In his visit to FSC on February 26th, LL Cool J, born James Todd Smith, was a much anticipated guest to our campus. Before entering the Little Theater in Roosevelt Hall, students lined up to see the rapper, actor, and author; who recently started a clothing line with Sears and an online social networking website for aspiring music artists. LL Cool J, which stands for “Ladies Love Cool James,” is one of several celebrities to visit FSC. Kiki Sheppard, who most people know from hosting the show “It’s Showtime at the Apollo” was the interviewer for these events. She announced the arrival of LL Cool J and the audience erupted in applause and rose to their feet.

He wore a green baseball cap, with a white t-shirt, showing the arms that ladies love to see. He also wore blue jeans and sneakers. All parts of his outfit had green in them. What stood out most was his “bling.” He wore a sparkling diamond watch and earrings, a diamond chain which he kept tucked in his shirt, and a beautiful diamond bracelet with green gemstones. He also wore very nice sunglasses. The interview began with the explanation of his name which the ladies of the audience gladly screamed out for him, to which he laughed and replied, “I made that up a long time ago.” He spoke about his clothing line and his new venture with Boomdizzle.com, his online social networking website, where aspiring artist can record, and share original music.

He spoke about being a family man, and said he teaches his children to “believe in themselves and to ultimately have a life strategy and to know where you want to go.”

Among all the laughs and references to his well defined body and the continuous licking of his lips, he took all questions seriously. When asked how he handles obstacles he said, “When you’re cooking and you burn your finger, you don’t stop cooking and refuse to eat. So in life there’s always going to be some obstacles. But it’s not about the peaks and valleys it’s about the direction you’re going in.”

He believes the power of music seeps into all aspects of life. “Music connects us, and it has a profound impact” on the political world.

Christine from MADD asked “What is your motivation for supporting charities?” He said, “Charity is important; it’s a part of why we live. If you want love you’ve got to give love. I just believe in giving.”

When speaking about losing gracefully he said losing is just a delay: “A delay is not a denial.” He left the audience with a few words of inspiration. “One of the important things for us is to allow ourselves to grow and transition and to be comfortable with growth in your life, and to set goals and achieve those goals and to set new goals, and constantly try to maximize your potential. Don’t go in circles continuously, allow yourself to let go of one chapter in your life and move on to the next, and remember to keep God at the center.”

Last, he told the audience to “believe in yourself, believe in God, and execute your life strategy.”

With thoughts of the last guest actor, Terrance Howard, Natassia Roberts said, “I wonder how much they paid for him?” referring to LL Cool J.

One out of three people will need blood sometime in their lives, and one out of every 10 hospital patients requires a transfusion. Although the average transfusion is three pints, some patients require more.

The Long Island Blood Services (LIBS) recently came to Farmingdale State College to help the cause.

The blood drive is a program that the Resident Assistants in Orchard and Dewey Hall put together as a show of good faith.

Unfortunately, donors don’t come as easily as they should. The RA’s had to take turns sitting at desks trying to recruit students who walked in and out of the dorms, excuses usually ready at hand. They put in tireless work and effort trying to get as many recruits as they could for the drive – most of them donating themselves. Their efforts went almost unnoticed, but these people are fighting to save lives.

Those involved in this program were Resident Director Amanda Cataldo, Head Resident Alex Tkatchev, Resident Assistant Rebecca Canese, RA Amber Silver, RA Eleni Hayward, RA Gurpinder Kanwal, RA Jackie.
Rihanna; Role Model or Not?

Editorial By Erin Snyder

The night before the Grammy Awards was an unfortunate one for millions of fans. Rihanna, a popular singer, was allegedly involved in a violent altercation with her boyfriend, Chris Brown. As they drove away in Brown’s rented Lamborghini, they were intercepted after the Grammy parties, Rihanna intercepted on Brown’s phone. What happened next is unclear, as neither of the parties involved have spoken out so far about the incident. Rihanna ended up alone on the side of the road, bruised and bloody. She had contusions on her head, a split lip, bloody nose, and bruises on her neck.

A resident nearby heard piercing screams for help and called the police. When police responded, Rihanna told them that Chris Brown had flown into a rage after a verbal argument and proceeded to strike her with his fists numerous times, as well as choke and bite her. She also reported at the time that this was a pattern of abuse that had been escalating.

The next day fans woke up to the news being widely reported. For the next two weeks, Rihanna went into seclusion in Barbados, where she was born. This seclusion ended when she flew to P. Diddy’s mansion on Star Island in Miami Beach, Florida, reportedly to reconcile and reignite her relationship with her attacker, Chris Brown.

A few days after this reunion Chris Brown was charged in court with two felonies. They are now reportedly more in love than ever with rumors of pregnancy and marriage flying around. They have even been having late nights in the studio recording a love duet.

