Marist breezes through online add/drop

By STACEY L. OASWELL
Copy Editor

Students passing by the Registrar’s office during add/drop this week noticed something unusual: a lack of waiting lines.

Due to a joint effort between the offices of the Registrar, Information Technology and the Assistant Academic Vice President, Marist unveiled a new way of processing add/drop through the Internet.

According to John Ritschdorff, assistant academic vice president, creating a system where students could perform add/drop online has not been easy. Three years in the making, the project initiated after the Office of Academic Affairs and IT were able to attain specific software to create the necessary program for the add/drop procedure. A year after that, the three offices worked together to devise policies to make the add/drop pilot program available to students this December.

Judy Ivanikov, the Marist College registrar, said that while the idea was not given significant importance at first, it took precedence once everyone realized its importance and the power it possessed to eliminate lines of frustrated students.

“We talked to a lot of other schools and visited other schools to see the gears, the bugs and the uglies,” she said. “We modified a little bit.”

Forms and reminders were sent via email and Marist mailboxes to inform students of the change, and gave directions on how to access the new system. Starting Dec. 1 at 8 a.m., students were able to log on to the system to change their courses. They maintained continued access until Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. when the system automatically stopped accepting schedule changes.

Slipping and sliding in a winter wonderland

Blizzard entices campus outdoors

A winter storm warning was announced for Dec. 5 and 6 in Eastern New York and Western New England and delivered with the first blizzard of the year.

The storm brought as much as two and a half feet of snow to New York, while temperatures dropped down to the twenties and teens. When snow began to fall late Friday evening, some students did not waste any time before they were bundled up and playing outdoors.

“My roommates and I played football in the snow outside of our apartment. My team won,” said sophomore Mike Curran.

Others decided not to brave the weather and spent their time doing homework or relaxing.

“I wasn’t out in the snow much, but my friends went sledding on trash bags,” said senior Elizabeth Ketterer. Senior Stephanie Sreka spent most of her time indoors as well.

“Some of my roommates dug out their cars after the snow storm was pretty much over, but we mostly stayed inside and stayed warm,” said Sreka. Sophomore Katherine Pointe, who had planned on driving conditions proved too dangerous for many students, as experienced by Circle editors on the Hutchinson Parkway. Driving home Friday afternoon, had to change her plans because of bad driving conditions.

“I was afraid that I’d get stuck in the middle of the storm, so I ended up staying at school,” said Pointe.

— Staff Reports

Evaluation forms give students say in future classes

By TARA MRRILL
Assistant Managing Editor

As the fall semester wraps up, students are becoming acquainted, or reacquainted, with the student evaluation form.

These forms have been a staple of the deans and faculty members to obtain crucial student feedback for many years.

This form’s second section includes numerous Scantron questions, such as how often the professor is prepared for class.

Since the forms are completely anonymous, and professors step out of the room while students fill them out, students are encouraged to be entirely honest when evaluating both the professor and the course.

After the forms have been completed, a student volunteer has to deliver the envelope of evaluations to the designated office. This ensures that the professor does not review the forms after they have been filled out.

According to Michelle Stokes, administrative secretary of the School of Communication, the results are compiled into two parts.

“The data is arranged into school summaries as well as individual instructor summaries. Then, the results are sent out to the deans of the departments, who must keep the information on file for six years,” said Stokes. “After the grace period is over, the professors are allowed to go to the dean of their department and review their individual results. They aren’t allowed to look at the results until then, just in case a professor recognized a student’s handwriting and wanted to change their grade based on the feedback they had said.”

Stokes also explained that full-time faculty members do not have the course they want evaluated. However, adjuncts are required to have all the courses they teach evaluated by students.

Although Stokes claims the evaluations can be extremely useful tools for both faculty and students alike, she believes sometimes students do not pay much attention to the forms.

“We think of them as extremely useful tools for both faculty and students alike. We believe sometimes students do not pay much attention to the forms.”

