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He-Man battles Transformers: For blow by blow action, see pg. 8

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Donald Vale and the Men's Basketball team continue to rise in MAAC, see pg. 12



# THE CIRCLE

the student newspaper of Marist College

Volume 54 Issue 1

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## Donnelly renovations: a breath of fresh air

by SCOTT NEVILLE  
Managing Editor

Removing health risks, creating workspace and upgrading to meet fire codes, contractors and Marist staff members have left the IT department separated and the science department in the dust.

Physical Plant Director Tom Daly said the Information Technology renovations that have displaced the IT department will cost roughly \$730,000 and will be completed sometime in April or May.

Daly also said portions of Donnelly haven't been renovated in over ten years, and the internal air conditioning unit in the IT department was growing a potentially hazardous mold that was removed by professional contractors.

"We had a roof problem here years ago, where water had seeped in," he said. "The two-floor IT department has been gutted, the wooden walls and supports removed and replaced with steel support frames."

"We updated the sprinkler and fire alarms and did find some mold, but worked with the

Health Department to get it taken care of."

Martha McConaghy, manager of the Systems/Network & Operations department, also said a special contracted crew was dispatched for some 'environmental problems,' but did not elaborate.

While the renovations are being done, the IT staff has been dispersed throughout campus, cramping their ability to function efficiently.

"We are scattered all over campus - Programming is downstairs, while others are in the library. I'm currently working in the machine room," she said. "It's definitely different - we are all used to talking to each other right down the hall. Now it's a phone call."

"It is a little tough being crammed in a corner somewhere. We are looking forward to it being finished."

Since the library opened, there have been a few vacant areas that have helped to accommodate some of the displaced computer staff. Two classrooms were divided to create a third on the second floor, while a few sci-

ence offices and the Lenix Lab were transformed in to space for the computer staff.

Sciences offices upstairs, as well as Academic Advisement were completed recently, Daly said, as part of a group of Donnelly projects being run by several contracted companies simultaneously. The Payroll and Purchasing departments are still being rewired and the fire regulations updated.

"The process will require a series of inspections to make sure we're up to code," Daly said. "The workers will put up the framing and then it will be inspected. Then the wiring will be run, and that will be inspected. Then the fire sprinklers..." he said.

With the new G-5 computer network system in the basement, Daly said they will need a great deal of cooling, which the new air conditioning system will remedy. To avoid any further potential health issues, this large system will be housed on Donnelly's roof, to cut down on problems with moisture and

...See RENOVATIONS, 3

## New Year's Day City Blaze Kills 5

by BRENDAN MCGURK  
News Editor

In the midst of holiday festivities and New Year's Eve revelry, tragedy struck in the City of Poughkeepsie, claiming the lives of five.

A horrific fire, which started in the basement of a multi-family home on 61 Taylor Avenue in the City of Poughkeepsie and spread to neighboring houses, left more than forty people without homes.

According to reports, the cause of the fire was not suspicious, although a cause has yet to be determined. Fire officials reported that it took hours to quench the flames because three fire hydrants on Taylor Ave., located off of Washington Street, were non-operational. The city fire department had to use a hydrant located on Verazzano Boulevard, more than half a mile away. Fire fighters also relied on water brought to the scene of the blaze by assisting fire companies.

The fire was assumed to have started around 4:00 a.m. on New Year's Day, with the first call to 911 reporting the blaze coming in at 4:24 a.m. city Police Chief Ronald Knapp said in a statement.

Fire and police vehicles arrived on the scene at 4:30. Witnesses reported that the fire had completely engulfed 61 Taylor Ave. at this point and was spreading to 59 and 63 Taylor Ave.

Erick Butler, a resident of Hyde Park, was attending a New Year's Eve party in an adjacent house on Taylor Ave.

"The fire had completely consumed the house by the time [firefighters] had gotten the water going," Butler said. "They tried to spray the other two houses to keep the flames from spreading, but as soon as they could spray them down, they'd start right up again."

Butler described frantic residents jumping from windows to escape the black smoke and heat as rescue workers arrived.

...See FIRE, 3



SCOTT NEVILLE/The Circle

Craig Middlebrooks, one of the professional contractors working to renovate Donnelly Hall, is removing hazardous mold from the internal air conditioning system, replacing wooden walls and supports with steel supports, and upgrading to meet fire codes.

## Bush warms to Oval Office, Congress sees first actions

by ERIC DEABILL  
Staff Writer

Less than two weeks after his inauguration into the presidency of the United States, George W. Bush has wasted little time in trying to implement his campaign promises in Washington.

During this time, Bush has been learning the roles and day-to-day duties of being president, in addition to working on proposals to Congress and answering questions about his Cabinet nominees.

By the end of his first week as president, Bush had reversed an agreement on international family planning funding, banning any money that is to be given

to groups that assist or provide abortions overseas.

He also revealed his education plan to Congress, while Democrats revealed their education package that included many of the same provisions.

Furthermore, using the same bipartisan techniques that he used when introducing his education plan, Bush also unveiled his plan for prescription drugs. With his proposal, Bush hopes to "modernize" Medicare, calling for \$48 billion in federal funds to be allocated to states to help seniors pay for necessary drugs.

While he has done this, he has

...See BUSH PICKS, 3

## Marist student arrested in stabbing case

by LISA BURKE  
Co Editor-in-Chief

After his arrest for allegedly stabbing a student in the buttocks with two steak knives, Men's basketball player Marius Janisius, 23, of Vilnius, Lithuania is awaiting the decision of his grand jury hearing, which began last Thursday.

According to the Thursday Jan. 25 edition of The Poughkeepsie Journal, Senior Assistant District Attorney

Matt Weishaupt said that the grand jury was expected to reconvene Wednesday or Thursday of this week and that the hearing should wrap up by the end of the week.

"I believe that that session will conclude the presentation," Weishaupt said Friday, Jan. 19.

Janisius was charged with one account of second-degree assault for the incident, which occurred outside the E-block of Gartland early the morning of

Jan. 17.

He was arrested by the Town of Poughkeepsie Police shortly after 2 a.m. after security had arrived on the scene said Director of Safety and Security Joe Leary.

Janisius was released on \$25,000 bail early last Tuesday from Dutchess County Jail and is being held under house arrest. He has also surrendered

...See STUDENT, 3

## INSIDE

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### MIKE'S TV PICKS OF THE WEEK

"C.S.I."  
Thurs., Feb. 1, 9 PM, CBS

"Ripley's Believe it or Not"  
Wed., Feb. 7, 8 PM, TBS

"XFL Football"  
Sat., Feb. 3, 8 PM, NBC

...for more, see "On TV with Mike Thompson," pg. 9



## Security Briefs

Compiled by Scott Neville

### The last weeks of 2000

A plate of cheese and eggs left in the oven sent sulphur-smelling smoke swirling around the smoke sensor, sounding the siren in West Cedar's S block Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 4:30 p.m. None of the residents said they put the food in the oven, and the house door was not shut properly. Security officers changed the apartment's locks to deter any more pranksters.

Five more lights were smashed in Mid-Rise's stairwells Dec. 14, and one more on Jan. 18. As for suspects, security officers are still in the dark.

A tree flattened a section of St. Ann's barn, an out-building North of campus, Dec. 12 during the windstorm. The tree fell directly on the barn, splintering and walls, as the trunk settled firmly on the barn floor. Security found the damage during a patrol Thursday, Dec. 14 at 10:15 a.m., but could not say whether or not the tree made noise upon impact, since no one was there to hear it.

An uninvited non-resident arrived to retrieve a \$300 chain necklace from his ex-girlfriend in Gartland's E block Thursday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. "John" and the resident argued, sending him off in a huff before security officers arrived. There is no report of the necklace's current location.

A Leo resident broke out in hives and was escorted to St. Francis for medically-trained backscratchers to ease her pain at 2:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 15.

Michael Bogart was arrested and charged for trespassing Friday, Dec. 15 at 10:45 a.m. after following a swiping student into Leo Hall. A student notified security officers and Town of Poughkeepsie police officers and promptly had Bogart arrested for the misdemeanor upon finishing his shower. Bogart is homeless.

Two students found an intoxicated freshman resident outside the Bagel Company Saturday, Dec. 16. The oblivious bagel-lover was brought across Route 9 to Donnelly, and then driven back across Route 9, past McCoy's and up to St. Francis for treatment.

A resident fell down a set of Mid-Rise stairs and twisted her ankle at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16. She was taken to St. Francis and treated.

A West Cedar X block fire alarm blared at 11:54 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16. Fairview firefighters found a partially

used fire extinguisher and a two-quart can of charcoal lighter fluid. The lighter fluid was taken away and the student was questioned about the incident. He said he slipped on his hat and his elbow/forearm hit the extinguisher and discharged it. He then insisted he was the only one in the house although further information connected four or five other students to the scene. For his honesty, the resident was awarded a wet mop to clean up the mess.

Roughly 20 students in West Cedar's O block opened and ingested most of the alcohol Saturday, Dec. 16 before 11:58 p.m., when security officers arrived to break up the party. No full cans were left to confiscate.

Six cars were stuck in three feet of water in the McCann Parking Lot when a storm drain clogged. The cars' owners were notified of the situation at 11 a.m. on Dec. 17 and four of the cars were quickly moved, while the other two had a more thorough bath.

Two hours earlier, Sheahan Hall's basement flooded because of leaf-clogged pipes. Maintenance workers cleared the plugged pipes and Fairview Fire Department workers pumped the water out of the soggy Boiler Room.

### Security Briefs of the new year

Gartland E block heaters roused Fairview firefighters out of bed at 2:20 a.m. January 2 when the intense heat in the rooms set off the alarms. The heaters also heated up Gartland's D block enough to have the alarms blare at 7:30 a.m. the following morning. Maintenance workers were contacted to cool down the situation.

Symbols identified as Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity markings were found etched into the arm of a polished wood chair arm in the library on Jan. 18. The situation was turned over the Student Affairs to properly haze the members.

Marist employee Louis Rutigliano collapsed in pain Jan. 2 in Donnelly 102. Security officers responded and he was quickly transported to Vassar Brothers Hospital. He was later moved to Mt. Sinai Hospital in serious condition.

Once upon a time, in Talmadge Court far, far away, an unidentified burglar broke into an apartment and proceeded to live there. The four Marist students that lived there were away on break, and the burglar proceeded to eat their food, use their toothbrush, and even sleep in their beds. Some items had



## In Your Opinion

### What did you think of the new Survivor?

**Brian Perry - Junior**  
"It just doesn't have the emotion of *Temptation Island*."



**Michael Haigh - Junior**  
"There's another Rhode Islander on the show... I LIKE IT!"



**Nathan Shook - Junior**  
"I think Rudy should be the host...really!"

been stolen, including a Discman, the television remote, a gold Irish ring, and a pair of diamond earrings.

City of Poughkeepsie police officers were contacted and an investigation was opened to track down this Goldilocks gone bad.

A 3M video projector valued at over \$7,700 installed on Saturday, Jan. 13, was missing and pronounced stolen by Director of Media and Instructional Technology, Dr. Bill Ryan on Tuesday, Jan. 16. Town of Poughkeepsie police investigators opened a case and questioned Hugh's TV and Armstrong Electronics workers responsible for the installation. Armstrong Electricians allegedly were to contact security officers when they were leaving at 3:30 p.m. but never did, leaving the door unlocked until the following day.

Homeless Harry Gamble was arrested and charged with trespassing Jan. 16 at 9 a.m. after rummaging through a West Cedar dumpster. He was caught and told to leave the garbage alone by security patrols, but he became belligerent and left. He was found in another dumpster shortly after, and the police were notified to pick him up.

A non-resident dropped a friend off in Gartland's G block Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 2:45 p.m. and sat down on the stoop. A man and his little white strutted by. As the dog padded past, it bit the non-resident on the hand, leaving several marks. "Did he bite you?" asked the man. "Yes!" Without another word, the man and the dog ran away.

Twelve 10-oz. bottles of Zima and an open vodka bottle were confiscated from a Mid-Rise resident when the security guard stopped him and his clanking backpack at 2:18 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 18. The student denied there was anything in the backpack until the RD and charge of shift security officer arrived.

