

THE CIRCLE

The student newspaper of Marist College



December 12, 2002



Volume 56 Issue 11



College Bowl enlightens students
"Iraq hasn't been a part of Europe since the Continental Drift." **pg. 3**

Rockefeller Center?
No, but the college Christmas tree outside of the Chapel will do just fine. **pg. 4**

Final frontier
How to relax and organize yourself for that last push. **pg. 5**

Bond, Lame Bond
Die Another Day leaves audiences wishing they died the previous day, so they could have saved their 9 bucks. **pg. 8**

Marist Alum hits the big screen
Marist grad lands a role in *Empire* starring John Leguizamo and Fat Joe. **pg. 9**

Being the last issue of the semester, The Circle staff would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and new year. Relax and enjoy the break, and we will see you next year. GOOD LUCK ON FINALS!
-Your friends from
The Circle



Campus comedians take the stage

By ALISSABREW
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Dec. 10, the Humarists performed in the Nelli Golletti Theater. The show was a mixture of Kids in the Hall, Saturday Night Live, and Whose Line Is It Anyway? Thrown in were two movies made by the group, one in the beginning (similar to Billy Crystal's opening for the Academy Awards) and another towards the middle.

Since the beginning of the school year, this group of performers has improved more than just their act. Just by spending some time with the group you can immediately tell that they are very close group of friends.

As Jon G. describes it, "we're just like a family, a big dysfunctional family."

The Humarists put on a show at the end of each semester, and they also plan on performing with Marist's acappella group, Time Check, to benefit the LUPAS

fund. The group also performs in a national competition with twelve other colleges that is held at Skidmore College. Comedy sketches are performed and tricks of the trade are revealed during the weekend.

Jon G. states that "the bonding is ridiculous."

This comedy group is now in its eleventh year running and the current members include: Seniors Pat B. and Erin G., junior Jon G., sophomores Jeff P. and Tony M., and freshman Tim C. and Randy G. Pat and Jon are the co-directors of the Humarists, but everyone is involved in the preparation from screenwriting to choreographing to costumes and makeup.

One of the members said "the only thing we don't do is lighting, and if we could do that too, we would."

Marist students can expect anything to happen on stage except nudity. The group actually has a disclaimer at the beginning of their show. It states that they are a the-



PHOTO CREDIT/Katherine Slauta

Members of the comedy group Humarists performing one of their skits.

ater performance group and that allows them to approach any subject in any way they deem funny; even if it means causing a little more than just laughter.

There was controversy last year over a skit performed by the

Humarists, when they impersonated members of the animal rights group MARN. Complaints ensued and a meeting was held with the

See Humarists...page 2

New priority point system takes effect

By AJNSEIR
Staff Writer

Student housing assignments for the Fall 2003 semester will be determined by individual priority point totals from the Spring 2002 and Fall 2002 semesters, according to Housing and Residential Life.

Sarah English, the Director of Housing and Residential Life explains the need for the change.

"We do not have enough housing, English said. "We want to let people know who aren't eligible for housing before they leave, so they can look for apartments off-campus with their friends."

Previously, priority point totals for housing were taken from the fall and spring semesters of the year before. For example, before the change, Fall 2003 housing assignments would have been determined based on priority points from the Fall 2002 and Spring 2003 semesters.

A letter mailed to students on November 21, 2002, stated that one-half of the campus involve-

ment points from the Spring 2002 semester will be added to the Fall 2002 point total. The maximum points allowed for campus involvement will be eight. This combination of half of the points from Spring 2002 and total Fall 2002 will establish a student's point total. As always, the point total will determine eligibility for Fall 2003 and Spring 2004.

Students can earn priority points in any number of ways. Points can come from cumulative G.P.A., room damage, room condition, discipline and campus involvement.

Obviously, the better a student's G.P.A. the higher number of priority points they will receive. Zero points are given for a grade point average ranging from 0.00 - 1.74 and the maximum of 12 points are awarded for G.P.A. of 3.75 - 4.00.

Room damage points are given based on how little damage is done to the room. Students without damage to their room receive the maximum number of five points. Minor damage awards students with four points or less, and three points or less for a student with major dam-

age done to their room.

Students can also earn up to five points based on the condition of their rooms at checkout. Check out inspections are done when the students leave for fall, Thanksgiving, Christmas, spring, and, summer breaks. RA's give out check lists to their residents before every break. Housing awards five points to all students to meet all of the provisions on the checklist.

Students who avoid a written reprimand, written warning, probation or dismissal earn six discipline points. Dismissal from school gives zero points, and students who go on probations earn only one point. If a student receives a written warning, five points are granted, and four points are awarded for a written reprimand.

Campus involvement, such as participation in intramural sports and varsity sports, clubs or volunteers groups give students the opportunity to earn more points.

The captain of a varsity or club sport can earn up to six points. Students can receive 5 points for being an active member of a recog-

nized student club, intercollegiate sport or volunteer club.

For involvement in an intramural sport, 0 - 2 points are given. Residents can earn from 0 - 4 points for an appointed leadership position in a club, and a maximum of five points for an elected leadership position.

The maximum number of campus involvement points a student can receive is eight; regardless of the number of clubs to which a student belongs.

Students can find out their individual point total electronically on January 21, 2003, via the web site of Housing and Residential Life. Students can also contact the Housing Office before February 28, 2003, after which no changes will be made to a student's point total.

An advanced room deposit of \$200 for Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 housing is due on the week of February 24 through February 28, 2003. Any student who fails to pay the deposit before February 28, 2003, will be prohibited from room selection.

'Just the Facts' are reported in new poll

New student poll on campus drinking contradicts social norms campaign

Almost half of Marist students have seven or more drinks when they go out at night, and another 25 percent have five to six drinks. These statistics directly contradict the results of a Survey of College Alcohol Norms and Behavior conducted here in the spring of 2001, which states that, "Most Marist students have zero to four drinks, or at the most five drinks, when they go out."

In an informal campus poll, more than 80 percent of the 197 students interviewed said, in addi-

tion, that they disagreed with the accuracy of the first poll's findings. The results of that poll have appeared for the past two years on campus posters, T-shirts, napkins and even Frisbees.

A whopping 92 percent of Marist students said the well-publicized statement had failed to influence their drinking habits in any way. A mere one percent of those surveyed—or two people—said the statement had influenced them.

The Marist campus poll, conducted by journalism students on

Nov. 25, echoed the Survey of College Alcohol Norms and Behavior results in one way, however. It found that ten percent of Marist students do not drink at all. The survey reported that 12 percent of Marist students refrain from alcohol.

Almost 200 students participated in the Nov. 25 poll. They were approached at random on campus by journalism students, and asked to respond to a printed survey. The survey asked:

• When you drink, how many

drinks do you have in an evening?

• Do you feel the statement, "Most Marist students have zero to four drinks, or five at most, when they go out," is accurate?

• Has this well-publicized statement influenced your drinking habits?

• Are campus alcohol awareness campaigns effective?

• What would make students drink less?

Responses to the last question ranged from "Shut down school,"

continued on page 3



Security Briefs



compiled by ED WILLIAMS III
Community Editor

Tuesday 12/3

There was a minor car accident in the Beck Place parking lot at about 8:03 a.m. A car pulled into a spot, but continued to slide until hitting another parked car.

Tuesday 12/3

The motor vehicle snafus spread into the Upper West Cedar overflow parking lot. A female student drove over the curb on her way to a parking space.

Tuesday 12/3

There was also a hit and run incident in the Beck Place parking lot reported at 11:55 a.m. An unknown vehicle caused damage to a student's headlight and directional signal.

Wednesday 12/4

A student reported that his lock to his bedroom was malfunctioning, and he could not gain access to his domicile. The campus locksmith responded and found that vandalism had been done to the lock mechanism.

Wednesday 12/4

A student reported that the windshield to their black Nissan was shattered. Originally it was thought to be a result of vandalism, but further investigation by the town of Poughkeepsie Police did not uncover any rocks or other items that would have caused such a break in the windshield.

Thursday 12/5

The RA on duty in Leo Hall smelled the pungent odor of marijuana on the first floor at about 1:30 a.m. Further investigation of the odor did not uncover any marijuana, but 9 cans of beer were confiscated.

Thursday 12/5

A student severely lacking in the common sense department was found doing donuts in the snow on the lawn in Upper West Cedar. Security on patrol caught the daredevil at about 6:40 p.m. and made him stop his sophomoric hijinx.

Thursday 12/5

Playing in the snow took its toll on one student at about 10:05 p.m. During a night of frolicking and horseplay in the snow, a female decided to go sledding down the hill on the campus green, but she was unable to steer her way to safety and hit her head.

