

THE RAMPAGE

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Pink Ribbon of Hope



By Karen Gale

As the crowd gathered at the bar in Bethpage, one person was on everyone's mind, Luc, the latest victim of Breast Cancer. The fund raising bracelets on their wrists of the crowd stated, 'I'm not easy-I'm just Luc.' And on the other side, 'F--- Cancer.'

Breast Cancer is the second most diagnosed cancer among women after skin cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death in women, after lung cancer. Approximately 40,000 women die every year from breast cancer and five percent of them are women in their 20's.

While it is rare for women in their 20's to develop breast cancer, it is happening more often. Experts aren't sure why. Family history is one major risk factor, but other possibilities are becoming more apparent, like diet, exercise, and obesity.

So in October Farmingdale took pride in participating in Breast Cancer Awareness month, sponsoring a two day bake sale, and joined thousands of others in the Jones Beach Breast Cancer walk.

"Seventy dollars was raised and donated to the American Cancer Society," said Sandy Lori-Snyder, Students Activities Director. "Not bad for selling some cupcakes."

If women are unsure how to give themselves breast exams the Farmingdale Medical Office staff said, "Students are welcome to into the medical office at anytime and a nurse will instruct you on how to give yourself the exam."

"It's not your grandmothers' disease anymore" said student Christy Orquera. Even though October is over and the pink ribbons have been put away until next year the fight is still going on and will not stop until there is a cure.

CULTURE SHOCK

By Brian Henderson

Farmingdale State College is in for quite a culture shock this year. In an effort to promote goodwill between the United States and China, SUNY schools across the state will be housing foreign exchange students from the Sichuan Province of China. The Sichuan Province was left devastated by an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.9.

The earthquake took the lives of over 70,000 people earlier this May. Nineteen of these students will dorm in FSC's Orchard Hall until late May or early June. Recently some FSC students voiced their opinions on how they feel about Farmingdale hosting foreign students.

John Purafaciti is currently a junior at Farmingdale State College. He is majoring in architecture and is from upstate New York. Purafaciti believes the humanitarian effort being made by SUNY schools is a good thing.

"I think it's a great thing that SUNY schools are making an effort to help the earthquake victims further their education. I mean, it's something we all watched on the news and felt bad about, but at the time were all unable to help."

Purafaciti also said that many of the exchange students he has spoken with understand English very well and are fluent in the language. "It strange that although they're from such a different part of the world, their just normal kids trying to get through college like the rest of us."

Jisanh Oh, 19, a Korean American student, who hails from Brooklyn, New York. He is currently majoring in aviation administration. Both of Jisanh's parents were born and raised in Korea, and he himself has traveled there several times in his life. Jisanh feels that the Chinese students might find it hard to adapt to life in America right away.

"It might take them a few months to get used to living and studying over here. It took my parents a few years to get used to America culture, even with all of my father's relatives living here," said Jisanh. He also talked about the differences between America and Korea.

"The Korea countryside is very rural, as I imagine the Chinese countryside is. There are a lot of farmers, and the roads are very hard to travel on. The cities in Korea are pretty much the same as

ones in America."

Jisanh, who was last in Korea five years ago, feels that adjusting to a new lifestyle is hard wherever you are.

"Moving from city to city or state to state is hard, but imagine picking up everything you have and moving halfway

around the world?

It must open your

eyes to some new things," said Jisang.

Zijann Mu and Xi Yang are two young men from the Sichuan Province. They are both studying applied economics. Mu and Yang both reside in Orchard Hall. They are enjoying their experience in America.

"The room is very nice and very large," said Mu. "The dorms here are much bigger than dorms in China. It is nice having a private bathroom," said Yang.

Although they are enjoying being on Long Island, Manhattan seems to be what they are most excited about.

"We have only been here for 20 days and we have already been to Manhattan and seen the Statue of Liberty. It was a very pleasant trip. New York City is an amazing place," said Yang.

Currently both young men are looking forward to seeing a Long Island Ducks baseball game. "Baseball is also a popular sport in China. We are excited to see a game played in America," said Mu.



