Valentine's Day, "Regular Kids" is Grimmer's attempt to reach students on a more emotional level than before.

After "I Love Marist" received more than 13,000 hits on YouTube, Grimmer reached some local fame on campus.

"I've had kids come up to me and tell me they had partied to my song over the weekend," Grimmer said.

With "Regular Kids," however, Grimmer intends to act as a positive role model for students and inspire them to go after their dreams.

"I want people to realize that I'm just like everyone else and if I can do it, you can too," Grimmer said, who records his music in a makeshift studio—his Fulton bedroom closet.

Between balancing his duties as an RA and his coursework as an Athletic Training major, Grimmer has made time to devote to writing new tracks and performing at hometown open mic nights and Marist parties. Recently, Grimmer sang at a gig for 75 people, his largest audience yet.

"People were singing along,"



THIS PHOTO IS POWERED BY AURASMA@MARIST
RAYNA MENGEL/THE CIRCLE

Grimmer's logo, created by Rayna Mengel, will appear on his t-shirts. The proceeds will be donated to H<3rt1.

Grimmer said. "It was electrifying."

With "Regular Kids," Grimmer said he strives to be a leader for making a positive impact on people's lives, making them happier and more fulfilling.

"I just think that is one of his main focuses," friend and fellow RA Rosa Panuccio said. "To remain happy and love and cherish and enjoy everything that's here while we can

because life is greater than we think it is."

"Regular Kids" is expected to have a total of 10 tracks, including "Free Mind," a song Grimmer performed at an open mic night. After his performance, Grimmer was approached by video production students who were impressed by his ability. They produced a music video for the song that can now be

viewed on YouTube or on Grimmer's personal website, <http://johnny-grimmer.com>.

Other "Regular Kids" highlights are "Undercover Brother" and "Never Break," both of which have strong ties to Grimmer's experiences at Marist and the campus community. Grimmer described "Undercover Brother" as being both an expression of his two lives (academic and musical) and the philosophies of the Marist Brothers, many of which he can personally relate to. "Never Break" is a musical representation of how Grimmer enjoyed childhood innocence and now appreciates the ways in which college has opened his eyes to new experiences.

In addition to trying to inspire with his music, Grimmer said he also plans to give back to the community with new t-shirts he intends to sell. Featuring a logo designed by student Rayna Mengel, Grimmer's shirts will be sold through his website and at performances. All proceeds from the shirt sales will be donated to H<3rt1, an organization founded by senior Danielle DeZao that spreads awareness about domestic dating violence. He is also currently in the process of deciding how he would musically like to help those affected by the Fairview fire.

"I want to try to use music to change peoples' lives," Grimmer said.

"He's helped me appreciate the people around me more," Panuccio said. "I can't wait to see where music takes him from here."

Music in 2011: The year's top five standout releases

By MATTHEW CASTAGNA
Staff Writer

With 2011 a good three weeks behind us, now is as good as time as any to layout the "best" musical selections from the previous year. The following is a collection of five standout tracks from 2011 and a brief defense of why each selection deserves its respective ranking.

"House of Balloons/Glass Table Girls"- The Weeknd: Back in late March when Toronto based R&B artist Abel Tufaye (aka The Weeknd) independently released his nine-song mixtape "House of Balloons," nobody expected it to take off as it did. Underground artists had been trying for years to elevate R&B to a new level of modern musical appreciation to mixed success, but none have pulled together all the necessary ingredients with such ease and well-earned artistic indulgence. The self-titled track says it all: a thick, drunken narrative depicting the bitter pleasures and losses of a drug impelled lifestyle paired with strikingly gorgeous vocal delivery and addictive pop-inspired melodies.

"Glass Table Girls,"- the second

half- drills the listener with a post-dub drone to the point where you can physically visualize the soiled needles and crystalline powder littering the floors of stained hotel carpets.

"Midnight City"- M83: His first album since 2008, French multi-instrumentalist Anthony Gonzales releases his most expansive work yet, titled, "Hurry Up, We're Dreaming," an indeoetric double-your-pleasure release that combines relentlessly catchy pop with dream-like production. The lead single "Midnight City," effortlessly layers an unforgettable synth-melody between winding coats of soaring falsettos and a capping alto-sax solo that drives the tracks steady emotional transcendence through the roof.