Aside from the popular opinion that Rihanna, caught in a web of abuse, is displaying behaviors typical of battered women. Most concerning is the message that this behavior sends to her fans. Rihanna’s and Chris Brown’s fans are mainly young females. If a role model for young girls allows herself to be beaten and then jumps right back into the arms of her abuser, this is a poor message for her fans to hear.

If one of these young girls finds herself in a situation similar to Rihanna’s, odds are she will forgive and forget just as Rihanna has. Rihanna is simply normalizing abusive relationships and telling these young girls that it is all right to be treated abusively. Not only to herself, but to the millions of young girls who look up to her, she is being irresponsible by jumping back into an abusive relationship in full public view.

Bob’s Coming Back

By Anthony Giambalvo

Bob Dylan’s legacy began with his first self-titled album in 1962. By the 1970s he morphed into an icon with every folk-like chord and politically represented lyric. Over 50 albums later Dylan’s work is being presented in three-day academic symposiums at the University of Minnesota, Liverpool University, and York University to name a few.

Michael Gray was the pioneer in studying Dylan’s work. He is coming to Farmingdale State College this spring hosted by the Visiting Writers Program. He published the first full-length critical study on the 20th century pop culture icon called “Song and Dance Man” in the 1970s.

His presentation will include popular and academic knowledge of Bob Dylan, reciting of Dylan’s lyrics and poetry, both rare audio and video footage, and of course food and refreshments.

The main event will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on April 29, 2009 in the Little Theater in Roosevelt Hall. There is a shorter presentation on April 30, 2009 at 11 AM in Ward Hall that includes the award ceremony for the Raynor Wallace Award for Poetry, a student award. Event organizer Professor Margery Brown had said that, “Michael Gray has scholarly as well as popular credentials. We thought it would be a nice balance.”

Students around the campus seem to be excited for what Gray has to say.

Christina Wolf, student at Farmingdale State, said, “He [Dylan] incorporated social, political, and literary elements in his songwriting, which later became incorporated into pop music, so I would be very interested in listening to one of his presentations.”

Gray has delivered talks at numerous amounts of United States universities once he completed the third edition of his Bob Dylan study. This is your chance to experience what so many have enjoyed.

Jessica Russoles, another Farmingdale College student, said, “It seems interesting. It’s something I’ve never been to and it would be a new experience.”
Climate Change

By April LaManna

Dr. E Christa Farmer, presented a detailed lecture on global climate change to a packed room of students. She discussed the catastrophic effects of having too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from pollution.

“We are making changes in the Earth’s system that is unprecedented in the last 10,000 years,” said Dr. Farmer. “The abundant use of fossil fuels is changing the earth’s temperature, which will lead to higher sea levels, mega droughts, changes in precipitation, increased storminess and extreme weather events,” said Farmer.

Farmer also explained how scientists have gathered information about the Earth’s past climate, from the Greenland Ice Sheet Project.

“Scientists go to the ocean floor and search for fossils. It is in these fossils that scientists can study the chemicals which hold the information of Earth’s previous climate changes,” said Farmer. From the first 150 years of burning fossil fuels we have raised atmospheric green house gas concentration far above what they were 500,000 years ago. Also, the amount of carbon dioxide has been raised 30 percent above levels before the last seven glacier periods.

Dr. Farmer also discussed the movie, “The Day After Tomorrow.” She said drastic changes won’t happen overnight, but over a period of three thousand years.

“If changes were made in the past, maybe it wouldn’t be so bad now,” said Charles Eve.

“We will see a rise in sea levels, deadly storms, and, worst of all, changes in the location of earth’s precipitation,” said Farmer. For example, areas with precipitation that produce our food now will have mega droughts and will not be able to sustain vegetation.

To slow down global warming, we need to use less fossil fuels and more solar and electric energy.

“Later generations are going to deal with problems from pollution,” said FSC student Erin Dantuono.

Earthquake Causes 150 Experiences of a Lifetime

By Ronald Mitchell

Life is about learning, growing, and sharing your experiences with others. Traveling is one great way to explore the meaning of life.

“It will be beneficial for the Chinese students individually and our relations with China internationally,” said Victor Bellard.

Recently 19 students have transferred to Farmingdale State College to experience American college life. The students are from Sichuan Province, a city located in southwestern China.

“It was a culture shock when I came here because American students stay up later than we do in China,” said Wen He.

The students are living on a beautiful green, grass campus in the bright yellow and orange Orchard Hall dormitory. The students got used to the American way of living in the fall semester and are now enjoying their time at Farmingdale.

“The main purpose of this program is to learn something, so we can help to rebuild our home town,” said Zijian Mu. The students will return to Sichuan when this spring 2009 semester ends. The students have been through a bitter sweet experience.

The city of Sichuan was in the news after the earthquake destroyed Sichuan, a one year scholarship program was created called the SUNY China 150 program. The Chinese students were transferred to different SUNY colleges in the United States and 19 of them were placed at FSC over the summer of 2008.

