ECONOMIC CONCERNS BREED SELECTIVITY FOR STUDENTS

By Jessica Cappelli

With the economy in its worst condition in years, prospective students are allowing finance to greatly influence their educational decisions. Costing $2,997.50 for the Spring '09 semester, FSC was one of the more affordable four-year schools on the island.

FSC is handling the increasing demand for enrollment by becoming more selective. The average GPA is increasing gradually, and SAT scores have increased by twenty-one points. For some students, bare minimum high school performances won't land them at this four-year college.

When the number of applicants rises dramatically, as occurred for the fall semester, the slots for enrollment didn't. Fixed at 6,447 students by system administration in Albany, FSC is forced to become increasingly selective in the admissions process.

Fall '07 stats show the average GPA was an 86.33 for a four year degree, up roughly two points from the previous year. Transfer students typically come from Nassau and Suffolk Community College, SUNY Stony Brook, CUNY Queensborough. The most popular programs of enrollment are Management Technology, Nursing, and Liberal Arts. The GPA for Nursing students is 88.4, and is considered one of the most selective programs at FSC.

"We'd love to take everybody," said Judi Cestaro, Director of Auxiliary Enrollment Services. "We work with students closely and have a good relationship with the community colleges." This helps rejected students eventually to be admitted to FSC.

"What are we supposed to do when the easy schools get more selective?" asked Sajinder Bhatia, a senior majoring in computer information systems. Bhatia was a transfer from Queensborough and is happier with the quality of education at FSC.

"It's just like natural selection; survival of the fittest," said John Black, a senior and transfer from Suffolk Community, in reference to the trend of selectivity. Out of schools, out of jobs, and out of options, the country's youth has a questionable fate.

Fashion Fusion at Farmingdale

By Kelley Cuffy

On April 24th 2009, Farmingdale students put their best foot forward during a fabulous fashion show. Put together by David Brown and members of the Inter-dormitory Council (IDC), turnout was great. The show was held under a tent behind Roosevelt Hall.

As the models prepared themselves, the ladies getting their makeup and hair done and the gentlemen getting haircuts, a crew worked diligently to the stage and lighting set up perfectly. The lines grew with friends, family members, students, and faculty waiting patiently to see what would be a great show.

With a fun performance by "Hypnotize" a dance crew from the area, the show was off to a great start. Hosted by Lakeisha Hardy, a friend of David's, the seventeen scenes and occasional audience participation played out without a hitch. The show was full of fun and excitement. Audience members got the chance to show off their own styles that they wore, and to try on some of the designers' pieces as well. One audience member even got a makeover.

The tent was full of flashing lights and music, and the audience was engaged throughout the show. The final scene was a group photo of all the models and designers, capturing the spirit of the event.

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All eyes on you. Everybody is watching, always. Family, strangers, friends, enemies, and more important, employers. In other words, in less dramatic fashion, what you post on the internet can and will be seen and used against you in the job market.

“Even more than 30 percent of employers are checking social networking sites such as Facebook before hiring,” said Dolores Ciaccio, FSC Career Development Center. “You have to be very careful about what you post on page, especially if employers see unprofessional photos.”

According to journalist Louis Uchitelle of the New York Times, the unemployment bunch is at 11.1 million people. Each of those millions of people are being recycled from one job or one career to the next. Also, Uchitelle pinpoints that college students spend hours uploading new photos to the Internet each day and are unaware that employers are discriminating and judging students based on social-networking sites such as Facebook. This indicates one possible reason that students and new graduates may be losing jobs and are completely oblivious as to why.

Farmingdale State College student Lauren Mason has recognized the penalties Facebook can have on one’s career life. “There are definitely photos I will have to take down,” said Mason, 20, FSC student. “I have over 700 photos on Facebook, and I will be modifying my Facebook before job hunting.” Mason is advising fellow students to be aware of the follies Facebook can cause.

Background checks are also another weapon employers use to determine candidacy for job selecting. And, part of background checks, as we now know, is navigating through social networks, such as Facebook. According to attorney Ron Brand of Fisher & Phillips, “no law actually prohibits employers from searching social networking sites on the Internet to conduct their own background checks of current employees or job applicants.”