## Campus Corner

**Comedian John Bizarre** - Giving You the Stink Eye - will be in the Cabaret at 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2. Free food and refreshments will be served with a full serving of laughter.

**A Garden Hoops Bus Trip** to Madison Square Garden will be leaving the Midrise parking lot Sunday, Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. Marist will be playing Fairfield and Siena will be squaring off against Manhattan.

SPC presents a bus trip to New York City to see "Kiss Me Kate." The bus will leave Sunday, Feb. 25 from the Midrise Parking Lot at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$25 with a valid Marist ID.

SPC will present **Booker Coleman-Truth Through Courage, History Through Heritage** on Wednesday, Feb. 7 in the PAR. The show will begin at 7 p.m.

SPC's Lecture Series will present **Yara Svoray's "Hitler's Shadow,"** Tuesday, Feb. 13 in the Nelly Goletti Theatre. As told on the original HBO film "The Infiltrator," Svoray will reveal his infiltration in to a contemporary nazi group as a son of a holocaust survivor.

For the carless on campus, **Galleria Mall Trips** will be provided Saturday, Feb. 3 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday the buses will run from noon until 6 p.m.



## Come To The Writing Center Open House!

Meet the Tutors!  
Free Refreshments!

Wednesday, February 7  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Cannavino Library  
12:00 Noon Until 2:00



## WORLD VIEW

### Earthquake in India leaves thousands dead

INDIA – In Njar, India and all throughout western Gujarat people are searching for their dead relatives through piles of bricks and concrete after an earthquake shook the region on January 26. According to the New York Times, over 6,400 bodies have been recovered and state and local officials estimate that nearly 14,000 more lay among the ruins.

The scene across the countryside is of people walking through the streets with wheelbarrows containing the bodies of their relatives, huge fires and billows of smoke burning the dead, and the streets filled with homeless survivors. The government is struggling to provide the homeless with food and water.

### Yeltsin hospitalized

MOSCOW – Former Russian President Boris Yeltsin will be spending his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thursday in a hospital bed. According to Reuters, Yeltsin was taken to the hospital on Monday for what doctors believe is a "acute viral infection."

Yeltsin has been out of the public eye since his resignation in January 1999, but the birthday of the man who steered Russia's transition from communism to capitalism in nine years is likely to be a major public event.

### ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

#### The new Survivor outlasts its competitors

AUSTRALIA – Following the Super Bowl all eyes were on the land down under as *Survivor: The Australian Outback* bowed on CBS. Debating after the Super Bowl proved a success; 43.5 million people tuned in for the first episode. Last summer the first *Survivor* drew in 51 million people for its finale episode.

One of the exciting moments on the first episode of *Survivor: The Australian Outback* was when a contestant bit into a fig, only to find it filled with bugs. Starting Feb. 1, the show will air at 8 p.m. on Thursdays, facing off against *Friends* on NBC.

## Bush picks see Senate confirmation: Ashcroft still a controversial pick

...From 1

he has also faced obstacles and troubles during his first ten days. Senator John McCain, his former GOP presidential nomination rival, introduced his campaign finance reform bill at the Capitol. Republican leaders had wanted McCain to wait for a while to do this, because McCain and Bush differing opinions on this issue, but McCain felt it was too important to wait.

At this same time, Bush's nominations for his Cabinet have been appearing before the Senate for confirmation ever since Inauguration Day. On Saturday, Jan. 20, 2001, the Senate confirmed seven members of Bush's Cabinet and since that day, the rest of the nominees have gone through the confirmation process rather easily.

Most notably, Colin Powell was sworn in as Secretary-of-State on Friday, Jan. 26, 2001 at the White House. Also, Mel Martinez was approved by the Senate as Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Anthony Principi as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, New Jersey Governor Christie Whitman as head of the Environmental Protection Agency and ex-Colorado Attorney General Gale Norton as Secretary of the Interior.

Despite these proceedings, Bush's choice for Attorney General, John Ashcroft, has faced tough opposition from some Democratic Senators in the Senate Judiciary Committee. According to the Jan. 22 issue of *TIME*, they are primarily concerned with whether or not Ashcroft will be able to enforce the laws that he doesn't agree with, especially with issues relating to civil rights, abortion and gun control.

Ashcroft was asked by Senate Democrats to answer 125 questions in written form. President Bush commented on the debate over Ashcroft's appointment.

"I hope in the spirit of bipartisanship, there will be no further delays with the confirmation process of John Ashcroft," Bush said. "There's been a lot of discussion, a lot of debate, a lot of questionnaires presented and answers filled out, and it's time for the vote, it seems to me."

According to *CNN.com*, Ashcroft is expected to pass the Senate when the vote comes, tentatively on Thursday, because all 50 Senate Republicans and one Democrat support Ashcroft's confirmation.

## Student Government Association Spotlight

### Amanda Kelly

Director of Public Relations

Hometown: Andover, New Jersey  
Campus Housing: MidRise Major: Communications  
Age: 21 Concentration: Advertising  
Year at Marist: Senior Minor: Public Praxis



Take a walk by the SGA office on any given day and chances are good that you will see Amanda Kelly working diligently at her desk. Whether she is planning a new activity for Student Government to participate in or creating posters for an upcoming event, Amanda's "to do list" is never ending. Being Director of Public Relations for Student Government is a tough job filled with many different responsibilities. Some of Amanda's responsibilities include SGA Newsletter, SGA Spotlight, creating posters and other advertisements for various campus activities, maintaining the SGA bulletin board, administering surveys, and updating the SGA WebPage. Amanda also is responsible for any crisis management that needs to be done such as press releases to *The Circle*, *WMCR*, and *MCTV* regarding any crisis situation that occurs on campus. Her jobs range from large to small. Amanda also orders supplies, such as SGA pens and tee shirts, and creating the SGA brochure.

Amanda has encouraged SGA members as well as students to participate in community service activities. Last semester, Amanda organized 80 Marist students from various clubs on campus to participate in Memory Walk 2000 and raised a total of \$1200 for the Alzheimer's Association. Before Christmas Amanda organized a small group of Marist Students to go to Vassar Hospital to bring holiday cheer to the children's ward. Amanda's latest community service project is a Bowl-A-Thon that she is organizing with Alex Gamma, president of the bowling club. This will be taking place on February 24th and all proceeds go to the Red Cross. Anyone interesting in participating can contact Amanda in the SGA office at x5699.

When asked how she gets it all done, Amada responded, "Being Director of Public Relations is a very time consuming position but I would never be able to handle it without my board members. They are a great help!"

-Michelle Slesinski, Assistant Director of Public Relations

## Taylor Avenue Fire Claims the lives of 5

...From 1

all lived in 61 Taylor Ave. According to reports from Detective Lieutenant William Siegrist of the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department, the first floor of 61 Taylor Ave. did not have smoke detectors. The second and third floors were equipped with the devices, as were 59 and 63 Taylor Ave., he added.

According to reports, the five who died in the blaze were Pascual Mejia, 28, Theresa Robles-Mojica, 35, Elisa Mercado, 36, and her ten year-old daughter, Glorilou Lewis, and Howard Colbert, 33. All but Colbert, who was visiting from out of town,

lived at 61 Taylor Ave. All died of asphyxia from smoke inhalation.

Ten people were wounded in the blaze with injuries ranging from burns to sprains.

Several days later the smell of smoke still hung thick in the air and family and friends of the victims had constructed a makeshift shrine at the site complete with candles and children's stuffed animals.

The City of Poughkeepsie Fire Department was unable to be reached for comment.

The City of Poughkeepsie has worked to provide as much as-

sistance as possible to families of the victims and those left homeless by the fire.

The McCann Pro Golf Shop has donated an estimated \$1000 in clothing and cans to collect coins for charity have been distributed to area businesses, according to local newspapers.

Those wishing to donate to the charity fund can send a check payable to the Fire Victims' Fund to Marcia O'Neill, 17 Lockerman Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY, 12601. The proceeds will be deposited into an account at Riverside Bank, located in Poughkeepsie.

## Student arrested

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his passport.

The Poughkeepsie Journal reported that Janisius told police that he was assaulted by three men in front of the Marist library on the evening of the stabbing. This assault resulted from a dispute earlier at McCoy's across Route 9. The other people involved in the altercation were not Marist students. The span of time from when Janisius was at McCoy's until he was arrested at Gartland was approximately 30-40 minutes according to Leary.

The victim, a Marist student who was treated and released from St. Francis hospital, was not involved in the previous altercations.

Leary said that this was an isolated incident, and this aberration does not reflect the usually low violence statistics on this campus.

"We've been very fortunate because the great majority of

kids here are good kids," he said. "I've been here for 12 years, and I can't recall anything to this serious extent."

Janisius was suspended from the basketball team and the college upon his arrest. This is the standard procedure for any student, faculty or staff member upon the arrest for a felony said Tim Massie, chief college relations officer.

"The suspension will last for the duration of the legal proceedings until the disposition of the case," he said.

A Student Government Association press release dated Jan. 18 states, "we (SGA) approve of the administration's swift suspension of the student involved, pending the completion of the investigation and the resolution of this case."

"I feel bad for everyone involved," said Massie. "I feel bad for Marius, the student he is alleged to have injured, the basketball team, and the college. This is an incident that does not portray Marist favorably."

## Renovations of Donnelly Hall

...From 1

open up more work and office space in the IT department.

But the IT department is not the only ones being inconvenienced. Purchasing Director Steve Kochis said the construction has caused some small problems, like increased foot-traffic through the departments because of blocked off doorways.

Teaching assistant and senior Lucas Tucker said a few science classes using laser equipment noticed the increased dust in the air.

"We could actually see the beam from the laser - that's how dusty it was," he said. "Maintenance [workers] have been doing well cleaning up, but there was a few times they were mopping up when we were supposed to be having class..."



## More bad news for smokers: Nicotine may cause depression

*New reports warn cigarettes have longer reaching effects than suspected*

by JASON SHAW  
Staff Writer

If you thought that cigarette companies were messing with your mind before, you had no idea.

It's widely known that cigarettes are harmful to the body, but new evidence has emerged showing that it may also be harmful to the mind.

Recent studies on the link between smoking and depression are churning out some shocking results, leading researchers to believe that a good smoke can lead to some bad feelings.

Current statistics state that 10% of Americans suffer from some form of depression, ranging from the clinical depression that often requires medication to just having "the blues."

Nicotine addiction, one of the most common addictions, is cur-

rently being held under the microscope by researchers of the National Institute of Mental Health. What these researchers have found is that depression is both a cause and a result of cigarette addiction. Depression-linked elements such as low self-esteem and stress are common reasons to first light a cigarette.

The feeling of relaxation associated with nicotine relieves the stress, while low self-esteem makes a person more susceptible to peer pressure and can also lead to self-destructive behavior. Self-destructive behavior is a major component in the bridge between depression and smoking cigarettes.

In a world where we are force-

fed the evils of tobacco, ignorance of its effects is no longer a plausible excuse. It's no coincidence that most smokers that begin smoking in their teenage years, a period where low self-

create a feeling of total bliss. Instead, it causes what doctors call a "psychological neutrality," which is ideal to most people because it allows them to remain functional throughout the day,

unlike many other addictive drugs.

Depression can also be a result of smoking because of the guilt and the hopelessness involved

**“ Researchers have found that depression is both a cause and a result of cigarette addiction ”**

esteem and self-destruction is at its peak, never manage to shake the addiction.

Another reason why so many suffering from depression take up smoking is that they see it as a way of medicating their condition without the use of any drastic substances. Nicotine is not a euphoric drug; it doesn't

in knowingly doing damage to your body. Smokers that want to quit, and can't, often sink deeper into their addiction, which in turn lowers their self-esteem.

Ridicule and criticism from non-smokers doesn't help either. Even when smokers succeed in dropping the habit, the

depression caused by withdrawal symptoms can lead the smoker to other habits that fill the nicotine void.

It's important to remember that the study of the link between addiction and depression is relatively new and is still continuing. While many of the points that researchers have made make sense, there are still many questions left unanswered, such as the role of genetics. Susceptibility to both substance addiction and depression is believed to be an inherited trait.

Whether these two genetic traits are linked genes or in any way related to each other on a physiological level is the riddle that scientists want to solve. Hopefully, more progress will eventually be made in the attempt to cure two of America's most common afflictions.