FSC also has a study abroad program every year in which FSC students can go overseas. Students can continue their field of interest overseas for a semester or a year.

Blood Drive

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Shriman, RA Melody Wen, RA Yinka Adedokun, and Associate Director of Student Activities Russell Patterson.

“I had to go around campus and the dorms to ask people if they wanted to donate. Some people had problems and personal reasons for not being able to donate but for the most part people were very enthusiastic about helping,” said Resident Assistant Gurpinder Kanwal.

The RA’s were able to compile a list of 98 people who had signed up to donate. Only 73 of those 98 showed up, and only 55 of them were able to be taken due to lack of iron in their blood, being born in a certain country at a certain time, certain medications in their bodies, or unstable blood as seen in some diabetics.

“It couldn’t donate because I got a tattoo just this summer. I definitely would like to have donated though,” said junior Adam DiMarco.

The 55 total pints is a step down from last year’s 61 pints that were donated. “I like to help out for a good cause. It was a great experience and I would love to donate again. You never know who’s going to need it. It could be someone close to you,” said Kanwal.

“It just feels good to do your part,” said sophomore Amanda Kunz.

Continued from page 1
As the New York Mets and their fans usher in a new season they start a new chapter in their storied history. After 46 years of service, Shea Stadium closed its doors for the last time this past October to make way for the Mets new home; Citi Field.

Built by HOK Sports, Citi Field is the brain child of Mets owner Fred Wilpon who had visions of a state of the art facility with the feel of old historic stadiums. Upon entering the stadium through the Jackie Robinson Rotunda, fans experience the historic aspect of the park as they are treated to the memories of Jackie Robinson who broke the color barrier both in sports and society.

Wanting to capitalize on the trend of fan and family friendly stadiums the New York Mets did their homework as they studied numerous other new and old stadiums around the league to gather data about them in order to create their new home. The result was the beautiful and prestigious Citi Field; a stadium that is head above shoulders better than the old decrepit Shea Stadium.

For older fans that have stuck by the Mets since the beginning, Citi Field brings tears of joy as well as sadness.

Seventy-eight year old Valley Stream denizen Albert Marini brought his two sons to Shea Stadium for their first baseball games and went on to say about Citi Field, “I’m looking forward to bringing my grandchildren.”

The New York Mets bolstered their fan experience by adding a plethora of concession stands and quality restaurants that feature easy accessibility. The focal point of the ultimate fan experience is the Picnic area behind Center Field that features picnic tables, great food and a mini Citi Field for kids to play wiffle ball.

Citi Field’s brightest attraction by many fans seems to be the open air concourses that gives the ability to see the game from anywhere in the stadium.

“You can get up and walk around, get food and still be able to watch the game, it’s great,” said 31-year-old Auburndale resident Amy Ferrara.

Although even with the many numerous improvements Citi Field has compared to Shea Stadium it is still a strange creature for some. “It doesn’t feel like home yet,” said 23-year-old Washington Heights native Chris Flores.

Despite the beating the New York Mets received at the hands of the Boston Red Sox, the New York Mets and their fans walked away from Citi Field with their heads held high knowing they are in good hands as they finally have a beautiful stadium to be proud of.

Let’s Talk Tennis

By Ashley Samson

The fastest tennis ball served clocked in at an amazing 155/mph by tennis phenomenon Andy Roddick back in 2004. Although his serve does not compare to that of Roddick’s just yet, FSC senior William Jimenez hopes to get there one day. Jimenez has been playing tennis since he was 9 years old. He started playing basketball, then decided to give soccer a try, and ultimately found his niche playing tennis.

Tennis is not one of the most popular sports at Farmingdale State College. With game turnouts anywhere in the range between 10 to 20 people, it is surprising to know that this underrated tennis team finished with five wins and seven losses last season. Their hard work also led them to the playoffs last year, where, unfortunately, they lost in the semifinals.

Teamwork is a quality that needs to be present within the game of tennis.

Whether a game of singles or doubles is being played, the team has to work together in order to succeed and win matches. “I’d say I definitely have team work, because you have to push each other all the way through, when they are winning and losing too,” said Jimenez.

Although the tennis team does not have a team captain, Jimenez’s peers see him as a positive leader. Alicia Femoyer is a friend of Jimenez and also a supporter at the games. “He has great sportsmanship, and cheers everyone on when he is not playing,” said Femoyer.

Joseph Cullen, another friend of Jimenez, said, “He really brings the team together.”

According to Jimenez, the intensity of the practices varies. It is common for a practice to be very intense while training for a match, but as the match approaches the coach prefers to keep the players more relaxed and well rested. The last thing the coach needs is for his players to be tired before a match.

This season it already seems the FSC tennis team is on the right track to success. The team has been selected second in the Skyline Conference Pre-season Poll.

FSC tennis has not lost a match this season. Two of their last four wins were Skyline Conference victories.