

Briefs

METRO

S.I. Man Receives Million Dollar Settlement

A man who lost part of his right leg in the 2003 Staten Island Ferry crash settled a suit against the city for \$6.5 million on Feb. 20, making it the third-highest settlement yet, his lawyer said. Shriram Agni, 61, of Staten Island, fractured his leg when he was thrown to the ground, and was later forced to undergo amputation due to complications.

Penn Station Stinks

According to a recent survey of commuters, Penn Station's bathrooms lack cleanliness. On a scale of one to ten, Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) riders gave the bathrooms on the LIRR level a 4.9 in both cleanliness and condition in 2007—the lowest marks in more than a decade. "It's a . . . disgrace that our main railroad station looks and smells like it does," said Maureen Michaels, a member of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA.

NATIONAL

Largest Beef Recall in History

California—A California meat company issued the largest beef recall in history on Feb. 19, which totaled 143 million pounds, some of which was used in school lunch programs, Department of Agriculture officials announced. The recall by the Westland/Hallmark Meat Company, based in Chino, Calif., comes after a widening animal-abuse scandal that started after the Humane Society of the United States distributed an undercover video on Jan. 30 that showed workers kicking sick cows and using forklifts to force them to walk.

Missile Strikes Spy Satellite

Washington, D.C.—Hours after a Navy missile interceptor struck a dying spy satellite orbiting 130 miles over the Pacific Ocean, a senior military officer expressed high confidence early Feb. 21, that a tank filled with toxic rocket fuel had been breached. He stressed that "the intent here was to preserve human life," but also acknowledged that "the technical degree of difficulty was significant." The accomplishment earned cheers from personnel in command centers across the military as well.

INTERNATIONAL

Kosovo Declares Independence

Kosovo—On Feb. 17, the region of Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia. The move marked the final stage in the dismemberment of the former Yugoslavia, 17 years after the process began. Kosovo has been under United Nations protections since 1999 after NATO intervened to halt Slobodan Milosevic's repression of the province's ethnic Albanians, who make up about 95 percent of its population. Ever since NATO's bombing campaign forced Milosevic to halt his violent crackdown, the question had been whether the region would eventually break away.

Castro Steps Down

Havana—On Feb. 19, Fidel Castro, who was bedridden for 19 months, gave up the unlimited power he has wielded in Cuba for nearly 50 years. Whether the surprise announcement represented a historic change or a symbolic political maneuver remained unclear. It is expected that his brother Raúl, 76, will be officially named president, and some experts consider him more pragmatic.

Compiled by
Natasha Pascetta

FCLC Recycling Practices Raise Questions

By CASEY FELDMAN
Asst. News Editor

FCLC—Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC) students are usually the ones receiving grades, but the 2008 College Sustainability Report gave the university a D for its environmental efforts, as reported in The Observer. FCLC states that they are in the process of becoming more environmentally-friendly and have accepted Mayor Bloomberg's "green initiative," but FCLC's often questionable recycling practices confuse students.

According to the NYC WasteLe\$\$ city recycling awareness program, "All New York City residences, schools, institutions and agencies" must recycle "paper and cardboard, beverage cartons, bottles, cans..." McMahon Hall trash rooms designate areas for plastic, aluminum, glass, newspapers and cardboard, but none for paper or magazines.

Leslie Timoney, McMahon Hall Facilities Manager, suggests that students "[bring] old magazines to the gym for other people to read while working out," but did not comment on why magazines are not recycled in McMahon Hall.

The lack of paper and magazine recycling in McMahon Hall "is a violation," said a source at the NYC Department of Sanitation. "They can be fined for that."

"Magazines may be recycled with paper," said Pete Bundock, assistant vice president of FCLC Facilities. "It may be that it was not understood that magazines are considered recyclable, as paper, and signs will be posted in the dorm informing students that the containers currently provided in the trash room on each floor for newspaper may also be used for the disposal of clean paper and magazines."

The NYC WasteLe\$\$ recycling awareness program also states that, by law, buildings are required to post signs detailing exactly what should be recycled and how these materials should be recycled.

