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Alternative Spring Break

By April La Manna

Instead of getting naked, passing out drunk on the beach, and spending endless amounts of money on a vacation that might not be remembered, 15 students at FSC have volunteered to build a house. They are building it during Spring break 2009 in the area of New Orleans, Louisiana still devastated from hurricane Katrina.

Professor Lisa Scholz, an Assistant Professor of Nursing at FSC, and Dr. Virginia Peterson Graziose also Assistant Professor of Nursing are running the Habitat for Humanity Club. Habitat for Humanity International seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness around the world.

"We had no idea what to expect when we started the club, we had no idea that so many kids would be interested," said Scholz. "We are so excited."

Habitat for Humanity has set up a collegiate challenge for colleges around the world. The students build a house in two weeks with other college students in the United States and alongside the family who is receiving the house.

"We are very proud and thrilled to see that two professors have taken out time to start this club," said Kathy Coley Director of Communications at FSC.

The work will be exhausting. It will take approximately a week to build the house, every day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contractors who volunteer their machines and supplies will teach the students to use the tools and build the house step by step.

"The greatest part is the students get to know the house owners, and see how thankful they are," said Marina Flaming a volunteer for Habitat International.

When the work day is done, and all the saw dust has been swept up, and they aren't too exhausted students can go to popular tourist attractions in New Orleans at their leisure.

"It's really nice that they volunteered to do this: usually kids just go to Cancun and get wasted," said FSC student Anthony Thompson.

Farmingdale Reacts to Tuition Hikes and Budget Cuts

By Shivonne S. O'Brien

The SUNY Board of Trustees recently approved a \$310 tuition increase per student per semester. Dr. Beverly Kahn, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs said that this figure was reached as a concession to keep the total tuition figure below the increased Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) award amount of \$5,000 for the benefit of students receiving financial aid.

The SUNY presidents had requested a higher increase. "It is patently unfair to charge higher tuition, \$620 annually beginning next fall, and have 80 percent of the funds 'passed through' to accommodate the state's budget shortfall," said Dr. W. Hubert Keen President of FSC.

Kahn said that students will not see a difference in their education due to the budget cuts. Farmingdale has committed to the course offerings for the Spring 2009 semester.

"We'll get through this just fine," said Kahn and noted that this is because George La Rosa, Senior Vice

President and CFO, has followed a conservative fiscal policy and has built up reserve funds that allow the school to weather this round of cuts.

"I don't know how other schools, who may not have those reserves will do," said Kahn.

Student Chris Wallace, who does not receive financial aid, has to pay the increase out of his pocket and doesn't feel the hike is fair.

"Current economic conditions increase the need for low-cost education. People are losing their jobs and struggling to pay their bills," said Wallace. "Regardless of tuition increases, SUNY schools still offer the best value."

Junior Professional Communications major, Christy Hinko Orquera said, "I pay for school out of my own pocket, and this increase has made it financially impossible to continue a full schedule; I am dropping down to two classes to be able to pay the tuition bill."

Body Snatchers

By Erin Failla

The pressure is on for students at Farmingdale State College who are studying in the health science field. Biology and nursing students are required to know the anatomy and physiology of the human body like the back of their hand if they want to succeed.

In times of stress most students feel desperate to get good grades, but some will even stoop as low as to steal to get the "A" they feel that they deserve. The problem of disappearing body part

models has been an on-going situation for the biology department at FSC.

Skeletal models and small handheld heart models are stolen most often from the laboratories.

"Students are more likely to steal the real articulated skeletal structures rather than the fake plastic ones and the real bones are much more expensive," said Cindy Thomas, the

lab manager of the biology department.

Continued on page 2



Bang Bang

By Adrienne O'Hare

In recent years very unfortunate events have involved school violence. Students as well as teachers have been killed in campus shootings.

On December 4-6, 9, and 13, Farmingdale State College's Back Stage Theatre produced a play in the Little Theater called *Bang, Bang You're Dead* by William Mastrosimone. It is based on an actual incident in Springfield, Oregon on May 21, 1999. A Thurston High School in which a student opened fire in the school cafeteria killing two and wounding 23.