Friday 12/6

Usually better known for their appearances in food poisoning related briefs, Sodexho makes an appearance in a motor vehicle incident this week. At about 11:45 in the loading dock by the student center a Sodexho van backed into a 2002 brown Chevy damaging its front bumper and left directional light.

Saturday 12/7

A Leo Hall resident tried gaining entry into Sheahan Hall through a back window at about 2:23 a.m. The student was intoxicated and thought that crawling through a window would be less conspicuous than trying to swipe while under the influence.

Sunday 12/8

The RD on duty in Champagnat was able to sniff out some illegal alcohol consumption at about 11:30 p.m. It was a small-scale gathering as a six pack of unknown beer was confiscated from the fiesta of six students.

Sunday 12/8

An unauthorized guest without a guest pass tried to gain access into Midrise with another student's ID. The entry desk officer realized the identities did not match, and the guest left campus without incident.

Sunday 12/8

A student was heading northbound on Rt. 9 and tried to make a left turn into the South entrance of campus at 4:38 a.m. He accelerated, lost control and hit the light pole on the sidewalk.

Monday 12/9

Security on patrol noticed that the window frame in the second floor laundry room was damaged at 7:15 a.m. The screen had been ripped away and the frame had been bent.

Tuesday 12/10

While security was getting gas at 1:00 a.m. at the Mobil station, they observed what appeared to be underage students purchasing beer. He followed them into Gartland and found that there was some intense beer pong action underway.

Saturday 12/7

The astute Benoit RD was making rounds at about 11:18 p.m. and broke up an apparent party of one. Eight 12 oz. cans of Busch Light were taken from the solitary drink up.



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The Circle is the weekly student newspaper of Marist College. Letters to the editors, announcements, and story ideas are always welcome, but we cannot publish unsigned letters.



This is the last issue of The Circle for the fall 2002 semester.

Look for us in late January 2003!

Do you have a cool crib?

Then show it off!

The Circle wants to feature cool dorm and common rooms for the coming spring semester!

Any student can apply, whether on or off campus.

Either e-mail, call ext. 2429, or drop a description of your room in The Circle mailbox. (Mailbox located either in Student Activities or on The Circle office door.)

If you're featured in the paper, we will come and photograph your room, and feature it with an accompanying article in the paper!

Sorry, but we cannot feature rooms with alcohol paraphernalia.



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Humarists...from cover

heads of the theater department and the disgruntled students of MARN.

The Humarists apologized saying that their only intention was a social commentary on events that took place on campus.

Overall their shows are a success, the admission is free and audience participation is a must. The group tosses out t-shirts during the middle of the performance and pulls graduates on stage that pre-

viously performed in the Humarists, to once again display their comedic talents.

The group is hopefully looking to recruit new members.

"The most we've had at one time was thirteen," comments Pat.

The group will hold auditions soon, so students are advised to keep an eye out for more information. The Humarists want to expand their options but have one reservation, "funny people only please."



Marist students put on their thinking caps

By JENNIFER HAGGERTY
Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, students came together to test their knowledge in the college bowl championship.

Among the groups that were represented were two teams from the Student Government Association, two teams from *The Circle*, and a team representing Leo Hall. In a mentally challenging match, Leo Hall came out as victor against *Circle* Team 1, ending in a score of 25 to 20.

Bob Lynch, assistant dean of college affairs, was one of the faculty members who proctored the event. He said that college bowl requires immediate recall of various information from subjects such as history, English literature, chemistry, math, general pop culture and geography.

"It is like the Olympics of the mind," said Lynch.

A usual round of college bowl last around 14 minutes. However, each round was short-

ened to seven minutes for this event.

Bridget Maroney from SGA dedicated her time and effort to make this event happen.

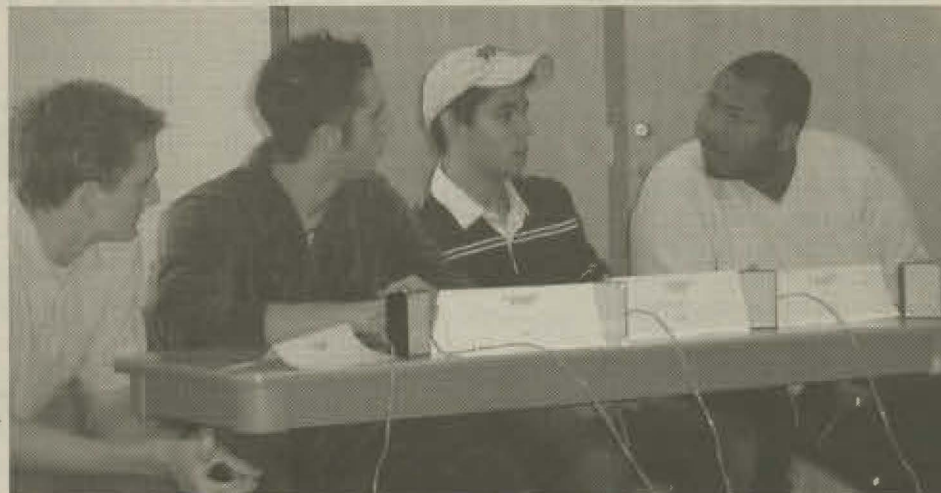
"In the past, the Student Academic Council put college bowl on, but last year it didn't come together," said Maroney. "So this year I wanted to give students an opportunity to have fun while doing something particularly related to academics."

Maroney also explained that she wanted the faculty to have an opportunity to interact with students outside of the classroom.

"Beginning next semester we will have another student competition so students interested in forming a team will be able to go to the regional competition," said Maroney.

Lynch agrees and wholeheartedly supports the creation of a team to support the Marist Red Foxes in the Association for College Unions International (ACUI).

"There are students on campus who can do that [quick thinking for college bowl tournaments], and we are seeking them out," said



Leo Hall team works together to answer challenging questions. Their unity ultimately leads them to a victory over all opposing teams. photo credit: Jennifer Haggerty

Lynch.

Three years ago, Marist was a part of region two for the ACUI, which encompasses most of New York state – the Hudson to west of New York. The event takes place

every February.

Anyone interested in taking part of the next college bowl competition can e-mail Maroney at Bridget.Maroney@marist.edu

Almost seventy-five percent of Marist students have more than four drinks

continued from page 1

"Less homework," "Prohibition," "An increase in drugs" and "Nuclear winter."

One Marist senior, who asked to remain anonymous, generalized by saying, "Marist students are alcoholics."

Another student, also anonymous, said he or she "would have to die to drink less."

Russ Ficara, who is one of the many "seven plus" drinkers on campus, offered a bleak suggestion.

"I think that if every place that sold alcohol had a scanner for an implanted sensor embedded in students hands, kids would drink less," Ficara said. "Maybe each student found drinking should be beaten with a stick, as well."

The original survey was administered by an organization called the National Social Norms Center, which is based at Northern Illinois University. The center, directed by addiction counselor Michael Haines, strives to give students a realistic view of their peers' drinking habits.

In addition to Northern Illinois University and Marist College, other schools that have adopted the "Social Norms" campaign include Michigan State, the University of Virginia, the University of Arizona, the University of Denver, Hobart and William Smith College and SUNY New Paltz.

Haines maintains that at least three schools have reported a reduction in alcohol abuse among students since instituting the campaign. According to Haines,

• The University of Arizona has seen a 28 percent reduction in drinking in five years.

• Hobart and William Smith College has seen a 40 percent reduction in four years.

• At the University of Missouri, heavy drinking has been reduced by 18 percent in two years.

Writing in a July 2001 editorial in *USA Today*, Haines said, "Students are more responsive to peer influence than health terrorism. They want to fit in, especially when they find out what 'in' is."

The Social Norms marketing campaign, "Just the Facts," began at Marist in 2001, when Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Steve Sansola won a four-year grant to implement the program on campus. Sansola asked 300 Marist students to respond to a survey during the spring semester that year. The results inspired the posters and flyers seen everywhere on campus for the past two years.

In October of 2002, Sansola wrote an article stating his goals of the campaign that appeared on a Marist website.

"The purpose of the campaign is to correct students' perceptions of how much their peers drink, thereby decreasing the perceived pressure to drink and producing reductions in alcohol consumption."

In an interview with journalism student, Maureen O'Hare on Nov. 26, conducted prior to the tabulation of the more recent (and admittedly smaller) student poll, Sansola said that students expect different results.

"The initial reaction [of Marist students to the Social Norms survey] results tend to be surprise."

Sansola responded to O'Hare's request for additional information by phone, however, due to conflicting schedules, they were unable to meet by press time.

