I Can’t Breathe

By Tameka M. Boyajian

Weeks after the verdict, people are still outraged. Many are participating in “die-in” protests. On August 9, Michael Brown was shot and killed by Officer Wilson while holding his hands up, in the surrendering position. On November 24, Ferguson, Missouri, received a verdict from the grand jury not to indict police Office Darren Wilson in the shooting death of unarmed teen Michael Brown.

Some people were shocked by the verdict, others were not. “The verdict wasn’t really a surprise to me because cops have been getting off for years killing people by justifying self-defense,” said Ander Durio, an African American, Science, Technology and Society senior. “The real shock and what made me feel disgusted was the acceptance by a large amount of people that Darren Wilson was in the right because Michael Brown was a criminal even though he was unarmed,” said Durio whose father is a retired from NYPD.

President Barack Obama talked about police officers wearing body cameras to record police and civilian activity. He proposed a $263 million dollar spending budget to increase the use of body-worn cameras in hopes of preventing other incidents like involving Michael Brown.

On December 3, only one week later, a New York grand jury gave another verdict not to indict police Office Daniel Pantaleo, 28 in the death of Eric Garner, 43 of Staten Island. In July, the fatal encounter of Eric Garner, being put in an illegal chokehold by police Officer Pantaleo, was captured on video.

People around the world saw the video of Garner who repeated the words, “I can’t breathe.” However, this was not enough evidence for the grand jury to charge officer Pantaleo in the death of Eric Garner.

“Each police brutality case is different from the rest, and cannot be viewed the same way. I do feel that the Eric Garner case was a murder or manslaughter committed by that specific officer,” said Reilly an Irish American, Professional Communications junior. I don’t think these incidents were racially driven. I think some groups want us to think they were racially motivated,” said Reilly whose parents are both NYPD. His father has been retired for nine years and his mother is still active.

The decision not to indict caused many Americans all over the world to become aggagrated beyond belief. “The thing that hurt me the most is when my 25-year-old brother, who is a mechanical engineer, told our mother he’s not going to have children because he rather not have them deal with issues such as this,” said Megan Massay, an African American Science, Technology and Society senior.

Some students on campus wonder what difference body cameras will have after the Eric Garner decision. “I find it weird that these public servants who our tax dollars go to in order to protect and serve us basically have a license to kill,” said Durio.

More than 400 protestors marched in Amityville up Route 110 to Sunrise Highway where they stopped traffic to “die-in” by lying down in the street for 4½ minutes to represent the 4½ hours that Brown’s body laid in a Ferguson street after being shot. Participants chanted ‘I can’t breathe’ 11 times which was the same number of times Eric Garner repeated to police on the day of his fatal encounter. These verdicts affect every American citizen. Regardless of race, every person’s life matters.

Continued on page 4

The Artist Behind the Ram

By Alysia Cheeks

Wendy Klemper welding her Ram sculpture into place in front of the Campus Center.

The class of 2014 gave the campus a generous gift that was recently installed in front of the Campus Center. The Ram sculptor on top of boulders was made of recycled rebar from scrap from a bridge in Maine.

Klemper has a love of using scrap metal when creating her pieces. “Scrap metal has wonderful curves and bends from the demolition process,” said Klemper. Rebar comes in many sizes and textures, and gets wildly bent up when pulled from the concrete. I find beautiful twists and turns in my pile of metal, and cut them out with the torch. It’s like having a pile of ready-made scramble of lines to draw with. Other elements, like car parts, farm and logging equipment offer interesting forms to dissect and reinvent.”

Students were surprised to find out that she Klemper does not bend the metal she uses them in their existing state when she finds them. “I never knew this was created from scrap metal until a teacher told me,” said Melissa Specht, a student. “I was blown away by the impressive work that is displayed.”

Klemper was on campus in October where she had a gallery exhibit of her artwork. She briefly explained her love for animals to students who attended her exhibit.

“The thing I could really sink my teeth into has always been the animal sculptures. I focus in a different way as I’m building them, and as they take shape they feel like actual creatures to me. They also seem to have a special resonance for viewers, they really seem to communicate something that people react to in a visceral way. I don’t even remember when I first became fascinated by animals - it seemed to happen at
by artists who were supporters of the war. “War propaganda was an effort to give a voice to the patriotic,” said Professor George Fernandez. Artists like Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks used patriotic posters in a war effort to raise money. Most of the American propaganda posters in the exhibit were designed to get three things: war bond purchases, food, and enlistment.

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Hugs Makes the World Go Round
By Danielle LoPresto
On February 27, 2015, Hugs Across America will help those in need as they volunteer at a soup kitchen in Hempstead. The purpose is to help people in our community, giving out teddy bears to children who have been sick, who have family members in the military who have been away. This will be the second time that Hugs will participate since spring 2014, helping out for a great cause.