## When counting sheep no longer works:

*Recognizing the signs and symptoms of a sleep disorder*

by ALEXISSCARPINATO  
Editorial Assistant

Counting sheep to fall asleep at night may not relieve those who suffer from sleep disorders.

According to *Sleep-Net Online*, about 18 percent of Americans have suffered from one of many sleeping disorders in their lifetime. These disorders can include narcolepsy, sleep apnea, restless leg syndrome (RLS), insomnia and even sleep-walking.

Daniel O'Connell, father of four, had suffered from sleep apnea, the condition characterized by loud snoring and multiple periods in which the victim stopped breathing. For two

years he received only 40-minutes of sleep per night causing exhaustion during the day and an overall negative attitude towards family and friends, he said.

According to his wife, Catherine O'Connell, it started when he gained weight, but stress attributed as well. He needed help because in the worst case, his throat would close, and his heart would stop.

"We brought him to a sleep center to have his oxygen levels monitored," Catherine said.

The sleep center prescribed an air tank hooked up to a mask, which was placed over his mouth and nose at night, Catherine said. It put pressure

in his throat to keep the airways open. Although Daniel now sleeps better at night, Catherine said, he still needs to be checked out by a doctor every three months.

Meghann O'Connell, his 19-year-old daughter, said that her father can now lose weight because he is less tired during the day and has energy to exercise now. The air pump treatment has helped him become a whole new person.

"Since then he looks about 10-years younger and is a lot more fun to be around," she said.

Another common sleep disorder is insomnia. According to *Sleep-Net Online* it is characterized as difficulty falling asleep,

staying asleep or even waking too early.

Joyce Ferris, Nurse Practitioner, said that stress, environment, noise, temperature, cigarette smoking or day napping are the most prevalent causes of insomnia. Worrying about not being able to sleep causes sleeplessness as well.

"The average person needs 7-9 hours of sleep each night to be able to stay awake during the day," Ferris said.

Recognizable symptoms include sleepiness, anxiety, poor concentration, irritability and poor memory, according to *Sleep-Net Online*. According to this site, popular treatments include sleep inducing pills or

even relaxation therapy.

Another common disorder, Restless Leg Syndrome, is known as a prickly sensation in the legs which can be alleviated by moving them or by taking a hot shower, according to *Sleep-Net Online*. They say the discomfort occurs every 20-40 seconds, causing sleep disruption.

Although it is considered a sleep disorder, symptoms can also occur while sitting in a car, watching television or during any type of inactivity.

If severe enough, medication can be prescribed for treatment, according to *Sleep-Net Online*.

## A game of Giant proportions: Why football is America's pastime and unifying force

by J.R. HORAN  
Staff Writer

By the end of Super Bowl XXXV, one of two possible outcomes has happened. Either the Ravens won, causing the New York fans on campus (and there are many) to submerge into a state of shock, or New York was once again able to pull off yet another sports championship, thus allowing every New York sports fan's head to swell up even larger than it already is.

OK, so New Yorkers are now in a state of shock.

From the five interceptions which Giants quarterback Kerry Collins threw, to the record-breaking number of turnovers seen through the game, the Giants were no match for the Baltimore Ravens (formerly the

Cleveland Browns), whose defense is as tight and impenetrable as a stone wall.

Losing ground early in the first quarter, the Giants showed signs of a winning team only once, responding to the Ravens' second touchdown of the game with one of their own, only to be silenced by yet another Ravens touchdown - and all in thirty seconds. The Ravens prevailed, earning a Super Bowl ring with a 34-7 victory over "Big Blue."

From my opinion and experience, New York sports fans are the most dedicated and probably the most knowledgeable about their teams. Believe me, I'm an Orlando Magic fan, and most of my friends back home could not tell me the history of the team, not to mention the

names of all the players. They just root for the Magic purely based on the fact that they're from Orlando.

But New Yorkers are an entirely different ballgame, no pun intended. The fans that I have met here at Marist College seem to know just about everything about their local teams. "It's a passion," says sophomore Jim Ramirez from North Babylon, New York. "It borders on obsession."

Jim's statement hits the nail on the head with regard to New Yorkers and how they relate to their teams. When you put so much tradition and history behind the sports teams up here in New York, then it comes as no surprise that the fans here are so infatuated with them.

With that being said, it must

be great to be a New York sports fan these days. First the Subway Series proved that the best two teams in baseball belong in the Big Apple, and now the Giants have reached the (almost) pinnacle of achievement, earning a spot in the much-storied Super Bowl Championship Game.

I could care less about which team played in this year's Super Bowl, but that factor alone did not keep me from watching the sporting event on television. A football fan does not simply watch the Super Bowl just because they are loyal to their team. Football in America is a tradition. It is almost patriotic to watch the Super Bowl and seems to stem not just out of rivalry between our nation's cities, but also a sense of national

pride.

Football is arguably the national sport of the United States, as the U.S. is regarded as the premier nation to enjoy this sport as a pastime, as well as the fact that most of the football players playing in world leagues are American in origin. It is also more socially cohesive, as the short football season allows for greater audiences to tune in, unlike baseball, which, though largely referred to as "America's Pastime," has a season that encompasses spring, summer and fall, and thus viewership is not as concentrated.

Football is America's game, and the Super Bowl is the quintessential American experience.



## Court says school aid system faulty: *New York City cheated out of billions each year*

by **JACLYN JACOBSEN**  
Features Editor

On January 10, 2001, Manhattan Supreme Court Judge Leland DeGrasse handed down a legal ruling that shook the walls of politicians' offices and state taxpayers' homes from Staten Island to Albany.

In a landmark decision, DeGrasse declared that the formula that determined how much state aid is given to New York State school districts is unfair, discriminatory and unconstitutional. After being presented with evidence that shows that although New York City schools are responsible for educating 38% of the state's students, the area receives only 36% of state aid - a difference of \$1.5 billion dollars.

The ruling came after an extensive, nine-month trial in which 72 witnesses and 4,300 pieces of evidence were introduced to plead the city's case against Albany. Community leaders, such as Robert Jackson, a long-time member of Community Board 6 in Washington Heights, led the fight against unfair funding and blanket discrimination.

The judge, well known for his progressive leanings and liberal positions, provided detailed instructions for rectifying the inequalities that have existed for years. In his 189-page report, DeGrasse outlined the allotment of new funds for the flailing New York City school system. Designating \$390 million for teacher pay raises, \$34 million for teacher training programs and a whopping \$11.2 billion to repair dilapidated schools, DeGrasse decreed that these new funds be transferred by September 15, 2001, and threatened that "the court will not hesitate to intervene," should

ruling, DeGrasse emphatically stated:

"The amount of melanin in a student's skin, the home country of her antecedents, the amount of money in the family bank account are not the inexorable determinants of academic success."

City officials were quick to laud DeGrasse for his breakthrough ruling in challenging state education policy. Former New York City Schools Chancellor Rudy Crew echoed DeGrasse's findings, stating, "The resource gap absolutely results in an achievement gap." New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani hailed the ruling, adding, "By any way you analyze it, New York City does not receive its fair share of state school aid."

Although many city dwellers celebrated the court decision, others anxiously awaited any response from Albany and the Governor's seat. As rumors of a possible appeal flew around the state capital, politicians urged Governor Pataki to accept the ruling, fearing an appeal would incite an uproar throughout the Big Apple, which would undeniably hurt his upcoming campaign for reelection.

Pataki defied all political counsel, however, and openly criticized the ruling, arguing, "You can't have a judge running the entire educational system." Pataki also accused the city of reducing the amount of aid it gives to city schools and failing to assist the state in creating a better learning environment for its students.

Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, whose office argued the case in front of Manhattan Supreme Court Justice DeGrasse, had equally strong words for city officials. "If New York City cannot offer children the opportu-

mirror this inequality, as suburban teachers earn around \$66,000 a year, in comparison to New York City teachers who earn only \$47,000.

Education has been a heated issue in New York City for several years, as standardized test scores have become increasingly lower and more and more school buildings have been declared unfit for use.

Mayor Giuliani has seen three School Chancellors throughout his two terms, and a long standoff with the United Federation of Teachers over contracts and pay raises has contributed to the continuing decline of the city schools in the public's eyes.

The most recent blow to the city school system came in mid-July of last year, in which lawyers for the state argued that NYC schools need only provide students with an eighth-grade education.

However, there are some who, although would not refuse the additional funds, question if money really is the panacea for all of New York's education woes. In a recent study conducted by the New York State Education Department, it was found that, while funding in Scarsdale decreased, test scores increased, and as the funding for New York State schools increased, test scores decreased.

Whether this serves as an indicator of viable education reform, or is a loose argument used by those who are opposed to giving city kids more aid at the expensive of suburban children, is subject to debate.

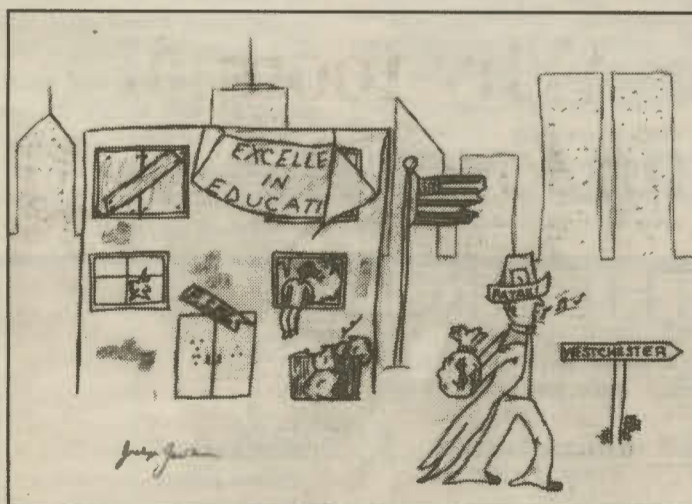
The most heated opposition to Leland DeGrasse's ruling is destined to come from the more affluent suburban areas, as any reform in the school funding system would result in a loss of funding for upstate schools. However, some do believe that New York State has been overgenerous with its funding of upstate schools.

"We had so much money," says Ann Metz, a sophomore hailing outside of Rochester. "Our school was pretty good to begin with, some rooms even had carpeting. And then they gave us more money to build an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Why did we need that?"

Sophomore Mary Doyle, from Suffolk County, agrees. "The ruling is fair. Everyone should get the same amount of money and the same amount of education. City kids are not getting enough funds."

Other students are concerned about the withdrawal of funding to suburban areas. "Maybe there could be some other solution besides taking money away from suburban schools," sophomore Heather Premerlani wonders.

Susan DeCotis, a sophomore R.A., takes a more centrist approach. "I don't think I have a position. It's good for some and will probably be bad for others."



Gov. Pataki walks away from NYC schools, giving more aid to North.

the state resist these changes.

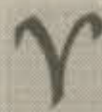
Perhaps DeGrasse's strongest statement came in response to the claims that state lawyers repeatedly argued during the course of the trial. According to them, money has little to do with the poor performance of city schools. Instead, poor performance on standardized tests is an unfortunate, but unavoidable condition in an area in which minorities constitute 83% of the population. In the final

nity to learn on a \$10.4 billion annual budget, then something is radically wrong with the Board of Education."

Despite the influx of rhetoric circling this volatile issue, statistics show that city students receive much less than their suburban counterparts. The average amount spent on each "upstate" student is roughly \$13,000, while in New York City, the average child receives only \$8,000 in aid. Teacher salaries

### Your Daily Horoscope

provided by *excite.com*



**ARIES**

Start off with an important meeting. Make promises to your team. After that's done, you'll be free to take off on an adventure. But, pay attention



**TAURUS**

Interesting conversations are going on behind doors. Overhearing what they're saying should be easy. You're not snooping. You're just gathering information.



**GEMINI**

A group outing could be fascinating. You want to stop and read all the signs. Don't worry. You can get a book on the topic later.



**CANCER**

The people at the top of the food chain will be even more aggressive than usual. Why should you be put out because somebody else didn't manage their time properly?



**LEO**

Everybody wants to order you around. A friend is also being bossy. Unfortunately, this will go on at least another day. Keep your lip zipped.



**VIRGO**

The work is fast, furious and technically demanding. Financial wheeling and dealing is going on. You may not have more money, but keep playing.