Respondents to that poll offered suggestions for curbing excessive drinking among Marist students, such as increasing drug use or being granted permission to smoke pot in dorm rooms.

Nine students felt that raising alcohol prices would be effective, and 12 supported stricter enforcement and penalties for drinking.

One student suggestion was to have faculty at bars to help identify underage students.

Brian Besmer was one of eight students who supported closing bars altogether, or banning alcohol from Poughkeepsie.

Seven people said a bad experience while drinking would make them drink less.

"It will take a trip to the hospital for me to drink less," one anonymous response said.

Another student said that alcohol abuse stems from childhood and is not a problem that begins in college.

One response from the survey included the following:

"It would take being more open with kids about alcohol when they are being raised," the student said. "I think that if kids are being sheltered their whole lives about alcohol and are never let to have a beer in the privacy of their home, then when they go to college and experience new freedom, they will go nuts."

Twelve students suggested that if more on-campus activities were offered to students, excessive drinking at local bars might begin decrease. Suggestions included more concerts and dances on campus.

Only sixteen of 197 students believed additional alcohol awareness campaigns and programs would help. One suggestion was a campaign with examples of people who

have had bad experiences with drinking and the effects.

Sophomore, Megan Rutkowski offered an eccentric proposal:

"The only way that Marist could stop students from drinking or make them drink less would be to hold our hands when we go out on the weekends or give us muzzles or wire our jaws shut. I think many of us have seen firsthand [the Social Norms] survey, and although it has good intentions, it has not had an impact on our social activities on a Friday or Saturday."

Maggie Campbell, also a sophomore, is another who feels that alcohol awareness campaigns are a lost cause.

"I don't believe there's anything Marist can do. You can't influence whether or not

a person will drink, much like you can't influence whether they smoke. The students have already made up their minds about what they will and will not do."

Participants in the reporting and writing of this story included A.J. Nesir, Kevin Quinn, Lisa Holt, Dan Cotoia, and Tristan Baker, who developed and wrote the lead; Christopher Lennon, Allison Keller, and Maureen O'Hare, who contributed original background research; Jessica Tara Smith, who tabulated the survey results; Brendon Smith, Nicole Tuttle, Christielyn Diller, Paul Seach and Sara Clark, who selected quotes and wrote summary material. Scott Iffinger and all of the above developed the survey and conducted the poll.

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Christmas tree lighting brightens holiday season

by KRISTIN AMUNDSON
Staff Writer

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Marist College.

Just days after the first significant snowfall of winter, Marist signaled the Christmas season with the annual lighting of the college Christmas tree by the chapel. Nearly 100 students stayed after the mass on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. to witness this event.

Recently, the campus started decorating for this winter holiday. Giving trees were placed in the academic buildings and other locations, an advent wreath hangs over the altar and presents already line the back of the chapel. With all these preparations made, it

was time for the lighting of the Christmas tree.

Lindsay Twichell, sophomore Communications major and cantor of the liturgical singers, said the tree lighting represents the start of the Christmas season.

"Christmas is the coming of the light of the world and the tree represents that," said Twichell. "And, the lights are Marist colors."

While the tree lighting might represent the start of the holidays, some students feel as though other religions are ignored.

Senior Marisa Levy said as a Jewish person, she notices the lack of acknowledgement for the other holidays. She said there was no menorah lighting ceremony.

"It is incredible that you have a Christmas tree lighting and a

Kwanzaa celebration, and yet there was nothing celebrating Chanukah," said Levy. "Campus ministry should include everyone and not just the Roman Catholic population."

The annual lighting began this year with a blessing by Father Richard La Morte. In the blessing, he said the tree radiates the feelings of this holiday.

"May the light and cheer it gives fill our hearts," said Father La Morte.

The tree lighting remained short and the singers closed with a Christmas carol. Collection for the giving tree ends this Sunday, during the candlelight Christmas vigil.

The Giving Tree Liturgy will be held this Sunday at 7 p.m. in the chapel.



PHOTO CREDIT/CHRIS TOMKINSON

The Christmas tree was lit on Sunday, Dec. 8 in front of the chapel after Mass. Giving Tree gifts should be brought to the chapel on by Sunday or during the week.

Quick and easy holiday recipes for the independent student

by REBECCA MOY
Staff Writer

Food is one of the most important elements of the holiday season. The desire to eat an abundance of good food during this time of year, however, does not discriminate amongst those who sing Christmas carols, light candles on a menorah or follow the seven principals of Kwanzaa.

If you are one of those people who are continuously in awe during this time of year or simply needs a little magic to get through final exams here are a few holiday recipes that are quick and easy

for spreading holiday cheer throughout your house.

For those who tend to put things off to the last minute and have less time to spare, Chocolate Mousse takes 10 minutes to prepare, and will be ready to serve after a two-hour exam.

Chocolate mousse requires a 12-ounce package of semisweet chocolate morsels, two half cups of whipped cream divided, one teaspoon of vanilla extract and one tablespoon of rum. Whipped cream and grated chocolate can be used as garnishes.

Microwave the chocolate morsels and half cup of cream in a small glass bowl until melted, stirring

twice. Blend the vanilla and rum well into the chocolate and let it cool for five minutes. Beat the two cups of cream until soft peaks form and fold it into the chocolate. Spoon it into a large serving bowl and add garnishes. Chill the mousse for two hours before serving.

After big holiday meals are prepared and eaten, families have leftovers to look forward to for an indefinite amount of time. Holiday Ham Sandwiches are a different way to polish off that leftover ham.

Ingredients for these sandwiches are one package of yellow cornbread mix, 1/8 cup of mayonnaise, six provolone cheese slices,

1/2 pound of ham thinly sliced and shredded lettuce.

Mix the cornbread according to the instructions and spoon the batter into a lightly greased 9 x 9 inch pan. Bake this at 400 degrees for 15 minutes or until it is golden and let it cool. Cut the cornbread mix into three squares and spread one side of each with mayonnaise. Place the slices on a baking sheet and add two slices of cheese to the top of each. Broil the slices five 1/2 inches from the heat for five minutes or until the cheese melts. Top the slices with the sliced ham and lettuce.

Eating large amounts of good food often leads to drowsiness.

Spiced After-dinner Coffee is one solution to help keep you enjoying the holiday celebration.


For eight servings, eight cups of brewed dark roast coffee are needed along with one cup of sugar, two teaspoons of whole cloves, five three-inch cinnamon sticks, 2/3 cup of amaretto and whipped cream.

Heat the coffee, sugar, cloves and cinnamon sticks in a saucepan over a low heat for ten minutes without boiling the mixture. Stir in the amaretto and pour into mugs. Serve with whipped cream.

Rebecca Moy is a senior majoring in Spanish and Journalism.



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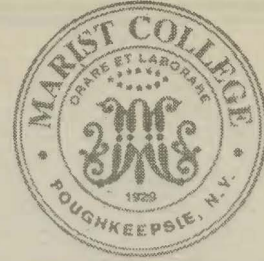
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The stress of finals: how to prepare for the inevitable crunch

by MARY FRITZ
Staff Writer

It is that time of year again: the holiday shopping rush and that inevitable rush to get all of your work done before finals.

This mad dash brings much stress to most students trying to pass the semester's classes. However there are ways to reduce the stress levels and make this time of year more manageable.

Senior Psychology major, Mary Doyle said she experiences the stress around finals time like everyone.

"I think everyone gets stressed out to some degree at this time," said Doyle. "Take advantage of the RA programs that are offered around finals on stress relief. They are really helpful."

Doyle said she recommends going to the library. Staying at home or in the residence halls has too many distractions for her.

While Doyle has survived many Marist finals over the past several semesters, freshman History major, Ken Juras said he is not sure what to expect for his first round of college finals.

"I expect them to be more difficult than high school, but not un-

reasonable," he said. "I want to do well, I am shooting for that."

Liza Grudinski, a graduate student in the five-year Psychology/Special Education program and a member of the Marist track team, has some advice for studying for finals.

"Whatever you do, don't cram. Spread out your studying," she said.

Grudinski's ways of relieving stress are running and working out.

The Sodexo employees that work in the Library café, who prefer to go

unnamed, see students getting stressed out every semester around finals.

"It's not finals that

are stressing students out," they said. "It is the fact that they have not done their work and are cramming to get it all finished before the break. The students like to party and put off their work until the very last minute."

They also noticed students fill up on sugar and caffeine from the café more than usual around finals. The excessive amounts of caffeine and sugar do not help reduce stress levels, take away from their concentration, or keep students moti-

vated and energized to finish their work, as many believe. The Sodexo employees said to plan ahead, but also understand is human nature to procrastinate.