"Where do we put our magazines?" asked Christina Halligan, FCLC '10. "Can I not put my school handouts and paper and stuff in the recycling? There are no signs. It needs to be made much more clear," she said.

Bundock said, "The [FCLC recycling] program conforms to the New York City mandates regarding recycling, which are that in exchange for collecting the university's garbage at no cost. The university is obligated to separate out recyclable materials and engage an independent contractor to collect this material."

University policy is to collect recyclable materials in separate waste

streams (plastic, aluminum, glass, and so on remain separate). However, "these recyclable materials are commingled at the loading docks as the recyclable vendor collects them in their truck," Bundock said. "The... vendor claims to re-segregate the waste streams when their trucks are unloaded."

While Fordham ensures that recycling bins in Lowenstein are separated by stream, as required by law, some students voiced doubts that the vendor actually does re-segregate recyclable material after collection.

Bundock stated that the university's environmental consultant, who was employed to assist the university in becoming more environmentally-friendly, has advised them to look into "alternate recyclable vendors who may be more cost-effective and who may handle the waste segregated by stream."

Bundock, however, defended the "commingling" practice. "This is legal, and it is not only the most cost-effective but the most energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly method as well. This is because our streams of materials are relatively small, and one truck can accommodate our entire inventory of recyclable material in the loading dock. To remove the waste in separate streams would require multiple truck and driver trips at a much greater labor and fuel cost, far greater than the relatively labor-and-energy-cheap effort to re-segregate the waste."

John Davenport, FCLC associate director of environmental studies, said, "Our problem at Fordham is lack of sufficient recycling containers, and in fact, custodial services has sometimes been seen to empty recycling containers into ordinary trash."

One FCLC area where there are no recycling containers? Lowenstein classrooms. "There are no recycling bins in the classrooms as there is, and should be, little waste materials generated in the classrooms," said Bundock. "Soda and food containers are not allowed in classrooms. There are recycling and trash containers in the hallways which are considered sufficient...and adequate for the volume of recyclable materials generated; this conclusion is born out of our experience in gathering the materials."

"The reality is that people do eat in classrooms," Halligan said. "And the reality is that there is a lot of trash—and stuff that could be recycled—in classrooms. There are no signs or anything saying that you can't eat in classrooms. And it's very rarely enforced by teachers. I think, at the least, a paper recycling thing should definitely be in classrooms," she said.

Dave de la Fuente, FCLC '10, presi-



COURTNEY LOM/THE OBSERVER

Some students say they are confused by the way recycling bins are labeled in the trash rooms of McMahon Hall.

dent of United Student Government (USG), said, "Classrooms should have paper and plastic recycling bins."

In the cafeteria, at least, one worker stated that trash and recycling all go into the same bin—most likely because there are no recycling containers in the Lowenstein Café. There are, however, recycling bins outside the cafeteria, but food service workers in the Lowenstein Café confirmed that they "don't recycle."

"Why don't we recycle?" one worker asked. "Good question." Said another worker: "Sometimes students put [plastic and glass] bottles on top of the trashcans. We usually put those with the recycling [outside the cafeteria]."

"I definitely think the plastic containers [in which meals are often served] should be recycled, and they should have recycling bins in the cafeteria," said another cafeteria worker.

De la Fuente said he believes that when it comes to recycling, "It's all about the students. It begins with our own effort to be environmentally aware, and in doing so, we become more capable of holding the whole university accountable for its sustainability."

De la Fuente also said, "I've seen some [students] recycle, and I've seen some who don't care—they just put their trash in whatever receptacle is open in the garbage rooms."

Sonia Kim, FCLC '08, said that she and her roommates do not recycle because of laziness. "Also, the trash room

is confusing, like with the plastics and glass—do they all go in one bin or do they separate them?"

However, Kim stated that she "wants to start recycling," and she gives FCLC some credit for trying to be environmentally-friendly. "They have the different colored garbage cans in [dorm] rooms, one is supposed to be for recycling, but a lot of students just use them as an extra garbage can." Kim said she believes that less than half of FCLC residents recycle.