“Sometimes we need to take time and remember that there are people who need our help, and if we never help them, they will be forgotten,” said Alexia Toya, the president/ founder of Hugs Across America. “Sometimes all people need is a smile.”

On average, 10-20 volunteers participate in events like having bake sales, or attending Sushi virtues in Brothers and Sisters Place (SIBS) where volunteers distribute teddy bears to kids with parents or siblings who have cancer. In working at the soup kitchen, volunteers help by serving food to families. They are separated in groups where they set up tables of donated clothes, or organize a food pantry so that individuals can shop for needed items.

Last semester the club volunteered at soup kitchen. “We all woke up early and met on campus, and drove to Hempstead,” said Marissa Sarro, the student president. “They had us sign in and explained everything before we served the first meal.”

Both Toya and Sarro brainstorm together to create an event, contact the agency, and organize a team of students. “I have to work hard and determination given that they must fundraise money all themselves.”

“I’ve always loved helping people,” said Jazmin Henriquez, a member. “I volunteered at the soup kitchen with the president, and we thought it was something like getting maggots in our soup,” said Poly. “We made sure there was no other occurrence by double checking everything. This has never happened before.”

Student, Ayush Gupta, senior, said, “It’s freaking gross. I don’t want to find anything unhealthy in my food. It is just so gross that this happened.”

Other students just that the Armed cafeteria food is overpriced and they should have to worry about finding maggots in their food. They have texts and quizes to worry about. “This cafeteria food is already too pricey. So they should offer the best food quality ever. We should definitely not have to worry about finding maggots like getting maggots in our soup,” said Rajan Ahijon, a senior.

FSC Takes First Overall at NIFA Regionals
By Christopher Healy
The Aviation Center at Farmingdale State College is the largest student aviation program in the northeast region, and FSC is the only SUNY school that offers a four year degree program in the northeast region, and FSC is the only SUNY school that offers a four year degree program in the northeast region, and FSC is the only SUNY school that offers a four year degree program in the northeast region.

The new addition is welcome on campus.

“Very disgusting, I think it is very disgusting,” said Kevin Smith, a sophomore. “Due to this incident, we made a petition on Facebook by students. The panic went viral. Comments like, “Be aware, there may be maggots on your soup,” were written on Facebook by students.

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“The school’s flight team, The Flying Rams, finished in first place at the regional competition for the first time this year,” said Cody Rodriguez.

“We have a great aviation program. I am currently working on my commercial license. We have about 23 planes and about 200 students in the flight program,” said student James Blunts. “The school’s flight team, The Flying Rams, finished in first place at the regional competition at the Big Apple Airport, which means we are going to compete in the NIFA competition at Ohio State University, which is really exciting.”

FSC Flight program has cemented itself in the northeast region, and FSC is the only SUNY school that offers a four year degree program in the northeast region, and FSC is the only SUNY school that offers a four year degree program in the northeast region, and FSC is the only SUNY school that offers a four year degree program in the northeast region.

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On average, 10-20 volunteers participate in events like having bake sales, or attending Sushi virtues in Brothers and Sisters Place (SIBS) where volunteers distribute teddy bears to kids with parents or siblings who have cancer. In working at the soup kitchen, volunteers help by serving food to families. They are separated in groups where they set up tables of donated clothes, or organize a food pantry so that individuals can shop for needed items.

The 22,000 square foot facility located in and broadcasting from Roosevelt Hall, Ram Nation Radio airs live between Mondays and Thursdays, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Ram Nation Radio currently broadcasts a variety of content, such as talk shows and music in over 55 hours a week to its listeners.

Sebastian Pierre, a criminal justice major and a Ram Nation co-host for Ram-Dom said, “I love the idea of expressing myself on air. I can be myself and engage with my other host for all the listeners. It is a great feeling when you are in control of your own show.” Pierre’s partner and host, Melia Wright, are on air every Tuesday from noon to 1 p.m.

To listen to Ram Nation download the Tune-In Radio app or log onto the website through www.ramnationradio.com. For contests and contests: Ram Nation Radio is also offering a free VIP card to all students.

The Ram Nation Radio VIP Card is your ticket to all the great things that Ram Nation Radio has to offer. You can use this VIP card at local restaurants throughout Farmingdale where a Ram Nation logo is present. The VIP Card is a special membership card which will give its cardholders special offers, discounts, and entry to the hottest concerts. To obtain a free VIP card, visit the Office of Student Activities or Radio Station in Roosevelt Hall or visit Ramnationradio.com.

