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PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS

Cover, Page 3 & 4: Mike Walsh
Page 8: Christi Sheehan
Pages 5, 6, 9 & 10: Amy Wheeler
Pages 15 & 16: Cynthia Dagenais
Page 17, 18, 22, 30, 31 Creativecommons.org
Page 25 & 26: Paul La Raia
Back Page: Mary Treuer
By Mike Walsh

Like so many other Marist students this winter, I came down with a pretty harsh flu and had to remain quarantined in my room for a few days. Of course my new best friend became Nyquil, and after a couple hits of it I was out was like a light.

Now, I’m a little hazy on the details, but I swear on my grave that this happened during one of my Nyquil induced trips. I arose from my bed in Lower West and shook off all the tissues that had been burying me. I walked by a mirror and noticed that because of the excessive nose rubbing, my nose had turned an irritated shade of red.

I wandered downstairs to find all my housemates hanging out in the living room talking and playing Scrabble, I tried to join in but they wouldn’t let me. One look at my nose and they could see that I was too sick and they didn’t want to catch what I had. They refused to let me play in any of their games.

I decided to go out for a walk. I put some cover-up on my nose and grabbed a jacket. I wandered over to the Fulton-Beck Bridge and was bid farewell by a couple friendly squirrels. The icy bridge was very slippery and I pretty much slid across the slick bridge on a chunk of ice…

While crossing the Rt. 9 intersection I was bumped by a couple of overzealous honors students with huge backpacks and my cover-up was brushed off. Once again red in the nose, I made a B-line for the Student Center to warm up. On my way there I had to duck into Lowell Thomas to avoid President Murray. He was still a little testy after reading my last Generator story.

While sitting on a couch in the Student Center alcoves I was approached by a tall kid with glasses. It turned out to be Mike Geddes. Geddes had just been in a fight with the head of the band, Art Himmelberger about missing the playing of the new Marist Fight Song for Shooter. He was tired of band and didn’t want to make music any more. Once word got out that “Geddes didn’t like to make music,” it wasn’t long before he quit altogether. Since I had no friends for the day, I suggested we hang out and be independent together…

Geddes and I decided we’d get some lunch at the deli. Keeping an eye out for Dr. Murray, we made our way around the back side of Leonidoff Field. While eating our sandwiches we were joined by my freshman year roommate, Kevin Fitzmaurice.

Fitz was out looking for his wallet that he had lost the day before. The Nyquil must have been kicking in extremely strong at this point because he started singing about dollars and coins. Nearing the end of No-Shave November, Fitz had a large beard that moved as he sang and tossed his cell phone in the air like a baton…

We agreed to help Fitz search for his wallet. The search brought us to the Steel Plant Studio. This was where all the misfit art students went to draw and study. They accepted us as we all had our own problems. Sports Communications and Political Science aren’t the most popular majors in today’s job market. And old Geddes had tried just about every major Marist had to offer.

The Art majors were tired of not feeling like a part of the school with their lone academic building not on the actual campus and they claimed they were never visited by Shooter in his nice red costume. We agreed to help them out as well, I told them the next time I saw Shooter, I’d let him know that he must visit the Steel Plant.

Knowing that Fitz and Geddes were in
danger of catching my sickness, I decided to abandon them for their own safety. While they were preoccupied I slipped out the back of the studio. It was a lonely road from then on and I could only avoid Dr. Murray for so long. I decided to head back to Lower West, but when I arrived I found my house surprisingly empty. My neighbors said that all my friends had gone out looking for me. They were worried after my roommate told them how much Nyquil I had taken.

I couldn't just sit there and wait, I had to go find them. I fought through a suddenly snowy day and spotted Chris Miller outside Fontaine. He was cornered by Murray. He had recognized Chris as one of my friends and was demanding to know where I was. There was no way I was letting my friend take the verbal beating that I deserved. I moved in to face the music. When he saw me all of his attention went from Chris to me.

After a five minute lecture on the ethics of journalism, I spotted my friends Fitz and Geddes rounding Dyson. From there they sprinted to my rescue. Fitz was able to distract Murray with talk of APD’s campus involvement while the rest of us escaped.

Quickly we hurried back to Lower West to regroup. Much to our surprise Shooter was there on the quad, being serenaded by Art’s Fight Song. Art and Geddes were able to reconcile and come to an agreement. We went inside S1 where I told Shooter about how the students at Steel Plant felt like misfits because he never visited. And he declared right then and there that he would go visit them immediately.

There was then a knock at the door. Fitz entered first and we were all relieved until he introduced President Murray. He walked in and we were all silent. He approached me and stuck out his hand. I shook it vigorously and we had a long talk about my next story. Turns out, he wasn’t such a scary guy. “I actually liked the Tom Coughlin comparison,” he said. “Besides this is all a dream, isn’t it?”

I suddenly snapped awake to the sound of my cell phone alarm. It was a text from Ray McGale, my housemate who is also an art major. It read, “Hey man, just wondering if you were able to get Shooter agree to come visit us?”
The Tragedy of Harvey Dent
by the Fall 2009 English Capping Class

By Sarah Holmes

Capping, one of the dreaded words on Marist Campus, that refers to that one class that is supposed to encompass everything you have learned for your major and usually comes with the biggest and toughest workload of all of your classes in the four years at college. This semester one class took on the task of collaboratively writing and performing a Shakespearean play.

Dr. Gregory Machacek was the professor for the class of 22 English majors with concentrations in writing, literature, and theatre. Each semester a different English professor teaches capping to these three concentrations, usually something relevant to all of them. However, a production piece had never been done before.

“As my turn was coming up, I knew I wanted to do something that would engage the talents of students from all concentrations: understanding Shakespeare (the literary critics), writing like Shakespeare (the writers), and performing the play (the theatre students),” Machacek said.

“The first day of class, Machacek warned us that he did not even know where we would end up - our syllabus only had fragments of lessons planned out,” said senior Amanda Mulvihill, the only certain date was the performance. Despite informing the class they were already behind on what needed to be done, Machacek believed the students would be able to pull it off and learn a lot about Shakespeare’s writing.

“I wanted students in the class to come to appreciate an aspect of Shakespearean verbal artistry, from the inside-out, if you will, by themselves producing a particular kind of writing that he produced,” he said.

Before the writing could be done, the students had to have a good understanding of the language and form of Shakespeare’s plays. To begin with, the critics gave class presentations on different features of Shakespeare’s dramaturgical technique.

With the presentations complete, the playwrights formulated a plot and wrote 180 lines of blank verse each. The literature and theatre majors also contributed 30 lines per person to the play.

“One of the challenges was in conforming our language to blank verse - iambic pentameter was hard to grasp, but I found that once I got into it, I was even thinking in blank verse,” said Mulvihill who was half-critic and half-playwright, she wrote part of Act IV Scene 1.

The lines were combined and edited for length. They also got rid of any repetition in order for the play to feel as though only one person had written it. This was the biggest challenge, said Mulvihill; “Everyone wrote their own exchanges, and it was difficult to make one cohesive product out of each piece”

Once the script was done, the theatre majors- the thespians- auditioned for parts. The non-thespians decided the roles of each person and the last month of class was used for memorization and rehearsal.

The culmination of their efforts was seen on December 2nd in a play titled The Tragedy of Harvey Dent in the cabaret.

The entry fee was 1 penny, what it was during Shakespeare’s time period for a “groundling,” someone who would be standing in the middle part of the theatre, right before the stage. The students and faculty at the performance were graciously allowed chairs although some people ended up having to stand in the back since it was a full house.

ABOVE: Harvey Dent (Kristy O’Driscoll) takes justice into her own hands and threatens the Judge (Mindy Reed) and James Gordon (Carisse M. Bormann).
RIGHT: The Joker (Alexa Mullen) relaxes in a courtroom chair

Photos By Amy Wheeler
By Nick Sweeney

Every semester, something special happens in Fontaine. Well, for Liberal Arts people, Fontaine is always special. However, for one week, there's something really different going on for. It's called the Writer in Residence.

This program and class is a necessary part of the Creative Writing Minor, a new minor for those interested in writing (It's fun, I promise. It's only 19 credits!). For one week, you take workshops, attend a reading, and generally have a great time. It gives students, seniors and freshman alike, to see a writer in action.

Last semester, it was that eccentric playwright Gino Di'Iorio who recently has a play being produced in New Jersey, called Dead Ringer. This semester it's the Long Island Native turned University of Alabama professor Wendy Rawlings.

Let's talk about Wendy for a moment. She's funny, exciting, and still has remnants of a New York accent. An associate Professor in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Alabama, Rawlings has some publications that may or may not interest you. In comes The Agnostics which is a story about a family and its journey through the years. It's about belief, religion and the modern family.

Stephen and Bev Cohen travel through transformations as their relationship continues throughout the book. Listening to a reading excerpt, I could swear I was in the 1960's suburbia known as Long Island. In addition to this novel, Wendy Rawlings also has a collection of short stories, Come Back Irish. Published in 2001. The collection contains a varied group of stories loosely related but at the same time completely different. Her word choice shows her expertise within language. It leaves you thinking about the next project floating around that head of hers.

This is where the Writer in Residence and the Forms of Writing class comes in. This semester, the theme was that of voice and its importance in writing fiction. There's a difference between voice of the writer and the voice of a character, something that many readers confuse.