A capella groups, HuMarists join forces to raise Lupus awareness on campus

By BRIAN MANGAN
Circle Contributor

For the second straight year, the Cabaret played host to the comedic stylings of the Humorous and the melodic sounds of Marist’s a cappella groups in a collective effort to raise money for Lupus Research.

According to “The Lupus Site” (uklupus.co.uk), Lupus is an autoimmune disease that can affect virtually any system in the body. Think of it as a ‘self-attack’ where the body attacks its own cells and tissues, causing sufferers...
11/29 — An officer saw two students climb over the fence in back of Talmadge around 9:25 a.m. The students scrambled over, but the fence was not so lucky. It received minor damage to its picket. I interviewed the students the next day, and asked why they chose to hurdle the fence instead of walking its picket. I interviewed the students that were not so lucky. It received minor damage to its picket. I interviewed the students the next day, and asked why they chose to climb over the fence in back of Talmadge. The student's bathroom was shut down because reportedly one of the stalls was over flowing. It was investigated whether these incidents are related.

Alcohol related incidents this week

Leo — 3
Champagnat — 1

Alcohol related incidents by dorm total

Gartland — 10
Champagnat — 10
Leo — 9
Sheahan — 5
Upper West Cedar — 4
Midrise — 3
Old Townhouses — 2
Marian — 1

12/1 — The new month was kicked off with a fire alarm incident in Garland F-Block. At 1:30 p.m. Fairview had to come to clear the smoke of an over heated fryer pan. Overheating a fryer pan is worst! Now it's almost impossible to bite into.

12/2 — An Abercrombie and Fitch jacket was reported stolen out of the Donnelly computer lab by 3:30 p.m. Tuesday. The student left the lab at 9:15 a.m. and found that she could have gone for those 45 minutes. She couldn't have left the building, because she would have needed her jacket which means she stayed in Donnelly, and planned on returning shortly. Then strangely, at 9:30 a.m. the gym's bathroom was shut down because reportedly one of the stalls was overflowing. It was investigated whether these incidents are related.

12/4 — One Champagnat student took it into his own hands to even up the race with Garland this Thursday. Realizing that they were running out of time, he began to drink heavily early Thursday morning. Thinking that he had enough, he instructed his roommate to call the RA and tell her he was sick. She came in at 5:18 a.m. and found that the student's sickness obviously come from alcohol. She wrote him up, but deemed he did not have to go to St. Francis. Good work, guys. Your plan worked perfectly.

Upcoming campus events

Friday, Dec. 12
“A Christmas Carol” performed by Marist Faculty
7 p.m.
Nelly Golette Theatre

Friday, Dec. 12
English Capping Final Project
“Love, Loss, Desire”
A lecture by Dan Buzzi
Henry Hudson Room — 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12
BSU presents “Nyabingi” 9:30 p.m.
Cabaret

Friday, Dec. 12
John P. Anderson Playwriting Contest
Deadline
Submit at SC 369

Greek Notes: Fish Fry Tonight!
The Greek Council would like to congratulate all the newly elected officers in the Greek organizations.

Sigma Gamma Rho is having a fish fry tonight in the Student Center at 8 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend

"Giving Tree" collects over 700 wishes

Marist College Campus Ministry received more than 700 requests for toys, clothing, and household items from Dutchess County social service agencies during this year’s “Giving Tree” campaign. Nearly all requests have been matched with donors from the college’s faculty, staff and student body.

The mountain of gifts will be blessed after mass, which will be held Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. Mass will end at 8 a.m. and stu dents can either attend a reception at the Camurriano Library or stay at the Chapel to separate the gifts for delivery to Dutchess Outreach, Catherine Street Community, Grace South House, Family Services and the Poughkeepsie Even Start Program. For interviews and photo opportunities, arrive at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel at 6:15 p.m. with gifts. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend the event.