Oluseyi Joseph, a Professional Communications major and on-air personality, said, “I get to play music that I think listeners want to hear and introduce new artists on air. It always had the love and approval of the audience. It’s my passion.” Joseph can be heard on air every Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“After that I love being able to see what is coming in for the next day,” said Joseph. “We are going to be looking at students, faculty, and staff to host their own shows on air. This is the first ram we are accepting staff and faculty and we are really excited to see the outcome,” said Rida Nauer, station manager of Ram Nation Radio.

Left to right: Members of Hugs Across America Marissa Sarro, Ayesha Henriquez, and President Alexa Toyas.

Maggots Found in Cafeteria Soup
By Crystal Costello
Be aware, there may be maggots in the soup. Two students allegedly found maggots in their FSC cafeteria food this semester. The first student who found them cried as she said, “There’s maggots on my soup.”

After the maggots incident, some students said they were afraid of eating soup at the cafeteria. The panic went viral. Comments like, “Be aware, there may be maggots on your soup,” were written on Facebook by students.

“Very disgusting, I think it is very disgusting,” said Kevin Smith, a sophomore. “Due to this incident, we should give us a discount on the $25,000 we pay in tuition.”

As the days passed, various students continued complaining about the incident. Aramark cafeteria Chef, Justin Poly, explained the actions taken by the Aramark cafeteria after the incident.

“As soon as we heard about the incident, we removed the entire soup jar. We also conducted an investigation to figure out where this might have come from,” said Poly. “We made sure there was no other occurrence by double checking everything. This has never happened before.”

Student, Ayush Gupta, senior, said, “It’s freaking gross. I don’t want to find anything unhealthy in my food. It is just so gross that this happened.”

Other students just that the Armed cafeteria food is overpriced and they should have to worry about finding maggots in their food. They have texts and quizes to worry about. “This cafeteria food is already too pricey. So they should offer the best food quality ever. We should definitely not have to worry about finding maggots like getting maggots in our soup,” said Rajan Ahijon, a senior.

Let’s Get Social
Farmingdale State College wants to encourage students to visit the updated FSC social media pages. Using these pages allows students to get more involved with all campus activities and constantly stay in the know. Many students who commute are not aware of all the fun activities Farmingdale has to offer because they are uninformed, unlike the resident students. Kate Greene, Digital Media Manager, works specifically to bring more social media pages to Farmingdale. “We are trying to engage students from the moment we set up our recruitment tables at their high schools until the moment they are on our campus. We hope to continue their Farmingdale pride even after graduation,” said Greene. Using and following these sites will allow students to know what is going on around them, even after they leave Farmingdale.
Chickenpox Outbreak in Dorms

By Thomas Byrne

In early October a case of chickenpox was reported in the student dorms at Farmingdale State College.

The Center for Disease Control’s website describes chickenpox as: “a very contagious disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus (VZV). It causes a blister-like rash, itching, tiredness, and fever.”

Nine out of ten children contract the disease, but some can go uninfected and contract it when they are older. Adults who become infected are at a higher risk for complications such as breathing problems, dehydration, bleeding problems, inflammation of the brain, or pneumonia.

Chickenpox cases usually last 4 to 7 days, and those who contract it can be infectious from 1-2 days before the rash occurs until the blisters have crusted over and no more appear. It is spread through contact, coughing, and sneezing. If infected, common home remedies are oatmeal baths and aspirin for comfort. Scratching the blisters can lead to infection and spread of the disease.

Helen Beato, an international student who resides at the Farmingdale campus, is glad her boat with the virus is over. “At one point I had to stand an hour in the shower – cold water, because it was just too much!” said Beato.

Beato, an architecture major, was never exposed to the chickenpox virus and was infected because it was just too much!” said Beato. “I do not think that it is fair that students already have a lot on their plates especially paying for school,” said Yarel Gonzalez.

There is confusion from students as to where the classrooms have issues. “A lot of my classes have bigger and some of the rooms don’t have windows. I want to hear birds chirping and the wind blowing. I don’t like being closed off,” said Kashani.

“Show up shut up and play” this was a motto set by Farmingdale’s former Coach Gary Dynski who was let go due to a change in the schools coaching program after coaching for a year and a half.

A major strength they carry around the country fear,” said Matt Kelerichian, Head Coach.

“Adversity” is how V on Wieding would describe the team’s attitude this year. “We all share the same passion which is the love for volleyball and that’s what brings it all together at the end,” said Barbra Wright, #12.

The women’s volleyball team makes it to Playoffs

By Nicole Schellderfer

The Women’s volleyball team came out strong this season. Players agreed that the team is in much better shape than the last year. “That’s really any team’s goal, whether it’s reachable or not. The team had some helpful additions this year so we are all very excited,” said Christina Hickey, #7.

“I think we are a much better group together and have the potential for doing big things even though we’ve had a rough start to our season,” said Francesca Calderone, #310.