So we read some David Foster Wallace, some Joyce Carol Oates, and some Mark Richard to name a few. All known in the literary world in some way or another, the students began to understand the importance of voice and how it amplifies stories in certain ways. Wendy Rawlings let the writers open their own doors, merely leading the way.

The students were left to make their own stories, their own voice and style. It's amazing what you can learn in one week, and how differently you can view writing after such a class. It makes you wonder what's in store for the Spring Writer in Residence and the insight that they bring.

Overall, the experience is worth it. For one week, you view things differently. Sure, you might need to get a four pack of Red Bull to pull it off, but it's worth it.

One credit. One week. Head to Fontaine for some workshop and reading experiences. Ask all those questions about MFA programs (See, writers do have something to look forward to), about writing careers, and receive some insight on your own writing. It's an experience all writers here at Marist should experience at least once.

By Friday, sadness kicks in. You meet this awesome professor and writer, with all this worldly experience, and now you have to head back to the grind. Yes, the grind means the five papers you didn’t do, the five hundred pages of reading, and the PowerPoint that’s due Monday. It’s great, I swear.

Other performers included Molly Mihal-cik as a prisoner, Samantha Accurso as a police officer, and Jessica Durazzo, Danielle Mooney, Gabrielle Landeo, and Katie Mosie as reporters.

Every thespian delivered their lines with the right emotions, even if the noise coming in from the commuter lounge was disruptive of their words. The plot was understandable and flowed well; one could hardly have guessed that 22 different voices went into the writing of it. The response from the audience was positive. “[The thespians] turned it into a wonderful performance,” said Mulvihill.

“I think the students are now (rightfully) proud of themselves for what they’ve been able to achieve,” Machecck said. “I think it has turned out astoundingly well.”
What’s the difference between having “a jolly wench in every town” and having “hoes in different area codes?”

Only a number of centuries and some change in dialect. The first line was spoken by the Pardoner in Chaucer’s The Canterbury Tales that appeared in the 15th century, the second line was rapped by Ludacris in 2001.

The similarities between canonized literature and the music genre hip-hop were realized by Baba Brinkman when worked on his study of Medieval and Renaissance English Literature while listening to hip-hop. Once he graduated he combined his knowledge of the two, culminating in a hip-hop theatre show, “The Rap Canterbury Tales.”

The show has been to cities around the world and many college campuses across the nation. Besides reciting the tales, he talks about the relationship between Chaucer and hip-hop, in the oral tradition of the English language, specifically the rhymed narrative.

Chaucer wrote the tales in the language of the common people, not in the more highbrow language of the nobles, like hip-hop is written in a less-than-academic vernacular. This allowed him to stay true to the people he was presenting in his texts.

The premise of the tales is a group of pilgrims on their way to Canterbury Cathedral and to pass the time they tell tales and turn it into a competition. This leads to a variety of tales, all connected through the eyes of the narrator who provides the set up of the situation in which each tale is told along with descriptions of all the characters, all who are not referred to by occupations and titles.

Baba adapted four tales from the classic text: the Pardoner’s Tale, the Miller’s Tale, the Wife of Bath’s Tale, and the Knight’s Tale. The first three are done together usually with the Knight’s Tale excluded because it is too long he told students gathered in the cabaret November 17. The first three, in that order, just seemed to have the best response he said, and after plenty of experience in front of audiences.

The response was good from the small crowd that evening. The three tales he chose purposely for their comedy and themes that are applicable today’s culture, especially to those used in rap and hip-hop. Money, sex, and love are the three main themes, each with plenty of scandal and laughs.

The Pardoner is described as a pale man with long stringy blonde hair. His job is to hand out pardons from the church to people who will pay the fee. He takes the money people give up in order to be redeemed for their sins and spends it on booze and women. He tells a tale of three men who love what he indulges in, but have a violent side too.

These three men go out to find death, mocking it as they do. They come across an old leper and tell him he can find death under a nearby tree. Their plan is to kill him there but they are distracted by a bag of gold. The youngest one is sent to fetch celebratory wine and the leader plans to kill him when he returns so the bag is split between only two. The youngest returns, the two men stab him then drink the wine, which was laced with rat poison by the youngest. In the end, they do find death beneath the tree.

Baba takes on the persona of the Miller next by acting like a sloppy drunk, for in the text the Miller bursts out to tell his tale and no one is able to stop the drunken verse. The tale begins with the old, rich John and his beautiful, young wife Allison who take in the poor, young scholar Nicholas. He tries to seduce Allison while the bard Absalom, a bit of a pansy, attempts to woo her too. Nicholas pretends to be in a trance and tells John that he has been told by God that a flood is coming, instructing John to build a giant bucket and hang it from the roof.

While he builds Nicholas and Allison get down and dirty. Absalom sings near the window, hoping for a kiss from her. She tells him no, then changes her mind, and in the darkness of the night sticks her butt out the window. He kisses her in the crack and gets long pubic hairs as his reward on his lips. Those very details were in the original tale, Babe explained.

It doesn’t end there. Absalom is furious and finds a hot metal rod before he returns to the window for another kiss. This time Nicholas hears him and puts his own ass out the window, the results are one very sore ass and broken old man, for when he cries out John cuts the rope to the bucket thinking the flood has come. Through it all Allison just sits back and laughs.

For the last tale he tells he pretends to be a woman, the Wife of Bath. She is a widow that has had five husbands and is
When I first picked up this novel, I was skeptical. Though I am a huge David Levithan fan for *Spektor*, I was wary of the concept of writing a fictional novel about September 11th. However, my fears were soon allayed once I picked up this literary gem, which is yet another work Levithan can add to his long list of contemporary classics.

The story, which takes place in New York City, is told through the narrative of three vastly different characters. The first, Jasper, is a young gay man from Brooklyn about to enter his sophomore year of college. The second, Claire, is an insightful high school senior with a genuine kindness that echoes another time. The third, Peter, is a high school senior and a gay youth who is in the midst of discovering himself. In creating these characters, Levithan shows his flexibility as a writer as he successfully takes on the enormous task of portraying 9/11 in a poignant matter while still focusing on the issues of the central characters.

For example, the continuing theme of discovering oneself is portrayed through the relationship between Jasper and Peter which, though tumultuous in its beginning, ends up being a refreshing take on the importance of young love.

By Christi Sheehan

Another facet of the novel is that it explores the underlying theme of unity. In one scene of the book, Claire, unable to sleep, goes for a walk toward Ground Zero. Along the way, she meets Jasper, who she recognizes from a party that occurred in the beginning of the novel. Though at first the two interact in awkward small talk, the discussion soon turns to a philosophical dialogue underscoring the fact that even the most tragic of events has the power to bring about constructive change.

Through a stroke of good luck, I was fortunate enough to meet the author at a reading in Oblong Books, a charming bookstore in Rhinebeck (and though I am not being paid to promote this bookstore, I highly recommend this it to any fellow literary enthusiasts). Listening to him read the words of Claire reflecting on the spiritual aftermath of 9/11 was truly otherworldly, and you could feel the fundamental themes of love and peace emanating from his every word.

Thus, overbreak after the stress of finals week if you are looking for a respite of peace and serenity, I highly suggest you pick up this novel, which is a testimony to the strength of humanity and forgiveness.
Into the Woods Review

By Mike Walsh

Into the Woods is a play that spoofs various childhood classics such as “Little Red Riding Hood,” “Jack and the Bean Stock,” “Cinderella,” and “Rapunzel.” It takes these “Disney-ish” works and adds a little deviousness to them. By injecting these plays with evil and sex it creates a whole new way we can enjoy them. The writer of this play chose to infuse comedy and tragedy into something all their own.

Marist College Council on Theater Arts put on this play for a college student audience, and I applaud that decision. The way this play comes off is perfect for that demographic. The cast of Marist’s performance had the audience laughing a lot and got the standing ovation they deserved at the end.

Stephen Sondheim wrote the music and lyrics for Into the Woods. His other works include Sweeney Todd and West Side Story. He and James Lapine, who created the book, won a Tony Award for Best Score in 1988.

The main players were MCCTA mainstays, Kelly O’Rourke playing The Baker’s wife, while Storm Heitman played her husband. O’Rourke definitely deserved the lead in this show and was cast superbly. She may not have had the best voice on the stage, but she has a way of singing to the audience that was unmatched in this performance. She roped me in from the get go and I was seemingly unable to take my eyes off of her.

Senior Courtney Cuomo (who in my opinion, had the most beautiful voice on stage) pulled off the ugly old evil witch splendidly, and then shed her cloak and nose to reveal her own stunning self. Mairead Delaney was adorable as Little Red Riding Hood with a bit of a bad side. Both princes also put on solid performances as well with Chris Turkiewicz and Charlie Nichols bringing the house down with their reprise of the song “Agony.”

Bill Serpe was a scene stealer with his portrayal of the Mysterious Man. His recurring line, “When first I appear, I seem delirious, but when explained, I’m nothing serious,” was one of the shining spots of the play for me.

Also stealing the scenes with a smaller part was Greg Furman as the Wolf. Though he only really had one song, Furman was able to really pull in the audience with his facial and body language. Despite having such a small part in such a lengthy performance, Furman’s performance is still the one that stands out for me.

The set design really took me by surprise in a good way. If I didn’t know any better I would have never guessed that this was a college production. The care that was taken to make the forest seem so real did not go unnoticed. The details of the trees were outstanding and the props such as the cow were creative while funny.

The costumes were generic. A few of them looked like cheap Halloween costumes you could purchase at Target. The few of note that I enjoyed were the Wolfs’ and the Witch’s.