Bang, Bang You're Dead is very strong, edgy, and relevant to what happens in the world. "It's unfortunate the experiences in the past haven't

stopped violence," said Sandy Lori-Snyder, FSC Director of Student Activities. "The message needs to be heard again and again and again that violence is never the answer."

Bang, Bang You're Dead is a very daring play for a school to recite," said Suzy Novak, executive producer and actress. "This play is a good way to reach out to the audience and connect in a more realistic way,"

The morals and background of the play are an eye opener for anyone who sees it. Students, professors, and parents who came to see the play were

very moved.

"The play created a realistic and frightening world, and the actors captured both the banality and brutality of high school. It showed a unique understanding of today's teen psyche and made me go home and hug my kids and explain what to do if, God forbid, the incident were to occur in their school," said Vincent Boccanfuso, a father of two teenagers. He brought his daughters along because he thought it would be a must see educational experience.

As Farmingdale students sit and watch *Bang, Bang You're Dead* they remember when these terrible tragedies occurred but couldn't fully understand why.

"The message was awesome, I think it's a good impact on the students because now they have an idea of how and where those people come from that have issues, and may want to harm others," said student Brandon Gillis.

Unfortunately, in the last 10 years this country has seen too many other tragedies with kids killing kids. Between October 1997 and April 2007, 75 students were killed by gunfire in the United States.

Bang, Bang You're Dead is a play that educates not only students in middle school, high school, and college but parents as well.



Continued from page 1

Body Snatchers

"The fake plastic bones run anywhere from \$15 to \$75 apiece, while the real bones can cost \$120 dollars apiece," said Thomas.

During monthly lab practicals, biology students are required to identify parts of the human body's interior and exterior using body replicas which are furnished by the biology department. Students are offered open lab time on Tuesdays and Thursdays from five to six o'clock to study these models.

"I think people just don't have enough time to go to the open lab because they are too busy," said Erika Escobar a sophomore and Anatomy and Physiology student. "The lab hours aren't long enough."

Students who are not responsible for the "body snatching" are feeling the negative affects of these crimes.

"I went to an open lab because I had a big test coming up, and when I went to go look for the model I needed to study, it wasn't there," said Jackie Silvestro a senior at Farmingdale State College. "It made my studying experience more difficult because I didn't have the tools I needed to do well."

Unfortunately, stolen models is not the biology department's biggest problem to solve.

"With the recent budget cuts, consumable lab products are the priority, so the models come second," said Dr. Crocker an Anatomy and Physiology professor at Farmingdale. "They are shockingly expensive and it is almost impossible to replace them."

"Per year our department gets \$30,000-35,000 dollars for lab materials and that's not a lot because everything we need is very expensive," said Thomas.



Rampage Staff

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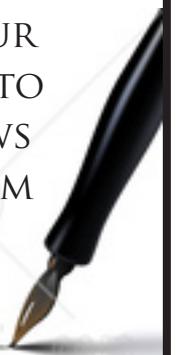
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Journey to the East

By Brian Birgilas

The students from Sichuan Province in the western part of China, wanted to show their appreciation for Farmingdale State College. The students, known as the China 19 (part of the SUNY China 150 Program), demonstrated their gratitude by putting on a show called "Journey to the East." "This show is our gift to you," said Yin Jing Anne, the host of the show.

Before the show got started, Dr. W. Hubert Keen, president of Farmingdale State College, was called on stage to give a quick speech. "Everyone is pleased that the Chinese students from Sichuan Province are here," Keen said. "Not only are they dedicated to their studies and perform very well in class, but they also never miss an opportunity in our culture."



The show began with a montage of photos showing different tourist attractions around China. These places included the Great Wall, the Palace Square, and Tiananmen Square. Then there was a Chinese etiquette lesson. This started with a quick language lesson with the Chinese translation of such terms as "Hello" (ni hao), "Thank you" (xie xie), and "Goodbye" (zai jian).

