America: The Next Four Years

By Alexa Sugrue

After three debates filled with fact checks, hundreds of million dollars spent, and a record setting amount of time spent talking about the state of Ohio, the 57th Presidential election is finally over. Democratic President Barack Obama prevailed with dominance after what was hyped to be a close battle for every last vote. Such a victory should be evidence that Americans are confident that the country is on track, but maybe not.

“The money spent [on both parties campaigns] could have been used towards other things like reducing taxes for American tax payers or putting it into funds for training Americans for jobs,” said Jessica Zounek, a senior at FSC.

When President Obama took control, he walked into what was soon to be one of the biggest financial crises since the Great Depression. The mortgage-backed security crises had tremendous consequences for not only banks and the housing market, but also the confidence Americans had in the market. Stocks were down and the talk of a possible depression created negative spending shock.

Obama’s first term had ups and downs as he tried to fix this. Some think Obama failed to keep promises he made and that America isn’t where it needs to be. However, his policies had some bright spots. Just before the election, on October 5, it was announce that the unemployment rate in September fell from 8.1 percent to 7.8 percent, the lowest since January 2009.

“First, I think that people really didn't like Romney and his policies. I also hope that people are smart enough to realize that the deficit and unemployment would have been even worse if Obama didn't take the actions that he did. I also think that it is easier to stay with the status quo (Obama) than to make a change. So people need a very compelling reason to make a change, and Romney wasn't a compelling reason,” said Dr. Judith Levine, FSC psychology professor.

Anyone can expect to see Obama’s Keynesian economic policies continued over the next four years. This includes a stronger fiscal policy, which includes more government spending; paid for by increased taxes to the wealthy and big corporations. In the past, the Keynesian economic theory helped America overcome major economic catastrophes such as The Great Depression.

“I am all for the wealthy to give a little more if it will benefit the country,” said Danielle Berger, a freshman.

President Obama and Congress now have to tackle the much talked about fiscal cliff. It seems as if people feel optimistic that he can get the job done.
The Rampage

Farmingdale State College held a drive-in movie night. It was a back to back movie showing of The Cabin in the Woods and then Battleship. It was the first drive-in movie event at the campus and ended with a successful turn out. Art cars started to line up in the parking lot to drive onto the field behind student lot three, the movie screen began to rise from the ground. It was attached to a big blow up device similar to the bouncy house castles for children. The cars began to pull in one by one and were directed to the designated area on the lawn. Row after row slowly filled up. There were roughly 4-5 rows and about 40 or more cars.

Many people stayed in their vehicles and either tuned in to the radio station that was projected onto the screen or simply just opened the windows to hear the field come to life from the movie. Some moviegoers left their cars and brought blankets to sit on the lawn closer to the screen. It was a chilly night and most people outside their cars were pretty bundled up. There was also food and soda and water that was given out as each person pulled in and was directed to the designated area.

The Cabin in the Woods

Ed Maroney

The Cabin in the Woods is a horror film written by Scott Cooper and directed by Rupert Wainwright. It is based on the novel of the same name by Eric van Lustbader. The story follows a group of friends who go to a cabin in the woods for a weekend of fun and relaxation. However, they soon realize that the cabin is not what it seems and that they are not alone in the woods.

The movie opens with the group of friends arriving at the cabin. They are greeted by a friendly local who promises to keep an eye on them while they are there. The friends spend their time exploring the cabin and enjoying each other's company. However, tensions begin to rise as they start to notice strange things happening around the cabin.

As the night goes on, the friends begin to hear strange noises and see things moving around the cabin. They try to ignore it and continue to enjoy their time there. However, as the night wears on, the friends begin to feel more and more threatened.

The movie reaches its climax when the friends are forced to confront the dangers of the cabin. They must fight for their lives and try to make it out alive. The movie ends with the group of friends running for their lives, wondering if they will ever make it out of the cabin alive.

The Cabin in the Woods is a horror film that will keep you on the edge of your seat. It is a tale of terror and suspense that will keep you guessing until the very end. If you are a fan of horror films, then you do not want to miss The Cabin in the Woods.
Bio-swale Project

By Jason Plevik

Professor Michael Veracka and the ornamental horticulture students converted two ditches along the parking lot into rain gardens for $5,000. The ditches alongside the roadway have been a sore sight ever since the parking lot was redesigned two years ago. Thanks to Veracka, the ornamental horticulture students, and with the support of the FSC Instructional Support Associates, these valleys are being transformed into green, sustainable, rain gardens.