Overall I was thoroughly entertained through both acts. Though lengthy, this play is very enjoyable and was a great choice to be put on for a college audience. The director and producer should be proud of a job well done with everything from casting to set design.

1. Greg Furman as The Wolf
2. Bill Serpe as The Mysterious Old Man
3. Chris Turkiewicz and Charlie Nichols as the two Princes
4. Justin Santore as Jack and Grace Andruskiewicz as Jack’s Mother
5. Mairead Delaney as Red Riding Hood and Justin Santore as Jack
Photos Contributed By Amy Wheeler
Modern Family is a sitcom on ABC following the members of an extended family that have melted into three nuclear families. Brought to you by Stephen Levitan (Just Shoot Me!) and Christopher Lloyd (Frasier) this program combined heart and dramedy for a frighteningly real look at modern family.

Boasting comedic plotlines, Modern Family illustrates the daily dramas of family life. Shying away from the trend popularized by shows such as Sex and the City and Friends, the show follows a family by a more traditional definition. The relationships of friends and neighbors do not come into play as a source of story. Instead the plotlines are reminiscent of family shows of the 1990s such as Full House or Family Matters.

However, this show leaves the heart-to-hearts behind and focuses on more grown-up humor.

The show attempts to examine the shape of today’s family structure. The classic television shows show a couple of the same race with two children and a white picket fence (with exceptions such as the then-scandalous interracial marriage on I Love Lucy). The most traditional character on Modern Family is an older man married to a much younger woman. She is Colombian while he is white. The show displays their cultural differences in subtle ways, allowing the show to preach without offending.

Shows featuring a same sex couple are relatively new to TV. Will and Grace was the first successful prime time program with homosexuality as a core theme. However, neither Will nor Jack ever had a long-term relationship on the show, not demonstrating how gay couples can form a family structure the same way straight couples can. Modern Family explores this side of life with life partners Mitchell and Cameron and their newly adopted daughter.

Interracial relationships, adoption, gay marriage and a redefinition of masculine identity are all addressed as the cast struggles with daily life. Ed O’Neill (Married with Children) stars as Jay Pritchett, the patriarch of the clan. His life ideals lend more toward a 1960s Leave it to Beaver sitcom, but his liberal family contradicts him on every value. His children, Claire and Mitchell, are now adults dealing with their own children, if only their father would give up on trying to raise them.

Claire (Julie Bowen, Boston Legal) was once the promiscuous party girl who learned how to break her father’s military like rules. Her own daughter, Haley, is now following in her footsteps with an older boyfriend and a teen angst attitude. Together with her infantile husband Phil (Ty Burrell, Back to You) Claire must now attempt to control her clan without turning into her father. Claire is the caregiver who still attempts to feel young. This family most resembles shows such as Still Standing, where the parents’ juvenile hijacks are what keeps the family interesting.

Mitchell (Jesse T. Ferguson, The Class) and his partner Cameron (Eric Stonestreet, C.S.I) have adopted a baby girl and are trying to force Jay to accept that their union is forever. The show is careful not to cross any lines with extreme physical affection between the two (rumors swirled that Brooke Smith aka Erica Hahn was asked to leave the show after viewers claimed her same-sex relationship on the show was too heated).

Manny is the step-son of Jay and the son of the beautiful Gloria (Sofia Vergara, Meet the Browns). Despite the age difference of his mother and step-father, Manny has accepted his new family structure. Jay often tries to instill masculine values in his young step-son but is yielding little results as Gloria fights him along the way.

Their parenting styles reflect a modern and antiquated approach. Jay’s old-school style asks Manny to integrate himself and to abandon his Columbian heritage and passion in favor of the general American disposition. Gloria’s new-age approach favors accepting Manny however he chooses to be. His eccentric behavior has ranged from a fearless approach with girls to playing folk music for his classmates.

All of the trials and tribulations of this modern family are paired with extremely funny dialogue. Stunts such as introducing a newly adopted baby as if she were Simba in The Lion King or using poisonous insects to make your boyfriend stop flirting with another woman, all lead to hilarious results.
Movie Review: Billy The Kid

By Storm Heitman

The camera focuses in on a young boy who resembles a stereotypical high school janitor. Pale, skinny, and awkward, he wears a sleeveless heavy metal band t-shirt and sports a tawdry hair style—a cross between a mullet and Steven Seagal’s pony tail. His eyes move around in an unnerving fashion; there is something so obviously strange about the kid. My initial response is to diagnose him with some condition, as if that would somehow help me to better understand. Is he schizophrenic? Could it be Asperger’s syndrome? And then he speaks, and I no longer need to know his condition, his words are enough to make sense of it all. “I know I’m unique, I don’t let it go to my head though... I’m not black, I’m not white, not foreign...just different in the mind, different brains, that’s all...”

His name is Billy, and he is the subject of Jennifer Venditti’s award winning documentary Billy The Kid. As a 15 year old growing up in the suburbs of Maine, he shares many characteristics with other teenage boys. His interests include martial arts, slasher films, and heavy metal. He wants to someday work at a radio station; he also wants to be an actor and a rock star. Yet several times throughout the film he reminds us unapologetically of his troubled past and behavioral issues—“I’m always at war with myself, not because of depression, but because of my past...” Watching Billy’s interactions with the people in his small town evoked a wide array of emotions within me. He has complete disregard towards any of the usual conversational boundaries. This confounding tendency to over share isolates him from his peers, making it painful to watch as he approaches a table full of bullies in the cafeteria and casually tells them about his meth junkie biological father and his domestic abuse charges—“that was the first and only time I’ve brandished a knife at someone, because I’m not stupid.”

However, Billy’s candor also provides deep heartwarming moments, such as in the intimate talks he shares with his mother, a mother so good to him, you want to reach out and hug her for the struggles she’s had to endure. There is a scene in which his mother describes the challenges of caring for Billy as a young child; she recalls a time that his temper tantrum was so volatile he actually broke her nose and gave her “raccoon eyes.”

It reminded me of an article I read in GQ a while back that told the story of a mother’s difficult decision in relinquishing the custodial rights to her child, who shared remarkable similarities to Billy, when he became physically violent. Vendetti discovered Billy at his school when she was casting extras in a short film, teachers warned her of his “emotional disabilities”, but she was never the less drawn to how articulate and self aware he was and a few months later she returned to film his portrait.

The documentary takes a fly-on-the-wall approach, known in French as “Cinema Verite,”—a style that combines naturalistic and stylized techniques with staged set-ups and the use of the camera to provoke subjects. This style of filmmaking is often provocative and Ms. Vendetti has been criticized by Variety’s John Anderson who accused her of exploiting Billie in a “freakshow aesthetic.”

However, after reading her defense in a NY Times article, I do not think any condescension exists in her film; I believe she has the upmost affection for Billy and even with the dark overtones, she succeeded in displaying his rather inspiring qualities. Regardless, the film is a fascinating and touching glimpse into the life of a teenage outsider, sure to bring one to tears.

This is the Renewed Rebellion

A Glimpse at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival

January 28, 2010 will herald the improved and expanded Sundance Film Festival dubbed the Sundance Film Festival U.S.A. Taking a leap from its usual Park City stomping grounds the festival will branch out across the nation. Eight Sundance filmmakers will show their work to the masses coinciding with their debut in Utah. Commentary and activities will follow, bringing one of the most well-known festivals to the average doorstep.

The North American premiere of The Shock Doctrine holds the greatest expectations for the festival’s fans. This socio-political documentary is based on the book of the same name by author Naomi Klein who asserts that capitalism relies on terror to gain control. The film comes from directors Michael Winterbottom and Mat Whitecross who worked together on A Mighty Heart (Angelina Jolie).

The online film guide released December 11, check it out at sundance.bside.com/

By Justine Mann
It's the most famous concert no one in our generation could attend and no one in our parents' generation can remember attending. The plan was basic enough, get the greatest musical acts of the baby boom generation together on one farm in New York and bring to life the living, thrashing creature that was the Hippie Generation.

By now most know it was a bit more complicated than that, with local objections, last minute venue changes and so many people attending that they gave up on selling tickets and just left the gates open.

Ask someone what Woodstock is and the answers today will vary.

'It’s where Jimi Hendrix played the ultimate rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.'

'It’s where Santana made his debut.'

'It’s where Peace and Love met.'

'It’s where Peace and Love delivered the infamous ‘Woodstock Baby’, the child of love that has never been confirmed.'

But is that really what Woodstock was about? A bunch of drug-addled hippies strumming guitars and making new friends? According to Elliot Tiber, the music was not the point. While Janis Joplin may have rocked harder that weekend than any other, it wasn’t about the music.

It was about family.

The message was first laid onto celluloid frames and shipped around the world by docu-director Michael Wadleigh (with famed Martin Scorsese editing, (imdb.com)). His footage of the concert formed the documentary Woodstock that won the 1970 Academy Award and is preserved by the Library of Congress as a historically significant source (Wikipedia).

Despite these credentials, it was another movie that caused a storm during the 40th anniversary of that epic weekend. Taking Woodstock, directed by Ang Lee (Brokeback Mountain) and based on the book by Elliot Tiber, gave modern viewers the chance to be up close and personal with someone close to the event. While Tiber wasn’t one of the members of Woodstock Inc. who put on the show, his autobiography puts him in the thick of the action.

Stuck in upstate New York and spending his life savings rebuilding his parent’s dream, Tiber (Demetri Martin) is desperate to escape. He needs the freedom of the Woodstock family.

