Cheers! Dry Campus Policy Is Down the Hatch

By Alexa Toyas

The rumors spreading around campus that the old drinking policy will soon be phased out are true. Administration voted unanimously for a new alcohol policy that will allow students 21 and over to drink alcohol on campus.

The Campus Alcohol Policy prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages for those under the legal limit. Alcohol will not be served daily during food service hours.

The Vice President for Student Affairs, Tom Corti said, “I’ve worked on eight campuses. How many of those campuses were dry? One - this one. I think the policy is a reasonable one. I think it’s consistent with the maturity of other SUNY campuses and treats our students as adults.” FSC students are getting older, 62 percent of them are over 21.

In order to prevent excessive consumption, bulk containers larger than one gallon are prohibited in the residence halls. Alcohol can only be consumed at state licensed sites such as the CC Ballroom, the University Club in Knapp Hall, the Gallery in Hale Hall, and the

Continued on Page 2

By Tasmy Gómez

“J’m staying at the Marriott”

Some Farmingdale students have the opportunity to live at the Marriott TownePlace Suites. Cozy rooms, flat screen televisions, and an indoor pool at your disposal; and there is a driver waiting to take you to class every day. This is the new ‘residence life’ experience for 16 international students living in the Marriott TownePlace Suites, located on Route 110.

The apartment-style living includes perks such as a full kitchen, access to the Marriott courtyard, indoor pool, spa, two gyms, daily complimentary breakfast, and weekly happy hours at no cost.

Students also receive a biweekly allowance for food expenses and are transported to and from the property everyday as well as anywhere within a five mile radius from the Marriott.

Lina Cabrera, resident assistant at the hotel, describes the experience as life changing. “Even though living on campus is a rewarding experience and you get to know a lot of people, living at the hotel makes me feel more independent and gives me a better glimpse of the New York experience.”

The initiative was championed by Dr. Lorraine Greenwald, dean of the international education and programs, and Brianna Navarro, international student advisor. The students selected in this pilot stage, beginning in spring 2014, were chosen based on a record free of infractions to the Student Code of Conduct and GPA above 3.0.

At the moment, the apartment-style living is only available for international students because, as Navarro explained, “The international student population has skyrocketed over the past year, so this program is a way to provide international student housing.”

For Sai Kiran Yadubati, a senior in mechanical engineering technology, the best part of living in the apartment is getting to cook his own food. While George Varghese goes for the fitness aspect: “It’s nice having facilities like a gym and a swimming pool at the place we are staying. This keeps us fit and healthy.”

It seems that for everyone involved, the apartment-lifestyle is just as good as it gets for an international student.
Black History Month Spawns Diversity Club

By Nina Okahum

In honor of Black History month Farmingdale State College students and professors put together various showcases during the month of February. While Black or African American students make up about 1 percent of the population of FSC, according to Farmingdale.edu, there is a strong sense of pride and brotherhood among students and faculty of various races.

The commencement of events for Black History Month began Monday, February 17, with a showing of “The Butler” in the Little Theatre in Roosevelt Hall. The 2013 movie was based on the life of an African American man who served as a butler in the White House over 34 years. The movie follows the main character from the civil rights era all the way up to the 2008 election of Barack Obama.

On Tuesday, February 18, The African American Diversity Club along with members of Unique Hyte dance group and various other poets performed on the stage in the Little Theatre in Roosevelt Hall. The opening statements were made by Renee Adams, the founder of the Academic Student Assistant was misquoted in a story about the Science, Technology Entry Program (AADC) was founded the day before the event on February 18 and Evon Adams is the acting president. Adams, a Gremadian born construction engineering management major, plans to use this organization to generate more energy on campus for African American heritage and African American studies.

This showcase brought out approximately 50 people. “I feel the turnout was successful because I feel the idea was to build up some kind of momentum for black history, or passion, or drive in this school for black history, and it was a success,” said Evon Adams.