Director of Health Services, Jane O'Brien said she notices an increase in the number of students suffering from stress around finals.

"The students' stress comes out in a number of ways; from being fatigued, to stomach upset, to bouts of depression," she said. "Students aren't sure what's causing them to feel this way. They don't make the connection that it is stress-related."

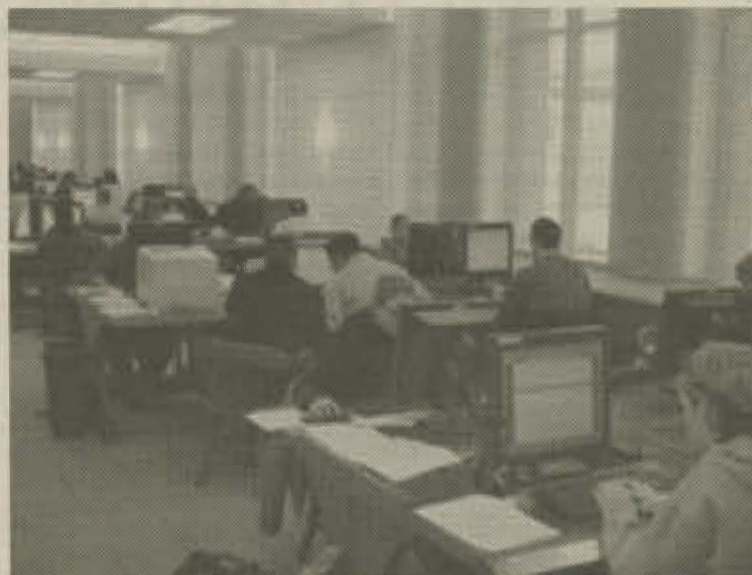
When students go to Health Services with stress-related symptoms, O'Brien teaches the student stress management skills. She recommends talking to healthcare professionals at either the Counseling Center or Health Services.

"It is appropriate for students to be stressed out at this time, the key is how to deal with the stress," said O'Brien.

Health Services recommends eating well, getting enough sleep, taking breaks in between studying, exercising, taking walks outside to get fresh air and most importantly - avoid alcohol when stressed.

"Students tend to resort to alcohol to try and temporarily forget about the stress, but alcohol only makes it worse," said O'Brien.

Offie Wortham, a former Criminal Justice professor at Rutgers and a Marist graduate student earning



Students working in the library trying to finish papers and prepare for finals next week.

PHOTO CREDIT/CHRIS TOMKINSON

his master's degree in Psychology, stresses the importance of having read the material on the test at least once beforehand.

"I see students come into a final having not read the material at all," Wortham said. "You can't fake it, you have to at least be familiar with the material."

What works for Wortham is getting plenty of sleep two nights before the test, not just the night before.

"I have blanked out by not having enough sleep," Wortham said. "Read over the material, and then go to bed and relax. Tell yourself that you know it and that you don't need to worry."



The library provides a quiet sanction for studying for exams.

PHOTO CREDIT/CHRIS TOMKINSON



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Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I am responding to two letters to the editor that appeared in the 12/5/02 edition of *The Circle*. To lend some perspective to my point of view, let me share some brief information. I am a member of the English Department at Marist College where I teach Theatre and Dramatic Literature. I have been involved with past MCCTA productions, and I have many students who were involved with the production of *Pippin*. I, however, was not associated with this recent production. I am in my mid-thirties, somewhere between the age of undergraduate students and senior members of the faculty at Marist College.

In response to Br. Joe Belanger's letter, I disagree that censorship should be considered in Marist Theatre. We (the theatre-makers) owe it to ourselves as artists, to our audience, and to the playwright to perform the script as written. We are caretakers of the script, in which we introduce the playwright's topics for discussion and instruction. And that is, perhaps, how the brief "sodomy" scene in *Pippin* should be treated. Students and faculty should discuss the value of such a scene, and what it means to us as a community that relies so strongly on Christian beliefs and traditions. But to censor it, certainly not. To do so would go against one of the very reasons the theatre exists in a free-speech democracy; to openly articulate all points of view in a platform that encourages learning and growth. Should we (the theatre-makers) consider our audience more carefully when choosing a script to perform? Perhaps, but once a play is chosen, it is our duty (and legal responsibility) to present the play as written.

James Skeggs' response to Br. Joe's letter is not only disrespectful, but also irresponsible as an editor for *The Circle*. Br. Joe is a valued member of the Marist community, and it is fair that one considers his point of view. Editorials are a place to express one's opinions, not a place for personal insults, as Mr. Skeggs levies against Br. Joe. Mr. Skeggs never truly responds to Br. Joe's opinion in his letter, but instead makes blanket statements about college students having sex and for Br. Joe's need to arrive in the 21st century. He should have addressed Br. Joe's opinion in relation to the sodomy comment, and how Marist students, given their age and perceived accepted practices among young adults, may make different lifestyle choices than those of Br. Joe's generation and/or beliefs. If mistakes are to be made, college is a safe place to make them and to learn from them. They are usually more costly in the workplace. Mr. Skeggs should feel lucky that his letter appeared in the college newspaper where the learning curve is tolerated. Because if this letter ap-

peared in a publication where he was employed as an editor, he would surely be jeopardizing his position and stature as a journalist.

Sincerely,
Matt Andrews
Assistant Professor of English/Theatre
The School of Liberal Arts
Matthew.Andrews@Marist.edu

MCCTA
Marist College
November 29, 2002

Brother Joseph Belanger
Marist College

Dear Brother Belanger:

My name is Marisa Levy. I am a senior member of the Marist College Council on Theatre Arts (MCCTA), holding the position of Director of Musical Theatre on the Executive Board, as well as the title of Co-Producer for our fall musical, *Pippin*. I would like to thank you for your attendance and support of our show. It gives us much happiness when members of the college, especially faculty members, support us, as we do put much effort into each of our performances.

I acknowledge your grievance with our portrayal of immoral activities on the stage. In the past we have posted disclaimers both in the program and on the front door, alerting audience members when mature and questionable themes are portrayed. I neglected to do so for *Pippin*, and take responsibility for that action.

However, I do feel that a disclaimer is as much censorship as a theatrical production warrants. MCCTA is proud to say we tackle many difficult subjects in our programming, as can be seen through past shows such as *Beautiful Thing*, *The Choice*, and *A View From the Bridge*, among others. MCCTA does not endorse or condone what actions may take place on stage. We only present them in the light the writer and director wish for them to be seen, and so considered by the audience. The story of *Pippin* is that of a youth trying to find his place in the world. He engages in many acts of moral rebellion (not only the act of sodomy) before the show reaches a conclusion. By censoring one act of many, we may be sending a message that certain "immoral" activities are more acceptable than others, and that is not our job as performers. We hope that you can respect our stance on censorship, and we too will respect your disagreement with it. Thank you again for your support, and we hope this will not discourage you from attending future performances.

Sincerely,
Marisa Levy
Managing Director of Musical Theatre, MCCTA

Co-Producer, *Pippin*

CC: President Dennis J. Murray, Dean Deborah A. Dicaprio, Dean Gerard A. Cox, Dean Guy Lometti; Campus Life Trustees Frances Reese, Elizabeth Wolf; *The Circle*

Dear Circle,

This letter is in response to the letters written about the "inappropriate" content portrayed in *Pippin*. First I would like to say that I was in *Pippin*, so I am speaking from a first hand experience. Next I would like to thank James Skeggs for his positive feedback, and for defending the show. While I can not agree with everything he said I admire his opinion on not compromising the artistic merit of a show.

Brother Joseph, in your letter you said "Even if in the original script—which I seriously doubt—such a scene of unnatural sex, no matter how brief, is totally unacceptable". (Volume 56 Issue 10). For the record, the script said, "... the dance becomes increasingly erotic. All the boys and the girls become involved, and they begin to show *Pippin* every form of sexual activity..." Take that for what it's worth.

You went on to say, "Marist College has the right, nay the duty, to censor what diametrically contradicts the values Marist purports to uphold." I think this statement is ludicrous. The concept of censorship is terrible in and of itself. Also, as James Skeggs said, it is imperative to stay true to the work. It is one thing to alter the show because it is being shown to young children and/or teenagers. However this show was performed for a mature, intelligent audience.

Also, let me ask you, what exactly should be censored? Where is the line? Who should decide that? Last year in our performance of *A Street Car Named Desire* Stanley raped Blanche. How is sexual assault more appropriate than the plethora of CONSENSUAL relations portrayed in *Pippin*? Brother Joseph, as a former theatre person yourself I hope you can understand my frustration with your letter.