**LIBRA**

Are you thinking about getting married? Truth is, you and your sweetheart have been talking about this for ages. For singles, it's a good day for new beginnings, too.



**SCORPIO**

If you don't speak up about something that bothers you, it'll get worse. It's not your nature to complain, unless things have built to an intolerable level. Don't let that happen.



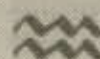
**SAGITTARIUS**

A lively discussion with a passionate person could lead you to a whole new understanding. What are you trying to accomplish? Knowing will make your life easier.



**CAPRICORN**

You've been doing the work, but the money runs like water. Need a better accounting system? Don't hire somebody to help; figure it out yourself.



**AQUARIUS**

You like to stay in control. You do that by having all the answers, doing the extra research and squeezing time out of your busy schedule to study. That's what you should do now.



**PISCES**

A controversy is raging, and you're right in the middle. Things might be confusing, but you can figure out one thing. You know what's best for you. Stop worrying about them.



# The politics of community apathy

by KEITHSHALJIAN

President Clinton's seven-minute farewell address paid homage to his administration's commitment to human rights in war torn regions around the world from Israel to West Africa. While it hailed these commitments as a result of American prosperity it failed to mention the result of that prosperity at home.

Not since the 1950's has America seemed so at ease with itself in its narcissistic self-interest, consumerism, and naivete about what the middle class faces in the modern world. In the 21st century, this complacency is more cynical but less proactive. The wealthy autocrats Bush and Cheney, whose interest in the oil industry and corporate America were ignored by half the country, could be compared to J.P. Morgan and Nelson Rockefeller winning the presidency in the 1920's.

Yet conservatism did not start in the year 2000. It began with Bill Clinton and his fiscal/political "moves to the center", which have put smiling faces on many stockholders but has seen the disintegration of the centralized liberal viewpoint that the Democratic party used to provide. His federal judge appointments reflected this and one need look no further than the Veterans Stadium rape case of last August.

This rape case is more brutal and chilling than the rapes that happen every six seconds in America because it happened to

an 11 year-old girl. Not only was she raped by her vicious attackers, but also by the legal system and the groups that profess to be working in the interest of people like her.

The 11 year-old girl traveled to Philadelphia to see a Phillies game with her aunt, after which they were separated. The child, lost in a huge complex, sought the help of three young men that worked in the stadium. Like a pack of wolves they pooled their mental resources and led the girl to a dumpster at the far end of the stadium. They questioned the 4'11, eighty-pound child about her sexual experience. When she tried to run away, they reenacted their pornographic fantasies on a defenseless child. In twenty minutes, the child had been violated in every way imaginable and had to be "sewn up" at a Philadelphia area hospital.

On the surface, the logistics of the case appear to indicate not only a human rights but also a civil rights violation that would be a slam-dunk for any district attorney. The girl is black, and her three rapists were white. They were all over 100 pounds heavier than the child and their attack was premeditated.

They were also 16 years old.

The decision handed down by Justice Frank J. Reynolds is shocking; four months for two of the offenders at a youth treatment facility while one of the youths escaped completely due to a lack of evidence that included the DNA of his semen.

At the December 22, 2000 hearing Reynolds felt he was exerting his jurisprudence.

"This is juvenile court, and there will be mercy. I'm not going to crush any child that makes a mistake," he said in his 400-word decision.

More shocking is that this judge is a Clinton appointee and he is black. This is not a case of racism because a similar case came to his bench involving three black youths and a white girl. Reynolds' reluctance to crush children has played itself out before. The two youths sentenced in this case, John Scarizzi and Mike Ibberson, were even allowed to go home for Christmas and New Year's before they were shipped to the

**"Not only was she raped by her vicious attackers, but also by the legal system and the groups that profess to be working in the interest of people like her."**

treatment facility. The girl is interrupting her education in Freeport, NY and receiving intensive therapy two times a week.

Many disillusioned with the political process might say that

this is another example of the ineptness of the judicial system but the body politic is made up by the people and institutions that remain silent in the face of injustice. Not one national news story aired about this atrocity. Not one national government official aside from Reynolds spoke about the case, and one of his comments was that "she wanted the attention". In fact, hardly anyone outside of the mainstream so much as came to the aid of this violated child.

Neither NOW nor Women Against Rape in Philadelphia commented on the case, neither did the corporation that employed the youths, Rita's Water Ice apologize. The protest by church leaders was attended by only 400 people, and local NAACP head J. Whyatt Mendesine and the Rev. Vernal E. Simms Jr., the President of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia, issued a statement saying that "justice was served".

In this case, the victim was served brutality by three radically different ideological systems. Reynolds' misogynistic decision should have inspired a volatile reaction. The media did not touch the story because of its gory detail and were afraid to offend consumers.

But the women's' groups and the clergy's near silence is more problematic. The victim suffered a silent martyrdom, betrayed by the groups that could have helped her most. Part of the deal that Christian activists make with the external world is not want-

ing to appear vindictive, like an angry Old Testament God. In an interview with Safari Bukari of WBAI in New York the leader of the few religious protesters, Bro. Rob Gray, called on Christians to remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as his birthday approached.

"I just want to say that as we go out there tomorrow, we've got to see that on this day, if Dr. King was alive, he would be out in the streets defending this little girl. He wouldn't be singing hymns or asking for personal forgiveness," said Gray

If this story was told on the NBC evening news about Sierra Leone or Israel, it would seem so alien, so far removed that not many would take notice. We could not imagine it happening in America. But it did, and it does every day, to both male and female children. The child's rape was compounded by the silence bred by a complacent conservatism. The representatives of God on earth, human justice, or the advocates of the voiceless could not even redeem that. In this case, one has to ask, where do we begin to build the bridge to a new activism, and how do we wake from this intoxicating middle class dream?

*This story was supplemented with quotes from the WBAI radio program 'Where We Live' and the Philadelphia Inquirer Regional News from December 23, 2000.*

*Keith Shaljian is a senior.*

## Fighting to remember: The real past forgotten

by BENJAMIN J. BRENKERT  
Asst. Opinion Editor

Americans "celebrated" Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 15. While speeches and commercials recognized this prophet responsible for radicalizing America's vision of democracy and equality, many of us prepared to return to Marist for the spring semester. Even I did not stop to reflect, during my drive up I-84, on the progressive nature of Time's man of the century. Remembering the past, the real war!

As Black History month approaches it bothers me that more was not done to reiterate King's wishes, moreover; his activities were restricted to news broadcasts. I hardly think a 30-second slot is appropriate for a Nobel Prize laureate. While it was a challenge to approve the King holiday, Michael Eric Dyson warns that a greater "challenge looms in keeping King's birthday from being turned into a festival of forgetting his challenging legacy." While I am less concerned with the radical nature of King, I am advancing a far more practical want. That is to say, it is time to reflect on King, the Cold War and Mother Teresa in terms of

their importance to the Twenty-First century.

Just the other day while at work at the chapel I noticed a picture of Mother Teresa. I realized that the images of her working with the poor of Calcutta had escaped my memory and most of television for the last four years. After all, Mother Teresa only died in 1997, some seven years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, which effectively ended the Cold War. Many of us would call King and Mother Teresa prophets or saints, but how many of us paid homage to them this past year?

At the dawn of a new century the world is asked to remember the past even amidst impending multiculturalism and post-modernism. In an age of materialism and globalization King, the Cold War and Mother Teresa are sold as commodities to the highest bidder. However, the Marist community must strive to protect the images of reformers by remembering them and by discussing their impact in light of contemporaneous issues.

Sadly enough the Cold War, which lasted from the end of World War II until 1990, is only lectured on in Marist history courses by American History professors. What happened to

Russia since Stalin? Who decided to cut the Russian program? Does the cost of retaining faculty outweigh the importance of 45 years of American (world) history? As a history student I disfavor the lack of Russian courses and find it an embarrassment that the Russian language has been cut from the curriculum. The lack of Russian at Marist demonstrates my greatest fears. That in an

intensely globalized world, what does not sell, does not get manufactured.

In the end, we are the future citizens of a global and Americanized world. The harsh reality of consumerism is that we forget progress by structuring our lives around an individual-centered market economy. Today's market economy, though volatile, detracts from the appeal of the civil rights movement, Cold War

histories and the works of pious nuns in third world countries. Some of us might bear witness to the Cold War by placing wreaths on the headstones of deceased loved ones who died during the Vietnam War. Through discourse and recognition we will satisfy the just ends of remembrance. Otherwise prophets, saints and cold wars will be left out of history in some brave new world.

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the student newspaper of marist college  
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<http://www.academic.marist.edu/circle>.



## Sorry, Ms. Jackson

by DERRICK A. JONES II  
Political Columnist

To Ms. Jackson, I would like to apologize for the immoral behavior of your husband, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and for the behavior of Democrats in general. While it is repulsive that a man who calls himself a "Reverend" would father a child out of an extra-marital affair, it is not surprising that the same man would be a leading proponent of the Democratic party. Would it be fair to say that the Democratic agenda is not only devoid of morals and places no value on family, but also any type of ethical behavior? The answer seems to be yes. Let's take for example the tomfoolery the Clinton staff engaged in on their way out of the White House. There are numerous reports that all of the W's were taken off of the computer keyboards and that phone extensions in the White House were switched around. The reason for taking off the W's on the keyboards was probably to remind themselves what they would be remembered as: worthless. In a way these actions sum up the Clinton administration- garbage in, garbage out. They messed up things when they came in and it is only fitting that they mess things up on their way out.

Another troubling event coming out of the last days of the Clinton Administration was the pardoning of Marc Rich. Rich, a commodities trader has been a fugitive for almost twenty years. He was charged with racketeering, violating U.S. sanctions by trading oil with

Iran and evading the IRS out of 48 million dollars (which I suppose is Mr. Clinton's idea of a tax cut).

But wait, let's give Clinton the benefit of the doubt. His judgment has never before been tainted. We'll just forget the fact that Rich's ex-wife was a major fundraiser for Mr. Clinton and the Democratic Party, contributing a sum of nearly one million dollars, and also requested his pardon. We should also forget that it is that said pardon was allegedly discussed with Clinton's buddy, Ehud Barak. (On that note, Barak needs to keep his damn opinion out of U.S. affairs, because in a week his job status will be the same as buddy Clinton's- unemployed.) Leave it to the liberals to let money and political favors destroy the sanctity of the Constitution.

But fear not, America. Happy days are here again, because George W. Bush is President of the United States. Who could possibly disagree with education reform and cutting taxes? Only those bleeding heart liberals, who wish to dump the budget surplus into programs that are a waste of both time and effort (not that their opinions matter any way). During the next four years, you can expect President Bush to put the country back on the road of integrity and respectability. Memories of the Clinton Administration will just be speed bumps.

*Derrick Jones is for real. Catch him every week, rain or sunny weather, for the real political scoop, exclusive to the Circle.*

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I humbly submit this communication with the hope of having it published in the "Op-Ed" pages of *The Circle*.

Approximately five years ago, New York State legislators and the federal government ended college tuition assistance for incarcerated students. This tremendously successful college program for prisoners lasted 15 or more years, not only for those who were incarcerated, but for society as a whole.

Politicians claimed that this move was a reflection of the "public's attitude that taxpayers shouldn't provide prisoners with college degrees." As a prisoner and a student, respectfully, I do not subscribe to such a misguided, ill-conceived, short-sighted and uniformed notion.

According to the New York State Department of Correctional Services ("DOCS"), of the nearly 72,000 state prisoners, a full 64 percent do not possess a high school education; that's over forty-six thousand prisoners! Studies consistently show that education is the most successful method of reducing recidivism, with higher education achieving the best rehabilitation levels. It is not surprising that over 48% of all prisoners without a college degree return to prison, as compared to a mere 6% of those with a college degree eventually becoming recidivist.

Contrary to popular belief, there are numerous prisoners

desperately wishing to bring about a dramatic and positive change to their lives; they simply require more help. Those whom have made a sincere commitment to attend college are in many ways just like the hardworking counterparts in society, having to attend college at night, after completing a full day of work in his (or her) required prison job assignment.