"Let Her Rest/Queen of Hearts"- F*ed Up:** When Canadian punk group F***ed Up released their third full-length release "David Comes To Life" in June, Spin Magazine boldly (and rather pre-emptively) claimed that it may be the, "most epic punk album ever," propelling it to instant-stardom almost overnight. And while "David" may not hold up against the eclectic thrall of "London Calling" or sell

nearly a fraction of Green Day's coming-of-age drama "American Idiot," it's intricate character direction, wailing riffs and coughing-up-blood vocal approach certainly helps cement this pronounced crowning.

Interestingly enough, with nearly 72 minutes worth of material, it's the two opening tracks that emulate these strengths the most. Founded on an isolate siren, "Let Her Rest" sharply injects a series of syncopated guitar riffs, slowly forming a nearly intractable buzz of call-and-answer electric responses. The screams and howls of reverb lead directly into the "Queen of Hearts," where lead singer Damian Abraham bloodily churns through a brutal, yet strangely dignified romanticisation of the rise and fall of modern humanity. Even with the over-loomng foreshadow of inevitable despair, we are still treated to a compelling work that speaks of romantic charm and butane pounding pump-ups.

"Little Black Submarine"- The Black Keys: The fourth cut from the now well-established American rock duo's seventh studio album "El Camino," "Submarines" successfully welcomes new life to the tiresomely overused soft-loud dynamic rock

progression without branching out from The Keys' comfortable box of tricks. Lead guitarist/vocalist Dan Aurbach works a crisp, gentle blues progression on an audibly tattered acoustic guitar while hoarsely singing of broken hearts and other ambiguous romantic troubles. However, at the 2:06 mark, Aurbach swaps tender for powerful, forcefully transitioning into an all-out blast of power chords and crash cymbals, ending with a rare, but much-appreciated growling guitar solo. The end result is a simple but rewarding blues cut that shows us that although they may not break from their exceedingly narrow style of work, The Black Keys are one of the few groups that have the capability to nurse rock n' roll back to health.

"Take Care"- Drake: Although the majority of the backing track is composed of Jamie XX's remix of the Gil-Heron Scott cover of "I'll Take Care Of U," featured artist Rihanna's stunning vocal delivery and Drake's smooth, rapid verses of burned out love stories match beautifully with an outstanding source of finding support during times of dire need.

The Circle would like to extend
its sincerest thoughts to all
those affected by the recent
tragedy



Soccer star Witkowski drafted into MLS

By GARRIN MARCHETTI
Staff Writer

During his career at Marist, senior soccer player Krystian Witkowski was a National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-Region and All-Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) player three times, while totaling 21 goals and 54 points during his tenure with the Red Foxes.

Now, he can add another accomplishment to his impressive career: a Major League Soccer player.

Witkowski was selected by the MLS's Philadelphia Union in the league's Supplemental Draft on Jan. 17, the 13th pick in the second round. He is the first player in Marist program history to get drafted into the MLS.

"During my time here at Marist, getting drafted had always been in the back of my mind," Witkowski said. "I knew that if I worked hard and played well, someone would notice."

That "someone" was an MLS scout who attended the matchup be-

tween Marist and nationally ranked University of Virginia during the 2010 season. Witkowski knows how lucky he was to have had the opportunity to play in front of the scout.

"By chance, I had a good performance against UVA, and a scout was there," Witkowski said. "I'm lucky that he was there, and I was able to make a good impression."

To prepare for the possibility of playing at the professional level, Witkowski knew he would have to be in great physical shape. This was something on which he particularly worked hard during the off-season to be ready for the 2011 season.

"Out of all the things I worked on during the off-season, the overall thing was my fitness level. I've always worked hard to be in the best shape possible, but to play professionally, you need to be able to run up and down the field easily," Witkowski explained. "[The scouts] look for players who can play both ways, and that was something I wanted to achieve this season."