The idea of the concert thrills Tiber who is all too happy to come to its rescue when he hears it’s in need of a new venue. Of course the added business to his parent’s inn, which is facing ruin, isn’t a bad secondary incentive. With the money he hopes to make from Woodstock he hoped to become his own man and leave New York. In the end he discovers he’s a part of a generation that can’t be held down. There are no restrictions. He’s free to be himself, a gay interior designer with an affection for acid.

The Woodstock Perspective says that everyone can be happy and in love. A modern Woodstock would consist of Emo-rock, anti-depressants and the unifying feeling that things could be better. The irony is that the current Millennial Generation, people born between 1985 – 1998 approx., is obsessed with the ideals of the Hippie Generation. The idea of living the life of a flower child appeals, so why not embrace it. How could the flower children bear such pessimistic spawn? Maybe it’s because everyone keeps saying that we live in apocalyptic times (buzz kill anyone?)

Or perhaps Millennials don’t appreciate Woodstock for what it truly was. The Hippie Generation built Woodstock as a chance for the unification of people with a purpose. Our own generation of Millennials seems to have turned these ideals into a tye-dye tee-shirt and Beatles tramp stamp fad, seeing only the greatest concert of all time and not the cause.

Or maybe we’re just looking for our own great, living creature to be a part of; the thing that binds us all; only something that we can process in our over-stimulated, post-YouTube world.

We’re not apathetic, we’re just ADD. I blame the internet and therefore I blame Al Gore. (If I learned anything from Woodstock, it’s always blame The Man.)
**A Serious Man**

The Coen Brothers’ new film could arguably be the end of an “existentialist trilogy.” Starting with the wonderful *No Country For Old Men* then the hilarious *Burn After Reading* and ending with their newest film about a 1960’s Jewish professor’s life falling apart. This is a deep film that tries to leave you thinking. While it isn’t always effective, the final scene is haunting. Be warned this is their most difficult and layered work since *Barton Fink*.

**Up In The Air** Dec. 25th

Jason Reitman’s follow up to Juno promises the same wonderful direction without the Diablo Cody dialogue. It stars George Clooney as Ryan Bingham, a businessman on the verge of reaching five million frequent flyer miles when his company decides to cut back on travel. This interferes with his budding romance with a fellow frequent flier played by Vera Farmiga (*The Departed)*.

**Invictus** Dec. 11th

Clint Eastwood’s new directorial project tells the inspiring true story of how Nelson Mandela joined forces with the captain of South Africa’s rugby team, Francois Pienaar (Matt Damon), to help unite their country. Morgan Freeman’s physical resemblance to Nelson Mandela brings the film home. With Eastwood at the helm it’s safe to assume this one will be a winner.

*Where The Wild Things Are*

Director Spike Jonze and writer Dave Eggers deliver an incredible adaptation of the classic children’s book *Where the Wild Things Are*. Max (Newcomer, *Max Records*) runs away from home after a fight with his family to the land of the Wild Things. There he deals with the giant monsters that all our emotions can become as we remember how it feels to be a child.
The holidays have arrived! Marist College becomes a second home to most students, so celebrating the holidays with your second family will create a fun new tradition for you and your friends. With these tips, suggestions, and recipes you’ll be able to plan a great new event to look forward to during your college years and beyond.

**Location, location, location!**
If you are going to host a party, you need a place for your guests to gather. Pick a place that is convenient for your guests. My friends and I spent most of our time in the Leo lounge during freshman year, so it was only natural for us to celebrate where we spent the most time. Just be courteous to other residents when invading a public place for a few hours. If you are an upperclassman, the debate might be over whose house is cleaner. No matter where you gather, just make sure you tell your invited guests where and when to meet, and let them know if they need to bring beverages or desserts.

**Decorate**
Putting up decorations for the holidays is almost as much fun as the party itself! Wrap your door with festive wrapping paper; one roll can cost as little as $0.80, depending on where you go to buy it. String colorful lights around your room and put them on at night instead of your desk lamp. Everyone loves these twinkling lights! If you have scrap printer paper from the first draft of your essay, take these recycled sheets and cut them up into snowflakes. Paper snowflakes look great in the windows, on bathroom mirrors, or hung from the ceiling. Speaking of things to hang from the ceiling, why not get a piece of mistletoe to strategically place above the door? That way you have an excuse to kiss your love interest. Garland can be wrapped around the handrail, or you can use red ribbons to replicate giant candy canes. Candy canes are perfect little ornaments that are both decorative and edible. Hang them from lights or garlands, and make sure you leave some out for guests to munch on! Complete your holiday party venues’ look with a small fake tree, wreath for the door, or if you are ambitious, make a fireplace out of construction paper! Hang stockings on the fireplace or sporadically around the room and fill them with candy or holiday cards.

**Entertainment**
Every party needs some sound for a cheerful atmosphere. Christmas music is generally the music of choice at this time of year, and luckily many radio stations have 24-hour holiday tunes from now until Christmas Day. Don’t have a radio? Turn the volume up on your computer and tune in to Pandora’s Christmas genre radio station. Turn the TV on to ABC Family’s “25 Days of Christmas” so guests can watch holiday specials while they wait for the fashionably late.

**Food and Drinks**
The best part of any holiday party is the food. Start things off with appetizers and snack foods. My chili dip is so good that if you are not on time for the party, there won’t be even the smallest bit of cream cheese left over. Chips, pretzels, pizza bagels, pigs-in-a-blanket, or other foods you can eat with your hands are easy to make.

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### Cynthia’s Easy Cheesy Chili Dip Recipe:
- 1 stick cream cheese
- 1 can Hormel Chili (no beans)
- 1 bag Mexican style shredded cheese

Spread entire cream cheese evenly on the bottom of a glass or ceramic cakepan. Open can of chili and spread evenly over the cream cheese layer. Sprinkle entire bag of shredded cheese over the chili layer. Put in oven for about 20 minutes at 400°, or until top layer of cheese is completely melted and starting to bubble. When taken out of the oven, let cool for a few minutes. Serve straight from the cakepan. Tortilla chips of the “scoop” variety are highly recommended to dig into all three layers of the dip.
and serve to your guests. Be prepared with a variety of beverages, from soda and water to apple cider and eggnog so that everyone can have a drink of their choice. If you plan to eat dinner while at the party, make it easy and order pizza or Chinese food. That way, you can focus all your energy before the party on baking cookies and other delectable desserts. Christmas cookies can be baked from scratch or you can buy dough from the refrigerated section of the grocery store. Add green and red sprinkles to plain cookies to make it match the holiday! Cupcakes and brownies are also a hit at holiday parties. Ask guests to bring a variety of desserts so that they can contribute to all the hard work you put into the party-planning. Don’t forget the milk!

**Merry-making**

If you’re willing to spend the money, buy a gift for all your guests! Realistically, you might not have enough money by this time in the semester to afford to get everyone a gift. There are a few solutions to this problem. One way to please everyone is to get all the guests something really small, such as candles and candies given out in goody bags. Another way to both entertain and include all of your guests is to have a grab bag, where each guest brings a wrapped present to the party and guests pick out a present at random. Watch out for the next one to pick, because they can steal your gift! Rules vary when it comes to grab bags, so make sure everyone is clear on the rules before you start, or else you’ll start a war!

A classic way to give gifts is the Secret Santa. Each person picks a name out of a hat and gets a gift for that person, without letting them know that you are the one who has them. Elfster is an online tool that draws your Secret Santa's name for you. On this website can make a wishlist, ask others anonymous questions, and keep the party organized by including information such as the spending limit for your exchange.

Before or after your gift exchange, you can keep your guests entertained by playing interactive games like Cranium, Sporele, Twister, or holiday trivia. If your group doesn't like games, watch classic holiday movies like the Muppet Christmas Carol or Elf. Make sure you take lots of pictures! One of my best memories from being at Marist is our annual holiday party, and I hope you have a great memorable time at your own!

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**Nestle Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe:**

1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened  
¾ cup sugar  
¼ cup brown sugar  
1 tsp. Vanilla extract  
2 large eggs  
2 ¼ cups flour  
1 tsp. Baking soda  
2 cups (12 oz. bag) chocolate chips

Combine flour, baking soda and salt in small bowl. Beat butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar and vanilla extract in large mixer bowl until creamy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake 9 to 11 minutes, or until golden brown, at 375°. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks.
10 Easy and Inexpensive Holiday Gifts

The Easily Made:

1. **Baked goods.** Everyone has a favorite holiday treat, be it peppermint bark, fudge, sugar cookies, or peanut brittle. Make up a batch of one of these favorites and wrap it up in holiday-themed baggies with ribbons. If you know someone who isn’t all about the sugary sweets, try a homemade Chex-mix recipe.

2. **A framed picture or photo album.** A picture of you and the other person is a meaningful present. It is a framed memory that they will keep forever. If you have more than one photo you wish to share, put together an album and decorate the cover.

3. **Holiday card.** Write a meaningful handwritten message in a hand-made or store-bought card. Making a card is cheap and easy - just buy thick construction paper and some nice stickers to dress it up. Write in neat handwriting, maybe in a silver or gold sharpie, and you have just created a beautiful holiday card.

4. **Ornament.** You can buy one or a package of round ornaments, and decorate them yourself with silver sharpie, or glue and glitter. If you want to be really creative - you can buy clear bulbs and put tinsel or decoration inside, or paint the outside.