The cost to taxpayers for keeping each prisoner confined has been conservatively estimated to be \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year, per prisoner. This amounts to billions of tax dollars per year, not to mention the devastating social, psychological and emotional effects it has upon our society as whole. These funds come out of the same budget which has been slated for our decrepit schools, neighborhoods, and infrastructures.

Just as our citizenry became dissatisfied with higher taxes to fund welfare recipients and social services costs, so too, will knowledgeable taxpayers come to terms with the fact that the ideal corrections system should work to put itself out of business some day, instead of lobbying legislators to put more heads in prison beds for loner periods. Education is a simple and feasible solution, with a

track record to prove it.

The statistics are in and the data are compelling: higher educational programs for prisoners that confer degrees, teach marketable skills, instill self-esteem, confidence and a sense of responsibility reduce recidivism better than building more prisons, hiring more police, more judges and more prosecutors.

Education for prisoners should not only reach into the deepest chasm of society's compassion for humanity and the less fortunate, but moreover, because of its practicality, proven effectiveness and reliability of being a "sure-fire" way of assisting the so-called "dregs" of society to escape the cycle of poverty, despair and crime that has plagued their very lives and brought them to prison in the first instance, this ideal should be embraced, rather than shunned.

Surely, both the financial as well as physical resources squandered on ineffective prison construction and the housing of prisoners can be put to much greater use. It is now time that the public re-think its draconian position on education for those behind bars.

Respectfully,  
Markeith Boyd

## It's good to be king

by MATT DAIGLE  
Opinion Editor

Somewhere along the path through college, students forgot to care. This became especially true at Marist, and the trend continues to this day. Oh, don't get me wrong. Marist students care about the important things, such as cover charges and bar specials. But in terms of getting involved and taking a stance on an issue, the general attitude is apathetic.

The few people that do care spend much of their time lamenting over the apathetic masses that make up a large majority of the student body. "Oh, how terrible," they moan. "We do so much to educate and change the world, and all is for naught!" Indeed, all their efforts go unchallenged, without anyone to speak out in opposition to their soapbox stances. But if you ask me, there is no better situation to be in.

Take my position, for example. These days I only write on occasion. But when I do espouse my views upon our devoted readers; I do so with free reign. I go forth unchallenged. Since I face no opposition to my views, I assume that people are either not reading my columns, or that I'm right. And since I have on multiple occasions been the target of spiteful online lambast-

ing, I know people are reading me. So if it is not wet, it must be dry, and the views I espouse must be correct.

The apathy here on campus creates a void which I can then fill with whatever rant I see fit. Heck, I could write an entire column contradicting myself should I choose to, and there is nothing an apathetic student body can do about it. It is a system that works in my favor so long as only a few people seize this opportunity. Because of the burgeoning popularity of the MaristOnline forums, I now have these pages to myself. Why fight it?

Now, I know that some person objects to my attitude regarding this power. So what? They aren't going to object on my turf. They might do so to friends, co-workers, or someone not involved in *The Circle*. But doing so allows me to continue doing what I do. Perhaps there is the intimidation factor of being published, or being seen by virtually everyone on campus. But if you can't handle that, you aren't a concern of mine. With the aid of writers I have on staff here, the Marist public sentiment will be shaped by a select elite who have proven themselves to be infallible in the eyes of the Marist community. And you are all powerless to stop us. Action over apathy- it works.



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## 80's kid flicks transform into disasters of the universe

by JIMBO MARITATO  
A&E Editor

This winter break, I was given an opportunity to peruse through some of the few memories of my youth that were not sold off at garage sales or passed on to another generation. During my quest for eighties knowledge, I stumbled upon two films based on classic cartoons.

The first of these, released in 1986, was *Transformers: The Movie*. For those who have forgotten, *Transformers* was the ever-lovable cartoon series that brought us the AutoBots and the Decepticons. The AutoBots, led by Optimus Prime, were our protagonists, fighting for eventual peace and happiness among Transformers all over the universe. The Decepticons were our super villains, whose main goal consisted of conquering the AutoBots and taking control of the universe. Of course, our protagonists are the underdogs. Their abilities are generally limited to transforming from bipedal robot form to automobiles. The Decepticons, however, are capable of turning into weapons of war.

The film has a pretty twisted plot. Within twenty minutes of the opening credits we see our heroic leader Optimus destroyed by Megatron. Megatron also takes a beating in this battle. He is thrown "overboard" as dead weight and is picked up by a giant moving planet known as Unicron that sucks all life from other planets. Unicron can only be stopped by one thing: The AutoBot Matrix of Leadership, which was stored inside Optimus Prime's chest. Basically, whoever is the AutoBot leader gets the Matrix, but the Matrix will only allow a Transformer who is worthy of leadership to use it. Unicron rebuilds Megatron into a slave and renames him Galvatron.

There are a lot of dark themes here for a kid's movie as a great hero is killed off. The cast of this movie contains some big

names as well. Orson Welles does the voice for Unicron; Leonard Nimoy is the voice of Galvatron; Judd Nelson does the voice of Hot Rod and another character I will not name as it is crucial to plot development. My only real problem with this movie is the inclusion of two human characters, Spike and Daniel. Daniel is a little boy who hangs out with the AutoBots and transforms thanks to something called an exo-suit. His sole purpose in the movie seems to be to give us moral lessons like, "You can do it if you keep trying." I refused to buy this. I watched this kid transform, and let me tell you, the way his body contorts would crack his spine. All in all, I believe that *Transformers* is definitely worth another run.

*Masters of the Universe* (MOTU) is a completely different story. Based on the *He-Man: Masters of the Universe* cartoon series that began in 1983, MOTU is an atrocious adaptation of what was once a legendary part of afternoon cartoons. MOTU keeps basic elements of the cartoon's plot, but introduces some extremely ridiculous elements including Dolph Lundgren as He-Man.

Classic characters like Battle Cat and Orko did not make it into this film. Also, He-Man cannot transform between his Prince Adam and He-Man identities. I guess the makers of this film felt they needed to give us something new, so they threw a weird dwarf named Gwildor into the mix as one of He-Man's allies. Skeletor also gets some new allies; among them are Saurod, a Boba Fett rip-off, Karg, a trollish white haired thing, and Blade, a pirate-looking fencing fiend. Skeletor also has armies of robots and some sort of war tank.

Our heroes are magically transported to our Earth from Eternia by the Cosmic Key, a device that is wielded by Gwildor, and is capable of transporting people throughout time and space. Somehow, Skeletor manages to follow He-Man and company

since he is pursuing the key for his own maniacal uses. As it stands, Skeletor has kidnapped the sorceress and is attempting to gain omnipotent power. All he needs is He-Man's sword and the cosmic key to do it. Any idiot who has seen the cartoon knows that He-Man can beat the living crap out of Skeletor. Apparently, the writers of this movie missed that part.

After becoming lost in Eternia with two friends and a dwarf, He-Man realizes the Cosmic Key is busted. It plays musical notes to open portals. Now, it just doesn't play. That's when he meets Courtney Cox. That's right kids, Cox plays good little Earth girl Julie whose parents just died six hours ago in a fiery plane crash. To top it all off, she's also hanging out with her loser musician boyfriend, Kevin who by chance has a Casio keyboard that makes the exact same tones as the Cosmic Key! Skeletor poisons Julie, the keyboard gets broken, and a cop, Detective Lubic, played by the bald guy from *Top Gun*, shows up and chases He-Man and pals all over town. Finally, it is decided that the only person who can cure Julie is the Sorceress on Eternia. So, Kevin and Gwildor put their one collective brain cell together, fix the Casio, play the notes, and get out of Dodge. He-Man, however, gets kidnapped.

The bottom line is this. Skeletor usurps the Power of Greyskull thanks to some triple lunar eclipse ritual. He is struck by lightning and thus suddenly has golden armor. Instead of going out to conquer Eternia, he decides to shoot lightning bolts at He-Man until he agrees to kneel. Apparently the writers of this movie liked that scene in *Return of the Jedi* where the Emperor blasts the living bejezus out of Luke Skywalker. Needless to say, He-Man breaks out from his chains and proceeds to beat the living hell out of Skeletor, grab his sword, screams "I have the Power!" and

See 80'S FLICKS, 9

## Holidays give time to explore the box office

by ED WILLIAMS III  
Editorial Assistant

After taking that last final exam, it was time to pack up and get ready to head back to Connecticut for winter break. When you live in a boring place like Connecticut, Christmas means the best time of the year to catch some flicks. So I decided to go to the movie theater...a lot. I entered the theater each time with the same hopes of seeing a spectacular movie, but left with a different taste in my mouth almost every time. Here's what Ed said.

Vertical Limit \*

*Vertical Limit*, directed by Martin Campbell, has some jaw-dropping visual effects, but unfortunately the acting and dialogue in this film are so bad that

your jaw is already dropped.

This starts out as your typical action film. Chris O'Donnell, playing the role of Peter, leads a rescue mission up K2, the second largest peak in the world, to save his sister, Annie, played by Robin Tunney.

Annie is not alone, as she is trapped inside of the mountain with a mountain guide and a greedy and selfish millionaire named Elliot Vaughn, played by Bill Paxton. Vaughn was climbing the mountain as a publicity stunt.

O'Donnell doesn't seem very convincing in this role. He has a boyish look to him and never seems to have a stern tone of voice. He is constantly whining and depending on the others to rescue his sister; these

are not exactly good qualities in a hero.

Among the highlights of this film is long-time climber Montgomery Wick, played by Scott Glenn. Wick is the best climber on the mission and saves Peter on more than one occasion. The only other highlight in this movie is a pair of often-drunk Australian brothers who join the rescue crew and add the only comedy and enjoyment this movie has to offer.

*Vertical Limit* definitely appealed to the eyes, but it put the mind to sleep.

Finding Forrester \*\*\*\*

Director Gus Van Sant puts forth an excellent effort in *Finding Forrester*. This film focuses on the friendship between an inner city high school basket-

## Knudtsen's Korner TV Funhouse: Depravity and demoralization



by CHRIS KNUDTSEN  
Co-Editor in Chief

Animal puppets riled up on booze run amok through Atlantic City alongside Robert Goulet as they search for low priced prostitutes and cheap thrills. A solid half-hour of laughing hysterically at this episode of Comedy Central's new series *TV Funhouse* prompted me to steal Mike Thompson's gimmick and write a review of this riotous program created by Robert Smigel, the creator of Saturday Night Live cartoons such as *The Ambiguously Gay Duo*.

Critics of programs such as *South Park* that complain about lewd jokes and sexual innuendoes in the guise of children's entertainment are going to be up in arms when they get around to watching *TV Funhouse*. The images of puppets, or "Anipals," as they're called in the show, sniffing lines of "Christmas Cheer" or humping real animals is bound to gain the attention of those who anxiously await the opportunity to point yet another finger at television corporations for degrading the moral standards of our nation's youth. I find it hilarious.

*TV Funhouse* presents me with the rare desire to actually watch television, an urge I haven't felt since *The Simpsons* or professional wrestling, the latter of which was cruelly stolen from our grasps by TNN. With the exception of *South Park* and perhaps the occasional episode of *Sopranos*, I generally avoid new television programs; I'd rather watch reruns of *MASH* on the FX channel than watch another poorly planned reality show or horrendous programs like *Will and Grace* or *Everybody Loves Raymond*.

Viewers were even given the opportunity to laugh heartily at the one hit wonders Hootie and the Blowfish in the aforementioned episode where the Anipals visit Atlantic City. *Triumph the Insult Comic Dog*, also a product of Smigel, makes a

ball player named Jamal Wallace, played by Robert Brown, and a Pulitzer Prize winning author living in seclusion, William Forrester, played by Sean Connery.

On a dare from his friends, Jamal breaks into William's house to try and find out more about this mysterious man. In his haste, Jamal leaves his backpack and journal behind. William reads this journal and sees

guest appearance on the show, bringing his high-brow style of comedic flavor to the show for a refreshing change of pace. He sings a tragic love song about an underage pooch that tricked him into having sex, leaving Triumph to the legal consequences of his immoral, yet unintentional crime.

Shortly thereafter Hojo, the turtle Anipal, vomits in front of Robert Goulet due to the excessive amount of alcohol consumed compared to Hojo's relatively small frame. This brief comedic presentation of alcohol awareness stunned even me because I was not prepared to see the producers of the show shoulder the responsibility of making a statement about the dangers of alcohol abuse. I laugh in righteousness at those would dare say that people in the media don't care about your welfare or that of your children.