This year marks the seventh year since the arrival of the Giving Tree proj ect. Over the years, the Marist College community has donated thousands of gifts to local families who have trouble making ends meet. Some of these families would not have Christmas presents without our community’s generous donations. Donors select an ornament from the Giving Tree, purchase and wrap the gift, and deliver it to the Chapel. The gifts are then delivered via the part nering social service agencies.

Again, we hope you will be able to join us Sunday evening for this special event.

The “Security Briefs” and the “Alcohol Fantasy Beat” is intended to be a parody and not a representation of The Circle’s editorial stance on drinking — illegal or otherwise — nor is it intended to be a statement regarding the official Marist college policy on alcohol consumption.
Post-graduation abroad programs enrich lives

By STACEY L. CASWELL
Copy Editor

Hello, fellow after-graduation soul searchers! Pitchforks out of ideas and work out by job hunting? Never fear — working abroad is here.

Working abroad might be the answer to every traveler’s dreams and to the student who longs for more in his or her life. It could be you that knows that some- where across the world your friends are still dying to be a part of.

It could be you that gets to breathe that culture for a maximum of six months presents endless opportunities. It could be you that gets paid to live in a Northernmost part of Canada, having the chance to become the student who longs for more in his or her life — it’s not the norm to have ambitions, interests and goals that students in work-abroad programs are not always dedicated to what college student do … it’s not the norm to work abroad for up to six months in a program of cultural interchange. Established in 1962, BUNAC maintains experience in the field of job placement for students who aren’t looking to study into a career just yet. Through the students’ personal motivation and guidance of BUNAC coun-teirs, they are given VISA and interview opportunities. Although these positions are not always dedicated to what college students have graduated with, it still gives them the chance to become acquainted with another culture. English speaking or not, and gives them a personal job candidacy edge after they return to the United States.

Chet Konklic, associate director of career services, acknowledges the strong advan-tages that students in work-abroad pro-grams have over others.

“He shows the employer that the student has ambitions, interests and goals that were not the typical things that most college stu-dents do — it’s not the norm to have studied abroad or have worked abroad.”

At the beginning of the program, students have to pay fees that range in price from $275-$500 depending on the country in which they wish to live. These fees cover the cost of obtaining the VISA, interna-tional travel insurance, a locally printed guidebook, a phone card, and in some cases, a plane ticket.

College Life

Final exam frenzy takes over

Falls are to midterms the same way a 5K run is to walking down the block. We complain about midterms for a few reasons. For one thing, the time midterms roll around, we’ve already forgotten how hard finals were in comparison. Midterm grades are the last of end of life. Whereas finals are “so far away.” Also you can then pay attention to subjects of parking, cafeteria food, and the stipid times on the “walk.” It gets boring, it’s something else to com-plain about.

There’s no doubt you’ll need a “break” from all the stress, and that break will most likely end in you stumbling out of a cab at three in the morning. As if you needed another reason to party. But finals are what really get you. Especially those nasty “cumulative” finals and those ten-page papers that seemed very minor and far off at the beginning of the semester. And when you had that ache of “break” in the back of your mind, you didn’t think the time off would be quite so far and between.

Finals time is also a time to reflect on your semester of school-work. This could be good or bad. You could look back on the semester and be proud of the work you did, and confident about your upcoming tests and papers. You could stand on that middle ground and figure you’re going to do “okay” on your finals. Or you could curse all those “Sex and the City” marathons, late night out, and missed classes, and realize that you haven’t done any work all semester. And your first final is in 36 hours.