The Federal Equal Employment Opportunity laws protect employees from discrimination based on age, race, gender, sex, religion, and disability. No law prohibits employers from searching social networking sites such as Facebook; students would never know if employers are exploiting what is perceived to be private information.

While Facebook users update their photos and newsfeeds, Careerbuilder.com has revealed that “24 percent of employers had hired a member of staff based on their social-networking profile and 33 percent had also decided not make a job offer after reviewing content on a profile.” Careerbuilder.com has stated that “the use of drugs or drinking and the postings of photographs deemed inappropriate were identified as the most popular reasons why employers eliminated a candidate after viewing their social networking profile.”

Farmingdale State College student Shannon Atkins is leery about social-networking sites. “Many people post degrading photos of themselves on those sites…I couldn’t give in to creating an account,” said Atkins, 20, FSC student. “I just feel the sites like Facebook or MySpace can really degrade someone’s reputation and possibility of a job.”
Campus Police

By Vanessa Arthur

The Campus Police have as much authority as any regular cop. “At orientation, they told us that they all passed their police tests and that they have the authority to make arrests,” said Romeo Anthony an 18-year-old freshman.

The question of where exactly their jurisdiction ends is also largely unknown among students. Mackenzie Porter, Lauren Rosenzweig, and Leslie Patafio, three freshman girls, are not in agreement on this subject. “I saw someone getting pulled over off campus,” said Porter.

“Yeah, but Campus Police said at orientation that they won’t follow you outside,” said Rosenzweig. Patafio does not believe that they have any jurisdiction outside the campus grounds at all.

Investigator Dan Daugherty has been working on this campus for 12 years. He said that the Campus Police have full jurisdiction over the entire campus, as well as any of the adjoining roadways. However, they rarely exercise that power because Suffolk police take care of things.

The Campus Police have statewide powers to act like any other police. For example, if they see a felony being committed outside of campus, they have the authority to handle it.

Many students aren’t sure what exactly the Campus Police do on campus. Romeo and Rosenzweig both agree that their job is to keep students on campus safe and to make sure everyone has an up-to-date parking pass. “I’m not exactly sure. I always just see them walking around campus handing out tickets,” said Patafio.

The responsibilities of the Campus Police can be easily explained. Daugherty says that their job is to enforce the laws of New York State, as well as the rules and regulations of the College. “Just think of us as a mini NYPD for the campus.”

What’s All the Hoopla About?

By Terence Mulholland

Meagan Ruppert can be seen driving around in her bright blue Volkswagen Beetle, listening to jam music. Her patchwork shirt, long blond hair and Birkenstocks may be screaming hippie, but one with a passion for a craze that is about to hit the east coast—hooping.

Hooping is an updated version of the 1950’s trend hula hooping. The hoops of today are larger and weighted for fitness, dancing and meditative purposes. They are beautifully handcrafted with special colored tape in order to help with the exercise.

In California, it is already popular and it is not uncommon to find hooping classes in a local gym or to see someone using one at a local park. Also, First Lady Michelle Obama hoops, among other exercises, to keep in shape.

Ruppert first got into hooping her senior year of college. “I was stressed out with finals and papers, and needed something to clear my mind,” said Rupert. “I had seen a few people hooping at music festivals, and the little girl I was babysitting at the time did it as well, so I decided to pick it up.”

Since that day Ruppert was hooked, and it was not long until she decided she wanted to share the experience with everyone she knew. She started making her own hoops and giving them to friends. She also taught them how to do tricks with the hoop, and ways to use it as a cardio-vascular workout.

“I saw her hooping, and she looked so free and unrestricted, she would go into a meditative state and not return from it until the song she was listening to while doing it was finished,” said Jen Keis, a close friend of Meagan’s.

Because of her friend’s love for the hoops that she made, and because she wanted to share her experience with them, Rupert decided not only to start selling the hoops but to go to California to get certified in teaching hoop dance.

She now has started her own company called Island Hoops, and sells hoops as well as private and group lessons on her website www.Island-Hoops.com. “Meagan is a free spirit, who wants to share her happiness, but always has a goal. Hooping is her way of giving people a fun way to stay healthy,” said Mary Alice Ruppert, Meagan’s mother.