5. **Homemade heat pack.** During the cold months that follow December, a little extra heat is always welcomed. Simply sewing together two rectangles of cotton cloth (old towels or washcloths work too) and filling it with uncooked rice, feed corn, or oatmeal and adding someone’s favorite scent can provide a pack that can be heated up in the microwave for about 4 minutes. It’s an easy gift that provides warmth and comfort.

And the Cheaply Bought:

1. **Guidebook.** Have a friend going abroad next semester? Give them some travel guide books specific for their country.

2. **Magazine subscriptions.** If you’re not sure what someone specifically wants as gift but know what their interests are, some magazine can be subscribed to at a low-cost.

3. **Nerf Guns.** Looking to pack a punch with your arsenal? You don’t need to buy the heavy duty Vulcan or Longshot. The simple 6-shot Maverick costs only $10 and brings all the firepower of the big dogs.

4. **Skin it... go to skinit.com, they’re like these decals you can put on your laptop and other electronics to make them pretty without harming them.

5. **Gift Cards or Certificates.** Sometimes they may seem like you didn’t put much thought into a gift but, like with a magazine subscription, you know a person’s interests, you can purchase a gift card to a place they like or to the movies and let them do the choosing.
Dressing for Your Body Type

By Courtney Savoia

You know when a trend starts and you secretly want to try it out but decide that it wouldn’t work on you? Well the truth is, you can try out whatever style you desire as long as you accentuate your body’s best features. Everybody has at least one killer asset, whether it’s your legs, shoulders, arms, stomach, or back that should be flaunted. There are ways to bring attention to these features, while minimizing those that you are not so fond of. Dressing to make yourself feel fabulous can be achieved no matter what size you are as long as you follow these simple rules for dressing for your body type.

For those with petite frames, certain clothing can give the illusion of height. For example, try a pair of skinny jeans in a dark-wash or bold color such as red, blue, or purple to show off your legs. Add a pair of chunky boots or pumps to add a few inches to your frame and make your whole body appear elongated. A few other options include adding volume to your hips and waist with a bubble skirt in a metallic color. The fullness will bring attention to the center of your body and your legs will seem like they go on for miles. The worst type of clothing for petite frames is baggy or oversize clothing such as cardigan sweaters, jeans, and blouses because they engulf your entire body. Adding bigger clothing looks sloppy and covers the features that can be accentuated such as your waist and upper body.

Being tall can be a blessing and a curse for a few reasons. Firstly, those who are tall can wear different types of clothing because they have strong legs that are suited for pants, skirts, and dresses. The trouble comes with pants and jeans that need to be longer in order to fit over their entire lower body that can be hard to find. The best options for those who are tall are cuffed jeans that hit above the ankle and exhibit parts of the leg. Pencil skirts are another great choice because they give the right amount of coverage while showing enough leg when paired with a tucked-in blouse for a classsy look. Pencil skirts that are embellished with sequins and rhinestones in bright colors such as silver, red, blue, and gold are perfect for dressing up this season. Sheer tights in black or nude and high heels will balance out your entire body instantly. These extra touches will not go unnoticed and will let your legs take center stage, giving you that supermodel look.

The perfect way to highlight a strapping upper body, especially the shoulders and back is wearing one-shoulder or tops with wide straps to attract the eye. Natural curves can be made beautiful with wide-leg jeans that hug your midsection and bring the focus to your legs. Tulip or bubble skirts are perfect for playing up your curves and adding height to your entire body. Adding a wide belt to a full skirt or flowy blouse is the perfect way to finish off your look and leaves you feeling glam! For a curvier body type, you don’t want to cover up parts of your body with oversize clothing but find ways to accentuate your curves with the right types of fabrics. It is best to avoid fabrics that are too bulky and contain too much of a pattern or design.

However the most important style rule is a no-brainer: Always remember to dress comfortably. You might think that those tight jeans or towering heels look hot, but if you have to adjust your clothing all night it’s not worth it. Comfort should never be sacrificed in order for you to look and feel good. Choosing outfits that adhere to your body’s natural shape and highlight your best features is essential to having the self-confidence to try out those daring trends and always feel sexy in your clothes!
The Fashion Industry is notorious for featuring emaciated models on both the runway and on the glossy pages of fashion magazines. Ralph Lauren is no exception. Famous model Filippa Hamilton has worked for the company for over seven years and was recently fired for being “too fat.” Meanwhile, the model 5’10,” 120 pounds is technically underweight. The model says, “they fired me because they said I was overweight and I couldn’t fit in their clothes anymore.”

Hamilton was shocked to find her head pasted like a bobble-head over another woman’s super-skinny physique in a Japanese ad for Ralph Lauren Blue Label. While critics felt that the ad looked sickly and unrealistic, Ralph Lauren stood behind their campaign. The brand claimed that Hamilton was unable “to meet the obligations of her contract.” Hamilton claims that the brand informed her agency that she could no longer fit into the sample garments, while the model has not gained any weight. It is likely that from the ages of 15 and 23, Filippa Hamilton’s body changed and yet she maintains an extremely thin and fit physique. Apparently not lean enough for Ralph Lauren.

Unfortunately, this is yet another unrealistic image for young women to admire. The act of firing the young model only further proves that “thin is in” and encourages common American women to indulge in unhealthy eating behaviors and dieting habits. At an attempt to counteract this issue among with several other impractical depictions of women, Glamour Magazine has recently featured almost-nude images of plus-sized model Lizzie Miller. Many other magazines are promoting dressing for your body type and self-esteem boosting exercises in order to increase awareness about the issue and inform adolescent viewers about “real” female bodies.

Thankfully, Hamilton recognizes her social responsibility as a public figure, especially in light of the fact that healthy models are a rarity in the industry. She says, “I think they owe American women an apology, a big apology … I’m very proud of what I look like, and I think a role model should look healthy.”
In The Words of The Late M.J., “It Don’t Matter If You’re Black or White”

Why French Vogue is in the Midst of a Racial Controversy

By Christine Urgola

French Vogue is no stranger to controversy. From racy editorial photo shoots and sharp-tongued writers, the publication advertises an unattainable image for women of all ages and cultural backgrounds. Most notorious for neglecting to feature women of color, French Vogue decided to strike out against these assertions by hiring photographer Stephen Klein to shoot legendary Dutch model Lara Stone in a 14-page spread for their most recent October issue. Stone is known for her glossy editorial fashion shoots with eccentric garments and poses, however, the latest has her clad in ethnic garb and smothered with dark brown makeup to emulate an African American woman. Painting white entertainers in “blackface” is an exercise that dates back to the 15th century. Comedic performers like Al Jolson were notorious for performing with grease or coalfaces in order to imitate black men. However, after great strides in ethnic and racial diversity have been made within the last few decades, racism is back on the proverbial ‘front page’ and has become an increasingly prevalent topic of discussion. Vogue has capitalized on this fact by featuring a faux woman of “color.”

It has been said that all publicity, good or bad, creates a buzz around a particular product, service or statement and therefore will enhance either the sales or awareness of such. The discrepancy between the European reaction and the American reaction to this portrayal is vast; Europeans fail to see the problem, while Americans are highly offended by the photo shoot. It is difficult to agree, that all publicity promotes good business. Many Americans feel that the editorial photo shoot was tactless and dehumanizing, while many Europeans are not disturbed by the images at all and fail to even perceive them unpleasant. I have a good friend abroad in Paris this semester, Madisen Walker, with whom I discussed the photo shoot. “From what I understand they were just trying to show the model’s versatility (which is one of the reasons I am not a fan of the shoot, the photos don't seem to even go together, but I'm not offended by the idea. This is one of the amazing things about French Vogue […] they actually have opinions after fashion shows oppose to just writing to please their advertisers.”

Even as a Caucasian woman who is normally quite liberal and open-minded about artistic work, I cannot help but to feel offended by Vogue’s editorial photoshoot choice for October. When I look at this, it is difficult to imagine, who would be a part of this feature and more importantly, why? Lara Stone claims that she simply has a “sense of humor,” and yet scores of women across the globe are not amused. It seems that the model fails to recognize her social responsibility as a public figure and responsibility as a worldwide representation of women. Furthermore, I do not even feel that Stone looks glamorous. Instead she appears sedated and docile, obedient enough to be a part of the shoot, but failing to provide any explanation for the “artistic” display. I suppose she doesn’t necessarily owe us one, but her responsibility to her fans should take precedent.

Publications and dignitaries alike, have an ethical liability to consider the receptors of this information as well as the possible backlash or consequences that might occur in light of what is presented. French Vogue not only relies on shock publicity, but also fails to recognize the repercussions of their actions. This could eventually be detrimental to their brand image, or rather, be the fundamental reason as to why they continue to thrive in print; American and Europeans alike continue to flip through its glossy pages and feast on its meaty words.
Bump-its: Hair Volumizing Inserts by Big Happie Hair

By Alana LaFlore

Big Happie Hair has recently developed a line of hair volumizing inserts called “Bump-its;” an arch shaped piece of plastic lined with dull spikes designed to give women Brigitte Bardot, Jane Fonda as Barbarella style hair.

Bump-its are sold in a pack of 3 for $9.99 (in store) and come in different colors to match your shade of hair. The 3 inserts range sizes, including small, medium and large. Psh, I gave my baby sized Bump-it away; those are for amateurs and I am no stranger to big hair. But if you are just starting out and only want something small, the baby Bump-it can act as a the hair’s version of a training bra.