Recently I find myself blaming many personal short comings on finals. The other day, when I was at work, I shorted a cus-tomer a couple of dollars. I apologized and mumbled something about my upcoming finals test final. When arguing on the phone with my mother the other day, I blamed my constant forgetting on the fact that I had three pages due that I was busy writing. Of course, I hadn’t started any of them yet. Blaming your own per-sonal issues on tests and papers is a pretty good idea. Except it’s an excuse that’s only last for one week. That’s not really pract-ical. All in all, you way you study for work or finals is either a step in the right direction, or digging your own grave. Going to the library at 7 p.m. on a Sunday night is an academic death wish. Do you really see everyone that you ever knew at college there, and spend the whole time talking about the weekend. Also, if you are planning on seriously working on finals, sign off of AOL Instant Messenger. You will only keep changing your away message to update everyone on your progress. And the truth is, no one really cares. No one’s life is really going to be changed because you’ve written three pages so far instead of two.

Another funny thing about finals is that people are in constant competition over who has the worst series of finals. If I were one more message away that lists all the things that people have due, I’m going to delete AIM from my computer. On when a user was online, and say, “What’s up?” I was not asking for your finals schedule. I was just being polite. This is not a competition for the student who has the most finals. Having more finals does not make you cooler, better, or more interesting. It means you have more finals.

Remember that saying “He who dies with the most toys still dies.”

Well, “He who has the most finals … still has to take them.”

MCTV makes history with live broadcast

Marist College Television made history last Wednesday night when it broadcast a Marist vs. Hofstra basketball game for the first time. MCTV has been working hard to make the pregame show encompassing packages and com-mercials that give the audience an in-depth look at the Marist College basketball team. ‘”It was truly an overwhelm-ing feeling. We needed all the help we could get,” and, for that reason, the members of the Media Center were greatly appreciated,” one member, a proposer by Travis Tellitocci, president and radio director next year and he looks for-ward to accomplishing many things, such as another live pregame basketball show, in the future. “This game was circled on the calendar back in July and ever since then we have been working hard to make the pregame show and broadcasting the game live a reality,” said Tellitocci.

Tellitocci attributed the success to the efforts of the crew. “Twenty communications students at Marist College got an experience that 5,980 others missed out on and those stu-dents took an enormous step towards solidifying their careers in television," said Tellitocci.

The McCann Center was filled to its 3,980 others missed out on and those stu-dents took an enormous step towards solidifying their careers in television," said Tellitocci.

The McCann Center was filled to its capacity of 2,950 during the NIL game.

MCTV has come a long way in the four years that I have been here,” said Tellitocci. “I am honored to be a part of MCTV mov-ing in the next direction and glad for the school put enough trust in my administration to get so many things done during my last year before graduating from Marist. “You will ‘coincidentally’ see everyone the right direction, or digging your own grave. Going to the library at 7 p.m. on a Sunday night is an academic death wish. Do you really see everyone that you ever knew at college there, and spend the whole time talking about the weekend. Also, if you are planning on seriously working on finals, sign off of AOL Instant Messenger. You will only keep changing your away message to update everyone on your progress. And the truth is, no one really cares. No one’s life is really going to be changed because you’ve written three pages so far instead of two.

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Before casting off the program for the semester of her junior year. After her experience, she has decided to return to Sydney to pursue her master’s in chiropractics after leaving Marist.

Although she did not pay BUNAC or any other work/study abroad program fees after leaving Marist, she has decided to return to Australia in January of next year. "It is taking an aggressive approach to practicals after leaving Marist. One of the programs also requires students to prove that they have enough experience, she has decided to return to Australia. If they have a competitive job edge when she returns to the United States. Kozak said it shows that she’s "able to blend in with the culture and appreciate differences and similarities and feeling glad that I had the opportunity to go abroad when I was in school many of my friends have not and wish that they had done so after graduation instead of taking the first job offered." Don't be afraid to mooch off mom and dad until you save up enough money to start working abroad. You'll gain a whole world of freedom in the long run if you do!"
According to McGonigal, it was the first time that such a large number of students had tried to log on to the system all at once.

"Firstly, the server administrator had never heard of the load. Then when that was resolved, they still thought they were going to be experiencing problems with the back-end," McGonigal explained.