The end of Black History Month festivities took place February 25 in the Ballroom in the Student Center. A poem performance followed several readings including the 1969 Maya Angelou poem, “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” presented by Evon Andrews and Arielle Taberheau. Unique Hyte closed the event with an energy filled dance performance.

Some of the attendees included Dr. Veronica Henry, executive assistant to the President of Farmingdale, Dr. W. Hubert Keen, along with Dr. Lynn Elle, director of TRO. “This is a wonderful way to start off my first year at Farmingdale and I commend the Diversity Club,” said Dr. Henry. “They gave such a wonderful program on black history month. I think it also gives the students a voice, which I think is important in our setting, and it’s a form of development for the students.”

Students who participated in the celebration.

Correction

An article in the February issue of the Rambler, Sonia Kishwar, who wrote about a student Assistant was misquoted in a story about the Science, Technology Entry Program (AADC) was founded the day before the event on February 18 and Evon Adams is the acting president. Adams, a Gremadian born construction engineering management major, plans to use this organization to generate more energy on campus for African American heritage and African American studies.

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Meeting Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams

Farmingdale Student met Nobel Laureate, Jody Williams. There was an interactive discussion and a book signing of her memoir, “My Name is Jody Williams: A Vermont Girl’s Adventures of the Ski and Snowboard Club.” The audience ranged from young to older, many from her home state of Vermont. Williams expressed passion for her work and spoke about the dangers of landmines and the need for international cooperation to eliminate them. She also talked about her work with the United Nations and the importance of education and awareness in combating landmines.

Know What to Wear to the Next Job Fair

By Joy Tasiowski

The Farmingdale State College Career Center presented the “Dress for Success Fashion Show” in the Campus Center Ballroom for students and faculty to learn about how to prepare for the job fair and announce the models.

Junior Tameka Boyajian, meets Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams

When Tameka, another model in the show, chose her two outfits, she kept her mother in mind. Daniella said her “mom taught [her] to look her best and never settle for less.” In other words, keep it classy - a tip everyone should keep in mind when dressing for an interview or job fair.

For more information and tips on picking out the perfect professional outfit, head over to Farmingdale’s website and click on the Career Development Center link for a “Dress for Success” brochure.

So Long Snow

By Christine Calvacca

Commuting is something every student has to take into consideration when choosing which college to attend. A commuter student verses a dorm student face completely different situations when it comes to the commute in the bad weather. Laura Maneri, 20-year-old sophomore, is enrolled in the professional communications program. She dorms on the campus because of how tough the commute would be. She explained how convenient it is for her to attend class when the weather is not so great.

“I can just roll out of bed and mosey my way to class,” said Maneri. If she had to commute from her house everyday, the bad weather would make it impossible to get to class.

Stephen Bonczyk is also a sophomore at the college, except he does not dorm on campus. Although it has been a particularly rough winter this year, Bonczyk has managed to avoid any disturbances due to inclement weather because classes have been canceled. However, Bonczyk did acknowledge the fact that he is only 20 minutes away and he drives a Dodge Ram pickup. He would not attempt the commute in the midst of one of the storms we have experienced this year.

“My truck can make it through some pretty crazy storms, but I would not risk my life to attend a two hour class,” said Bonczyk.

Dan Daugherty, the assistant chief of police on campus said that the roads on campus are very good compared to the roads outside of campus, so they have not had an increase of accidents due to this weather. They are experiencing the usual parking lot accidents here and there. “The purpose of the college president canceling classes is when he thinks it will be hazardous on and off of campus for commuters,” said Daugherty.

Commuting in severe winter weather presents many dangers to students, who often times have not been driving for very long. Depending on the type of car they drive, it could affect one person much more than another. Spring is a welcome to many.

Measuring the Ski and Snowboard Club

By Thomas De La Cruz Waga

Currently there are a plethora of clubs and activities which students can enjoy. One of the Ski and Snowboard Club, which was founded by Mike Garite, Chris Guaglione, Alfred Lizza, and President Peter Saenz.

The Ski and Snowboard club provides fun and friendship-building. Exercises for students to draw on for the rest of their lives through both ski and snowboarding activities.