It is may be possible to renovate all 20 swales. “It is unclear at this time, but I hope so!” Veracka said.

The first two rain gardens were completed in October following the designs of the students. They were planted with native grasses and perennials from Glover perennials in Cutchogue and serve as models of sustainable landscaping practices.

The bio-swales will collect the rainwater runoff from the roadways which will in turn feed the plants and prevent flooding.

Junior Vanessa Michel said “I’m glad to see that they’re being green. Plus, it’s nicer to look at than a big hole in the ground.”

Workshops on building your own rain garden will be given in the spring semester.

Open Mic Night Packs a Crowd

By Katie Newman

Open Mic Night event was extremely successful in gaining the attention of students on campus. The number of students who attended the event was at an all time high.

The event was held in Knapp Hall; seven speakers came to a podium, introduced themselves to their audience, and read their pieces of writing aloud.

Although the room in which the event took place had the maximum number of tables and chairs, there was not enough seating for the people who showed up. In fact, the room became so crowded that 10 students positioned themselves by the doorway in order to hear the speakers perform.

“That was the biggest crowd we have ever had, and it was completely unexpected.” said Dr. Margery Brown, who ran the event.

It was clear that the people who ran the event thought it would have a smaller turnout, because there wasn’t even enough food.

Once the speakers began, the room went silent as each person came up to the front of the room, re-introduced himself or herself, and read their work to their peers.

“The was something to present as my way of communicating with the audience, what it was like for me to grow up in a house with seven children,” said Gloria Ann Keyloun, the second speaker of the night, who wrote a narrative describing her family life and her relationship with her father.

The crowd seemed to be in tune with the speaker’s writing, as they all clapped loudly after each speaker was finished.

“A visuals communications student is taking the lead in donations for relief funds to Hurricane Sandy.

Maybe not the most widely known club on campus, the Design Club is doing its job to help. The club has a donation open now to help the community. It’s called the Hurricane Blanket and Jacket Relief Drive.

The donations are dedicated to giving blankets and jackets to the people along the south shore. The people who have been affected by Hurricane Sandy are in need.

Created by the Design Club President Mike Abbondondolo, students are trying to comfort their neighbors. Abbondondolo, 20, is a junior and a member of the Hicksville Fire Department.

“One of the gentlemen I know, who taught my EMT class, is running a clothing drive for the East Meadow Fire Department,” said Abbondondolo.

“I talked to him and he told me that he needs jackets and blankets for the people down on the south shore. I said I’d start a drive at my school and have kids bring in the items. So I proposed the idea to my club and we started right away.”

With over 20 plus items ready to be given to people in need, the Design Club is doing their good deed. They are eager willing to accept donations, even after the drive ended on November 30. This good deed shouldn’t go unnoticed.

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The problem is that not enough people know about the drive. Senior Jason Plevik, said, “I would definitely donate because I have so many jackets that I don’t wear anymore.” said Plevik. “I’m sure many people have spare jackets that they don’t wear anymore.”

Donations are still being accepted and can be dropped off in the lobby of Hale Hall.

I thought the event was cool and I liked how everybody had a different story with different meanings behind them,” said Giovanni Russo, 27, after the Open Mic Night ended.

The event was memorable and displayed students’ creativity in their writing. Although there wasn’t enough seating, that didn’t stop students from attending.

“There were many speakers who caught my attention. I just wish they had more chairs,” said Jaime Torticasi, 20, as she laughed about having to sit on the floor throughout the event.

With the success of the event and the huge crowd, it is apparent that next time they will need to accommodate all the people who attend.
The Rampage Student Newspaper

A parent’s worst nightmare occurred in 1982, when the Strow family received a call that their daughter was killed in a drunk driving accident. With the tragic loss came one positive outcome. The Strow family founded Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD), one of the largest non-profit organizations in the United States.

MADD is a support group for people who have loved ones or were injured due to a drunk driver. The organization also offers information to those who have received DWI’s and walked away unharmed.

The Stories Are Heartbreaking. The meeting is an information discussion group for victims, their families, and friends. "After hearing from guest speakers, I haven’t and will never drink and drive again. You just don’t know if it would have the same effect on everyone," said Genova.