However, McGonigal maintained that there were no mistakes on his part - there were bound to be a few problems that needed to be worked out.

"Once they outran those two problems, everything went smoothly," she said.

Both Balestrino and Ritschdorff blamed the IT Department to discuss what had happened to avoid future problems. Though the Registrar’s Office was quiet.

"You guys point and click and we’re doing it," she said.

She was thrilled about the simplicity of the over-crowd overall feedback that she heard from the students.

"It’s something that’s expected that we should have had earlier," she said.

"We’ve been told that’s it’s going to go on at eight o’clock. That basically overloaded the server," she said.

They are very important, especially when an instruc- tor is going up on tenure or a promotion because the deans look them over carefully.

"[The old system] was a pain to the students.

"It seemed like it could have been wrong [but] it went by so easy," he said.

"It was still here," she said.

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Setting the record straight on MCCTA history, policies

By GERARD A. COX
MCCTA Faculty Advisor

On Sunday, Dec. 7, 2003, the Kennedy Center Honors, presided over by the president and first lady, saluted five living artists for their contributions to the cultural climate of the United States. Among these five artists was Carol Burnett, who made her acting debut in 1959, playing the princess in the original production of Mary Roger’s “Once Upon a Mattress.” Next year Burnett will be in the cast of an ABC / Disney film of the same Broadway show. This time Carol Burnett will play the evil queen. That’s change.

Few things are as certain and challenging as change. To be able to assess change, the history of experiences cannot be stock- piled without awareness of the eventual need to reflect or remember. A strong desire to be able to recall accurately is need- ed if present perceptions are to be well informed. Attention to how information is stored is worth considering periodically.

Changes in student theatre activities did occur this year. Let’s set the record straight.

The current director of the music department is not the first chair / director to serve as musical director for a fall musical. A mover and shaker in his own fashion, Art Himmelberger was not the first director of the music program to have a positive impact on the musical program. During the 1980s, Director Mark Lawlor was a dynamic force in a merger of students in the music program with those in MCCTA. Musicals only became a regular part of MCCTA’s theatre season during his tenure.

The selection of directors for any MCCTA production, whether musical or non-musical, has been a decision of the Executive Board since 1976 when three different student theater clubs united as one. That was when the Marist College Council on Theatre Arts brought together under one banner.

Let’s set the record straight. The current director of the music department is not the first chair / director to serve as musical director for a fall musical.

Theatre Guild, Experimental Theatre and Children’s Theatre. The activities and hiring done by McCTA has been decided by the “e-board” since 1976. Selecting applications from professionals and off campus has been the routine practice. Candidates are interviewed by the e-board before a selection is made. That is not a recent change.

The Executive Board has twelve voting positions on it in addition to the president.

According to the by-laws of the group, students are elected or appointed when necessary to each voting position within the organization. The unmet ideal.

The Circle is published weekly on Thursday, distributed to approximately 2,000 copies distributed throughout the Marist campus. To request advertising information or to reach the editorial board, call (845) 575-3000 ext. 2429. Opinions expressed in this publication represent the viewpoints of the respective author. The Circle welcomes letters from Marist students, faculty, staff and the public. Letters should not exceed 350 words and must be legible for length and style. Submissions must include full name and contact information. Letters can be dropped off at The Circle office on a diskette or submitted through the “Letter Submission” link on MaristCircle.com. Letters to the Editor do not represent the viewpoints of The Circle.
The Dallas Morning News

anything to quiet the clamor for a

but Oklahoma isn’t a conference

there is no controversy. Southern

something so logical: A team that

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2003 maristcircle.com PAGE 7

years, and we are going to have to develop this young group.

game. For some of the older upperclassmen and women, you

lems. It was a little different for my assistant coaches, and myself

band director, the cheerleaders, the dance team, and anyone else

son: the great pullout section of The Circle put together by The

viduals and organizations that have done an outstanding job gen-

part of the 2003-04 season. Starting with the Pre-Season NIT

secutive years, you still want to win the conference championship.