Sincerely,
Michael Abitabilo

December 8, 2002
Response to James J. Skeggs,
Opinion Editor:

My name is Marisa Levy and I was the Co-Producer of the MCCTA musical *Pippin*. I am writing this letter to inform you that I completely resent your decision to respond to Brother Joe in such a manner. You have no right to respond in a way that may lead others to believe you represent MCCTA. I had already issued a response to Brother Joe a week before your issue of *The Circle*

came out.

More importantly, you did not respond in any way to the issue Brother Joe presented. Brother Joe did not state that he had a problem with a sex scene in our show. What Brother Joe did state, after complementing us on a job well done and recognizing our efforts, was that he disagreed with a piece of choreography simulating the action of sodomy. Just so you know, the scene you speak of is unrelated. The "sex scene" in *Pippin* takes place between a male and female character during the second act of the show. The simulation of sodomy took place during the first act, during a dance that involved about fifteen women and six men, and the actual act lasted about fifteen seconds. It was not the focus of the scene, nor was it created to offend, but it did exist in the original script.

I agree that censorship has no place on the stage. This includes the Marist stage. However, I STRONGLY disagree with attacking a Marist Brother, who is one of the founders of our college, for choices he may have made in his personal life. A vow of celibacy has nothing to do with a choreographed dance on stage. His protestation of something he finds immoral is in no way "imposing" a choice "on the rest of us by unnecessarily criticizing a wonderfully done theatrical performance." He is entitled to this opinion no matter how strongly we disagree with him.

MCCTA welcomes feedback from our audience. In no way will Brother Joe's letter influence us to censor any activity that may present itself on the Marist Stage. It will, however, make us very happy in knowing there are people out there so moved by our performances, in one way or another, that they feel compelled to contact us and start a discussion over it. Theatre is performed to stir emotions and opinions, and we feel we have done our job if we can affect someone in such a way as we affected Brother Joe.

On a personal note, I find it in bad taste for *The Circle* to print Brother Joe's letter with the heading *Dear Members of MCCTA and The Circle*, when the actual letter was addressed solely to MCCTA and carbon copied to *The Circle* as well as many others.

Sincerely,
Marisa Levy
Managing Director of Musical Theatre, MCCTA
Co-Producer, *Pippin*

Continued on next page

Shoutout!

Dear Humanists,

Congratulations on a great show!

- *The Circle*

On Being Abroad

Dear Circle,

Last semester was by far the best semester of my entire life. The spring semester of 2002 provided me with countless stories that I will be telling my children and grandchildren until the day I die. Why is this? Its because I had the extraordinary privilege to live in Florence, Italy for many magical months.

I am writing this piece in direct rebuttal to David Surdovel's shameless article about the hardships of living and studying in a foreign country. First off, I went to Scuola Lorenzo De' Medici and I sat in the same classrooms and worked in the same library and Internet Cafés. If I can be blunt...What the Hell are you complaining about?! You need to reevaluate what is important to you. If before you went abroad you were told that there is a possibility that you will have to wait for a computer in the library, would you simply decide not to go?

You are in Italy!! Italy is one of the most beautiful countries in the world and you are crying about not being able to check a book out of a library. I suggest you set your priorities straight and quit whining about a situation people would give a limb for. I doubt you will be telling stories to your grandkids about your small classrooms in a school set in a medieval city, I mean what did you expect?

Sincerely,
Joe Giacalone



Hold that thought!

Send your thoughts, complaints, compliments and comments to WritetheCircle@hotmail.com, and we'll print them in the first issue of the spring semester!



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Evaluating life: What really is important

By JAMES J. SKEGGS
Opinion Editor

When I was twelve years old, I had a really bad fall in the street and fractured my skull. My family rushed me to the hospital and the doctors told me that I had a fifty/fifty chance of surviving the night.

A priest came into the emergency room and stood next to the bed where I was lying down. He gave me my last rites, blessing my soul so that it may be pure and ready for heaven. I can't describe

the fear and confusion that I felt at that point. I was only in the sixth grade. I hadn't even kissed a girl yet and now I was facing the thought of death.

Later on that night, I finally came to grips with what was going on and prepared myself for whatever was going to happen to me. Luckily, my skull healed and I made through the next few weeks and had a full recovery.

A few years later, when I was sixteen, my mother became suddenly ill and passed away. At the funeral, my grandmother came over to my

younger sisters and me and told us that we were special children and shouldn't worry about the future. Three days later she became ill as well and passed away.

Last year, a good friend of mine, Jarred, fell three stories off of his campus apartment roof and died a short while later. Two weeks after that my cousin and best friend, lost his mind and was placed in an asylum for the next ten years until he will be reevaluated.

So what's the point? That is what you're probably asking.

Some people make such a big deal out of the most insignificant

things. Life is more important than tests, clothes, girlfriends, and boy-friends.

I've felt so much pain in my life from all of this, to seeing one of my friends gunned down and killed on the basketball court at a park in broad daylight. I don't know what the future is going to hold and I'm definitely scared about where I'm going to end up. The only thing I know for sure is that I am going to die just like all of my friends and family.

I don't want to listen to people around this campus moan and groan about nothing and pretend

that their lives are so difficult. Finals and stress are just part of the game, so relax and take a break, go out and meet someone new.

Get a hobby, throw a frisbee, hug someone-- just don't subject my life in your superficial realities. Life often isn't perfect, but you have two legs, two eyes, and a working heart; why don't you learn how to use it, before it's too late and it withers away. The best advice that you can ever take is that you will never really know anything; but all you've got to have is faith in something.

It's unanimous: Email is a valuable tool at work

by TIM DUGUAY
Staff Writer

After reading a column by Jane Weaver of MSNBC about how people feel about e-mails, I was intrigued to research the subject more. It turns out that contrary to popular belief, although most American workers get many more unsolicited e-mails than in the past, most consider e-mail very valuable in helping them do their jobs.

More than 60 percent of Americans have Internet access at their jobs, and over half of those people use e-mail. That, in number terms, translates to over 57 million American workers having Internet access on the job, which is more than

double the numbers just two years ago.

I have always been an advocate of having Internet access, and more specifically, e-mail on the job since it is the quickest response method for getting in touch with co-workers, clients, and the like. With many workers reporting that they check their inboxes more than once a day, it sure beats checking those phone messages. Also, the technological advances have made it so anyone can check e-mail anytime they want to, even on their cell phones!

The only problem, according to Weaver's article, is that there's a widespread perception that many American workers are wasting too

much time every day dealing with the rising flood of unwanted, unsolicited e-mails. I do not buy the fact that they may be wasting too much time, because it does not take that much time to touch the delete button. It so happens that more often than not, the worker has the choice if they get the e-mail once to block the sender so they never get another one again. It is not hard to do and helps to filter out the unwanted e-mails.

Further evidence of e-mail not taking much time out of the day at all is the fact that a study presented in the article found that in a survey of 2,447 Americans, the average worker spends only about a half-hour dealing

with e-mail on a typical day. Also, on average the typical worker receive 10 or fewer e-mails a day and send five or less. Ha! So there to those people who think that e-mail takes up too much time out of the worker's day.

The study done in the article also acknowledged the growing volume of junk e-mails and its impact on the corporate e-mail systems. Industry watchers estimate that about a third of the over 7.3 billion e-mails sent everyday are from an unwanted commercial source. One out of every three e-mails is sent by an unwanted source? That seems like a lot to me, but I guess that I didn't perform the study.

Even if there are a lot of commercial e-mails being sent currently, what does it really matter? We all know, in the workplace or not, in the recently revolutionized technological world that we now live in, it is necessary to send and receive e-mails. It is not only a way to keep in touch with families, friends, and other important people, but it is also one of the quickest methods to get important information out to those important people. I may be going out on a limb here when saying this, but I think that without e-mail, many people would not be something better. The technology is out there; we're just not allowed to use it.

Letters to the Editor

In response to last week's, *Security beefs*

December 5, 2002

Dear Circle,

Jessica, I praise you for your article in last week's paper in which you criticized the inconsideration of the Marist Security staff. Not only do I wholeheartedly agree with you, but also if anyone considers you whiny or immature for your opinion, then I will proudly admit to being just as whiny and immature. Circle recently published a letter of mine about two months ago in which I voiced my anger about the lack of parking options for us Upper West Cedar residents. The point of having a security staff is to create a safe atmosphere on our campus. This may be just my point of view, but I don't feel like my safety is threatened if someone with a Hoop parking pass parks in Donnelly. In fact they would probably earn my admiration in their attempt at Parking Ticket Defiance.