Clearly, Witkowski's offseason efforts proved successful. Now he has a chance to prove he belongs in the

MLS, playing for a Philadelphia Union team that finished third in the Eastern Conference with an 11-8-15 record. Witkowski arrived at the team's training camp on Jan. 24, and he knows it is only going to get busier from there.

"After a week in Philadelphia, we go to Orlando on Feb. 2 for two weeks, and then the season starts right up in March. On top of all that, I am still trying to graduate this semester. I know it is going to be very busy over the next few months, but I'm ready for it," Witkowski said.

For Witkowski, there were many highlights during his illustrious career as a Red Fox. One memory that means the most to him, however, came during this past season.

"This past season we beat Loyola on Senior Day, and that was really special, not only for me but for the other seniors on the team," said Witkowski, who dished out two assists and had two shots for Marist in their 3-0 victory over their MAAC rivals. "We wanted to beat them before we graduated, so that was awesome."



This photo is powered by Aurasma@Marist

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOREDFOXES

Krystian Witkowski (above) was drafted by the Philadelphia Union of the MLS on Jan. 17. Witkowski was a three-time All-MAAC team selection during his career at Marist.

Swimming and Diving splits with BC

By JOE FITZHENRY
Circle Contributor

The Red Foxes took to the pool against Boston College this past weekend at McCann Natatorium. The Eagles, traditionally one of the upper-tier programs in the ACC, presented a challenge for Marist.

On the women's side, the Red Foxes defeated Boston College by a score of 173-122. The win marks the 10th dual meet win of the season for Marist, setting a program record since head coach Larry VanWagner and Melanie Bolstad took over as coaches of the program.

The true dominance may not be shown in the score, but in the fact that the Red Foxes swept all 16 events over the course of the meet. The clean sweep included two wins each by Michelle Fountain, Kate Conard, Erica Vitale, Maddie Arciello, Greta Leberfinger and Kim-

berly Tobias.

Another notable swimmer for the Red Foxes was Allison Kreho, who finished 2nd in the 100-yd backstroke with a time of 1:00.18.

"I usually struggle in this meet every year due to the timing of it, but I tried to put it behind me," Kreho said. She also added about the team's performance that she thinks the team is "mentally prepared" for MAACs.

For the divers, Coach Melanie Bolstad said that "the team performed very well," especially Sean Molloy in the 3-meter and Jacob Baker in the 1-meter events. Along with the solid performances from the men, the girls swept the top three places in the 1-meter event. Molloy qualified for NAAs in the 3-meter event and recorded the second-highest score in program history with a score of 330 against Southern Connecticut State earlier this month.

The men's team came up just short 173-126, but VanWagner seemed relatively upbeat about the result.

"There were six events I thought we could've out-touched them, that would have made up 60 points and won us the meet," VanWagner said.

He also had great respect for the Boston College program, saying that "they are a better program and a few upsets were needed in order to get the win."

Despite the losing effort, there were a few winners among the Red Fox swimmers, with freshman Jason Ruddy recording 3 wins and Nick Spinella also taking home a victory. Ruddy won in the 200-yd butterfly, the 100-yd fly and the 200-yd IM, while Spinella took home the title in the 200-yd backstroke with a time of 1:56.26.

Also notable were the 11 second-place finishes recorded by the Red

Foxes, which, as referenced before, could have made the difference in the meet. The runner-up finishes included sophomore Alex Lombardi and freshmen Evan Uy and Dylan Cummings each finishing within .10 seconds of the victor in each of their respective races.

"The Eagles were a great way to match up someone with the same ability level athletically and the close races will prepare us for any potential touch-outs at MAACs," senior Joe Papiro said.

The MAAC Championships will be held in Buffalo from Feb. 16-18.

Up next for the Red Foxes is their final meet of the regular season on Senior Day against the Seton Hall Pirates of the Big East conference. The meet will take place Saturday, Jan. 28 at 1 p.m. in the McCann Natatorium.



The Fox Trot

Quick hits of the week in Marist athletics

Men's Tennis Opens Strong

The Marist men's tennis team began their spring season over the weekend at the Harvard Invite, in Cambridge, MA. The Red Foxes received strong outings from several players.