It has taken six years and two

It seems nobody cares about

All after, how many victors is

is integrity worth, anywh...

At what point does the black and

The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference

for winning 40 games in a single

the ideas that comprise what we

promised you the team will improve, and I hope you will be

I want to thank the entire Marist student body for the tremen-

that there might be an example

whether there were, but they went ignored.

"I think everyone was worried

It seems nobody cares about

A letter to the students of Marist College

I want to thank the entire Marist student body for the tremen-

The problem is, the BCS was

But it was just talk.

There are fewer games and now

you couldn’t win a close game.

We make Pasta dinners to order!

LARGE PIZZA

24 WINGS

Pick up $6.49

Delivered $7.35

LARGE PIE

12 JUMBO

WINGS

$10.99

3 LARGE PIES +

24 JUMBO

WINGS

$19.99

SMOKED CHICKEN

CHEESE STEAK,

FRIES,

FOUNTAIN SODA

$6.50

12 JUMBO

WINGS

CURLY FRIES

FOUNTAIN SODA

$6.50

DELUXE CHICKEN

JUMBO WINGS (60)

$19.99

Large Pizza, 24 Wings, 2 Liter Soda

Full line of Boar’s Head Cold Cuts, Hot & Cold Subs,

Calzone, Stromboli, Rolls, Pasta, Garlic Knots, Sodu.

Fries,

Fries,

Fries, Fountain Soda.

The Foxes needed Parks’ rebound-

though it may have seemed like

To Magarity, integrity is more

In a conference that has recently been

Wearing a light blue tee shirt and

The Foxes needed Parks’ rebound-

the seniors, have watched three

For some of the older upperclassmen and women, you

you that five All-League players have graduated the past two

and we are going to have to develop this young group.

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Simon and Garfunkel reunite after 20 years
Duo celebrates 50-year friendship, leaving audience ‘feeling groovy’

BY AUDRA TRACY
Staff Writer

NEW YORK (Dec. 4) — Simon and Garfunkel have reunited their audience after 20 years and they were not unaccompanied that night, but Nick and I learned a thing or two about back-up bands.

Not only did we enjoy some classic folk music that night, but Nick and I shared the same friends for a stroll down memory lane. The concert kicked off with a video montage of music videos that spanned from their childhood to the present set to an instrumental version of “America.”

The spotlight then kicked on and illuminated the 60-something crooners who presented the greatest band in the history of music, according to them.

Simon and Garfunkel’s last tour, and it was well received, set to an instrumental version of “America.” The 60-something crooners who presented their idols, The Everly Brothers, to the world.

Halfway through the show, the pair spoke about their idols, The Everly Brothers, and surprised the audience by introducing the band to play a few of their classics.

Simon and Garfunkel’s personas lit up as he talked about “Kathy’s Song,” which he proclaimed to be the most beautiful love song ever written. Simon’s painfully beautiful lyrics were a vehicle for Garfunkel’s soft voice which though aged is still moving.

Simon’s painfully beautiful lyrics were a vehicle for Garfunkel’s soft voice which though aged is still moving.

The group beautifully resonated through their timeless songbook, through all of their hits and masterpieces. The set ended with the showstopping “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” always inspiring tale of everlasting devotion, which received a standing ovation and brought down the house.

Garfunkel’s high notes were astounding, and you could almost hear the sound of tears falling from every eye.

The encore included the stimulating, “Cecilia,” the stunning “The Boxen,” and the spacey, prophetic “Leaves That Are Green,” which they had not played since their show at Carnegie Hall in 1967.

The show finally ended with the spirited “Feelin’ Groovy,” which left the crowd bouncing out of the Garden with a collective smile on its face.

Simon and Garfunkel showed that age might have hit them, their unbelievable harmonies and ability to touch audiences will never go away. No two people in the world can sing like these two gentlemen, and seeing them live, in New York City, was proof.