I, too, am a receiver of parking tickets. Five so far this semester, actually. Of course I haven't paid any of them. Somehow I feel that not doing so shows security how pointless they are (yes I know that the fines eventually show up on tuition bills. I'm still trying to concoct a good explanation to tell my father when he receives that bill). Most of the tickets are from the same type of circumstance that you had, Jessica. The most recent one

I received was in the Dyson parking lot. I had to also drop off a paper and it was one of the many days we've had this year where the rain was so bad it was debatable whether to drive to class or take a boat. Considering that I was going to run into Dyson, throw the paper on a professor's desk, and run out, the chances of someone needing my parking spot in the 2 minutes I would be parked there were slim. Also, why risk getting my paper all wet and soggy while I run from Beck, wait at the 3-hour light, and run to Dyson? So I took the plunge and parked in Dyson, returning 5 minutes later to see the oh-so-familiar small white piece of paper sticking out from under my windshield wiper. I removed the soggy ticket from my wiper, proceeded back to my home in Upper West Cedar, and proudly displayed the ticket on the refrigerator with the several other parking tickets my housemates and I have earned this semester.

If security really has nothing better to do than go around fighting violators of illegal parking, maybe they could consider taking part in jobs to help the students rather than annoy them. How about we have one or two guards at the Route 9 crosswalk by Beck lot to help students cross safely rather than us being participants in an endless game of Frogger everyday

when attempting to cross the busy street?

I'm sure the Security staff and security-lovers who thought of Jessica as whiny in her last article are thinking the same about me. Maybe there is even a ticket for whining they can issue me that I can add to my collection. Oh and Jessica, don't worry about those who think you are immature. We'll get together sometime and play Barbies.

Sincerely,
Gwen
Pattison
Junior

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Contact Bobbi Sue Gibbons @ 5784 with any questions or comments



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Audiences shaken, not stirred
Newest "Bond" movie lacks original flare

by PAUL DeMICHELE
Staff Writer

The 20th installment of the consistently reliable Bond series was a complete disgrace to both the series and the film industry.

It begins slightly promising when James (Pierce Brosnan) is captured and imprisoned for 14 months by North Korea, a plot angle that has been much anticipated since the beginning of the series. Unfortunately, the film's entertainment doesn't last much further than the opening credits.

Over the next two hours the audience is bombarded with cheesy catch phrases and pathetic special effects. The green screens at times are so bad; I was almost convinced that the movie's intention was to mock the series. Director Jay Roach should be taking notes for any future additions to the Austin Powers series; *Die Another Day* redefines the very premise of the term, "over the top."

Each scene is more ludicrous than the previous one. In one

section of the film, Bond is being chased by a light beam from a gigantic satellite called "Icarus", while in a speed racer car going mach 1. He is able to fire a grappling hook from the the blame to Tamahori himself. Executive



PHOTOCREDIT: DIEANOTHERDAY.COM
Pierce Brosnan is back as 007

producer Anthony Wayne, and his fellow producers should be equally ashamed for allowing this movie to be released.

Brosnan, Berry and the rest of the cast do their best to pull through

with the amateur script supplied to them by Neil Purvis and Robert Wade. Berry's role as the "new Bond girl" was negligible, and had little effect on the films outcome.

It is glaringly obvious that this film is aiming to please the "MTV audience." They have now completed the transformation of James Bond. Bond films were once brilliant and cunning tales of espionage and stealth. Now, they merely appear to be bad Rambo sequels. Even worse, the movie still managed to have more plot holes than explosions. It was simply an all around weak film.

In the past, movie goers were able to escape senseless violence, poor directing and a weak script by going to see a Bond film. If nothing else, one would at least leave the theater entertained. With this newest edition, it has become quite evident that not only is this no longer true, but even worse, Bond has actually followed in the footsteps created by XXX.

I am amazed to think of how much money this will make at the box office. While I sit back and laugh at this abomination, Hollywood is doing the same; they're laughing all the way to the bank.

Holiday gift giving
made very easy

Finding alternative ways
to shop for family members

by AJNSIER
Staff Writer

For the typical college student, gift buying during the holiday season means scraping up the few pennies left for the semester to give gifts to girlfriends, boyfriends and family members. Despite popular demand, there are cheaper gifts to give than a piece of jewelry from Tiffany's or a gold Rolex.

The key to buying friends and family quality gifts at low prices is knowing where to look, and how to save. The Internet can make holiday shopping easy. Almost all businesses have a website, which makes shopping a lot easier.

EBAY, The World's Online Marketplace, allows consumers to bid on anything they can find at street venter prices. The site boasts about a new APEX combination DVD, CD and MP3 player for \$44.99. DVD players from Sony, Pioneer, JVC and Phillips, all for under \$50, are also available for bidding.

For your significant other, jewelry is also available on eBay. A brand new men's Polo watch just sold for \$24.99, and the first bid on a Tiffany and Co. pearl bracelet was \$49.99.

Sophomore Everett Reiss is a frequent user of eBay and advises to wait until the last minute.

"You can find great deals on eBay if you place your bids on the last few minutes so you do not end up driving the price of the good too high," Reiss said.

While eBay does provide low-priced gifts, buyers beware. Products up for bid sometimes lack authenticity. In order to make sure what you are buying is legitimate, eBay advises to contact the seller before purchasing the item.

Check to see if the same seller

has more than one of the same item. For instance, if one seller has twelve platinum 14K diamond rings, chances are they are all fake.

Sophomore Tim Riley feels it is easy to find good gifts for men.

"Men are really easy to please when it comes to gift giving, give them a nice cold Sam Adams and some pretzels, and you're golden," Riley said.

Sophomore Ali Reina said that a Make a Wish candle, a festive gift basket or an aromatherapy gift set would make the perfect gift for any mother, sister or girlfriend.

"There isn't a girl alive who wouldn't love some aromatherapy or bubble bath," Reina said.

Stores like T.J. Maxx, Kohl's, Target, Marshalls, and WalMart also have gift ideas that are on the less expensive side and ideal for any college student on a budget.

Instead of getting each of your six friends a gift, buy their house a month's supply of paper towels, or toilet paper. Offer to do your friend's laundry, wash their dishes, clean their room or cook dinner.

Gifts do not necessarily need to have a steep price tag in order to be special. Instead, make it obvious that a lot of time, effort and creativity was put into the gift ideas this season. Making picture collages of the past semester or putting together coupon books of ideas like "One free movie night" or "Breakfast at the Diner" can mean just as much as that gift from the mall.

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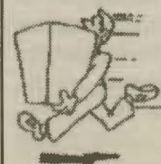
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December 12, 2002

WritetheCircle@hotmail.com

Page 9

CKY: Not just the "Jackass Band" Family ties have nothing to do with success

by MATT DUNNING Staff Writer

CKY just may be the luckiest band on Earth.

The amazing thing about their luck is that it lies not in the fact that they have a fast-track to stardom lying right in front of them in the form of drummer Jess Margera's brother and his cable TV show (some little flash-in-the-pan that MTV calls "Jackass"). Instead, the band's luck lies in that they're talented enough that they don't have to take that fast-track.

Infiltrate Destroy Rebuild marks CKY's (short for Camp Kill Yourself) return to Island Records. Over the course of ten tracks, Infiltrate... chugs and rumbles like a steam-roller running on some unholy mixture of whiskey, lamb's blood, and pure adrenaline. Immediately, you get the sense that CKY have their sights set on the thin line between punk and metal that Sabbath created and the Misfits

damn near obliterated. Not more than two minutes into the first track, "Escape from Hellview", singer and lyricist Deron Miller pits

tense." The album, though heavy and mischievous, as a whole, is nowhere near where it could be. The lyrics frequently wear thin ("I can't breathe, I can't get this out, I don't know and I can't explain") and in places where the band should let their instruments run wild, they bog themselves down in frustratingly repetitive power riffs. That kind of dependence is fine for bands like Good Charlotte, but with Infiltrate Destroy Rebuild, CKY spend nearly the entire length of the record selling themselves short.



CKY's Deron Miller, Chad Ginsburg, Vern Zaborowski, and Jess Margera are back with a new CD called Infiltrate Destroy Rebuild

his influences against each other with the lines, "Now I'm finding my friends hanging from trees, made a bed out of barbed wire fence, I'm on the loose with my head in the noose but hey...I enjoy the in-

What it lacks in sonic diversity, Infiltrate... more than makes up for in chaotic energy. The album does little to surprise, but even less to soothe. Indeed, it's probably no coincidence that Infiltrate Destroy Rebuild would make the perfect companion to a moonlit ride down a hill in a shopping cart.