Their most recent trip was December 14, to Windham Mountain, located in upstate New York, approximately a three-hour bus ride. Twenty-six members went on this trip. It had snowed two days prior to the trip, which made for prime skiing and snowboarding conditions for all of the club members.

“We shredded the pow and got some banger footage.” “That’s just an example of snowboarding lingo, which can be viewed as quite odd by people who do not partake of skiing or snowboarding,” said Garite.

Derrick Kelly, a nursing student, came on her first trip with the Ski and Snowboard Club this past Friday. “It was exciting but nerve wracking at some points because I haven’t skied in over two years,” said Kelly. She had only been a member for about a week prior to the first trip, and all she had to do to come on the trip was simply sign some waivers.

The president of the Ski and Snowboard Club, Peter Saenz, had injured his knee on a previous snowboard trip he had taken, so he was inclined to take it easy on this trip. “Everyone was cranking the gnar,” said Garite.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Farmingdale Ski and Snowboard Club, simply join the Facebook page (Farmingdale Ski and Snowboard Club).
The New York Drug Enforcement Task Force recently busted a heroin mill located in the Bronx. This heroin mill has been delivering more than half a million heroin doses all over the streets of New York.

The city is just close to the Farmingdale area, students are left to wonder if it is surrounding them on the Farmingdale campus.

“I personally have only seen it once or twice on campus,” said Farmingdale student, Cassie Christian. “I have found needles around campus before.”

Christian is also an employee at CVS and has knowledge of this issue comes from what she sees during work. “I have worked in a couple of CVS stores, so I have seen it in my town of Wantagh, but I have seen it in Farmingdale. Needles get bought in pharmacies like CVS.” They have been used and found in the store, “I’ve found them in our toy aisle.”

This is a concern for Farmingdale College due to the amount of heroin sightings in towns surrounding the campus. “I have never seen any use of heroin around campus, but I do know Massapequa is big with it,” said student, Anna Ciancio. Considering that many of Farmingdale’s commuters come from Massapequa, this is an issue our students may face.

Kathleen Casserty, alcohol and other addictions counselor at Farmingdale College’s Health and Wellness Center, said, “It is epidemic in Nassau and Suffolk counties. I have had students with a problem with heroin approach me for counseling.”

“Sharing needles can lead to HIV and/or hepatitis C, bad teeth, inflammation of the gums, constipation, cold sweats, weakening of the immune system, impotence in men, loss of memory and intellectual skills, loss of appetite, and insomnia.”

In 2012, 110 people on Long Island died from heroin overdoses, K3 were from Suffolk County and 27 from Nassau.

The unfortunate growth of heroin users is dangerous for our society. “Drugs changing behavior becomes the norm - and can lead to crime and damage to relationships, finances and overall health,” said Casserty.

With the need to crack down on the suppliers and users of heroin on Long Island, it is crucial to be aware of your surroundings. Regarding how to distinguish a user, Casserty said, “Dilated pupils are a giveaway and users will seem drowsy.”

Student, Elijah Fitzgerald, like me, has a pit bull. His, however, is a pure bred pit. His is a 4-month-old so we’re both going through similar problems. Fitzgerald works at a bank, working about four days a week, eight hours a shift. He is also a communications major and attends school two days a week. His pit bull, a female named Clover, one time kept him up all night crying and barking. Fitzgerald was up until 5 a.m. pleading with the dog to be quiet. There was another time where Clover stole his cheeseburger and ate it right in front of him.

Barbara Konis, a biology major, works part-time at a Pathmark, recently got a kitten. While not as much work, she was still a handful. Recently she did wash dishes and her tub water was running when she came home and didn’t understand why. It turns out the cat saw her use it and figured out how to use it herself for a mid-day drink.

Mark Zerba, a psychology major who interned at his old middle school at Hempstead, has a puppy as well. It’s a 9-month-old chocolate lab named Cookie. They got the name from the fact that one day when they got her, she managed to get inside of a box of Snickerdoodle Girl Scout cookies. They all, including me, agreed on the same life.