The circle

THE CIRCLE

UPCOMING EVENT
“A Christmas Carol” performed by Marist Faculty
Dec. 12
7 p.m.
Nelly Goletti Theatre

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Simon and Garfunkel covered their catalog of fan favorites, including “Hazy Shade of Winter,” “Slip Slidin’ Away,” and “Mrs. Robinson.”

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Energetic holiday shows please NYC crowd

By AUDRA TRACY
Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Nov. 29 — The Beacon Theater was filled with love as the members of ambient jam band moe. took the stage:
“Everyone give their friends a hug,” bassist Rob Derhak encouraged, “and share this moment with moe.”

Bucking in black lights, moe. spent Thanksgiving weekend at the Beacon, ultrawisely wearing a silky web of jams for their adoring “mo-con” two nights in a row. The polyphonic parade, featuring Vinnie Amico (drums), Rob Derhak (bass), Chuck Garvey (guitar), Jim Loughlin (percussion), and Al Schnier (guitar), filled Saturday night’s first set with original tunes like “Yodelittle,” “Nebraska,” and “5pine of a Dog.”

Existing a double dose of electric guitarists and percussionists, moe. share their live sounds in stereo. The tight blend of voices provided by Derhak, Garvey, and Schnier adds twang to the quintet’s velvet jams, while the smooth transitions of percussionists Amico and Loughlin knot each song together with a colorfully common thread.

Their contrasting dynamics and trademark fusion of kaleidoscopic sounds kept the energetic audience on their feet through both brilliant sets. Prismatic lights kept with the spirit of the music, vividly painting the walls and stage of the historic theater.

Kicking the colors back in motion, moe. filled their second set with the likes of “Bring It Back Home” and “32 Things.” Thirsty for more, insatiable moe.rons were doused with the fluid tune “Water,” followed by an extended version of “Plane Crash” that lasted nearly twenty minutes. By the time the second set had come to a close, the room was bustling with electricity in anticipation for the encore: Eager to please, moe. blew the crowd away with an explosive cover of Metallica’s “Enter Sandman.”

And so, moe.’s holiday run came to a close, as the audience headed home with a ringing in their ears and a band’s love in their hearts. If you missed moe., they aren’t far; on Dec. 30 they’ll play the Electric Factory in Philadelphia, and you can celebrate New Year’s Eve with them at the Tower Center in Camden, N.J.
In preparation for the Dec. 17 opening night of "The Return of the King," we present this quiz. (Hint: It's an epic. One story of good versus evil. Three books. And the series has sparked the imagination of millions around the world, and the series has an almost cult-like following. But whether you're an amateur, new to the phenomenon, or a lifelong devotee of the legendary trilogy, there's always room to test your LOTR knowledge. (If you're asking yourself, "What is LOTR?" subtract one point from your final quiz score.) In preparation for the Dec. 17 release of the latest installment in the film series, we present this quiz. (Here they get harder as you go along!)

1. Who wrote "The Lord of the Rings"? 
A. J.R.R. Tolkien 
B. C.S. Lewis 
C. ee cummings 

2. What's the title of the third "Lord of the Rings" novel and movie? 
A. "The Fellowship of the Ring" 
B. "The Return of the King" 
C. "The Two Towers" 
D. "The Silmarillion" 