Matteo Giudici had a perfect 3-0 weekend to lead Marist. The freshman from Parma, Italy, won all three of his matches in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3. Giudici also won a tight doubles match, with partner and fellow freshman Joseph Dube, 9-8 (5).

Other notable performers were Billy Bishop, who went 2-1 in his single matches, and the doubles team of Lorenzo Rossi and Matt

Himmelsbach.

Head Coach Tim Smith was happy with the performances of his players.

"I was pleased with the way we finished the tournament with most of our singles and doubles teams improving each day," said Smith, in a statement courtesy of the Marist Athletics website.

The Red Foxes will be back in action on Feb. 4, when they take on New Jersey Institute of Technology for a road dual match.

Former Red Fox Hits Gridiron

According to the twitter of Sean McMann of the Poughkeepsie Journal, former Marist men's bas-

ketball player Menelik Watson has accepted a scholarship to play football next season at Florida State.

Watson played basketball for the Red Foxes just last season before transferring to pursue a football career as an offensive lineman. Watson wound up at Saddleback Community College, where he has impressed many observers in his new sport, one of whom being Don Butcher who is the Director of Football Operations at Saddleback.

"He's 6 foot 7, 310 pounds and runs 4.72," Butcher said in an interview posted on Florida State blog "Chant Rant" regarding Watson. "He'll be in the NFL in two or three years."

Upcoming Athletic Events

Women's Basketball: 1/27 @Iona, 1/29 @Siena

Men's Basketball: 1/27 @Siena, 1/28 @Fairfield

Men's Track and Field: 1/27 @New York, 1/28 @Boston

Women's Track and Field: 1/27 @New York, 1/28 @Boston

Men's Swimming and Diving: 1/28 vs. Seton Hall

Women's Swimming and Diving: 1/28 vs. Seton Hall

Women's basketball rolling over the MAAC

By ZACH DOOLEY
Staff Writer

It just doesn't seem to matter who the Marist women's basketball team is playing these days – the wins keep on coming. Two conference wins just this past week over Rider and Loyola move the Red Foxes to 8-0 in MAAC play, and the women are showing no signs of stopping.

Last Wednesday featured a blowout win over Rider, by a score of 76-54, in a game that really was not even as close as the 22-point margin. Kelsey Beynnon had a career-high 18 points to go along with a career-high 17 points from Leanne Ockenden to lead Marist in the rout.

"We played in spurts, but when we played well, I thought we played extremely well," Marist head coach Brian Giorgis said. "We obviously shot the basketball very well today."

The Red Foxes followed up the victory over the Broncs with a hard-fought game over Loyola. Although it was closer than many wins in recent memory, Marist was able to take a tough test from a gritty Loyola squad and handle it with flying colors.

"It was kind of funny, I went into the locker room and said, 'Kids, this is a tremendous win,'" Giorgis said, "and they all looked at me like they thought they were going to get screamed at, but it really was because it's the first time anyone's really gone after them since Hofstra and Auburn."

Even though they went through a tough start, going just 5-6 in non-conference play, the Red Foxes are exactly where they need to be as they approach the halfway point of conference play. In a traditionally one-bid conference like the MAAC, conference play is really what matters most, and Marist is hitting its stride at the most important time of the season.

One of the main reasons for the rise in play is the consistency

throughout the lineup, particularly in the starting five. Marist has gotten great play from its starters recently, and the ability to have five legitimate scoring options has been probably the biggest key to the team's success.

"On any given night we have about eight to 10 people who can score in double digits," Giorgis said. "We want people to know that they can't sag off somebody, because that person's going to hurt them. If we have everyone involved in the offense it just makes us that much tougher to deal with."

One player in particular who has played especially well recently is sophomore guard Leanne Ockenden, who has stood out at both ends of the floor. Always known for her sharp shooting at the offensive end, she has developed a confidence which has allowed her to hit shots she might not have last year.

"Sometimes I miss a few threes, but I just have to keep on shooting, and I knocked a couple down which helped us," Ockenden said after the Rider game.