'95 Marist alum gets big break in John Leguizamo's Empire

by KATHERINE SLAUTA Managing Editor

A Marist alum is working on building his own, as he performs in the newly released film Empire.

Louis Gonell, a '95 Marist graduate, appeared in the new film starring John Leguizamo, Denise Richards, Fat Joe and Treach.

Empire, released into theaters Friday, Dec. 6, is the first release of Arenas Entertainment, the new Latino film label in partnership with Universal Pictures.

It is the story of Victor Rosa (John Leguizamo), a businessman who aspires to be at the level of the greatest businessmen of the world such as Rockefeller, Carnegie and Bill Gates. To achieve this success, Rosa markets a heroin mix called Empire.

When Rosa's fiancée befriends the girlfriend of an investment-

banker, Jack Wimmer, Rosa and Wimmer become instant friends. Both are businessmen from opposite sides of the tracks. When Wimmer offers him a stock market opportunity, Rosa jumps at the chance to get off the streets and into the real business world. The price of this new lifestyle, however, becomes greater than Rosa anticipated.

In the film, Gonell plays the role of Rosa's older brother in scenes where Victor was a young boy.

While studying at Marist he received his BA in Communications from Marist. He was active in MCCTA, El Arco Iris Latino and the Higher Educational Opportunity Program (HEOP). He later received his Masters in Theatre Arts from the New School for Social Research.

The film is rated R for strong violence, pervasive language, drug content and some sexuality.

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Thank You, Luigi Colicci



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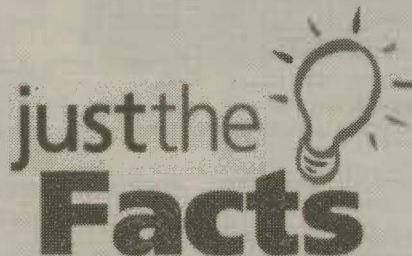
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Marist football players honored with All-MAAC awards

by JAMES SKEGGS
Opinions Editor

The Marist College football team finished this season 7-4, 5-3 in the MAAC, tying a school single season record for most wins in a season. On the aftermath of the successful season, ten Marist student-athletes were named to the All-Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) First and Second Teams.

Chris Price (Danbury, CT), Juwan Jackson (Madison, NJ), Mike Loniewski (Wayne, NJ) and Adam Ercoli (Carmel, NY) were all named to the All-MAAC First Team while Alfredo Riullano (Callicoon, NY), Steve Evans (Yonkers, NY), Brett

Biggs (Bethlehem, PA), Charles Fowler (Shelton, CT), Aubrey Bennett (East Syracuse, NY) and Ike Ibeh (Bloomfield, NY) made the Second Team.

Senior lineman, Charles Fowler, who had 7.5 sacks and 42 tackles on the season, led Marist's defense. Senior Ike Ibeh anchored the secondary with team-high four interceptions and finished ninth on the team with 38 total tackles. Junior Aubrey Bennett set a single game record with 18 deflected passes and finished the year with 37 tackles.

Defensive end Adam Ercoli was the only player named to the Defensive First-Team. He broke a school single season record with

25 tackles for a loss and was third on the team with 51 total tackles. Ercoli finished the season with two defensive touchdowns (returning a fumble and an interception) and expressed optimism about the team's successful season.

"We were able to rebound from a tough finish last season and step it up for a strong showing this year," Ercoli said. "We practiced very hard and really came together as a team, with everybody playing their part to ensure our success."

Offensively, running Back Chris Price rushed for 1,196 yards and 10 touchdowns, including a career best 199-yard performance

against LaSalle in the tenth week of the season. Price finished his career with 2,604 total yards, third on the Marist I-AA all time rushing list.

Alfredo Riullano, the Red Foxes leading scorer, finished the season with 15 touchdowns and was ranked 16th in the nation in I-AA for points per game. He rushed for 896 yards this season as a junior, giving him 2,142 career yards, placing him fourth all-time in I-AA history.

"Our rushing game was strong this year thanks mainly to an outstanding effort from our offensive line," Price said. "Alfredo really had a great year as well, which definitely helped our team to be so successful."

First Team members, Juwan Jackson and Mike Loniewski, led the offensive

line. The line allowed less than two sacks per game, helping the Red Foxes rush for over 2,500 yards. This was Loniewski's third All-MAAC selection, while Jackson, a pre-season Mid-Major All-American was named to the First-Team All-MAAC for the first time as a junior.

"We were very pleased with the teams 7-4 performance this year," Assistant Athletic Director Scott Khare said. "It's a great thing as well when some of our athletes gain personal attention and they were all certainly deserving of it."

Marist football has now had a winning season for eight out of the last nine years. The 7-4 overall record was the best mark since a 7-3 finish in 1998.

Marist abroad students experience Thanksgiving in Spain

by STACEY CASWELL
Abroad Correspondent

Stringed instruments and voices carried through the dining area as the students and their host 'señoras' clinked their glasses to show gratitude for the opportunity to be together for the Dia de la Accion de Gracias (Thanksgiving, in Spanish).

Yes, even while abroad, Marist provides students with a way to celebrate their heritage and relish the tradition of Thanksgiving.

The program made a great effort to provide those of us studying in Madrid, Spain with a Thanksgiving away from home with all of our friends and family.

Since the last meal of the day is usually served at 9 p.m. in Spain, students had to wait until later that night to enjoy the Thanksgiving dishes that had been prepared.

Held in El Restaurante Sobrino de Botin, one of Europe's oldest restaurants, students enjoyed a typical Thanksgiving meal: turkey, boiled potatoes, green beans, turkey broth soup, almond paste that tasted similar to sweet potatoes, apple and pumpkin pie and even imported cranberry sauce, thanks to junior Kerry Corredine, who brought it with her when she first arrived in Spain.

The señoras, the older women who opened their homes to the students, were delighted to take part in the American tradition,

which also incorporated some of their Spanish heritage.

The happy gathering was serenaded by the tunas, a group of students who go from place to place singing traditional songs for money. The señoras, dressed for the night, joined in with the songs and one even began dancing in the restaurant with one of the instrumentalists.

Junior, Kara Culloo said that it was definitely a unique experience in that she was able to celebrate two different cultures at once.

"It was wonderful to see my señora, Concha, singing along to the music," Culloo said. "She seemed so happy to share something she knew was such a part of my culture."

It was an evening enjoyed by

all and the students were pleased that they were able to share a valued American custom with those in Spain.

Thanksgiving, however, will not be the only holiday these students will spend away from home. Christmas and New Year's Eve are two other days in which students will be without their families.

"I will miss my family and friends, but I want to take advantage of the travelling," said Culloo. "I am looking into Poland, Germany or Italy for the holidays or whatever else I can fit in. It's the only time that I'll be able to spend Christmas in a foreign country."

Others have decided not travel during the holidays and arranged for flights back to the States in order to spend Christmas how they have in the past.

Juniors Kristin Mancini and Kerry

Corredine plan to return home for the first week of Christmas break and will then return to Madrid in the beginning of January, before exams, in order to travel and study.

Other students, like junior Tim Nolan, will have family visiting them during the break of Dec. 21-Jan. 8.

"My father is coming so that I can show him where I have been living for the past few months," said Nolan.

Junior Kelly McCaig is also having her parents and sister come to visit her for Christmas week.

"My parents have never been to Spain before and they thought it would be a good idea to incorporate a vacation with Christmas," McCaig said.

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Men's basketball falls to GT

...from 12

opening minutes of the second half, cutting the deficit to four with 17:04 remaining.

After Georgia Tech was able to extend their lead back out to eight, the Foxes made one final push with a three-pointer by junior Eric Siegrist and a layup by junior Chris Handy to make

it a 38-35 game with 13:08 left.

However, the Foxes would see their upset dreams come to an abrupt end as the Yellow Jackets went on a 24-7 run and never looked back.

The Foxes lack of size also played a role, as Georgia Tech took advantage of countless second chances thanks to Marist's inability to grab defensive

rebounds. This was especially the case late in the first half as the Yellow Jackets went on a 12-6 run to end the half.

Georgia Tech finished with a 46-37 advantage in rebounds.

Marist is 0-3 all-time against Georgia Tech, and is still winless against teams from the ACC.

I would like to take this time to thank everybody who has played a role in helping me during my tenure as sports editor of The Circle. Next semester, I will be turning the section over to Paul Seach. I enjoyed my time as the sports editor and helping to make the student body more aware of sports on this campus. Specifically, I would like to thank Chris O'Connor and Colin Sullivan, who do a great job working in the athletic department. Your cooperation and assistance has helped us to cover a wider range of sports at Marist and has helped us to do a better job in reporting.