I was lured in by the cheese-ball Bump-it infomercial, staring women with gargantuan pageant bouffants and phony smiles. Despite the ridiculous advertisement, I knew I needed to follow Big Happie Hair’s message by “bumping it up.” I have had great results with Bump-its. I naturally have a decent amount of volume in my hair, but creating the perfect pouf was still a challenge. Now I have fewer problems styling my hair, as the Bump-it allows me to have a more voluminous and better shaped bouffant.

Bump-its can be worn in virtually any way; the hair can be left up, down or a combination of the two. Application is easy—just part the hair, stick the piece on your head, then cover it up with a layer of hair and add hairspray. For fine textured hair, a little teasing may be required to make the Bump-it stay in place. Make sure that you cover the plastic piece with enough hair, or else it can show through. Bump-its can be worn every day or any occasion, although it is not recommended that you sleep with them in!

The downside to this miracle product? I’m abroad in London at the moment and living space is limited. We have been given bunk beds, and my fear of falling has landed me the coveted bottom bunk. However, when I sit up in it, the Bump-it makes my hair so big it hits the mattress of the top bunk. But it’s not that serious, I can live with it.

Pulling your hair back tightly against your head is very unforgiving and can make round faces look even more circular. A nice sized pouf can flatter all face shapes and according to the gospel of Fran Dresher aka “The Nanny,” it can even balance out big hips. Just one of the many reasons to have big hair! Yes, I know I sound like a bit of a fiend, but I promise the Bump-it is an amazing product if you like a bit of volume in your hair.

We all look back at pictures of our mothers from the eighties and laugh at their huge hair and feathered bangs. Will I regret bumping it up one day? Maybe, but I won’t let that keep me from doing what I want right now. As far as I’m concerned, bigger is better...for hair that is.

STUDENT CREATIVITY REFLECTED AT FASHIONOLOGY

By Rachel Forlifer

As a fashion merchandising major, I have had the opportunity to work at Fashionology here at Marist. For those of you who do not know, Fashionology is behind the big crowd of women you see at the fashion plaza in Donnelly on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is a boutique run by students in the Fashionology: Retail Entrepreneurship class, which gives them hands-on experience in retail.

When working at Fashionology, I am tempted to buy almost everything on sale. The hour I spend there is extremely dangerous for my Marist Money. I can clearly imagine myself being swathed in a scarf walking to class, while wearing a necklace, sunglasses, and earrings, all from Fashionology. But the most creative and fun items there aren’t those bought by the class on their trips to New York. It’s the items made by students here at Marist.

The student designs sold at Fashionology were chosen at an open call in September. The items range from headbands to scarves and all are hand-made. Some of the items are vintage looking, while others have a whimsical feel.

I was immediately drawn to all of the intricately crafted pieces. They were nothing like the accessories you would find in stores. I began to wonder about the people behind the designs. How long have they been designing? What inspires them? Are they going to continue creating their designs after college?

I pursued my curiosity and asked these and more questions of four student designers.

Ari Munzer is Fashion Merchandising major from North Haven, Connecticut. She started creating her line of jewelry, Grindhouse Street Fashions, after she couldn’t find jewelry in stores that she liked. Thus, she said, “After I’d gotten positive responses from others, I decided to start trying to sell my designs.” Her pieces are inspired by vintage fashions and movies, which is where her line gets its name.

She explained: “I’m very influenced by the actresses and costumes in grind house horror films.” Her design process is a grad-
After looking through her materials and putting them together “bit by bit”, she often takes pieces apart multiple times before she is happy with them. Even though this is her last year at Marist, you can look forward to more designs by Ari in the future, as she hopes to continue doing this for a career.

Instead of making jewelry, Gabrielle Conte decided to create headbands for Fashionology. “I love to make jewelry,” she said, “but I thought that a lot of other people would be making that, so I thought of headbands.” Currently, her line is called Gabrielle Conte designs, but she is looking for something catchier and more unique.

Gabrielle is also a Fashion Merchandising major from Connecticut. Her headbands are embellished with patterns of beads and jewels. For those who want to sell their designs at Fashionology she says, “You don’t have to be a fashion major to be a part of Fashionology.”

The next student designer takes Gabrielle’s advice to heart. Amy Ciaramella is a business major, who has been creating jewelry since she was in the 8th grade. She says, “I’ve always been an entrepreneur, and I’m really creative, so it was the perfect thing to keep me occupied.” Her inspiration is nature and movies. She has an unusual design process; her ideas come to her in class, thus her notes are sometimes “illegible”.

Katie Topalian also makes jewelry, but there is something different about her rings and earrings. “I’m a recycling nerd, and I love green fashion”, she said. One of her favorite designers is Stella McCartney, who is also eco-friendly.

Katie’s line is called Posh Poche, after her nickname Katie Pocket (poche is French for pocket). The roses she uses in her designs are made out of polymer clay, which she “hand-sculpts” then “cures in the oven”. After that, she explains, “I glaze each rose with multiple coats of varnish until it shines.” She has been using this clay since she was young.

Her advice for those who want to start designing: “Learn as much as you can about the craft you are interested in, and don’t be afraid to experiment and make mistakes.”

So now I know the story behind the gorgeous student made accessories at Fashionology. At least when I start feeling guilty for spending too much money at Fashionology, I will know I am helping to pay for someone’s college loans.
Top 10 Albums of 2009
(According to Marist Students)

By Nicholas Palumbo

10. Passion Pit – Manners
Passion Pit’s debut LP certainly was a not-so-unexpected surprise. Virtually undiscovered when founded in 2007, the band quickly rose to stardom when BBC, CMJ and Pitchfork predicted the band’s success as early as 2008. The electro-pop five-some has opened for some high quality acts such as The Killers, Franz Ferdinand and Girl Talk and will be heading out on a headlining tour in 2010.
Recommended Tracks – “Sleepyhead,” “Let Your Love Grow Tall,” “Eyes As Candles”

9. Silversun Pickups – Swoon
Before Swoon was released, Brian Aubert (vocals, guitar) had this to say about the album: “Some songs are very quiet and delicate, others are just fucking loud.” Keeping to his word, Swoon instantly became a fan favorite, debuting on the Billboard charts at #7. “Panic Switch” continues to be played on the radio and the clever video for “Substitution” (hint: sexy musical chairs) has been added to the MTV rotation.
Recommended Tracks – “Growing Old Is Getting Old,” “Substitution,” “Panic Switch”

8. Muse – The Resistance
Muse’s self-produced album has become one of the biggest debates among music critics. While some critics downplay the album, other critics have considered Matthew Bellamy (vocals, piano, guitar) to be the Freddy Mercury of this generation. The album’s highlight is the classically inspired Exogenesis series.
Recommended Tracks – “I Belong To You (Mon Coeur S’Ourve A Ta Voix),” “Exogenesis (Parts I-III),” “Undisclosed Desires”

7. Jay-Z – Blueprint 3
Years after “retiring,” Jay-Z released Blueprint 3, a widely accepted album among critics. The album features popular artists such as Kid Cudi, Pharrell Williams, Drake and a plethora of others. For those who slept through the World Series, “Empire State of Mind” became an anthem for Yankees fans everywhere. If only I had a dollar for every time I heard that song…
Recommended Tracks - “Run This Town (feat. Rihanna and Kanye West),” “On To The Next One (feat. Swizz Beatz),” “Empire State of Mind (feat. Alicia Keys)”
6. Grizzly Bear – Veckatimest
Grizzlies are best known for their majestic grace and beauty in nature. The indie-folk band named after these wild animals channels that grace and beauty into Veckatimest. The most notable feature of this album is the beautiful use of unison vocals and various forms of different percussion; both have become less popular over the years.
Recommended Tracks – “Two Weeks,” “Southern Point,” “Fine For Now”

5. Yeah Yeah Yeahs – It’s Blitz!
The hype surrounding It’s Blitz! was so great that Interscope Records released the gem a month early to keep up with demand. The masterminds behind “Maps” hit it big with the danceable singles “Zero” and “Heads Will Roll.” Karen O’s vocal talent and Nick Zinner’s catchy synth hooks made for a promising release.
Recommended Tracks – “Heads Will Roll,” “Soft Shock,” “Dragon Queen”

4. Matt & Kim – Grand
Lately, when I think of Bacardi, I think Matt & Kim. The fun-loving duo started their shot at musical stardom back in 2004, where they played loft and basement shows for Brooklyn locals. The band hit great gigs, such as headlining Siren Festival in 2007 and an opening spot on 2008’s Against Me! tour. This small band packs quite a punch with its up-tempo keyboard and drum songs.
Recommended Tracks - “Don’t Slow Down,” “Daylight,” “I Wanna”

3. The Lonely Island – Incredibad
Saturday Night Live’s Digital Shorts have become some of the funniest material that has been put on SNL since the days of Will Ferrell and Tina Fey. Now, imagine an album of the funniest SNL Digital Shorts and you have Incredibad. Featuring the viral “Jizz In My Pants” and “I’m On A Boat,” The Lonely Island album is safely the best comedy album released this year.