The popularity of shows such as *South Park*, and, eventually, of *TV Funhouse*, is the product of the same people that want to censor them. *South Park* would most likely crash in European countries because their societies are not as uptight about sexual behavior, thus making the sexual subject matter relatively bland. The other aspect of these shows that makes light of racial stereotypes can be defended in a similar manner as well. Our oppressive climate of political correctness in American media creates these shows.

Jokes carry more humor when you're not supposed to laugh at them, it's the same childish reaction to all things we're told to avoid; we want what we can't have and we really want what we could potentially have but are stopped from obtaining for "our best interests." I'm left in a hungover state wondering how long it will be before another one of my shows is ripped off-air as the result of some over zealous parental, or worse, religious group's boycotts and protests. After all, there's nothing that hurts this society more than an offensive television show about animal puppets; forget the community shelter for the homeless and forget about parental responsibility, here comes societal moral degradation. I'm done.

Chris Knudtsen is leaving the hallowed pages of the A&E section. You can find him in the OpEd section in the future.

much untapped potential in Jamal's writings.

Jamal returns looking for his journal and this meeting triggers the relationship. Jamal cracks through the rigid façade of William, and they form not only a sort of teacher/student relationship, but also a strong friendship. Connery and Brown share a great chemistry on the

See BOX OFFICE, 9



## On TV with Mike Thompson *Temptation Island is not evil, it's just boring*

by MIKE THOMPSON  
Copy Editor

My first column of last semester dealt with *Survivor*, last summer's breakout hit. The show spawned several similar-themed reality shows. The most controversial of these shows, *Temptation Island*, debuted last month on FOX. Critics are calling the show immoral and advertisers are starting to pull their sponsorship of the show. Many people think that the FOX network has sunk to a new low, in terms of moral standards. However, lost in all these rants about the show is the fact that *Temptation Island* is dull. Immoral or not (and I say it's not), I'd watch the show if it were enjoyable to watch. But, unfortunately, once you get past the premise of *Temptation Island*, the show itself becomes very tedious.

*Temptation Island* started generating controversy before a segment of it was even taped. The very premise of the show itself is what got all these media watchdogs up in arms. On *Temptation Island*, four unmarried couples arrive at a remote Caribbean island. The couples are then separated from each other and placed on opposite ends of the island. On one end of the island, the four women are courted by 13 attractive and fun-loving men. On the other end, the four men are courted by 13 attractive and fun-loving women. For two weeks, the couples get to experience single life again. After two weeks, the couples are reunited, and they decide if they want to stay with their respective mates, or if they want to become single again.

As you can tell from the premise, this isn't exactly the kind of show you'd see on the Family Channel. However, I find it difficult to believe that this show is as morally depraved as the Joe Lieberman-types would like you to believe. You cannot ignore the fact that the couples knew exactly what they were getting into. It's not like these were eight innocents, placed on

a tropical island to have fun with their sweetie-pies. No, these people knew going in that they'd be risking their relationship so that they go could on national television and galavant around with a bunch of sexy singles. So this "babes in the woods" routine doesn't fly with me.

As I stated, there are four couples on the island. And they are: Billy and Mandy, who have been together a year and a half; Kaya and Valerie, who have also been together a year and a half; Andy and Shannon, who have been together for five years; and Taheed and Ytossie, who have been together five and a half years. By the time you read this, Taheed and Ytossie will no longer be on the show. The couple hid from the producers of the show the fact that they have a child together. Once the producers found this out, they immediately banished the two from the island, since any couples participating have to be childless.

The shallow, slutty factor of each of the eight people on the island is off the charts sometimes. Shannon declares that there might be trouble between her and Andy in the future because Andy doesn't have as much money as she would like him to have. Ytossie says of the 13 single guys placed on the island to tempt her, "I can be faithful, but when they're throwing themselves at you, it's tough to resist." And then there's Mandy, who says, "This whole experience is the opportunity of a lifetime, because when and where else can you ever have the chance to be in an environment with 13 single guys who have been chosen for you?" Again, these people definitely know what they're getting themselves into. It's tough to feel sorry for them.

Mandy is also the most hypocritical of the bunch. At the end of each episode the couples get to see video of their significant other on his/her date, or they



can simply hear the person's date talking about their experience. In one episode, Mandy watched as Billy's date said that she had a wonderful time with him. Mandy immediately began to cry, saying that she didn't want Billy having a great time with other girls; she wanted him having a terrible time. Kind of sweet, right?

Think again. Immediately after saying that, Mandy retreated to the singles bar and had a great time with the single guys. In fact, she got pretty intense with one of the guys, and they locked lips passionately at one point. Mandy then said, "This is who I am. If Billy can't love me for exploring myself, then we shouldn't be together." So I guess Mandy is saying that Billy should do as she says, not as she does.

Now, the aforementioned screenings of videos is the most interesting part of *Temptation Island*. The rest of the show, depicting the couples going on dates with the singles, and going to singles bars, dance clubs, etc., is just boring. Since this is network TV, not too much in the way of sex can be shown, so watching the dating and the dancing and whatnot gets very old. If I wanted to see shallow, slutty guys and girls get it on with hot singles, I'd go to McCoy's.

So, yes, while the video screenings themselves are interesting, there's just not enough in the rest of the show for me to recommend it. I might tune in at the end to see some of these videos, but it's likely that by the time the end of the episode rolls around, I'll already be engaged in another show. By and large, *Temptation Island* is just a waste of time. The show airs Wednesday nights at 9 PM on FOX, which is located both at Channel 5 and Channel 23 here at Marist.

## Neal amazes and Astonishes sold out Marist crowd in Nelly Goletti Theatre

by MICHELE WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, January 27, in the Nelly Goletti theatre, about 300 Marist students witnessed their peers catch flying pigs, win a million dollars at the racetrack, and perform onstage as Bon Jovi. The sold out event, provided by SPC, featured The Astonishing Neal.

In the first two hours of the show, Neal demonstrated a variety of tricks using ESP. The first trick involved Neal asking a student to stand up and take some loose change out of his pocket. He then asked the student to count the change to himself, as he wrote down a number onto a sheet of paper. He

then asked the volunteer to tell him how much change he had. When he told Neal that he had seventy-five cents in his pocket, Neal then turned the sheet of paper towards the audience to reveal that he had the exact same number. Other tricks that followed involved bending four nails held by separate students using only their minds, bending the keys of various members of the audience, and connecting, then disconnecting three rings from three male volunteers in the audience.

Corey Lewis, a senior at Marist and volunteer for the ring trick agreed that The Astonishing Neal's performance was fantastic.

"I have no idea how he connected the rings," said Lewis, "I was trying to see how he did it, but I couldn't figure it out. It was magic."

After a brief intermission, Neal invited anyone who was willing to be hypnotized to come onto the stage. I figured that I'd give it a shot, after some coaxing from my friends. Before he started the hypnotist session, he told everyone on stage that it was totally possible for them to not be hypnotized. Once he had a small group of individuals who were in a trance, he told them various things, to which they played along with no matter what he said. This section of the show had the audience in hysterics.

## 80's Flicks *From 8*

launches Skeletor into a pit. The sorceress cures Julie, and the Earth kids are on their way. As Julie and Kevin wave goodbye and step into the portal, we hear Julie screaming for Gwildor to "Send them back..." The next thing we see is Julie in her bed the morning before her parents are killed. She stops them from flying in a plane, they don't die, and it is a happy ending. Yuck.

The results of this study are obvious. Despite the special effects, despite the dwarf who went on to play High Aldwin in *Willow*, and despite the Russian from *Rocky IV*, *Masters of the Universe* is a terrible representation of its predecessor. Key plot elements are gone, and new ones developed, apparently in

## Box Office *From 8*

and makes the unlikely pairing of the two seem greatly believable.

Perhaps the best thing about this movie is the transformation of William. We start the movie seeing him as a tough and mean old man. We soon learn that he is quite smart, and a brilliant writer. We also learn that the man has compassion and even some character flaws. Connery does a great job in making us feel one way about his character, but changes our minds by the end.

Cast Away \*\*\*\* 1/2

*Cast Away*, starring Tom Hanks, was a superb film that deserves all of the box office success that it's been enjoying. Robert Zemeckis, who also directed *Forrest Gump*, brought in Hanks for another blockbuster.

Hanks plays the role of Chuck Noland, a Federal Express troubleshooter who is called away on an important assignment on Christmas Eve. Before getting on his plane, Chuck utters the infamous words "I'll be right back" to his fiancée Kelly, and in doing so we realize he's in for a world of trouble.

Chuck's plane goes down in the ocean, and he is washed ashore onto a small island. Chuck is the only survivor, and the first thing he decides to do is to gather as many packages as he can find in the ocean. This act adds a little touch of comedy to an otherwise grim situation.

The first half of this film deals with Chuck learning how to sur-

an attempt to further the He-Man toy line distributed by Mattel. *Transformers: The Movie*, on the other hand, sticks to its roots. It contains all the classic elements of the original series, a great story, and doesn't require a million dollar special effects budget to pull it off. My advice is as follows: If you've never seen either the *He-Man* or *Transformers* original series, see them. If you find *Transformers: The Movie* for rent, rent it. If you find a video store that dares to carry *Masters of the Universe*, burn it to the ground. I'm out.

*Jimbo Maritato may like 80's cartoons, but he thinks Full House sucked.*

vive on the island. We see him trying to find shelter and trying to build fire. One of the packages that Chuck opens was a Wilson volleyball that he cleverly called Wilson.

Wilson becomes Chuck's only friend on the island, and it gives him someone to talk to. It's a clever way to have the audience know exactly what is going on in Chuck's mind. Through his conversations with this inanimate ball, we can get inside his head. Chuck often ends up yelling at Wilson, which provides some minor comedy again.

We then are brought a couple years into the future and we see a thinner, more muscular, hairier Chuck. He realizes that his only chance for survival is to get off the island. So, with the help of Wilson, Chuck builds a big raft, and sets sail.

Chuck is finally rescued and brought back to the mainland, where Federal Express has a big ceremony for him. He eventually sees his old fiancée, Kelly, who has remarried. Kelly has a life of her own now, and Chuck has trouble dealing with this.

Zemeckis doesn't let us off the hook and leaves us with a somewhat open ending letting the audience think about what really happens after the credits are gone.

The major driving force behind this movie is the superb acting of Tom Hanks. Not too many actors can pull off a role like this one. This film just further proves the old adage that a picture is worth a thousand words.

*"I think I misunderstood the magic of this town. It's time to recognize that I should let it go..."*

-Tim Barry

In the hour that he had them under hypnosis, the group went from smelling something bad to which they blamed the person next to them, to petting small animals. The final task that Neal had his volunteers do was to pretend that they were in a rock band. The band consisted of three guitarists, a drummer, a keyboardist, a tambourine player, and backup dancers. Once Neal cued the music, the crowd roared with laughter as the lead singer passionately sang into his imaginary microphone to a Bon Jovi tune. Be-

fore waking them up, Neal told them that they would have no recollection of what they did. Sure enough, the look of confusion on their faces when they saw that they received a standing ovation was priceless, due to the fact that they were unaware of why they were onstage in the first place.

I still can't figure out how the Astonishing Neal did the various tricks that were performed that night, and I was even more amazed when I found out that hypnosis can be done. Who knows? Maybe it is magic...



# Del Preore loving life on and off court

by MIKE FERRARO  
Sports Editor

She is fifth on her team in scoring, averaging a little over six points a night. She is third on the team in rebounding, pulling in 4.7 per contest. For a freshman, these are decent numbers.

But when this is done while not even averaging 12 minutes per game, it is impressive.

When your recent play earns you Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Rookie of the Week honors, it is even more impressive.

Combine these factors with the outlook on basketball and life that Stephanie Del Preore has, and newspapers want to write stories about you.

Del Preore was named MAAC Rookie of the Week for the week ending Jan. 22. In a span of three games leading up to this award, she averaged 12.7 points and 8.3 rebounds in only 19.0 minutes per game while shooting over 50 percent from this field.

So how does Stephanie Del Preore handle her success and recognition?