In addition to her offensive game, her defensive game has come to light recently, and she has established herself as one of the top shut-down guards in the MAAC. Ockenden typically draws the top guard on the opposing team as an assignment, something at which she has excelled all season.

"She's been our defensive stalwart all year, and she's done the best job in the conference," Giorgis said. "Again, we saw someone having a poor shooting percentage with [Leanne] on her. She's long, and the one thing I think she does best is that she contests shots."

Another player who has stood out in a positive way is junior forward Kelsey Beynnon, who set a career high with 18 points against Rider, followed up with a solid 12 against Loyola. Beynnon's ability to get to the rim has been outstanding re-

cently and has allowed her to excel as an offensive player.

"I'm just trying to get in there and not really think and just kind of let things go," Beynnon said. "I wouldn't really call myself a selfish player, so I don't think [I look for my own shot]. I take the shot when it's open, but I'm not always looking for my own shot."

The rest of the starting five, senior guard Corielle Yarde, sophomore guard Casey Dulin and senior forward Brandy Gang has been solid as well. Dulin was handed the task of filling in for the injured Kristine Best at the point and has done an admirable job of doing so.

Yarde and Gang have been the backbone of the team all season and are currently the only two Red Foxes in double digits in scoring with 15.2 and 11.6 points per game, respectively. Yarde is also the teams leading rebounder, averaging 6.8 per game and the leader in assists with 85 on the season.

Off the bench, Natalie Gomez has shined in limited minutes. Gomez was solid against Loyola, hitting two big shots, as well as displaying ball handling skills that suggest she will be a starting point guard in the near future.

"I thought Natalie Gomez had a great game, especially in the second half," Giorgis said of Gomez after the Loyola game. "She had the one big bucket, she had the big three to put us up eight, just did a really, really nice job for us and handled the pressure a little better. We're out there playing with really no point guard for most of the night and she settled things down and went at people."

Marist is next in action this Friday when the take to the road to play the Iona Gaels at 7 p.m. in New Rochelle, N.Y. They continue their road trip on Sunday when they travel to Loudonville, N.Y. to take on the Siena Saints at 2 p.m.



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RYAN RIVARD/THE CIRCLE

Marist forward Kelsey Beynnon (above) and the Red Foxes are rolling once again, and are currently 8-0 in MAAC play.

From Page 12

Men's basketball on five-game losing streak

"I think our guys are concerned. I think we're concerned as a staff. This is the first time this year we've kinda run into something like this. So we know our guys are a little fragile."

Concerned and fragile. Not down and out...yet. That's why this streak has to end this weekend.

Martin said basketball execution isn't his entire focus in coaching this week.

"My biggest concern is trying to handle these guys from the neck up," Martin said. "Physically they can play. Physically we can get back on track. We lost five in a row, we can win five in a row. But are we mentally tough enough to have the grit to pull ourselves out of it? That's the key."

But what is it on the court that's contributed to five straight losses?

Martin said that the second game the Foxes played against Rider, the Broncs came out with a zone defense, something Marist had not seen yet this year.

"It worked," Martin said. "Other

teams in the league saw it and everyone just said we'll play zone. So every team since the second Rider game has played a zone. So clearly we gotta get better against zones and feel more comfortable."

There are other improvements Martin said were necessary to turn the losing ways around.

"We have to become a more physical team," Martin said. "I know what Siena's gonna run, they know what we're going to run, so it's just a matter of are your players physical enough to execute it. Practice has become much more physical, much more competitive, and the energy's really gone through the roof."

That last bit about the energy at practice ought to make Marist fans feel good about what is going on in the McCann Arena during the week.

Martin knows what has to be done. The team knows what has to be done. The only question is whether or not it will be done.

Siena on Friday night, Fairfield on Sunday afternoon.

A win (or two) this weekend would not be just one more to add to the column in the standings. It could be proof that this program really has turned the corner. Two losses might bring us back to square one.

Martin on last Sunday's home game against Fairfield being delayed:

"Obviously it's a tragic situation, and I think Dr. Murray did the right thing. Sometimes things happen in life that put everything in perspective. Three young lives...it hit too close to home. I think Dr. Murray made the right call."

