



ARTS & CULTURE

COLBERT STAR SPEAKS!

Artist-in-residence Jerilea Zempel stars in the Colbert Report's "Nailed 'Em: Radical Knitting."

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STUDENTS REACT TO TRAGEDY

Students are "stunned" and "scared" by the terrorist attacks in India, which left 183 dead.

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Fordham Apologizes to Alleged Abuse Victim After Years of "Evasions"



CRAIG CALEFATE/THE OBSERVER

Richard Cerick alleges that he was raped on Fordham's campus in 1968. He says that the University ignored his claims and treated him unfairly.

By **CASEY FELDMAN**
News Editor

In 1968, when Richard Cerick was 13 and growing up on Long Island, he was invited to go skiing with several of his friends who knew Fordham Prep students. The trip was organized by Rev. Roy A. Drake, S.J., who had previously taught at the Prep and was living in Jesuit housing on Fordham's Rose Hill campus. The night before they left for the trip, Cerick said, Drake raped and sodomized him in his apartment, a claim the lawyer for Fordham University and Fordham Prep deemed "credible," Cerick said. Cerick remained silent until 2005,

when he finally informed Fordham University, Fordham Prep and the New York Jesuit organization of his allegations. At the time of the alleged assault and until 1970, Fordham was legally associated with Fordham Prep.

In addition, in the three years since Cerick made his claims known, none of the institutions involved have been willing to acknowledge their responsibility in the matter or to issue an apology to Cerick.

On Dec. 9, as the Observer was going to press, a Fordham spokesperson quoted Rev. Joseph M. McShane S.J. as saying, "We are deeply sorry for the damage done to Mr. Cerick as a

young man and for his pain and suffering. We have been in frequent contact with his attorney and continue to seek a just resolution of his case."

"It would have been nice for him to say that to me," Cerick said. "The notion of human compassion and empathy would suggest that you would say to 'I'm sorry' someone who [went through what I went through.]" Cerick mentioned a short letter from McShane dated May 16, which the Observer obtained. In the letter, McShane "[acknowledges]" Cerick's complaints but "respectfully [asks] that you confer with your counsel regarding their discussions about an amicable resolution to this matter."

Cerick said, "They have never said anything closely approximating an apology to me."

He continued, "What [McShane] doesn't say in that statement is 'We believe him'—they're still not giving any [public] validity to my allegations or accepting [responsibility]."

Mitchell Garabedian, Cerick's lawyer, confirmed that he has been in contact with attorneys for Fordham University, Fordham Prep and the New York State Province but stated, "It is not a matter of how often we contact each other as much as the

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'Tis the Season To Cram for Finals

By **LAURA MAROSTICA**
Staff Writer

Have you ever noticed that, right about now, the library is suddenly more crowded than you've ever seen it? For college students, December is the month for stuffing your brain with what you did not learn this semester—before doom, also known as finals, descends. Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC) is cheerfully decorated right now, but there is not much cheer in the study lounges, as students sit down and realize how much they need to learn in the few short weeks remaining in the semester—and if you haven't kept up with your reading, that can mean three months' worth of material. Catching up can be a daunting, if not terrifying, task. When asked about cramming, all Elyse McFadden, FCLC '09, had to say was, "Don't do it." But if it's already too late and you've saved your studying for the last week of school, here are five cramming suggestions FCLC students shared:

Start As Early As Possible

The best way to study for finals is to be on top of things from the get-go. Just because you haven't done every reading all semester, that doesn't mean you have to leave your studying to the night before the test.

"Try and study the week before, even if it's just a little bit per day," said Francis Pastorelle, FCLC '10.

"When it comes to finals, spread out your cramming on different nights," said Brian O'Connell, FCLC '11. "Buckle down and get into it."

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Faculty Petitions Fordham's Failure to Provide Equal Benefits For All

By **KATHRYN FEENEY**
Asst. News Editor

Fordham has refused to provide healthcare to legally domiciled adults residing with employees, including same-sex partners, despite a unanimous faculty senate vote in 2006 approving a resolution to do so.

Over 420 faculty and administration have signed a petition drafted and presented by the Committee for Equality asking the University to implement the resolution. The Committee holds that by refusing to

acquiesce, Fordham is failing to uphold its own policies of non-discrimination in matters of employment on the basis of sexual orientation.