“Hooping is a way to escape daily pressures of life to, meditate and to relax, while burning some calories,” said Rupert. “Its popularity is growing, and soon the country will be picking up hoops. I want to be in the forefront of the East Coast hooping movement and know that I was involved with the birth of such a fun and genuine way to let go and exercise.”
Believe
By Cristine Calvanico

And what is one without,
The simplest of how it comes about,
The constant entity of something
That many fail to believe
Like the wind through the trees
Is everything I thought it to be,
Exception of fear
In which holds back the truth
And betrays the destiny
Of the becoming
How little do we understand,
or I for that matter
Of the error in our ways
Conversely,
Are we flawed in such dark thought?
Gates of caution repressing the flood
Would love not be love without blood?
How exactly do we speculate
Facing the challenge every day
While some are broken and some are meek
For it's eternally common the solace
we seek
So the long while is, the journey i tread
Holding softly onto the words my heart
once said,
As a mere child unknowingly
Staring into the hopeful eyes of glee
And an impending dream of what may
vVry well happen to me.
So...do we believe?
Take these truths to our hearts,
While the world simply tears them apart?
It is until one discovers
Among the risk of fading fate
For strife in turn will bring wonder,
Eternity sings in the earth so under,
To the souls entwined in what's meant
to be
Only upon such a love are we truly free.
Popular Clubs on Campus

According to the Department of Student Activities, there are 40 clubs and organizations that students can join. Of these 40 clubs, the top three include the Ice Hockey Club, Sociology/Anthropology Club, and Student Nurses Association. It came to mind how these clubs became so popular.

Ice Hockey Club

**Members**: 27

**Purpose**: Team looks to field competitive team every year; play inter-collegiate games

**When they meet**: Club meets twice a week for practice, once or twice a semester for general business meetings

**Season Schedule**: Club plays approximately 12 home games a year which are OPEN AND FREE to everyone on campus. The team plays at the Freeport Recreation Center. The club would love more students to attend. The team also plays around 25 games a season, mostly on Long Island and in, upstate New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

**Affiliation**: Although the team plays other colleges, they ARE NOT an NCAA team. As such, the players fund themselves. This season each new player paid $2,800 while returning players paid $2,400.

**Events**: Club collected pajamas as part of the FSG Pajama Drive. Some club members attended the FSG Art Sale and Auction on February 10th. In the past, the club members have volunteered their time for campus tours.

**Location**: The team plays at the Freeport Recreation Center, in the Village of Freeport. The team’s logo was placed under the ice, and the team has its own locker room complete with locker room stalls.

Sociology/Anthropology Club

**Members**: 15

**Purpose**: Club raises awareness about sociological and anthropological issues

**When they meet**: Once a week, more or less, 11 a.m. Tuesday or Thursday, Gleason 342

**Events**: Rapido Amigo, to get students together. Everyone is invited to get socially engaged so they can meet fellow students. Guest speakers on Depression and Domestic Violence. Participated in raising money for troops (phone cards), replenished food pantries. Raised money for children charities, books for the holidays, Rock the Vote, and Newsday Volunteer Fair.

**Contact Information**: Professor Nancy DiMonte Knapp Hall Room 35 Thomson 106. 11-12 M & W 631-420-2751 dimontn@farmingdale.edu

Student Nurses Association

**Members**: 250

**Purpose**: Promote socialization into the nursing profession; help student nurses to understand how nurses influence the community and the legislative process; provide health education/health promotion.

**When they meet**: Association meets once a month.

**Member Requirements**: Nursing students are official members. Any other student is allowed to attend meetings.

**Events**: Students attend the annual convention of the National Student Nurses Association, (SNA) where they have opportunities to meet nursing students from all over the country and participate in decisions influencing the nursing profession. The students will be heading to Nashville, Tennessee in April for this year’s convention. Major participants of the campus’s blood drives and campus Health and Wellness staff.

**Contact Information**: Professor Joanne Lapidus-Graham Gleeson 308 631-420-2390
Men’s Lacrosse

By Jessica Cappelli

Farmingdale State College men’s lacrosse team played last Tuesday against SUNY Oswego. The Farmingdale Rams were 1-1 after losing their first game against SUNY Plattsburgh and beating Briarcliff College at Saturday’s rescheduled home game.