The Strow family founded Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) in the United States. The organization is supported by people across the country and the world. MADD has many programs and events to help prevent drunk driving. The organization also offers information to those who have received DWI’s and walked away unharmed.

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Strong Season for Men’s Basketball

By Randy Stephens

Thanks to the Division III “Top 25” voting panel, Farmingdale State remains one of the best kept secrets in men’s basketball. It’s anyone’s guess how the Rams have stayed under the radar entering this season, but they ought to be excited. This is the time of year when every college kid outside of the Skyline Conference sneers, “Who is Farmingdale?” and four quarters later they’re sorry they asked.

Throughout head coach Erik Smiles’ tenure, the Rams have become a legitimate contender to both conference and non-conference opponents. In those eight seasons, the Rams have qualified for three NCAA tournaments, and have never once suffered a losing record.

One Farmingdale student, Herman Reyes, indicated that Farmingdale’s dominance for nearly a decade is testing the composure of rival fans. “Last year some people in the stands got a little crazy when Old Westbury lost--they wanted to fight us,” Reyes recalled. Coach Smiles and his staff were fundamental in bringing this winning culture to Farmingdale State College; each year they have assembled a roster of highly talented, disciplined athletes from top to bottom.

This season continues that pattern, and leading the way is AJ Matthews. The 7’1 senior forward, whose school records can be counted on two hands, has stunned his opponents with an unbelievable combination of size and athleticism. Matthews’ ability to excel in all facets of the game has made him a match-up nightmare for opposing coaches.

“This year, the biggest challenge for me will be handling double and triple-teams,” said Matthews. “I have to help my teammates get the ball without turning it over as much as I did last year.” While the fans love to see him throw down an alley-oop, or stuff an opponent’s shot, he still plays fundamentally sound basketball. Don’t be surprised when you see Matthews making his free throws and sinking shots outside the paint.

Still, Matthews’ talents should not overshadow the contributions of his teammates. He is surrounded by a carefully selected supporting cast whose abilities complement each other. According to Coach Smiles, a key component of this roster is sophomore guard Ryan Davis.

“Davis is a major piece of our offense,” Smiles said. “He is a tremendous play maker, potentially the best in the region.” Davis led the Rams in assists last season while impressing his coaches with his ability to handle and distribute the ball. This year, he’ll have a new weapon in his arsenal, sophomore guard Justin Bailey.

With the departure of seniors Josh Smith and Dyshaun Flournay, Bailey inherited the responsibility of scoring from long range. Coach Smiles voiced his confidence in Bailey, explaining what sets him apart from his predecessors. “It’s his job now,” affirmed Coach Smiles. “Justin’s a pure shooter, one of the best three-point shooters the program has ever had.”

It is clear that Coach Smiles knows how good this team is, but he stressed the importance of staying focused. “What’s important is just to get better in each part of the game, one day at a time. No team is great right away,” said Coach Smiles. This may be true, but with a career record of 162-64, and eight Coach of the Year titles under his belt, perhaps greatness is not far out of reach.

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Michael Merker also attended the game with his wife to support their daughter, St. Joseph’s Lindsey Merker, who scored their only third-doubles victory. She won over FSC’s Vanessa Josma, 8-3.

“She’s been playing since eighth grade,” said Michael Merker. “We try to attend the local games.”

Richard Hume, Controller for Farmingdale State, was among the approximately 30 people who came to support the teams.

Hume, who used to coach for the tennis team after tennis was revived five years ago, enjoys watching the matches as he has played tennis since he was 23-years- old. “Tennis is a sport for a lifetime as opposed to body contact sports,” he said. “We should win tonight and get into the finals on Saturday,” Hume.

Hume’s optimism is shared by Michael Harrington, Director of Athletics. Harrington recognizes Mount Saint Mary is a good team, but he still believes the Rams have a chance to get to the NCCA.

Not all the attendees were Farmingdale State students. Patricia Martinez, an Amityville Memorial High school graduate, attended the game with a friend. “It’s a quiet game, [but] you get really into it once you start to get the hang of it,” she said.

For the first time in school history the Farmingdale State women’s tennis team reached the Skyline Conference Finals held at top-seeded Mount Saint Mary College. The second-seeded Rams earned a 5-3 win over St. Joe’s in the semifinals but fell 5-0 in the championship match at Mount Saint Mary.