"I'm not going to let it affect me in a good way or a bad way," she said. "It's just a title. If it wasn't for my teammates and coaches, I don't come anywhere close to it."

And that is what helps make Del Preore unique. Whether it is adversity or the warm glow of success, very little on the court appears to faze her.

Her play and her attitude have quickly earned her praise from head coach Kristin Lamb.

"She helps us with her athleticism, and she's not afraid of too many things. That's what makes her good," Lamb said. "She does a lot of different things for us on both ends of the floor."

Del Preore was all over the floor during an outstanding high school career at Livingston High School in Livingston, NJ. She would jump center, break the press, and attack opponents inside and outside, as she added the three-point shot to her repertoire for her senior year. By the time her high school career was over, Del Preore was Livingston's all-time leading scorer (1809 points) and

rebounder (1454 boards). She beat out some good company for the scoring record, as it was previously held by Erin Boland, who graduated from Siena in sixth place on the Saints' all-time scoring list.

Naturally, there were a few schools that were active on the recruiting trail for Del Preore. Fellow MAAC schools Siena and Manhattan expressed interest, in addition to Richmond, Stony Brook, and Denver.

But there was something special about Marist.

From seemingly the time she stepped on campus for her official visit, Marist and Stephanie Del Preore were a good match. The school's closeness to her home, academic reputation, and riverfront location all appealed to her.

What appealed to her even more was the feeling of family generated from the players and the coaching staff. Del Preore also realized that Marist was a program on the move, and she was familiar with several of the current or incoming players. She had played against Kim DiVincenzo in high school. She

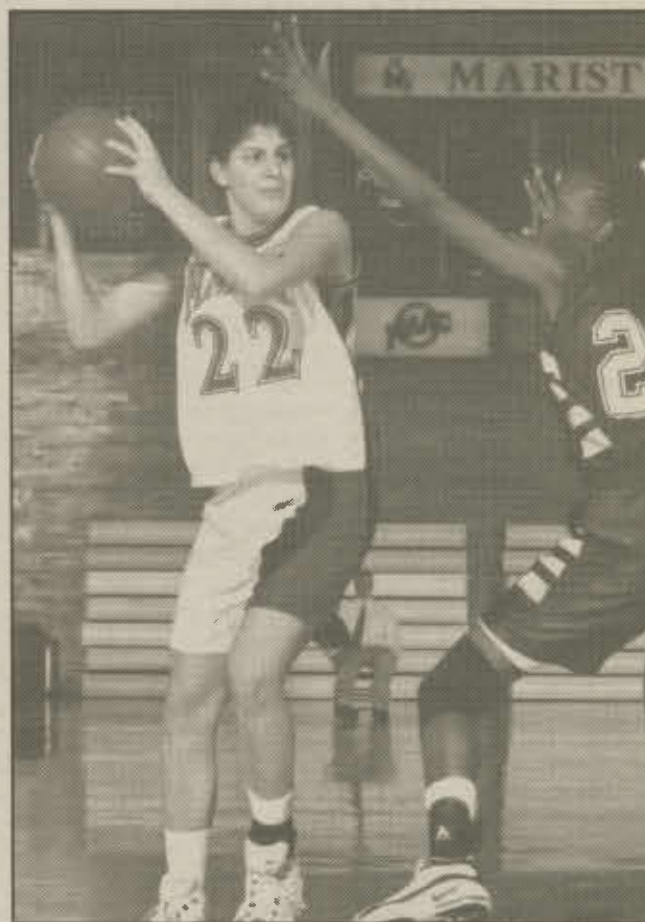


PHOTO CREDIT/Carlisle Stockton  
Stephanie Del Preore was named MAAC Rookie of the Week for the week ending Jan. 22. She has scored 109 points in 209 minutes this season.

played with Nina Vecchio in AAU, while playing against Vicki Wancel and Kerry Sullivan.

Vecchio, the MAAC leader in assists, spoke about the benefits of familiarity with Del Preore on the court.

"We've known each other since we were twelve, so it's real easy for us to play together," she said.

Familiarity and family are quite important to Stephanie Del Preore. Her father is her hero, and she draws inspiration from him. In 1996, he had a liver and kidney transplant. He would drive Stephanie to all of her AAU games, and he listens to all of her games on the internet now if he cannot attend them himself. Just one week after his surgery, Stephanie had a game, and he was on the phone with her mother in the stands, wanting to know how his daughter was doing. Her father's spirit and dedication serves as a reminder that she can accomplish anything in her life.

Stephanie's mother has had to support the family, and she looks up to her as well. Stephanie said that her parents have always supported her and given her anything she wanted.

These are two parents who obviously care about their daughter very much.

With a support system established, Del Preore has been able to enjoy her freshman year. She pulled a 3.0 last semester, and she said she loves college life

and that she has been having a "lot of fun."

On the court, she has been enjoying herself as well. In a recent six-game stretch, Del Preore averaged 12.2 points and 8.2 rebounds while averaging just under 20 minutes per contest. During this time, she established new career highs in points (16 vs. Siena), rebounds (12 vs. Canisius), and minutes played (30 vs. Siena).

Where does Del Preore go from here? She borrows a comment originally made by Vince Carter.

"If you commit to defense, you'll play more."

Lamb echoed similar sentiments. In high school, Del Preore would be able to accomplish so much because of her outstanding athleticism. At the college level, there are more athletes of her caliber. Therefore, she has to become more technique oriented, working on aspects of the game such as boxing out.

Del Preore again does not want to put herself in the limelight when discussing her role on the team.

"I'm just here to help," she said. "We're here to help each other, whether we start or come off the bench. We're one big family, and everyone makes some kind of an impact when they play."

Over the remainder of this year and the next three years, expect Stephanie Del Preore to make an impact.

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#### Del Preore's averages per 40 minutes

Points.....	20.9 (team leader), 109 in 209 minutes
Rebounds.....	16.1 (team leader), 84 in 209 minutes
Steals.....	1.9 (third on team), 17 in 209 minutes



## The Samoan Speaks

by MARK SMITH

Welcome to the *real* new millennium, and to a new age in the NFL; an age of parity. The past two seasons fans have watched two teams rise from their own ashes like the fabled Phoenix, and destroy all in their way on the road to becoming Super Bowl Champions. The paths have been decidedly different for both teams.

Last season the St. Louis Rams used a blistering offensive attack to blow teams off the field before they knew what hit them. This year the Baltimore Ravens used arguably the best defense in history to suffocate their opponents.

Opposing offenses scored ONE touchdown in four postseason games. The Ravens didn't have a cakewalk to the title either. On their march to the championship, they held the 2nd ranked scoring offense in the NFL (Denver) to 3 points, held arguably the best team in the NFL (Tennessee) to 10 points, stonewalled the best rushing attack the NFL (Oakland), and then humiliated a Giants team that had annihilated the Vikings 41-0 two weeks earlier. That gurgle you just heard was the Ravens' playoff victims breathing their last.

How have teams been able to beat out the perennial powers of the NFL in their first tries? It used to be that teams went through a progression of ups and downs before being to even contend for the championship. Time was a team first made

the playoffs as a wildcard and just hoped to better next year. The Rams and the Ravens have turned the league on its ear by skipping that progression and going straight from losers to champs in one year.

Acquisitions from other teams have played large roles in the past two Super Bowl Championships. Both the Ravens and the Rams signed their quarterbacks as free agents, neither of which was highly touted. Tampa fans were glad to see Trent Dilfer go, and we all know Kurt Warner's odyssey from Green Bay to the Arena League to the World League to the Rams. The other big acquisition by the Rams was the trade the Rams swung for Marshall Faulk. Warner perhaps has a big season last year without Faulk, but he certainly doesn't win the Super Bowl or the League MVP without him.

Smart, and lucky drafting has given the Rams and Ravens much of their talent. Orlando Pace, Isaac Bruce, Az-Zahir Hakim, Tory Holt, Kevin Carter, London Fletcher, and Todd Lyght all came to the Rams via the draft. Ray Lewis, Rob Burnett, Peter Boulware, Duane Starks, Chris McAlister, Jonathan Ogden, and Jamal Lewis have all come through the Ravens' draft.

To complete these home-grown players, it seems the Ravens have imported as much talent as they've fostered. Rod Woodson, Sam Adams, Michael McCrary, Tony Siragusa, Keith

Washington, Qadry Ismail, and Shannon Sharpe were found floating in the sea of free agency.

As almost any team is mostly composed of draft picks and free agents, why are these two teams different? For the most part, these two teams vital parts were acquired without the hype that usually follows big draft picks or free agents. We all know the draft is a crapshoot. The only players not acquired from the draft that big things were expected from were Faulk and Sharpe. The rest were all players who were spotted to fill needs and exceeded expectations.

How many teams can say that more than one or two of their free agents exceeded expectations? Not too many. Maybe the most important people on the Rams and Ravens has been their Directors of Player Personnel, the people responsible for drafting and signing these players. Wouldn't it be great to see teams scramble for new Directors of Player Personnel while free agent coaches and players stand by and watch? Too bad it still won't happen, and most teams will continue to acquire players that don't mesh with their new teams. When will owners realize that coaches like Butch Davis can't save your franchise if they don't have someone getting them the right players?

the game, we know she's going to do something good. She is a magnificent player and adds a lot to the team."

With seven games remaining in the regular season for Marist, the MAAC is far from locked up. Siena leads the conference with a 10-1 record, followed by Fairfield at 9-1, and St. Peter's holds third place with a 6-3 conference record. However, the teams in the middle of the pack, including Marist, are separated by two games at most, with last place Canisius three games out of fourth place. Clearly, the field is wide open.

Lamb is confident with the team's position in the standings and is optimistic about the rest of the season.

"We are right in the middle of the conference," said Lamb. "If we can finish between fourth and sixth in the standings, then that will be a good season for us. We have a good chance to recover and make a move in the conference."

Lamb emphasized the importance of consistency in order for the team to make that move in the conference.

"If we come out and play mentally consistent and focused, we will win more games," said Lamb. "Intensity and emotion are an important part of our game."

Lamb is optimistic about the team's chances in the final stretch of the season and is con-

**"If we can finish between fourth and sixth in the standings, then that will be a good season for us. We have a good chance to recover and make a move in the conference."**

### Kristin Lamb Women's head coach

fident that the team can put together a winning streak and make some noise in the MAAC tournament, starting with its next two games against St. Peter's today and Loyola on Monday.

"We played great defense against Loyola in the first meeting," said Lamb. "These are two teams that we can beat if we come ready to play with the same intensity as we did against Fairfield."

St. Peter's is a very athletic team, according to Lamb, who added that the Peahens play strong on both ends of the court. While Loyola is not as athletic as St. Peter's, according to Lamb, it has a lot of shooters on the team.

## Indoor track off to record-setting start

by ROB McGUINNESS  
Staff Writer

Several school-record-breaking performances have highlighted the first half of the indoor track season for the Marist men's and women's track teams.

Freshman Eli Bisnett-Cobb has twice broken the school record in the 55-meter high hurdles, with record breaking performances at the West Point Open (8.10 sec) in November and the Manhattan Invitational (8.06 sec) in December, showing that he has adjusted well to collegiate hurdling.

"Eli has transitioned quite well into the collegiate high hurdle height," said men's coach Pete Colaizzo. "Most hurdlers need a season or two to get acclimated to the higher hurdles, but Eli's transition was smooth; so smooth, in fact, that he broke a school record that took Eric Deshaies ('98) four years to establish."

At the Fordham Invitational (Jan. 19), sophomore Chris McCloskey broke Mike Melfi's ('99) record in the 1000m with a time of 2:31.59. Not far behind was junior Pat Driscoll, running 2:32.10. These middle distance mainstays also earned Colaizzo's praise.

"What [McCloskey and Driscoll] did at the [Fordham]

meet was excellent. These guys love to train and race together, and they are the cornerstone of our middle distance crew," Colaizzo said.

Junior Brian Perrella is another key member of the middle distance team. He has contributed a 1:59.4 800-meter split to the 3200-meter relay team that nearly broke the school record at the Terrier Classic in Boston.

"I'm pleased that Brian has found his niche indoors as a middle distance runner. He will be key for us in relays and in the 800 and 1000-meter distances. He adds a new dimension to the team now that he is focusing on the shorter distances," Colaizzo said.