"I do agree that we could use more recycling bins, but ultimately, I think we need to have an awareness campaign for students," de la Fuente said.

Students and faculty alike, it seems, agree that changes need to be made. According to Timoney, "The recycling procedures for McMahon have remained the same since the building opened 15 years ago."

However, Bundock stressed that the university is committed to making FCLC more environmentally-friendly.

"[Our] consultant [is reviewing] all the university's policies and practices relating to our carbon footprint, energy conservation and recycling," he said.

"We will be reviewing all our current policies and procedures to be sure we are fully compliant with all applicable laws, [to ensure that we are] employing all available means to maximize our recycling efforts, and that we are doing so as efficiently, and cost-effectively, as possible."

Molimo Celebrates Black History Month

By LEILA NOONE
Contributing Writer

FCLC—February marked the arrival of Black History Month, and colleges across the nation are hosting a myriad of cultural events to usher in the celebration. At Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC), the student group Molimo, which translates to "family" in Swahili, is spreading the word about Black History Month and attempting to unite the community by initiating what Marjuan Canady, FCLC '08, and president of Molimo called "Black History 366," a celebration of Black History that lasts every day of the year.

Molimo's Black History celebration attracted students and faculty by presenting a wide range of events. According to the club's vice president, Anne Lieberman, FCLC '09, Molimo hosted forums, lectures, outings to see the Evidence Dance Company, "Love Songs of Duke Ellington" at Lincoln Center and dinner nights.

A dance event sponsored by Molimo to see the Ron Brown Dance Company at the Joyce Theatre "made the culture accessible to an audience

who may have never visited Africa or seen African dance before," said Seun Shokunbi, FCLC '08, of the performance, which was infused with African tradition and ballet.

Molimo's balance of art, writing, history, discussion and African cuisine exposed the community to many different aspects of African culture during Black History Month, Lieberman said.

"We tried to put together a balance of everything. It's hard to pick which events to include. A whole month isn't enough time for black history," Shokunbi added.

Molimo's commitment to offering students an eclectic mix of cultural events inspired them to team up with other Fordham clubs and organizations to promote Black History Month, Canady said.

She added that Molimo teamed up with the Office of Student Leadership and Community Development (OSL&CD) to make posters that offered a different theme each week and gave pins and magnets to students who participated in Black History Month events.

"We are dedicated to building a

lasting relationship with Asili where we will interact and exchange ideas with each other," Canady added.

For Black History Month, Molimo has teamed up with the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Asili (the Black Student Union at the Rose Hill campus), El Grito, ISIS, the African and African-American Studies Department, OSL&CD, Residential Life, So-dexho and SPARC, said Canady.

Molimo is trying to establish a bond between different Fordham organizations by opening up its club to everyone and offering Black History events to all members of the Fordham community.

Canady said that Molimo is "open to all students who want to celebrate, learn and unite with each other in the issues, culture and history of African Diasporic peoples. We attract our members through our programming and discussions. We try to program an array of events that will interest different students but on the same theme of African, Caribbean and African-American peoples."

Cerise Adams, FCLC '09, said, "We attract people of different backgrounds through Facebook groups

and also by coordinating with other culture related clubs on campus."

Molimo was founded in the 1970s by Kendall Lide, FCLC '78. Lide came to visit Molimo members on Club Day and, according to Canady, voiced how proud he was that the club was still going strong and reaching out to the greater community. "He met with the members, recited poetry and shared with us stories from when he went to Fordham and how [he founded] Molimo."

Lieberman cited alumni support as being important in strengthening Molimo's mission. "It has been so amazing to meet people who feel so strongly about the organization."

According to Shokunbi, who also acts as secretary, "Molimo's role is to teach others to be open-minded, to explore and to appreciate the different qualities of people coming from various backgrounds and legacies."

Lieberman added, "Black history is not just the history of a Black community in the United States or the world. Black history is everyone's history and is inextricably linked to United States history and world history."