

A Message

From President Foy

February 19, 1975

Dear Members of the Community:

It is with deep sadness that I must tell you about the tragic event that occurred on campus last night. Shelley Sperling, a freshman resident student, was fatally shot yesterday evening in the dining hall. She was allegedly killed by Louis Acevedo, who is a student at Dutchess Community College and is someone with whom Shelley had been acquainted before entering Marist. Acevedo had allegedly assaulted Shelley last September on the Water Works property; he was currently on bail awaiting trial on charges of first degree assault and attempted murder.

The College Security Office was called yesterday at 5:45 p.m. by Shelley, who reported that Acevedo was on campus. Security officers went to the campus cafeteria immediately. While security was responding, Acevedo entered the food service manager's office where Shelley had placed the call. At least two shots were subsequently fired.

As our security force was responding, Town of Poughkeepsie police were called to the campus. They were later assisted by State Police officers and Sheriff's deputies. Town of Poughkeepsie Police Chief Richard Hellmann was in charge of the investigation. After taking information from witnesses, the decision was made to enter the the food-service office. Acevedo offered no resistance and was taken into custody by Town Police. He is being held on second degree murder charges.

You will be advised about memorial services that are now being planned by students and other members of the College community. A tragedy of this proportion touches us all, and we can only say that we share the deep grief now felt by Shelley's parents and friends.

Sincerely yours,
Linus R. Foy

Services for Shelley Sperling will be held at the Marist College Chapel, Friday, February 21, at 11:30 a.m.

Classes during the services will be suspended on Friday, beginning at 11:15 a.m. and cancelled for the remainder of the day.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Brewster Funeral Home, 16 Prospect St., Brewster, N.Y. Calling hours are Friday, February 21, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Funeral Services will be at the Brewster Funeral Home, Sat. Feb. 22, 10 a.m.