The women’s volleyball team has its strengths and weaknesses. A major strength they carry with them is their love for the sport. “We all share the same passion which is the love for volleyball and that’s what brings it all together at the end,” said Barb Wright, #12.

Of course, there’s always room for improvement. It is still early in the season for the team to pick up on what they might be lacking. “I think we need to learn how to play with each other better and also to have faith, not only in our teammates but also in ourselves,” said Calderon.

Volleyball is not a sport in which one person can carry the team. It’s a group effort. If one person messes up, it messes up the whole team. “At first we got frustrated but the only way to move forward is to drop negative feelings like that and not dwell on them,” said Hickey.

“I think we get along pretty well this year, which is surprising to us since we have 13 girls,” said Wright.

It would seem that the team has what it takes to do well this season, especially with the help from their coach, Patrik Santiago, who has been coaching women’s volleyball at FSC since 2009. “I expect the team to endeavor upon a journey of effort, fueled by hard work in practice and disciplined execution of our game plans in matches. This group has all the pieces they need to achieve success,” said Santiago.

The Rams finished their season with a loss in the first round of the Skyline Conference playoffs to Montclair Saint Vincent.

2014 Women’s Volleyball team

Required parking permits for students

By Alysia Cheeks

Each year students are mandated to purchase a parking permit that costs $35. If students choose not to purchase this pass, they run the risk of getting a parking ticket which will cost them roughly $35.

Chief assistant Daniel Daughtery said, “You only need one parking sticker for each vehicle you drive on campus.”

Chief assistant Daniel Daughtery said, “You only need one parking sticker for each vehicle you drive on campus.” This sticker is good for the entire year. Some students do not return the following year and it is important to keep as an accurate database as possible of registered vehicles on campus.

“I do not think that it is fair that students have to purchase a parking pass each school year. I feel like students already have a lot on their plates especially paying for school,” said Yarel Gonzalez.

Some students disagree. “I feel that it is fair because every year there are new students and everyone should have to register for a new parking permit,” said Tito Galan.

There were mixed reviews between both students. “I think every student should have a parking pass in the beginning of the school year,” said Gonzalez. “But I don’t think they should be charged for it. I’m honestly not sure why the parking pass is a separate cost from the tuition. I’m highly against the fact that students are even charged for a pass.”

In my opinion the coaching change was the right move. The promotion of all time program leading scorer Joe Mazzie from assistant coach to head coach helped the team bring back the Farmingdale style of hockey identity that teams around the country fear,” said Mart Kelerichian, Assistant Director of Hockey Operations and Team President.

However defenseeman Nick Walker and forward Justin V on Wieding both agreed, “They are impartial about the coaching change Dynski was a good coach, but they are there to play hockey not to argue politics,” said Van Wieding.

Joe Mazzie has lead the team to better the record which is now 7-4-1-1. With this turn around the team has showed so far, they have sights set on making it to Nationals for the second year in a row. “I do not see us going to nationals again there’s plenty of guys on the team that will do whatever it takes to get there so you have that kind of attitude not much can keep you from succeeding,” said Walker.

“Adversity” is how Van Wieding would described the team in one word due to all the ups and downs encountered in the season thus far. With a mind set on Nationals, Walker said, “There have been some growing pains but that was expected with the new faces we have on the roster, as the season goes on and everyone begins to work together more efficiently, that should straighten everything out.”

Despite the rough beginning the team as a whole has turned around their efforts into becoming a better more recognizable team, and are focused on winning at Nationals in the years to come.
The New York Jets (NYJ) in the past have held their preseason at SUNY Cortland and also Hofstra University. SUNY Farmingdale may be the new home for the NYJ's preseason this upcoming summer. “It is very prestigious for colleges to house pro teams. Cortland is very upset that they might lose the Jets,” said Mike Harrington, athletic director at FSC.

This project will take about three months to complete. “We would have to build two football fields to their codes. We would have to make accommodations to our dorms such as higher showerheads, new large beds, etc.,” said Harrington. The chance of the Jets coming to FSC is about 80 percent. As of now, the Jets have not put up any money for this project due to the absence of a decision.

Over the summer at SUNY Farmingdale many tournaments and games take place. “I am for it, as long as I get reimbursed for the money I would lose from campus and lacrosse venues,” said Harrington.

As the talk gets around the school and community, many people are worried how this will affect the community around FSC. There was much dispute over getting lights for our soccer and lacrosse field. “I think the businesses will love it, but the community around will hate all the traffic,” said Harrington.

“When I was a young girl, my father and I went to Hofstra to watch the Jets play. It would be much more convenient if it was held here at Farmingdale,” said Sara Rivadeneyra, a student athlete.

Most of Long Island is divided between Jets and Giants fans. “I am a Giants fan, so I wouldn’t go to their camp,” said Kelly Geheran, a student athlete.