There was also a demonstration of a traditional Chinese wedding, which included a special tea ceremony. That was followed by a fashion show from a few different time periods (Tang Dynasty; 7th Century, Song Dynasty; 10th to 15th Centuries, and Qing Dynasty 17th Century). Other notable portions of the event included a Chinese

food tutorial (with a comedic dance involving two US students pretending to be a hamburger and hot dog), a Chinese calligraphy lesson given to three members of the audience, and a Chinese music and dancing demonstration (which included a Tibetan love song performed by a Chinese student (Mary) and a US student (Robert, who sung in Chinese despite previously not knowing any Chinese).

The near-capacity crowd, an approximate 50/50 split between students and professors/administrators, enjoyed the show so much that they gave the performers a standing ovation. "They showed such spirit and such enthusiasm about displaying their culture to the audience," said Dr. Catherine Akel, English professor at FSC.

The question of whether there have been problems with the US students seems not to have been a cause for putting together this show. "No, everything has gone well," said Yu Liu Edison, who hosted the quiz part of the food segment.

This appears to be a case of the students from Sichuan Province expressing their thanks for the hospitality shown by FSC, while helping to build a cultural connection between the Chinese and the Americans. "This was a group decision by all 19 students," said Linglong Jiang Jason, who played the groom in the traditional wedding scene. "The more Americans know about Chinese culture, the more understanding there will be between Americans and Chinese people."

MADD

By Christine Hinko

On Sunday, December 7th, Farmingdale State College hosted the 27th Annual Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Candlelight Vigil. More than 200 people were in attendance at the Roosevelt Hall Theatre to remember victims and survivors of drunken driving.

Families greeted and hugged as they arrived. Some talked and comforted; others stood silently or wept privately nearby. A dozen uniformed Suffolk County police officers arrived to honor fallen officers of similar fate.

Inside the theatre, a video of remembered victims played in a continuous slideshow atop the stage with a recording of "You Raise Me Up" by Josh Groban. To the left of the video, a wall of photographs towered. Families approached the photo wall during took a moment of silence before slowly returning to find a seat.

One woman, Lorraine Bross was attending the vigil with her husband Bob. Over 16 years ago, her son, Robert Bross was only 25-years-old when he was killed. Bross said, "Our son bought a motorcycle to resell for a profit; he was driving it from where he got it and that's when he met the devil, the drunk."

The woman sitting next to her had lived only several doors away for years; they had never met until tragic loss was their common thread. Two years later, Carol Rizzo and her husband, John lost their son. Michael John Rizzo, who died in an early morning collision with a drunken driver. Michael was only 21 years old.

"Nothing would have happened to him (the drunk driver), but I pushed with MADD; it would have been a slap on the hand for his suspended license and no insurance," said Carol Rizzo. "Fourteen years ago, at that time, two years (sentence) was a lot; it was just a traffic violation like passing through a stop sign."

Peter Kramer read the names of those killed, as families approached the stage to receive a lit candle for their loved ones. Denna Cohen, President of MADD Long Island, said, "No new victims, I cannot say it any simpler than that; this is my prayer."

Each family took white carnations from the baskets in the lobby. Each person placed their flower against the memorial wall and paused for a moment of silence.

SNL on Thin Ice

By Kenny Kane

In a skit that aired December 13th 2008, Saturday Night Live targeted New York State Governor David Paterson. The unprovoked insult came during SNL's "Weekend Update" which portrayed fictional interview with SNL cast member playing the legally blind governor Fred Armisen.



Fred Armisen

While the skit poked fun at Paterson's admitted cocaine use, it also was tactless when it made fun of people with blindness. The SNL skit was widely met with poor reviews, especially

by The American Foundation for the Blind. The AFB is upset at the fact that SNL would make fun of someone who is legally blind. Paterson's record shows not only an impressive political career, but a similar career in academia.

Carl R. Augusto, President & CEO of AFB, said "Governor Paterson, who was unexpectedly called on to fill the role of Governor last spring, has proven to be an accomplished political leader who is respected and liked by New Yorkers."



FSC SPORTS

Who's On First?