While our pets drive us crazy, we love them just the same. So while it may not be easy, it is worthwhile.

Eric Stover, Chief Operating Officer of Cosmos

“I enjoy the class!” said student, Cassie Christian. “It is so refreshing to see the campus has a course on LGBT studies and the problems surrounding the community.”

“It’s a bit early to say for sure, but for now I am seeing a change in the students, understanding of society and the LGBT liberty,” said Professor Coston.

“I feel like this class, combined with the fact that the campus is starting a GSA (Gay Straight Alliance), will allow for more LGBT students to feel comfortable. I think it will allow for the school to look a lot more open and accepting for everyone,” said Christian.

“I recommend this class, this is a more interesting class at Farmingdale, and this is moving Farmingdale in a positive direction,” said Brian Sullivan.
The FSC Women's basketball team has been nearly perfect in conference competition this year. They won the Skyline Division with a 13-1 record. The team has an overall record of 16-8, but their conference play has been nothing less than dominant.

The team didn't begin successfully dominant. After their first five games they were 1-4. Their defensive effort wasn't there, as they were giving up an average of 75 points per game. "After their starting five, they're a young team," said Sandy Holmes, mother of freshman Sade Holmes. "These girls needed to learn how to play good defense at the college level."

They did just that. With a fast-paced offense and now only allowing 58 points per game, the Rams have been nearly unbeatable over the past few weeks. The Rams lead by a powerful scoring duo that average 36 points per game together.

Junior Camille Romero leads the team at 19.7 ppg. Senior Nicky Young is second on the team averaging 16.2 ppg. The team as a whole has a high powered offense, averaging over 73 points per game in conference play.

"Our offense starts from the defensive end," said Romero. "The more aggressive we are on defense, the more stops we get, which gets our offense rolling."

With an experienced starting lineup comprised of all juniors and seniors, the Rams have a ton of youth and potential off the bench. Freshman Sade Holmes is one of only two freshmen to play in every game this season.

"Playing with more experienced players taught me to be more aggressive on the court and to keep fighting through my mistakes," said Holmes.

The Rams season came to an end with a loss in the Skyline playoffs to Mount Saint Vincent in the semifinals with a 76-59.

By Thomas Hatzinger

Women’s Team Gets to Semi-finals

The three-seeded Farmingdale State Rams fell to the Mount Saint Mary Knights 95-75. The loss ended the Rams' chance at a third straight appearance in the Skyline Championship.

After a convincing win in the conference quarterfinals against St. Joseph's, the Rams had high hopes of getting back to the championship game. Unfortunately for the Rams, the Knights opened the game on a 20-2 run and never looked back.

The Rams did their best to battle back in the second half, pulling within nine points. However, the Rams bench was out-scored 34-14 in the game, which proved to be too much for the Rams to come back.

The Knights would go down to top seed Purchase College two days later, sending them to the Division III Men's Basketball Championship Tournament.

It was the Rams second straight year losing in the playoffs after winning the Skyline Championship in the 2011-12 season.

In his first season, coach Brendan Twomey did a nice job posting an 18-9 record and winning a playoff game. However, it will be a tough task replacing the five seniors who will not return next season, one of whom is the Skyline Conference Defensive Player of the year, center Donald Lawes.

"I just try and block everything," said Lawes, who seems to block everything in his path. He led the nation in all NCAA divisions, averaging 4.5 blocks per game. Certainly he is the biggest hole to fill on the team, Lawes is held in the highest regard by coach Twomey.

"I've been around Division III basketball about 15 years, and he's the best shot-blocker I've ever seen as a player or coach," said Twomey. "Losing a player like Lawes will be tough for the Rams, but don't count them out just yet. Coach Twomey is entering his second season with the Rams, and will be recruiting his own players for the first time."

The 2014-15 Rams will certainly be different from years past, but maybe that's what the Rams need to be more competitive in the future.

By Brian Schult

RAMS Fall to Knights in Skyline Semi-Finals

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