Martin on losing Director of Operations J.J. Outlaw, who left to join the staff of the Los Angeles Lakers:

"J.J. brought a lot to the table. We're certainly not saying we've lost the games we lost because of J.J., but he did contribute a lot, he had great energy, great enthusiasm, he had a great rapport with our kids. Sometimes that's more than the actual Xs and Os, having a guy on

staff that understands the kids and can make them feel comfortable.

"You just have one less support system to reinforce what we're trying to do not only on the court but off the court. So yeah it was a blow, but I'm happy for him because it's a tremendous opportunity for him."

Martin on the upcoming matchup with Siena (Friday, 7 p.m.):

"We gotta attack their zone. They only have six guys, but they're big. O.D. (Anosike)'s big, he leads the nation in double-doubles. That's a remarkable stat. Brandon Walters is a transfer from Seton Hall. So they start 6'9", 6'9", Wignot is 6'6". They're big, but they're not deep. So we'll see if we can get them up and down a little bit and get into their legs a little bit. But we gotta attack that zone better and we gotta rebound the ball, because they're a big team. Obviously they're feeling great after a tremendous win (Monday) over Iona."

Column: Marist men need a win this weekend

By ERIC VANDER VOORT
Sports Editor

It might be hard for Marist fans who have experienced the last couple years to ignore that "Oh no, not again..." thought that's lurking in the back of their heads.

It's not ready to come out quite yet. But it's there, ready to pounce.

The Marist men's basketball team is on a five-game losing streak, with the closest margin of defeat in those five games being 10 points to MAAC cellar-dweller Canisius. Other losses came by 13, 24, 19 and 17.

But this team is not down and out. They are not ready to be buried. However, things have to change soon — or even now.

After an optimistic feeling following Marist's win over St. Peter's to reach .500, it has gone downhill, and fast. Right now, the Red Foxes are at 7-12 overall and 2-6 in the MAAC, sitting alone in ninth place. While the new McCann Arena has been generally friendly, they are an abysmal 0-8 in road games.

That has to change this weekend.

On Friday, Marist will travel up the Hudson to take on rival Siena at the Times Union Center. The Saints are coming off an emotional 65-62 victory over conference-favorite



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JON O'SULLIVAN/THE CIRCLE

Freshman Chavaighn Lewis (above) goes to the hoop in Friday's game against Manhattan. Lewis led the Foxes with 11 points, as the Red Foxes only scored three field goals in the final 25 minutes of the game. Marist fell to the Jaspers 61-44.

Iona and have now won five straight at home. This will be followed by a trip to take on Fairfield, which is 5-3 in conference. Neither is an easy task.

If the Red Foxes fall in both, we will then be looking at a team that is 2-8 in the conference, on a seven-game losing streak, and has not won a road game in 10 tries. To make matters worse, a Manhattan team

that held the Foxes to three field goals in the second half on Friday would be waiting next. That might kill any optimism that is still hanging around.

It's not exactly last year, or definitely not the year before, head coach Chuck Martin said.

"Half the team wasn't here," Martin said of the recent losing years. "They don't know anything else

other than the five games."

Sophomore forward Jay Bowie said that not much is different in the team's attitude due to the losing streak.

"Nothing's changed from the beginning of the season," Bowie said. "We're all really good friends off the court, and that hasn't changed in the locker room. We're struggling right now, but no one's pointing fingers or anything. We're all good friends."

Bowie, a starter, only played nine minutes in the Foxes' 61-44 loss to Manhattan on Friday. The Tampa, Fla. native is averaging 5.4 points per game and has found himself on the bench often in the second half. But still, Bowie is often the loudest cheerer from the bench and does not seem frustrated with his diminished role.

"Chavaughn and Manny have been making plays, so I can't argue with that," Bowie said. "As long as we're winning, I don't mind. As long as we're competing, I don't mind."

But how much more losing can happen before these guys start to mind?

Martin described the Red Foxes' current mental state as "concerned" and "fragile."

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