By Mike Cregan



Skyline 2008 Championships

As the 2009 Farmingdale State Rams baseball team takes to the field every morning for practice, they are reminded of their previous season in which they won their first ever Skyline Conference Championship.

After going 26-18 last year the team members still do not take anything at face value and are hungry to prove themselves as being the top seed in the conference once again.

The 2009 Farmingdale State Rams baseball team has 24 players returning from last year's championship season ready for a fresh new season. Composed mostly of junior and seniors, the Rams are also rounded out by 10 freshman on the roster.

"Without a doubt it is our offense. We have timely hitting that gets the job done," said Mike Dietrich, 22-year-old senior and second baseman on the baseball team.

Although the Rams are a confident baseball team they realize this season will be an uphill battle as each opponent they face will want to take down the defending champs.

"SUNY Old Westbury and St. Joseph's will be our toughest competition this season," said 20-year-old junior Ray Levan, Rams Utility Fielder.

Standing in the 2009 Farmingdale Rams way is Farmingdale Professor Randy Caden, who teaches Sports Marketing and Sports Facilities at FSC and also coaches the St. Joseph's baseball

team. This can find Professor Caden the butt of a few friendly competitive jokes from his students who are on the Farmingdale baseball team and vice versa.

"It's fun teaching here and coaching at St. Joseph's because I'm able to see a different perspective than just seeing the guys on the field," said Professor Caden.

Unfortunately for the sports programs, most of the Farmingdale students aren't aware of the schedule of the school's fledgling sports programs. Chris Gore, a 21-year-old, junior went to a game last season on a whim when he had time to kill.

"I feel incorporating more afternoon games may help. Being as students on campus would see the teams playing could possibly spur more interest," said Gore.

The first test of the season for the 2009 Farmingdale Rams was their trip to Florida on February 26 to compete in Disney World's Wide World of Sports tournament. The team came back to New York with a 2-5 record from the tournament. They played top ranked Division Three teams from all over the U.S., including Rose Hulman from Indiana and Gwynedd Mercy from Pennsylvania.

This trip puts the Rams at a 3-6 overall record, something that past experiences in Florida could have proven. Although the Rams have typically not done so well in Florida, inside the conference is another story.

Men's Basketball Came Close to 2nd Conference Title

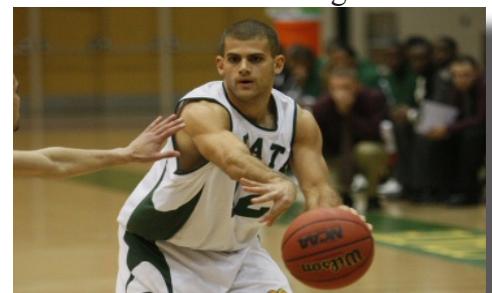
By Kelley Cuffy

The Farmingdale Rams men's basketball team was off to a great start. Winning 24 out of 27 games, the future of the season seemed bright. In the first two home games played against Bard College and New Jersey City, the Rams dominated. They were able to score big in the first halves and keep the crowd cheering. "This game is intense!" said Alexandra a transfer student in her first semester at Farmingdale.

The Rams were able to maintain their winning streak after their first six games, losing only one of the 18 Skyline Conference games. The former conference champs continued to prove why they hold the title with great plays. With only a few minor mishaps during the beginning of the season, Rams fans were very optimistic. In the game against New Jersey City, Latish Alston said, "Jersey City got smacked." The Rams took the win by 44 points, with 104 points to New Jersey City's 60.

"I think they're gonna dog em' especially with the Fab 5 on the squad," said Avery Moe junior and friend of the team, referring to a small crew of friends some of whom are currently on the team and some who are not.

With stellar performances from senior guards like Damien Santana and Joe Cammarata, junior guard Mike Campbell, and the collective effort of the team in rebounding and great play execution, the Farmingdale Rams men's basketball team made it to the finals, but suffered a one point loss to St. Joseph in the Skyline Championship. Overall, the men's team had a great season.



Joe Cammarata FSC Basketball guard