Since returning from an early season knee injury, freshman Kirk Dornton has had some outstanding performances in the 3000-meter, running 8:45.22 at the Terrier Classic. According to Colaizzo, Dornton's times are faster than those of Mike Melfi and current senior co-captain Greg Salamone during their freshman campaigns.

"In my opinion, [Melfi and Salamone] are the two best distance runners in school history, so logically I project Kirk to have a tremendous future here," Colaizzo said.

As the championship meets approach, the Running Red Foxes will look to versatile ath-

letes Mike Nehr (mile, 3000-meter, 5000-meter, relays) and co-captain Denis McManus (jumps, hurdles) to contribute in many events in the league meet.

The women's team has also seen its share of record-breaking performances this season, as freshman Melanie Torres broke the 55-meter high hurdles school record (9.14 sec) and tied the record in the high jump (5' 1/2"), and sophomore Susan Golden broke the mile record with a time of 5:07.67. In addition to those notable efforts, junior Jen Stewart recorded a personal best in the long jump (16' 7 1/2") and broke the triple jump record with a 34' 4" performance.

Other noteworthy performances this season have come from junior Karen Decina (5:23.76 mile), sophomore Jen Klier (10:57 3000-meter) and freshman Jen Rosenblatt (10:33 3k, 18:23 5k).

With the MAAC championship meet on the horizon and the chance of qualifying several individuals and relay teams for the ECAC championships, women's coach Phil Kelly expects good results from a number of athletes in various disciplines.

This Saturday, the team will travel to Colgate University for the Class of 1932 Invitational.

## Men's swimming takes down URI, Lehigh next

by MIKE DRECHSEL  
Staff Writer

The Marist College men's swimming team added another win to its undefeated record by beating the Rams of the University of Rhode Island on January 27.

The match up was the first meeting between the two schools, which the Red Foxes dominated by taking first in nine of the fourteen events. Men's head coach Larry Van Wagner was pleased with how well his team performed in the 400-yard medley relay, the first event of the meet.

"Since Rhode Island isn't particularly strong in the event," said Van Wagner, "we felt that we could stack both our A and B teams and have them compete against each other, which is exactly what happened," he said.

Both Marist squads finished first and second in the event with Team A edging out Team B by four tenths. The race set the tone for the rest of the day as URI was playing catch up for the rest of the afternoon. With other impressive performances throughout the day, the Red foxes shut the door on the Rams before they could even begin knocking.

Among those performances included freshman Rob Dunn's second place finish in the 500-yard freestyle, an event that he does not normally compete in. Also, sophomore Jimmy Spencer put forth a superb effort in the 200-yard breaststroke, beating his personal record by two seconds.

The URI women defeated the Marist women by a comfortable margin, but there were some bright spots for the lady Red Foxes. Senior Erin McGrath took first place in both the 50-yard freestyle and the 200-yard butterfly, and freshman Jen Meyer placed first in the 100-yard freestyle.

Both the men and women's teams continue their fine seasons with an important meet against Lehigh, which will be held at the McCann Center at 1:00 PM on Saturday. The men hope to keep their undefeated season in tact, but it will be no easy task for the 6-time consecutive MAAC champions, according to Van Wagner.

"We've been waiting for Lehigh for quite some time now," said Van Wagner. "We scheduled them because they're a better program, a step up, and it will prepare us for the MAAC tournament."



### That's a Fact

Sean Kennedy was named MAAC Player of the Week after averaging 16.7 points, 6.0 rebounds, 5.7 assists, and 1.3 steals this past week.

## THE CIRCLE

# Sports

### They Said It

"If we come out and play mentally consistent and focused, we will win more games." -Kristin Lamb, women's basketball coach

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## Men's basketball wins two crucial MAAC games

by SCOTT DESIERE  
Staff Writer

With three pointers falling at a fast and furious rate, the Marist College men's basketball team provided some of the excitement on Sunday that the Super Bowl did not.

Down by as many as eight points in the first half, the Red Foxes overwhelmed the visiting Manhattan Jaspers in the second half behind a swarming defense and a bevy of long-range bombs, winning the game by a final score of 72-66.

The win moves Marist into a first place tie with Iona atop the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), and it sets up a first place showdown between the Red Foxes (13-7, 8-2 MAAC) and the Gaels on Wednesday at the McCann Center.

The Gaels defeated the Red Foxes on Monday, January 22 in New Rochelle behind a 21-point effort from Earl Johnson and a 19-point, 13-rebound performance from Nakiea Miller.

"The Iona game is obviously a big one because we are currently tied for first with them, but also because they beat us pretty soundly the last time we played," said Marist head coach Dave Magarity. "It is going to be a tough one though, because they are, in my opinion, the best team in the conference with their combination of talent, size and depth."

With forward Drew Samuels limited to only seven minutes due to injury, the junior backcourt tandem of Sean Kennedy and Rick Smith, who scored 18 and 15 points respectively, led Marist's offensive attack by combining to hit seven of the team's twelve three-pointers. Kennedy, the MAAC leader in assists, played all 40 minutes and handed out six more helpers in addition to matching his season-high point total.

"Kennedy has been looking to shoot more recently, and it has really shown with the numbers he has been putting up lately," said Magarity. "And what Smith did from outside was unexpected, and when he can do that, it gives us tremendous balance on offense."

Nick Eppheimer and Donald Vale also contributed to the attack with ten points apiece.

Trailing 34-31 at halftime, the Red Foxes used the scrappy defense and strong rebounding of Vale as well as forward Matt Tullis to spark them on a 9-0 run at the start of the second half.

"The fact that (Manhattan) had played so well in the first half yet we were only down three at the break was a big lift to us," said Magarity. "We knew that if we just calmed down and took our time we would get back in the game."

A pair of three-pointers from Eppheimer ignited the Red Fox offense, and the three's never

stopped falling after that. Eppheimer, Smith, Kennedy, Vale, Blake Sonne and Sherman Whittenburg all connected from downtown at least once, eventually helping Marist build a 16 point lead with under ten minutes remaining.

"The three-pointer has always been a game opening play for our team," said Magarity. "The ones that Eppheimer hit at the start of the second half really got us rolling."

Vale and Tullis each finished the game with ten rebounds to their credit, as the two accounted for half of the team's board total.

"Those two guys have normally been able to come in off the bench and play without being concerned about picking up fouls," said Magarity. "Now that we need them to stay away from the fouls, they have had to make an adjustment, and I think they have done that well."

Manhattan fought back, however, behind the relentless play of guard Von Damien "Mugsy" Green, who hit two three pointers of his own late in the second half to bring the Jaspers to within three with 48.5 seconds left on the clock.

Marist's defense held up in the final minute though, as it forced Manhattan guard Justin Jackette to miss an off-balanced three pointer that could have tied the game for the Jaspers.

Following the loss to Iona on

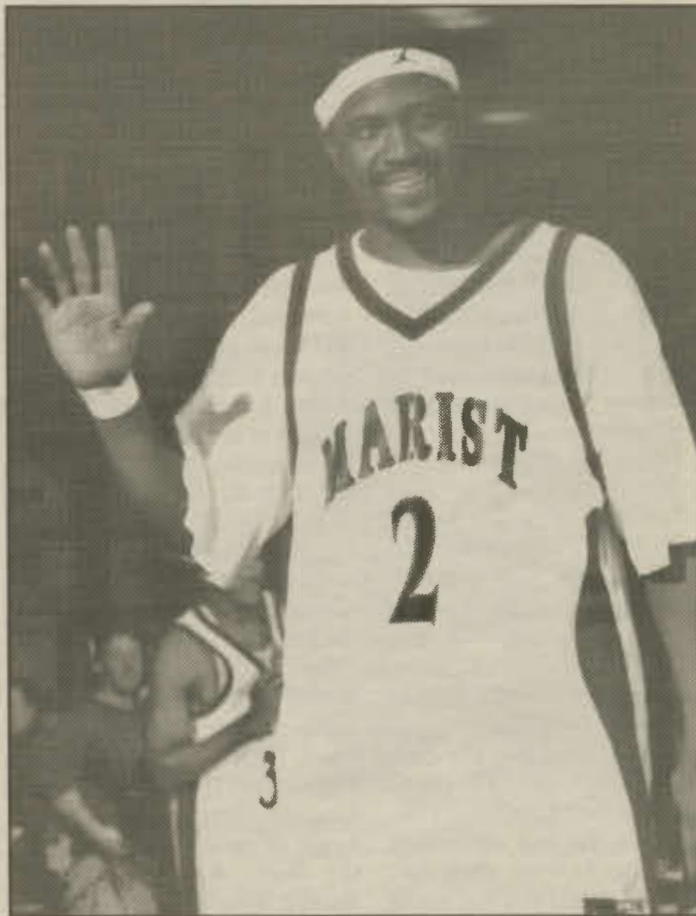


PHOTO CREDIT/ Carlisle Stockton

Donald Vale had plenty of reason to be all smiling after his double-double in the Red Foxes' 72-66 victory over Manhattan on Sunday.

Jan. 22, Marist returned home to take on Rider, who stood atop the MAAC at the time. The Red Foxes picked up a 61-56 victory over the Broncs. Marist was able to overcome 25 points from Rider's Mario Porter by getting a 14 point, eight rebound, eight

assist performance from Kennedy to go along with 12 and 10 point efforts from Vale and Smith respectively. Marist broke the game open with a 15-5 spurt midway through the first half.

## Women's basketball looks to recover for stretch run

by PETER PALMIERI  
Assistant Sports Editor

Looks can be deceiving, and that is the case with the women's basketball team.

Heading into the final seven games of the season before the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament, the women hold a 5-15 overall record, including a 4-7 conference record. The team has also lost its last four games. However, the success of this team cannot be measured solely by wins and losses.

"This may be the most talented team that we've had," said head coach Kristin Lamb. "Our record does not show the talent of this team. We're a young team, and young teams tend to make mistakes. If we can come out with the same intensity for each game, we can turn things around."

In their last game, on Jan. 28, the Red Foxes played host to Fairfield University. Freshman point guard Nina Vecchio tallied a career-high 17 points to go along with eight assists. However, powered by 19-point efforts from Holli Tapley and Allison Thorne, Fairfield soared past Marist 80-63. The victory kept Fairfield in second place in

the MAAC, behind Siena.

Another strong effort from Vecchio was wasted two days prior to that, when Manhattan defeated Marist, 76-59. Vecchio totaled 10 points and dished out eight assists, but the Red Foxes shot only 35% from the field. The Lady Jaspers, led by a 26-point effort from Rebecca Tompkins and an additional 21 points from Rosalee Mason used 53% shooting to secure the victory.

Vecchio, who has played consistent all season, has turned her play up a notch as of late. Averaging nearly six assists per game, she has also become a shooting threat in recent games and now averages six points per game.

Lamb is happy with the play of Vecchio and credits her with being the type of player that the team has been looking for.

"She is stepping up her play more and becoming more confident in shooting," said Lamb. "She has been a consistent point guard and is a threat on both sides of the court."

Marist did win three games out of a four game stretch in the middle of the season, starting with a victory against Rider on Jan. 11. After suffering a defeat

at the hands of Loyola, the Red Foxes came storming back to defeat Canisius for the second time this season and Rider again, to account for the team's four conference victories.

Diesa Seidel notched 25 points and 14 rebounds in the team's first victory against Rider, while Sabrina Vallery and Marie Fusci each scored 11 points. In the second Rider victory, Seidel added another 21 points, while freshman Stephanie Del Preore contributed 11 points in the victory.

Del Preore followed her performance by netting 13 points and grabbing 12 rebounds to secure an 85-66 victory over Canisius on Jan. 19. For her efforts, Del Preore was honored as the MAAC Rookie of the Week for the week of January 15-21. In that span, she averaged 12.7 points along with 8.7 rebounds. These stats were capped with a 14 point, eight rebound effort against Niagara on Jan. 21, a game that the Red Foxes lost 63-61.

Lamb is not surprised with Del Preore's success and has much praise for the 6-1 forward.

"Stephanie is like a machine," said Lamb. "When she goes into



PHOTO CREDIT/ Carlisle Stockton

Nina Vecchio had a career-high 17 points in Sunday's loss to Fairfield.

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