China 150 program goes to New York City

Special Election Event

By Kelley Cuffy

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Long Island Chapter recently hosted a special election event at Farmingdale State College featuring speakers Donna Brazile, CNN political analyst, and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Les Payne. The coalition's national scope encourages African American women to be informed on the issues, to be engaged in political initiatives, and to act by voting in this year's important presidential election.

This two day event included a meet the candidates question and answer session on October 1, 2008, where members of both the Democratic and Republican Party running for offices in Long Island came to speak and answer questions about issues facing the average Long Islander. On the second day the Little Theater of Farmingdale State College buzzed with people from all walks of life who were ready to hear

and be heard. The day included panel discussions on the major issues in this campaign: health care; education, which included our own President Dr. Keen; and the economy.

The main event had yet to begin. The room exploded in applause when Donna Brazile took the stage. The respect and admiration of the audience resulted in a standing ovation. As she spoke the room was quiet with an occasional burst of laughter when she lightly jested about the presidential candidates. Les Payne's experience was evident as he asked all the right questions on the issues that face African American communities across America. "It matters who we put in the White House" said Brazile. "We're not interested in changing the portraits in the White House, we need real change." The night ended in a meet and greet with both Payne and Brazile, where they took pictures and signed

autographs for the forum attendees.

Through this forum Julie Dade Howard, president elect of the coalition, said she, "hopes for African American women to be informed on the issues, and to vote," in this year's important presidential election. She also hopes that people will not be deterred from addressing the real issues of both parties campaign and that everyone will take an active part in this year's elections. Although this event was held on campus, there were only about two Farmingdale students there.

"I wish they had advertised this better on campus, it was very informative," said Farmingdale student Jasmine Puranda. The night ended in a meet and greet with both Payne and Brazile where they took pictures and signed autographs for the forum attendees.

A True Tale of a Team Leader

By Erin Failla

For Damien Santana, Farmingdale State College's star basketball player, the sport encompasses his past, present, and future. Basketball has always been his passion. "As a kid I started off playing baseball, but when I got involved in basketball, I fell in love with it," said Santana.

In the past four years, Santana has made his way to the top of Farmingdale's State College's athletic program. From 2005-2006 he was named the Skyline Conference Rookie of the year. In the 2007 to 2008 season, he was awarded the position of Skyline Player of the year while also leading his team to their second Skyline Championship.

Teammates agree that Damien deserves the spot as not only the Ram's star player, but as a notable player in general. "I would consider him one of the best players in the region. His work ethic is great, and he has the self-motivation to be that much better," said Joe Cammarata, a 21-year-old senior guard on the basketball team.

Santana does not worry about defending his position as the Skyline Conference champion because his concerns are with the future. "I want to

be a national champ," said Santana. He wants to finish his college basketball career in the best way that he can.

Being one of the best players on the team can have its downfalls too. There is a lot of responsibility for a player who takes on a leadership position within a team. Santana takes on a great

deal of personal responsibility when the team is defeated. "He takes losing very hard, brutally hard," said Eric Smiles, Coach of Farmingdale's State College's men's basketball team. "I think he almost takes losing too hard."

Above all, Santana deserves respect for not only the hard work he does to accomplish his goals as a basketball player, but for the

image he has made for himself. "He is one of the best people I have met in the seven years that I have been coaching at Farmingdale. He is a leader first, both on and off the court," said Smiles.

It just goes to prove that playing sports can build character that an individual can use beyond the sports arena.



Damien Santana, Star Player



Rampage Staff

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The Children's Center

By Shivonne S. O'Brien

The Children's Center occupies its own little island between the two main through roads of campus. There is a compound of gray trailers with brightly colored playground equipment. But sometime soon the center will occupy a new location, closer to Route 110, in a multi-million dollar building. The new building will allow the Center to serve more children and signals a milestone in the Center's 26 years at Farmingdale State College.