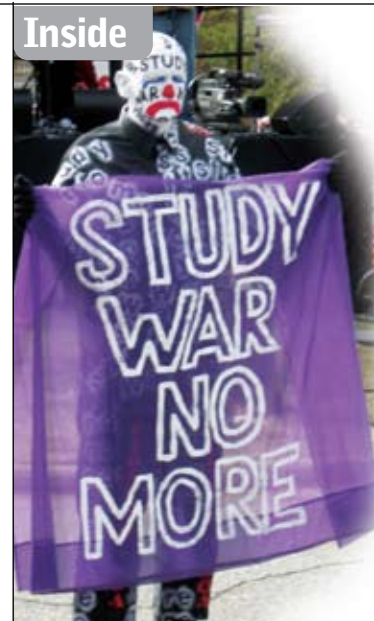
"[I] have been teaching at Fordham for 21 years," said Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé, professor of Spanish and comparative literature and associate director of the Latin American and Latino Studies Institute at Fordham. Cruz-Malavé is a member of the Committee for Equality and said that he is directly impacted by the University's non-compliance with the 2006 resolution.

"During those 21 years, I have

been paying into our common faculty and administrators' benefits, and yet my partner of 31 years, now my spouse (we were married in Massachusetts last spring), has not been able to receive any of these benefits. So for the past 21 years, we have had to either forego his health insurance or pay an exorbitant amount," Cruz-Malavé said.

The term "legally domiciled adult" (LDA) includes same-sex partners and is broadly defined as "an adult who has a close personal

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OPINIONS
POINT!

COUNTERPOINT!

A debate on the merits of the Jesuits in light of the Fordham Law School award controversy.

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FEATURES
HOPE FOR PEACE

Fordham students protest SOA/WHINSEC violence in Fort Benning, Georgia.

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Briefs

METRO

Caroline Kennedy to Run for Senate

The New York Times reported that Caroline Kennedy, President John F. Kennedy's daughter, is



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contemplating running for the New York senate seat that will be vacated by Hillary Clinton when she leaves to serve as Secretary of State in President-elect Barack Obama's Administration. Gov. David Paterson confirmed that Kennedy contacted him "to discuss the position."

State Senator-Elect Owes Thousands in Fines

The New York Times reported that Citigroup announced Monday that "it would cut another 24,000 jobs, bringing its total reductions in the coming months to 52,000." The layoffs may "not come until early next year." The cuts will affect many regions of the country, but "investment bankers are expected to bear the brunt of the losses."

NATIONAL

"North Dakota Asks, What Recession?"

Bismarck, the state's capital, has a 1.2 billion budget surplus, reported the New York Times. The unemployment rate in North Dakota is 3.4 percent, among the lowest in the country, and the home foreclosure rate in the state is "miniscule." The Times attributes this to "a recent surge in oil production that catapulted the state to fifth largest producer in the nation; a mostly strong year for farmers" and a conservative, financially-modest culture.

Obama Speechwriter Draws Attention for Risque Facebook Pictures

CNN reported that 27-year-old Obama speechwriter Jon Favreau has refused to comment about Facebook pictures of him at a party posing with a life-sized cutout of Hillary Clinton. In one photo, Favreau is seen dancing with the cardboard future secretary of state. In another, "a friend was offering the cutout a bottle of beer while Favreau stood beside the likeness with his hand on the cardboard...senator's chest." CNN also reported that Favreau has apologized to Clinton. The Clinton team's response: "Sen. Clinton is pleased to learn of Jon's obvious interest in the state department, and is currently reviewing his application."

INTERNATIONAL

Argentina Announces 3.8 Billion Stimulus

The New York Times reported that the Argentinean government plans to use "billions of dollars of private pension funds" that were taken over less than a month ago to help stimulate the nation's struggling economy. The package will "grant low-cost loans to farmers, automakers and other exporters."

Amsterdam to Close Some Sex Shops, "Coffee Shops" and Brothels to Reduce Crime

CNN reported that Amsterdam unveiled a plan to close down some of the city's "brothels, sex shops and marijuana cafes" in an effort



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to drive out organized crime and money laundering. Prostitution will only be allowed in two sections of the city. The mayor said, "It will be a place with 300 windows [for prostitutes] and 30 coffee shops, which you can't find anywhere else in the world...and you won't have to be embarrassed to say you came."