2. Animal Collective – Merriweather Post Pavilion
Before being released, critics were calling Animal Collective’s eighth studio album “Best of 2009” (Uncut Magazine, Fact Magazine). Marist students considered highly of the album, voting David Porter, Noah Lennox, Brian Weitz and Josh Dibb at number 2. Simply put, Merriweather is psychedelic-pop at its finest.
Recommended Tracks – “My Girls,” “Bluish,” “Taste”

1. Phoenix – Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix
Every so often, a debut album comes along from a band that changes the face of music. Besides having the most creative album name of the year, Phoenix’s singles, “Lisztomania” and “1901” have encountered some of the most positive press I’ve seen in a while and have been used in countless numbers of remixes. If you have to buy one album this year, make it this one. Also, check out Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix Remixed, featuring remixes by Passion Pit, Animal Collective and Yacht.
Recommended Tracks – “1901,” “Lasso,” “Rome”
On August 17, 1969, The Band took the stage at Woodstock Festival in Bethel, NY. The Band, best known for their hit singles "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down" and "The Weight", was considered one of the greatest classic rock/country/folk artists of the time. Levon Helm, the drumming prodigy of the group, became one of the most well-known drummers of the era. When The Band broke up years later, Levon Helm continued his musical career as a solo artist.

More than forty years later, November 21, 2009, I made the small trek up to Woodstock to see Levon Helm perform with The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and Eric Church, two musical artists that are personal friends of the Grammy Award winning solo artist. The three groups of talented musicians performed in Levon Helm Studios (Helm’s house/recording studio) in front of a small crowd of die-hard fans. In addition to witnessing Levon Helm and Co. live, I also had the great honor of meeting the legend after the performance. I have never met a musician as talented and charismatic as Levon Helm.

This event was part of a concert series called “Midnight Ramble Sessions.” On several weekends each year, Levon scrapes the large crowds and large arenas and plays intimate concerts from his home.

Midnight Ramble

In the mid-1990s, Levon Helm was unfortunately diagnosed with cancer of the larynx. He underwent radiation treatment. While the treatments completely removed all signs of the cancer, it left Levon deep in debt. Levon opened his house/studio (Levon Helm Studios) to the public and began to organize intimate shows for his closest fans. The shows were quickly deemed “The Midnight Ramble,” named because the concerts would continue well past midnight.

Nine years later, Levon Helm is cancer-free and has performed over 300 Midnight Ramble shows. He has performed with good friends Elvis Costello, Steely Dan, Elvis Perkins in Dearland and many others. Tickets for the Levon Helm Midnight Ramble Sessions can be found online at http://www.levonhelm.com/.

Levon Helm Studios

Levon Helm Studios, tucked away in the hills and valleys of Woodstock, NY, is a treasure trove of musical history and culture. The private basement is filled with personal memorabilia that highlight the vast and colorful history of Levon Helm and his many musical projects. News articles dating back from the early 1970s successfully predicting his greatness litter the walls. Alongside them hang various photographs of Levon with bandmates from over the years.

The performance area upstairs is a modestly eloquent room with direct viewing areas of the performers from all areas, including the two lofts that overlook the performers on the floor. “The Barn” (as the studio has been called) is just that; an intimate cabin setting for intimate performances.
In addition to being an architectural masterpiece, the design of the performance area naturally amplifies acoustics in a way that is just not possible in arenas and stadiums. To further enhance the audio acoustics, Levon and Co. invested thousands in speakers, microphones and other technology.

**Ramble on the Road**

Levon Helm and the rest of his band are taking their intimate performances on the road in early 2010 and will be playing a series of larger venues. The ticket prices are less expensive than the Midnight Ramble performances and make a perfect gift for any Woodstock music fan.

On January 7, the group will play Terminal 5 in Manhattan. The very next day, the band will play the Tarrytown Music Hall.

The Ramble will roll on into New Jersey for one weekend in February. On Friday, February 26, the Levon Helm band will play The Wellmont Theatre in Montclair. The very next night, the group will head farther south to play Harrah’s Casino in Atlantic City. Tickets for these four shows can be found on Ticketmaster.com and Ticketmaster retailers.

Midnight Ramble Sessions at The Levon Helm Studio is located at 160 Plochmann Lane in Woodstock, NY. Questions and comments concerning Midnight Ramble and the studio will be addressed at (845) 679 2744.

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**Review: Electric Dirt**

Levon Helm’s seventh studio album continues to blend bluegrass, country, folk and several other genres to create one of the most well thought-out albums of the year. While other artists are crossing the bridge from country to pop (or walking the fine line between the two genres), Levon writes old-timey country-folk music that tells stories of better times and hard struggles. The most notable feature of the album is the crooning, powerful vocals of his daughter, Amy.

I recommend this album for any fan of Levon’s earlier work or recordings by other great folk artists such as Johnny Cash, Bob Dylan and The Felice Brothers.

**Recommended Tracks:**

“Tennessee Jed,” “Growing Trade,” “When I Go Away”
This year at Marist, hundreds of students and staff showed up for the four flu shot clinics on campus. As always, the seasonal flu vaccine was available, but this year the H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine was made available as well. Marist was one of the first colleges to receive shipments of the H1N1 vaccine.

Some who received the swine flu shot think that they are now fully protected. However, this is not completely accurate. The following are some misconceptions about the swine flu and the swine flu vaccine.

**Myth:** Once you get the vaccine, you are completely protected and immune.

**Truth:** Swine flu and seasonal flu vaccines make you less susceptible to the illness, but there is no 100 percent guarantee that you will not get sick. People who got the flu shot last year still got sick; the same thing could happen with swine flu. Also, people may think that if they had swine flu, they are immune for life. This is also false. An article on newscientist.com entitled “Swine flu: eight myths that could endanger your life,” says that in the future “a variant that can beat the immunity will replace the current strain.”

**Myth:** If you get the swine flu vaccine, you will end up like that cheerleader.

**Truth:** What happened to that cheerleader, whose name is Desiree Jennings, was a one-in-a-million chance, caused by the seasonal flu vaccine. You can go to her website, [www.desireejennings.com](http://www.desireejennings.com), to read the real story of what happened to her. Also, if you will notice, no other cases of that nature have been reported.

**Myth:** Only people at high risk will get the swine flu.

**Truth:** Yes, people at high risk (people with preexisting respiratory diseases, obesity, and cardiovascular diseases, to name a few) are more likely to catch the swine flu, according to newscientist.com. But healthy people can catch it, as well, especially since everyone’s immune systems are weakened at this time of year.

**Myth:** Swine flu is like regular flu, but with a higher fever. If I don’t have a fever, I’m fine.

**Truth:** These things are good, and you should always be doing these things to stay healthy. However, the best bet is to get immunized. The vaccine gives you a dead virus of the illness, so it will not make you sick, but your body will recognize it and be more prepared to fight off the live virus if you catch it.

**Myth:** Taking extra care to eat healthy, wash my hands, and take vitamins is enough.

**Truth:** Swine flu is like regular flu, but with a higher fever. If I don’t have a fever, I’m fine.

**Myth:** Swine flu is like regular flu, but with a higher fever. If I don’t have a fever, I’m fine.

Based on these myths, many people are either too obsessively cautious or too lax with their caution. Neither is good, but if you must, be the former. Do not be the person who thinks, “It won’t happen to me.” Better safe than sorry.
One of the hardest things about going away to college, at least for me, was leaving all of my pets behind. If you’ve constantly been around animals and your pets for your whole life, not seeing them for months is worse than not seeing your family. There’s no dog with a wagging tail waiting to greet you when you get back from class or if you’re a cat person, no cat to curl up with you while you do your reading assignments.

If you’re a real animal lover, it’s a hard void to fill and the pet shop at the Poughkeepsie Galleria doesn’t quite cure your fix for a furry companion. So when the campus squirrels start looking good, you know you have a problem, despite their friendliness.

What many people on campus are unaware of, however, is that there is an opportunity really close to Marist that enables students to both help out in the community and play with cats and dogs! The Dutchess County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is simply a five-minute drive from the school and is always looking for new and enthusiastic volunteers.

I took my first visit to the DCSPCA with Marist College’s own club, Fox P.A.W. (People for Animal Welfare), whose sole purpose is to teach compassionate and humane living. We went to the shelter for their Tuesday volunteer-training session on the 17th of November and thanks to the posters all over campus, we packed the shelter full with all of the students who attended.

From there, the staff was very helpful in telling us what our time helping out would entail and telling us about the proper care of the animals and etiquette that should be exercised while present at the shelter.

The shelter is pretty small for the amount of animals that are brought in weekly, but those who work there try very hard to find good homes for all of these furry friends. Central to the mission of the DCSPCA is the securing of caring, responsible, permanent homes for the adoptable animals in its care.

One of the most admirable things about the DCSPCA is that they are a “no-kill shelter”; some cats and dogs have been there over three years! But since there is no euthanizing of the animals (unless it’s for the best) the cages get crowded and those helping run the shelter have a lot on their plate. That’s where we come in as volunteers!

Being a volunteer doesn’t just call for walking dogs, or petting cats. They need help with everything from washing bowls to feeding the animals, from laundry helpers to office helpers. The simplest gestures are appreciated by these hard-working individuals who are driven by their love for animals and the desire to see them flourish and go off to good homes.

The first shelter was built in 1941; it was only big enough to house about 30 dogs. In the passing years, constant additions have been made in an attempt to make the building bigger and able to house more animals.

By 1958, it was very clear that the premises were entirely too small and through many charitable events, fundraisers, and donations, the DCSPCA purchased 31 acres of land in Hyde Park, where the shelter still remains. Even though the shelter has added outdoor kennels, a holding room and a sunroom for cats, the DCSPCA faces problems: lack of funding, too many animals and inadequate facilities.