Thank you to Scott...and Drex, Jay, Phil and Travis (aka The Guys Who Talk About Sports...and Entertainment). I think we did a good job of incorporating our show into the newspaper. And, we may have joked around a lot and not taken the show as seriously as we should have (sorry Travis), but we made people laugh and put out a good product, that's all that matters.

I truly believe that the sports section has made vast improvements over the years. This year was very productive, as Paul and I made a conscious effort to cover as many sports teams as possible, club and varsity. I hope we have provided you with informative and interesting stories, because that was our goal. I know the section will continue to make strides with Paul as the editor.

I would also like to thank all the editors and staff of The Circle. I know the hard work that goes into putting out the newspaper every week, and although it goes unnoticed sometimes, I appreciate the work that you do and enjoyed spending all those Tuesday nights with all of you.

Sincerely,
Peter R. Palmieri



Men's basketball drops 86-77 decision to MAAC rival Fairfield

by SCOTT MONTESANO
Staff Writer

It could be argued that the Marist College Red Foxes are one of the best teams in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference during the first half of games this season. The problem is, an NCAA game lasts two halves, and it has been those final 20 minutes that have doomed the Foxes this year.

For the third time this season, the Foxes coughed up a double-digit lead in the second half and lost 86-77 to the Fairfield Stags on Dec. 10 before 2,373 at the McCann Center.

"We're very disheartened this happened," said Marist head coach Dave Magarity following the loss. "There is always something that goes wrong."

What went wrong for the Foxes was their shooting during the second half. After shooting a blistering 57.7% from the field in the first half, to build a 42-34 lead at intermission, the bottom fell out on the Foxes.

Marist shot only 36.7% in the second half, while Fairfield came alive shooting 60.7% to forge the comeback.

With 9:31 remaining in the game, a layup by Marist sophomore Brandon Ellerbee gave the Foxes a 62-55 lead. Little did the Foxes know that it would be their last field goal until a layup by Nick Eppehimer with 1:42 left.

During that nearly eight-minute dryspell, the Stags, who trailed by as much as 12-points with 17:29, cashed in. Led by DeWitt Maxwell's game-high 25 points, the Stags turned the game completely in their direction.

A layup by Maxwell with 5:26 remaining gave the Stags their first lead since the opening five minutes of the game at 70-68.

"Maxwell was on fire (tonight)," Magarity admitted. Ironically, Maxwell was a recruit of Dave Magarity, but elected against coming to Marist.

In the closing minutes, all Marist could do was watch as the Stags' lead crept up to four, six, and eventually as far as ten points before the Foxes finally made a field goal.

What had once been a Marist route, turned into a Fairfield blow-out victory. While the Stags continued to hit from the field, the Foxes were unable to muster a

comeback of their own.

Senior guard David Bennett's cold three-point shooting in the final minutes didn't help Marist. Bennett missed three open shots from beyond the arc in the closing minutes that could have brought the Foxes back into the game.

"Bennett couldn't make a shot down the stretch," said a frustrated Magarity. Bennett finished the game only 2-10 from the field.

Marist also was hurt by 19 turnovers in the game. With Ellerbee on the bench for much of the second half, nursing an ankle injury, Magarity was forced to use Bennett out of position at the point guard spot.

With Bennett, and also Eric Siegrist spending time at the point, the Foxes became more susceptible to the Stags full-court pressure in the second half.

"We put pressure on their guards and it rattled them," commented Fairfield's Terrance Todd who finished with 10 points.

Marist's Dennis Young agreed saying, "The pressure got us out of our offense."

The loss is Marist's second this season when taking a large lead

into the second half. Vermont overcame a Foxes lead on Nov. 23. Marist also blew a large lead to Rider on Dec. 5, before winning that game in overtime.

The blown leads have Magarity comparing his team to biblical characters. "We're being tested. I feel like Job."

With the defeat, Marist fell to 1-1 in the MAAC, and signifies the first time Marist has ever lost their MAAC home opener. Marist is 3-3 overall heading into their next game Dec. 14 at home vs. central Michigan at the McCann Center.

For Fairfield, the win gives the Stags a 2-0 record in the MAAC for the first time in 13 seasons. Nonetheless, that wasn't what brought a smile to Stags' head coach Tim O'Toole's face.

"We played pretty well," O'Toole said. "(The McCann Center) is a tough place to play," hinting that his team stole one from a place that has given them problems.

The loss by Marist spoiled a career-day for junior walk-on Eric Sosler who had 12 points on 5-8 shooting. Sosler also made his second, and third, career three-pointers.

Georgia Tech 67, Marist 53

When a team shoots only 29.7% from the field, it is safe to assume they will not beat their opponent. That is especially true when that opponent is one of the rising teams in arguably the strongest basketball conference.

Plagued by poor shooting, the Red Foxes fell 67-53 to Atlantic Coast Conference foe Georgia Tech Dec. 7 at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Senior Nick Eppehimer, who entered as the team's leading scorer, went only 3-13 and had only 10 points. Sophomore Brandon Ellerbee had a team leading 13 points on 5-12 shooting.

Ed Nelson's game-high 14-points guided Georgia Tech.

Nevertheless, despite their horrendous shooting, the Foxes were able claw back after seeing the Yellow Jackets jump out to a double-digit lead in the first half.

Trailing 32-20 at halftime, Marist went a small run in the

See...page 11

Return of Lamb ads extra incentive for women's basketball team

by MIKE BENISCHEK
Staff Writer

Some people just can't get enough of a good thing.

Maybe that's why Kris Lamb will be back in the McCann center Thursday night, just nine months after resigning her position as head coach of the Marist's Women's Basketball team.

Rest at ease, Fox fans, Lamb is not coming back to resume her former employment and nobody is going to offer it to her, as Brian Giorgis has deftly filled the vacancy left by Lamb's departure. On Thursday night, assistant coach Kris Lamb will be bringing her new team,

the Hartford Hawks, into Poughkeepsie to challenge her former team, the Red Foxes.

What was to be simply a tough non-conference game against the Hawks changed on June 2 when Lamb, who had resigned citing a desire to spend more time with her family, agreed to join the coaching staff at Hartford. The once bland contest now has the spice of Creole cuisine.

Maureen Magarity, captain of the Foxes, said Lamb's presence on the opposing sideline will be an extra incentive to play hard.

"It just gives us more motivation just to show her," she said. "They're a good team, and we just

want to play as well as we usually do, but I think we'll be a little more intense, a little more enthusiastic."

Despite the ambiguity surrounding the details of Lamb's departure from coaching and immediate re-emergence, this game, like all other sporting contests, will simply be about players' skills, not personal feelings.

Junior guard Vicki Wancel said the Foxes care more about proving their worth than anything else.

"We don't have any grudges against Coach Lamb for leaving, but I think we just want to show her what she left behind, that we are a really good team," she said.

In her four years leading the

Foxes, Lamb recorded the lowest winning percentage of any coach in program history, 29%, and did not manage to win a game in the MAAC tournament. However, Lamb's tutelage did produce several positives for the Foxes.

Lost in the hoopla concerning the reunion of the Marist players with their former coach is the fact that Marist's current coach, Brian Giorgis, will have to match wits with his predecessor in just his sixth collegiate game.

Though it is a situation that would be mentally jarring for any coach, Wancel said she believes their new leader will not be so easily shaken.

"I think there's a little tension, just naturally, and pressure-maybe a little pressure, but I think he can handle anything," she said.

One reason why Wancel is so confident in the abilities of her coach may be his already proven talents for making adjustments mid-contest. Last Friday night against the Loyola Greyhounds, Marist mounted a second half comeback for the third straight game, and this one was by far the most incredible.

Down by 17 with 12 minutes re-

maining the Red Foxes were able to fight their way back into contention behind dominating interior defense and another heroic offensive performance by Magarity. Marist outscored the Greyhounds 27-10 to close out the allotted 40 minutes of game time, forcing an extra five minute overtime period. Magarity scored 16 of those 27 points, the final basket coming with just three-tenths of a second left on the clock.

Magarity said the play happened too quickly for even her own memory.

"Before I watched the film I thought I just caught it and shot it," she said. "But then when we watched the film the next day I think the girl just stepped up to me so I faked and took a dribble and I think I just had it with point-three seconds."

Though the Foxes were able to return from such an incredible deficit, the effort had expended too much energy for comeback to be capped with a victory in the overtime. The final score was 68-61.

On Tuesday, the Red Foxes defeated Fairfield 57-51, to even its conference record at 1-1.

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