Compiled by Casey Feldman

Fordham Accused of "Callousness" in Response to Allegations of Rape

ALLEGATIONS FROM PAGE 1

substance and productivity of discussions. [Fordham University, Fordham Prep and the New York State Province] are not interested in doing the 'right thing' in this matter. The results of discussions have been inadequate and insulting to Mr. Cerick."

Cerick said, "As bad as what happened to me was, for the past three years, I feel as though they have made it so much worse intentionally by the way they've treated me...they made me feel like a piece of trash...[because] they couldn't care less."

On Nov. 3, Bob Howe, Fordham's director of communications, released the first statement on behalf of the University in response to the allegations. The statement reads, in part, "Since October of this year, Richard Cerick has been quoted in the media regarding allegations that he was sexually assaulted in 1968 by a priest of the Society of Jesus. The abuses Mr. Cerick alleges are unconscionable and indefensible. Some of Mr. Cerick's... statements, however, have blurred the distinction between the University and Fordham Prep, and the University and the New York Province of the Society of Jesus. Fordham Prep and Fordham University have been independent institutions since 1970...the University is not responsible for the actions of his alleged abuser nor for ignoring his claims."

Garabedian said, "Since the sexual abuse happened on Fordham University's grounds, Fordham University and its supervisors cannot change their legal responsibility by attempting to distance Fordham University from Fordham Prep."

Cerick points to Michael Berardino, the attorney who conducted the investigation into his claims, as proof of the connection between the organizations. "Berardino stated in our meeting that he represented Fordham Prep, Fordham University, the New York Jesuit Province and Drake... Also, Thomas DeJulio, Fordham University's general counsel, appeared at that meeting, and he did not deny that he was representing both the Prep and the University."

According to the Official Catholic Directory, an annually published book that lists the whereabouts of every American priest, Drake was an employee of Fordham University, as opposed to an employee of Fordham Prep, at the time the alleged sexual abuse occurred in 1968; however, he was generally indexed as having been

"assigned" to Fordham Prep from 1965-1971.

Rev. Kenneth Boller, S.J., president of Fordham Prep, said, "From what I understand, Drake was not an employee of Fordham Prep." When pressed further, Boller said, "He only worked at Fordham Prep for one semester—from September 1965 to January 1966."

The Official Catholic Directory listings confirm that Drake was listed as an employee of Fordham Prep dur-

"Not one day of my life ever went by where I didn't think about [the assault.] It was mentally and emotionally debilitating."

— RICHARD CERICK, a 53-year-old New York lawyer who alleges he was raped by a Fordham priest

ing the time period Boller indicated.

However, Terence McKiernan, the president of BishopAccountability.org and a 1971 graduate of Fordham Prep, said that the fact that Drake was "yanked in the middle of the school year" is a "red flag." "Who's going to assign a priest for only half a year, then move him? Why was he transferred to the University? Did the Jesuits know that he was bad news back then? It could be that maybe they thought he wouldn't bother the older college students," McKiernan said.

McKiernan said that he has no memories of Drake from his time as a Fordham Prep student. He said, "Students a few years older than I remember that his apartment was a place where alcohol was an offer, and you didn't go there alone."

Boller said that the Prep does not plan to issue an apology to Cerick. He said he believes it is the responsibility of the New York Province to respond to Cerick's claims, especially to Cerick's claim that Drake continued to live on campus even after Fordham Prep, Fordham University and the Province were notified about the alleged abuse in October 2005. A Jesuit newsletter verifies that Drake was still a resident of Murray-Weigel Hall as recently as the fall of 2006. The building is on the Fordham campus and is owned by the New York Province.



CRAIG CALEFATE/THE OBSERVER

Richard Cerick alleges that, as a thirteen-year-old boy, he was raped by a Fordham employee on an overnight ski trip.

When asked to comment on Cerick's accusations, Rev. Thomas R. Slon, S.J., of the New York Province, would only say that the Province affirms the following portion of the University's first statement: "Mr. Cerick... fails to report the fact that attorneys for the Province, the Prep and the University have been in frequent communication over the past two years with his attorney, Mitchell Garabedian, in an earnest attempt to resolve this matter... Mr. Cerick's allegations are painful to contemplate, and while his anger is understandable, the University is not responsible..."