The most exciting thing in the lives of those concerned with animals is that the Dutchess County SPCA is building a brand new adoption and education center in a project titled: ‘Campaign for Hope.’ The project was proposed in 2006 and thanks to many fundraisers and donations; they have raised two thirds of the money needed to complete this venture.

Donations are always welcome and if you wish to help out with this awesome opportunity, visit the DCSPCA’s website: www.dcspca.org and click on ‘Campaign for Hope’ to learn more. If you wish to help out at the shelter as a volunteer, contact information is also available on the website and they are always looking for people to help out.

The shelter is open every day, except for Wednesday, 11:30 AM until 4:30 PM. Hours are extended on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 AM until 7 PM. Do your part to help out in the community AND get a chance to make a difference in an animal’s life today.
**BEATING THE WINTER BREAK BLUES**

By Jennifer Sommer

Winter break is right around the corner and I am sure you are excited to ditch all the homework, cafeteria food, communal showers, and the other not so wonderful things about college life. The first two weeks will be glorious, but soon you’ll be wondering what was so great about being home and boredom will officially set in.

In order to avoid wasting all the time you have over winter break you could get a job, spend time with family, catch up on sleep, take a class you need to graduate, or hang out with high school friends. If none of those strike a chord with you, why not try something a little different this winter break?

1. **Intern.** Internships are usually thought to be offered only over a semester or summer, but there are plenty of places that will let you intern over winter break. Ask around at your neighborhood companies such as your local newspaper or go online and find internships. Did you know that the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC has a winter break internship program? Neither did I.

2. **Learn How to Play a Musical Instrument.** Is there an instrument that you’ve always wanted to learn how to play, or do you want to improve your beginner level skills? Then use the time over winter break to really practice. Buy some how-to booklets or if you’re willing to splurge; pay for lessons.

3. **Plan a Road Trip.** All you need is some time, a car, friends, and music to have a good time. Suggestions of places to go: an amusement park, the Rock N’ Roll hall of fame, visit college friends, or even Montreal for the truly adventurous.

4. **Snuggle Up for a Movie Marathon.** Spend a day watching all the Harry Potters, Godfathers, Lord of the Rings, Christmas movies, or any series back to back. What’s better than staying in your pajamas all day and eating junk food? I think nothing.

5. **Redecorate Your Room.** After spending so much time at college, your room at home may seem drab in comparison, so why not make it into a place you’ll love to come home to. It could be as simple as buying a new bed spread and some posters or painting the walls a new color. Be creative.

6. **Plan a College Reunion.** By midway through winter break you’ll really be missing all your college friends, so plan a reunion. Pick a central location like New York City and spend a day together or meet up at someone’s house and spend a whole weekend catching up.

7. **Take an Elective Class.** Sign up to take something you’ve always wanted to like dance, art, or photography.

8. **Volunteer.** Spend some time at your local retirement home, soup kitchen, or animal shelter. You’ll get to meet new people in your area and give back to the community at the same time.

9. **Rediscover Your Hometown.** Everyone claims their hometown is unbelievably boring, but if you really take the time to look around, you might be able to find some pretty cool things. So explore; since I left for college I’ve learned that I can find some awesome coffee shops, an open mic night that’s held in an old carriage house, swing dancing, a hookah bar, and a weekly midnight showing of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, all an hour or less away for my small hometown. So take a look around, what you find might surprise you.

10. **Start Your New Year’s Resolution Early.** One of the reasons New Year’s resolutions usually get broken is because we declare them right before we all go back off to school or work. In order to break this trend, why not start early when you actually have the time to see it through. Most studies say it takes about 21 to 30 days to make or break a habit. So use your free time to do so.
NEW IDEAS FOR THE NEW YEAR

By Laura Formanek

The New Year signifies an awakening, a time of new beginnings and revived determination, a chance to start over and push ourselves to focus harder. But these steps to becoming a better person with a stronger work ethic do not begin until New Year’s Day, allowing us to relish in our bad habits and old ways during one last hoorah on New Year’s Eve. While the New Year represents who we want to become, New Year’s Eve represents who we were and what we accomplished (or didn’t), but either way, this night gives us a reason to celebrate the future and bid farewell to the past.

On this hyped up holiday-eve, we gather with our friends or family to sip (or guzzle) champagne and watch Dick Clark’s Rockin’ New Year’s Eve counting down the minutes to the New Year. New Year’s Eve begs us to party and we happily comply. But what happens when the raging New Year’s Eve party doesn’t exist, when sipping champagne and watching television don’t suffice for the spectacular occasion? In that case, we take matters into our own hands to create a fun and memorable night. Here are some entertaining ideas for your New Year’s Eve.

Do Something you’ve Never Done Before!

We all have those lists—the ones filled with things you’ve always wanted to do—and now is the time to cross something off of it. Accomplishing one of your ambitions is a great way to ring in the New Year. However, don’t feel like you have to climb Mount Everest or run a marathon on New Year’s Eve. These tasks can include simple activities like trying a new type of food, learning to drive a stick-shift car, writing a song, or even learning how to ski. Your achievement will leave you with a sense of accomplishment as you enter into the New Year, and may even inspire you to finish other activities you’ve always wanted to do.

Make Use of those Old Magazines!

If you happen to have old issues of Cosmopolitan, Glamour, or other magazines lying around, here’s a chance to get creative. Whether you ended up by yourself or with a few friends for a quiet New Year’s Eve, this little craft will keep you busy: make a collage using cutouts from magazines (or any other artistic medium) to sum up your year. First, find a colorful piece of construction paper or any type of paper to serve as the base. Using magazine cut-outs or your own funky handwriting, write “2009” in the middle of this base. Then, flip through the old magazines and cut out quirky sayings or pictures that characterize your past year. Include words or phrases that reflect your achievements and success. Find pictures or sayings that describe the fun things you did, the friends you made, the inside jokes you shared. Make it anything you want! When you’re finished, you’ll have a customized art piece summarizing 2009, a scrapbook that you can use to look back and reflect on your year.

Watch the Sun Set and Rise!

Sunsets represent the end, while sunrises represent the beginning; watching both the sunset on New Year’s Eve and the sunrise on New Year’s Day epitomizes this cycle of new beginnings. On New Year’s Eve late afternoon, reconnect with nature and your friends by finding a clear location to watch the sunset. While the sun sets, take a moment to reflect on the past year: accomplishments and goals, things you wish you did, or things you could have done better. Make peace with yourself if you didn’t achieve everything you hoped to because the sun will rise and there will be a new year to work harder and complete your goals. Watch the New Year’s Eve sunset—the end of a chapter in your life—with a sense of gratification and serenity, and then after you ring in the New Year at midnight, venture back outside to watch the New Year’s Day sunrise—the beginning of a new chapter in your life. Bring some champagne to celebrate this fresh start, and as you watch this sunrise, remember the opportunities and possibilities to come.
If you’re not planning on studying abroad, making the trek down the fourth floor of the Midrise hallway may be the next best thing. Jessica Cruz and Ashley Flye, two Midrise residents with a passion for travel and diversity have decorated their room with a multicultural theme that encompasses artwork, photographs and three-dimensional memorabilia from countries all over the world. Jess says the room represents places the two have been or would like to visit.

The inspiration for this room is not only a reflection of the roommates’ love to travel, but also incorporates some other aspects of their personalities. Jess is a global studies minor and says the layout is very organized, just like her.

She also believes the room is a constant reminder to be aware about other world cultures. “I don’t want to forget that America isn’t the only country, even though I live here,” she says. She certainly accomplished this when designing the room, because visitors may feel like they have actually embarked on an international journey.

Anyone walking into the room, whether it is her first or fifteenth visit to this diverse dormitory, can immediately notice something eye-catching and unique, atypical to the average decorations in an American college student’s room.

Ashley says, “our room is like stepping from average to awesome,” proudly describing her vibrant dwelling. An enormous map of the world is the center of the room, the fundamental idea of the multicultural theme, but there are also many individual pieces from all different nations.

Posters of the Eifel Tower in France, the Pyramids in Egypt, a landscape in Japan, and the Great Wall in China line the wall above the residents’ beds. Two decorations in the room come from India and bear a special meaning. A handmade blanket and a figure of a bird come from the World Fair Trade Store, an organization that guarantees those like the artisans from India a fair salary.

Many things in the room also come from New York City’s China Town, such as a Buddha statue, paper fans and globes, and a wind chime made from Chinese currency. The room also represents Chinese culture with a bamboo plant. A picture from the Middle Eastern couple on the wall tells the story of an Arab love poem.

A shelf against the wall holds the Russian Matryoska dolls, which consist of dolls of different sizes that fit inside one another. The room even represents Native American heritage with a dream catcher and an embroidered painting.

Perhaps the most significant objects in the room are the decorations from South Africa. They are very dear to Jess, who visited this nation with a Marist Spring attachment program last summer. A collection of African masks originally from Ghana and Mozambique represent power and strength, while another set of masks portray male and female faces of a Zulu couple.

There are also a couple paintings made by South African artists and a decorative shield. For Jess, however, these things are more than just decorations, but a reminder of the place she visited and the people she met who made a lasting impact on her life.

The cultural livelihood of this room will not be around much longer, as next semester this pair of roommates is headed for the University of Indianapolis in Athens, Greece.

‘Their room represents a preview of their travels yet to come. Next year, expect an even more exciting room or house as Jess and Ashley’s collection continues to grow along with their appreciation for the world around them.'