This cannot come too soon. Jeanne Soto works in Admissions. Her 17-month-old son Evan has been attending

over a year. Soto is very pleased with the Center and the program. "I love the Center. It is very convenient. It's small, personalized. The rates are considerably cheaper than off-campus, and I'm very happy with the services and support."

The building is less than impressive. Linda Crispi, Director, said the Center was awarded a \$7.5 million dollar grant for a new building. It is at the pre-bid stage now, so it may not be completed before Evan graduates.

Crispi said the Center is an independent, not-for-profit agency with a board of directors who work at FSC. Some of the operating income comes from tuition, \$1,118/month-community rate, slightly less for faculty and staff, and part comes from grants. The grants allow the Center to provide students a sliding scale depending on income.

A \$1,000 dollars per month is high,

but below market rate for daycare locally. A night student and parent, who is not a client, would like lower rates for students.

"Even though campus daycare is cheaper than off-campus, I still can't afford it on a student budget," said Christy Orquera.

There are no offerings for night and weekend students.



The mission is "To provide an educationally stimulating environment for children, infants through 5-years-olds, and also to make it affordable for students and faculty." Crispi

said the Center is succeeding at this mission. They take care of 54 students during the academic year from 8 weeks old to 5 years of age. There is also a eight-week summer camp which enrolls approximately 80 children ranging in age from 6 months to 12 years old.

Half the Center's students come from the community and affiliates, meaning people who work in businesses located on the campus and beyond. Half are students' children or children of faculty and staff.

During a naptime walk-through, Crispi said some beneficial peer pressure was at work. When children see friends calmly resting, they feel comfortable resting too. The bathroom has child-size toilets so children can potty-train while they attend.

Now Hiring

By Adrienne O'Hare

Farmingdale State College hosted over 65 companies for one of the four job fairs this year on October 16. A variety of businesses attended ranging from staffing companies to entrepreneurs. With the tough economy, many job lay offs, and companies closing doors; the job market isn't at its best.

Ajilon and Manpower, two staffing companies on Long Island, have not found a change in candidates coming in for jobs. There is a fear of layoffs but it has not effected their companies. Rachel Hoffman, Staffing Manager for Ajilon Professional Staffing said, "the best fields to be in right now are health care, information technology, and government."

Obsidian Financial Group, an investment company based in Woodbury, hasn't had many issues with the economy themselves. They weren't involved with subprime mortgages like some banks were which caused them to lose money. Currently their sales have increased and they are hiring due to the fall of investment banks said Annemarie Carone, head recruiter of Obsidian.

Foster and Garbus a law firm collection agency, hasn't been negatively affected due to the economy and debt that people are in. "We hire the most when the economy goes down," said Joyce Ross, Recruiting and Employee Relations Manager. "Unfortunately, times are tough and people have an increase in debt with credit cards and cell phone bills now."

T&K Home Improvements can't say the same. Right now the economy has brought their business to a stop. "They have tons of leads for people to improve or renovate their homes but no one has the money right now," said Dee Marcial, field marketing manager. "Bad credit equals bad sales in our business."

Even though the economy isn't at its best, some companies aren't doing as horribly as media describe it. With a wide range of companies that visited Farmingdale State College for the job fair, most companies were very eager to hire more employees to expand and fill positions.

Freefall Economy and FSC

By Brian Birgilas

With the economy in a freefall, many state institutions face the prospect of dealing with massive spending cuts by Gov. David Paterson. One of those institutions facing funding reduction is the SUNY system to the tune of \$210 million dollars in this fiscal year according to SUNY officials. One of those areas that could be affected here at Farmingdale State College is the Athletics Department.

Farmingdale has recently seen upgrades of facilities for its student athletes. It started in 2006 with the construction of the new baseball stadium. Then just last month there was the opening of a new synthetic

turf field for the men's and women's soccer and lacrosse teams. There are also plans for the building of new tennis courts as well as the renovation of the locker rooms at Nold Hall.

Vice President of Institutional Advancement Patrick Calabria said, "We are going to sit down and develop a plan to deal with this situation."