The Rams were off to a rocky start. After the modest crowd saluted to an upside- down flag dangling from the bleachers, one female student commented, “our school is so ghetto.” The outdoor track separated the field from the fans that stood against a shaky black fence. The Rams, dressed in white home uniform, faced the away team, who shared their colors of green and gold. Oswego got the first possession but the Rams were right back with the first attempted shot. Number 18, freshman Erick Thomson, got very physical as the goalie shouted constantly at the other teammates in one-word commands such as “RIGHT!” and “CHECK!”

Farmingdale scored first by #25, Eddie Rifice, and there was much confusion among the players when a shoe was lost in pursuit of a follow-up score. The Rams were penalized for the loss of equipment, followed quickly by the first of many goals from Oswego. Number 13, Jimmy Owsinski, attempted a goal while being cheered on by the crowd, but couldn’t deliver. During the face off, Farmingdale got possession only to give it up as the aggravated 2nd season coach Tim Tuttle screamed, “How bout some consistency?!?” in response to the ref’s call. Unable to score after an Oswego penalty for being in the crease, the Rams fell to 3-1 at the time of the first huddle.

“At least we’re off to a great start,” said a male spectator sarcastically, as Tuttle yelled at Thomson to stop walking and huddle up. There was a definite familiarity among the crowd as people greeted each other amidst the disappointment.

A man with a tripod and a video camera identified himself from the sidelines as the grandfather of #6, Gerald Trovato, a freshman who scored in the last game against Briarcliff. He had been out with a shoulder injury but played against Oswego and attempted to score right before the second huddle. The score was 4-1 Oswego by the end of the first period.

“This is ridiculous. They’re playin’ like they’re in the pee-wee leagues,” said a frustrated male spectator after Oswego took the lead by yet another point. “Come on, get your passes goin’ guys. Don’t force it!”

After each 15-minute period, the teams switch sides, and there is a short break before period 3. Period 2 began with another missed attempt by Thomson, who couldn’t find anyone open even though fans were screaming “He’s wide open,” in reference to one of his teammates. Number 19, freshman Joe Nacarlo, took a brutal hit to the chest that had some crowd members moaning in imitated pain.

After yet another disappointing call from the ref, Tuttle yelled, “Are you kidding me? That is so bad. That is so high school!”

In desperation mode, the Rams tried a play called Delaware, with no success and the score was 8-1 Oswego by the end of the half.

It continued to be a blow out, and the #5 Rams fell to the #11 SUNY Oswego.

The Dancing Ball Player

By Vanessa Arthur

Rachel Ferrara, the 6 foot 1 inch, 19-year-old power forward center on the FSC Girl’s Basketball team loves basketball. After all, she has been playing since she was in the 3rd grade. But her other passion has always been for the art of dance.

“I always loved to dance,” said Ferrara, the former ballet student. “I was really good too! I was even a student teacher for my dance class.”

But when it came down to her future, she knew she would be able to get college scholarships for basketball and not as easily for dance. Ferrara’s best friend and cousin, 20-year-old Emily Goldberg, has nothing but good things to say about her.

“What do I like about Rachel?” said Goldberg. “What don’t I like about her?! I like everything about her! She is like a sister to me!”

However, Goldberg said that Ferrara is very disorganized and that her room is always a complete mess. Joan Ferrara, Ferrara’s mom, is very proud of her. She said that although Ferrara doesn’t get much playing time and that she has had some injuries, her mom said that she has taken her commitment to the team very seriously.

Ferrara’s mom said that the Rachel at home is not the same Rachel her teammates and classmates know.

“What her teammates don’t know is that Rachel is really a white girl!” said Ferrara’s mom. “She hangs out with the team and she fits in, but she likes the theater and listens to Broadway show tunes with me. I’m not sure she would want people to know that though. She likes people to think she is tough.”

As far as her future plans, Ferrara wants to move to New York City and become a history teacher.
It's all good. Let's grab something to eat at First Stop Café.

Welcome to Farmingdale State College

First Stop Café

What's with this? Let's just go to class, then.

Whenever it rains the campus floods... You knew that.

Dude, I worked so hard to get a good grade on this test and I totally bombed.

So I failed my test, I couldn't forge a river, so I'm starving... what else could go wrong?

You definitely forgot about all of the geese on campus.