3. Who plays "The Lord of the Rings" take-alike? 
A. Matt Atlantis 
B. Middle America 
C. Middle-earth 
D. Middle Ages 

4. How many companions make up the Fellowship of the Ring? 
A. Four 
B. Five 
C. Four 
D. Five 

5. Frodo Comforts a Fallen Frodo in "The Two Towers"? 
A. Brego 
B. Eowyn 
C. Rosie Cotton 
D. Pelennor Fields 

6. Aragorn's love interest? 
A. Galadriel 
B. Elven city 
C. Rider of Rohan 
D. Orc weapon 

7. What is a palantir? 
A. Seeing stone 
B. Elven city 
C. Rider of Rohan 
D. Orc weapon 

8. Sam comfort a Fallen Frodo in "The Lord of the Return of the King." 
A. A Samwise 
B. Brego 
C. Bilbo 
D. Shadowfax 

9. What is the real name of the Ring? 
A. Forge it 
B. Ferns 
C. Elephants 
D. Destroy it 

10. What animals does Sam get for his wish to see? 
A. Tigers 
B. Mice 
C. Red 
D. Black 

11. Which of these phrases does not have to do with the Ring? 
A. "One Ring to rule them all" 
B. "One Ring to bring them all" 
C. "One Ring to find them" 
D. "One Ring to destroy them" 

12. Who's the only actor in "The Lord of the Rings" movies to play two characters? 
A. John Rhys-Davies 
B. Cate Blanchett 
C. Viggo Mortensen 
D. All of the above 

13. Frodo was given the Ring by: 
A. Gandalf's names 
B. Mithrandir 
C. Boromir 
D. Tharkun 

14. What are the Ringwraiths also known as? 
A. Nazgul 
B. Balrogs 
C. Shadow 
D. Fear 

15. What is the site of the major battle in "The Lord of the Rings" movies? 
A. Hoth's Doo 
B. Minas Tirith 
C. The King's Halls 
D. Mordor 

16. In "The Lord of the Rings" movies, were directed by: 
A. Steven Spielberg 
B. Quentin Tarantino 
C. Peter Jackson 
D. Jane Fonda 

17. What is the main name of Gollum, pictured above? 
A. Treebeard 
B. Shadowfax 
C. Smeagol 
D. Mordor 

18. What is the main character of the Ring? 
A. Aragorn 
B. Eowyn 
C. Arwen 
D. Tharkun 

19. What is the real name of Galadriel, pictured above? 
A. Arwen 
B. Elven city 
C. Rider of Rohan 
D. Orc weapon 

20. What animals does Sam get his wish to see? 
A. Tigers 
B. Brego 
C. Frodo 
D. All of the above 

21. Sam's favorite is: 
A. The red sky 
B. The white ice 
C. The red eye 
D. The white hand 

22. What color is Urak's blood? 
A. Brown 
B. Green 
C. Red 
D. Black 

23. Who is the ruling Steward of Gondor? 
A. Theoden 
B. Eowyn 
C. Beorn 
D. Tharkon 

24. Which of the following is not one of Gandalf's names? 
A. Mithrandir 
B. McReady 
C. Beorn 
D. Tharkon 

25. Who is Galadriel's husband? 
A. Elrond 
B. Celeborn 
C. Legolas 
D. Feanor 

26. Who is the name of the Ring? 
A. The One Ring 
B. The King's Crown 
C. The White Hand 
D. The Reuniting Power 

27. Which of the following roles was recast after filming started? 
A. Aragorn 
B. Legolas 
C. Frodo 
D. Gandalf 

28. A frontier, a road, a city, a building? 
A. A balrog 
B. Shadows 
C. The White Tree 
D. The White Hand 

29. What is the capital of Gondor? 
A. Sauron's fortress 
B. Erech 
C. Gondor's Head 
D. Bilbo's mansion 

30. Who appears in "The Lord of the Rings" books, but not the films? 
A. Tom Bombadil 
B. Brego 
C. Fatty Bolger 
D. Gilraen 

ANSWERS: 
1-A; 2-B; 3-C; 4-D; 5-B; 6-D; 7-A; 8-C; 9-A; 10-D; 11-C; 12-B; 13-B; 14-B; 15-A; 16-C; 17-A; 18-C; 19-A; 20-C; 21-D; 22-C; 23-D; 24-B; 25-C; 26-C; 27-A; 28-C; 29-B; 30-D.