In response, Cerick said, "In their statement, Fordham and the New York Province continue to re-victimize me, as they have done for the past three years. They still completely refuse to [publicly] acknowledge the validity of my allegations (despite deeming them credible), or apologize for the monstrous crimes that one of their priests inflicted on me..."

McKiernan said, "Drake's alleged...sexual misconduct occurred within a Prep/University relationship, both in a legal and a practical sense. That the Prep and the University now have a different relationship

is not relevant. In its statement, the University has 'blurred the distinction' between the legal situation now and the legal situation at the time of the alleged abuse."

He continued, "The evasions and callousness of the University's statement about Mr. Cerick are not consistent with the University's mission or its Jesuit tradition."

Cerick said, "The words of Fordham and the New York Province's statement could not be more evasive and heartless and demonstrate once again that these institutions and their leaders have no shame, humanity or compassion towards their victims."

"Not one day of my life ever went by where I didn't think about [the abuse]," said Cerick. "It was mentally and emotionally debilitating."

Cerick said his initial goal in contacting Fordham was not to go public. "I wanted them to understand and know what happened and I assumed they would want to do the right thing—investigate it, and if they believed me, take Drake away from Fordham and then have him disciplined in the church. My assumption, which, in hindsight, was incorrect, was that they cared. They don't care."

Terrorists Target Mumbai, India; Fordham Reacts

By ANDREW VACCA
Staff Writer

Terrorists attacked Mumbai, India on Nov. 26, setting off a four-day siege that, according to CNN, killed at least 183 people. Terrorists targeted multiple sites in Mumbai, India's financial capital, including a hospital, a cinema and most notably, the Taj Mahal Palace hotel, one of Mumbai's best known landmarks. CNN has reported that the Indian government has not officially placed the blame on a particular terrorist group and that the attacks have reignited hostility between India and its Middle Eastern neighbors.

People around the world watched as news broke on the evening of the attack, Manish Mathur, Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC) '11, said that his first reaction was "shock." "Even though India has suffered attacks like this before, never have they been so large-scale," he said. Mathur, a member of Desi C.H.A.I., FCLC's Indian culture and heritage club, said that outside of traveling to India to help personally, all Fordham

students can do is "hope that the Indian government can take more precautions to prevent something like this from happening again."

Rucha Desai, FCLC '11, co-president of Desi C.H.A.I., released an official statement from the organization:

"India has always been bearing bloodshed and tears on its soil. This is not the first time the country has experienced a terrorist attack; whether it is because of Hindu nationalism, Pan-Islamic sentiment, Sikh separatism or any other group conveying a message through violence and destruction, Indians have seen their country tear apart.

"This time, because it affected more than just the Indian and Pakistani populations, the attack received international attention. The people of both countries, India and Pakistan, have been subject to politically driven religious and social tension for so long, that no matter what the reason, it is good that their plight is recognized worldwide—especially since these attacks will definitely spawn a reaction..."

"If there is anything I want ex-

pressed regarding the attacks, it is that they were first and foremost done by the work of terrorists. They were simply killers. They were not Muslims or Hindus. The Qur'an does not promote bloodshed; no religion encouraged killing. These

"Even though India has suffered attacks like this before, never have they been so large-scale."

— MANISH MATHUR, FCLC '11, member of Desi C.H.A.I.

terrorists have used the name of religion to organize, to gather more support.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of the Mumbai attacks."

Bianca Rodrigues, FCLC '11 and co-president of Desi C.H.A.I., said that she is "still stunned" by the at-

tacks. "I think what has scared me the most is that the terrorists wanted to sensationalize these attacks and went after foreigners simply because they knew it would create a media frenzy," Rodrigues said.

She continued, "I think many issues are being drawn out due to this attack, and hopefully there will be some reform in India. Political leaders need to take accountability and create actual change. Additionally, there needs to be international cooperation on fighting terror."

Rodrigues added that the attack on Mumbai was "more than just" an attack on India. "It was an attack on human dignity and the regard for life. Forget political boundaries and cultural differences—everyone who died on Nov. 26 was a brother, sister, parent or friend. Each victim of terrorism is loved by someone, so let's remember that love when we try to move on after such horrific events. More fighting will not lead to a solution," she said.

Desai speculated that Desi C.H.A.I. may organize an event in remembrance of the attacks next semester, though there are no concrete plans.