 Gleeson Hall

Show. Backstage, “things were hectic, but everyone hit the runway and did a great job” said wardrobe helper Melody Wen.

The show covered styles like formal wear, urban wear, swim wear, and even hats. During the lingerie scene the host advised parents to cover the children’s eyes. The scene wasn’t very risqué but did warrant the warning. Overall David says “There was no goal for the show; it was just me making my ideas visual. Fashion is my passion.”

The show was concluded with a tribute to the United States scene where the female models wore outfits made of the pattern of the flag, and an all white scene. “The show was really good, very different from last year’s” said Latifa, a guest who attended the show. The show left people anticipating what’s in store for next year.

Aries - Don’t ram your way through life.
Taurus - Quit being stubborn. Go get some sun.
Gemini - Grab your other half and hit the road.
Cancer - Quit being crabby; go out and do something.
Leo - Enjoy the festivities. You are the king.
Virgo - Trust your instincts.

Libra - Have an open mind for once; balance the pros and cons.
Scorpio - Make sure you stay cool. Head for the shade.
Sagittarius - Avoid all contact with horses.
Capricorn - You will feel refreshed and energized.
Aquarius - Make a splash this summer and go out to chill with the mermaids.
Pisces - Go fish.

Horoscopes

By: Bruce Davidson & Megan M. Wright
Let Freedom Ring

By Erin Snyder

The Little Theater was approximately half full with students and faculty on Wednesday. Everyone had gathered on April 29th to hear a presentation on our First Amendment rights. The presentation had been organized because of an incident on campus with foggy details. There was some sort of poster that had been put up and was the subject of controversy on campus over the contents. This in turn inspired Farmingdale to organize an informative session on what rights are covered under the First Amendment.

The presentation started off with a brief background of the First Amendment which includes freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and the right to petition the government. It went on until McCarthyism which lasted from the late 1940’s to the late 1950’s. Joe McCarthy was a senator who spread fear throughout America during this time with his accusations against citizens of our country being sympathetic or involved in the Communist Party. A video of the McCarthy-Welsh hearings was shown to the audience. This video showed the audience what is considered to be one of the most famous and powerful exchanges in American history regarding our First Amendment rights as United States citizens.

The keynote speaker during the event was Dr. Michael Zweig who is an Economics professor at Stony Brook University. Dr. Zweig has a long list of achievements including authoring many books, receiving prestigious awards, direction of a documentary, and even appearing on the Bill Moyers Journal program on PBS. Dr. Zweig educated the audience on the difference between academic freedom and the freedoms granted to us by the First Amendment. He stressed that the most important part of the First Amendment is the power it gives us to hold the government accountable for its actions.

“Confront issues we have in this country and make it a better place,” said Zweig. Examples were given to the audience of instances where the government has wrongly stepped in to try to silence people if what they said didn’t fit into the government’s agenda. “Go to where there is darkness and try to find light within it,” Zweig said many times throughout his speech. His last piece of advice was to urge students to investigate alternative media outlets such as democracynow.org instead of accepting the information without question that the mainstream media releases.

EDITORIAL

County Avoids Layoff Mess

By Brian Birgilas

In these economic times, the time-honored tradition of negotiations between management and unions takes on added level of severity. In this case, the negotiations were between Suffolk County (headed by Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy) threatening to layoff up to 675 workers (if they didn’t get significant concessions) and multiple unions trying to prevent that from happening.

To this point, Levy has been pretty successful in getting the unions to make some concessions. He was able to make a deal with the Association of Municipal Employees (AME) that prevented any layoffs for any of their members. The deal includes a two-week lag payroll that the members get back when they retire and a reduction of meal allowance from $12 to $10 for workers during overtime shifts. Levy did add an unnecessary shot after an agreement was finished by saying that the reason the deal did not get done earlier is that AME President Cheryl Felice was involved in her reelection campaign (which succeeded). While this might be true, it was emblematic of Levy needlessly taking a harsh tone with these negotiations, especially when layoffs are on the table.

While he has gotten a similar deal from the correction officers, he still has yet to get a deal with the Police Benevolent Association. The back and forth between Levy and the PBA has been ugly since last year when Levy shifted more responsibility to the Suffolk County Sheriff Department. Levy and the PBA need to realize that coming to a fair agreement that prevents layoffs is what is important, not their egos.