Another issue is whether there is a possibility of teams being eliminated. According to Assistant Athletic Director Deana Ward, "no we won't have any teams eliminated."

As of press time, Athletic Director Michael Harrington could not be reached for comment.



FSC SPORTS

For the Love of the Game

The Stunning Story of the Backcourt Guards

By Christy Hinko



Tiffara Stewart, Farmingdale State College Basketball Player

Self-discipline and off-the-court bonding are two things that drive the women's basketball team to achieve a winning season. This year's team comprises 13 players, each with a specific job to help the team win. While there are no athletic scholarships given for the basketball team, the women were chosen from metropolitan area high schools by ninth season Coach Chris Mooney and other senior team members to play for the team. Three of this year's backcourt guards are Shaquasha Llopiz, Tiffara Stewart and Shemique Hooks.

Shaquasha Llopiz, #33 of Brooklyn, is the team's only senior this year. This is her fourth year playing for the team. Through the four years, she admits the friendships and the bonding off court have get to be what makes it all worth it. "Most of us are real close, we're basically together all day talking about the game," said Llopiz. "When we meet up in the locker room we joke around and listen to music, but on the court we are real serious." Although she played in high school, she learned she was good in the sport when she

was much younger. Her father used to work at a neighborhood recreation center. Llopiz would play there every chance she got, mostly against the boys. She is undecided if basketball will be the foundation of her career following her FSC degree, but no doubt, basketball will always be a true love.

Another backcourt guard on the team is #1, Tiffara Stewart of Elmont. This is Stewart's third year on the team. She measures in at 4'7" and what she might not have in height, she makes up for in refined skill.

Her height is no obstacle to her on the court. She moves quickly through a crowded court and can steal any ball while having the advantage to reach lower than others.

Something most of her own teammates don't know about her, she's legally blind in one eye and has partial hearing in one ear. The precision and skill needed to play college level basketball is no challenge for Stewart.

"After 20 years you get used to it and pick up on other senses," said Stewart. "My mother is my number one fan; she's at every game." She attributes her winning spirit to her mother.

Shemique Hooks, #12 of Westbury, is one of five new freshmen on the team. New to the team, but not the sport, Hooks has an established pre-game ritual that is often derailed by other teammates poking fun. As she points to her knees she said, "my socks, I took them off today because of Quasha [Llopiz] but they are usually way up to here." Hooks is passionate about playing professionally for an overseas basketball team after completing her degree at FSC.

Llopiz and Stewart agree that last season Coach Mooney reacted differently to each loss. "It all depended on who we lost to and how we played," said Llopiz.

Indoor Track

By April La Manna

Stocky and with a thick black mustache, Arnie Minkoff, coach of the indoor track team looks like Mary Lou Retton's former Romanian coach Bela Karolyi minus the Romanian accent. Coach Minkoff, is poised and acknowledged how dedicated the athletes must be to compete.

"Athletes practice five days a week and rest only before a meet," said coach Minkoff. "Academics comes first then athletics next," said coach Minkoff.

He discussed that all athletes' grades are monitored throughout the semester by an advisor. Farmingdale State College is a Division III team which means no grants or scholarships. Yet students subject themselves to this hard work and dedication.

"The love of the sport, it keeps you focused, in shape, and aware of what you're doing," said Jermaine Carter.

"I wanted to be on a team, make friends, and have fun," said Tom Dicamillo.

There are many events to choose from in track and field. For instance, runners can compete from the 55 meter to the 3000 meter events, and also in relays, high jump, pole vault, and shock put.

Farmingdale can also compete against different Division schools. Last year the indoor track team took third against Hofstra which is a Division I team. Coach Minkoff also said that FSC was rated top ten in the National Championships.

Being a part of the Farmingdale Rams has also led to alumni working for the Athletics Department, Alumni Patrick Santiago is now Assistant Coach and competed with the indoor track team.

Most athletes who are on the indoor track team played for high school teams and were recruited by FSC. Students with no training also have an opportunity to try out for the team.