

A NATION'S INDEPENDENCE

Kosovo's declaration of independence on Feb. 17 was met with mixed reactions.

PAGE 6

PLAY CENSORSHIP

Find out why the Drama Book Shop won't sell the play "My Name is Rachel Corrie."

PAGE 12



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Can You Have a Social Life at FCLC Without a Fake ID?

Impending Legislation Imposes Stricter Fake ID Laws

By **CASEY FELDMAN**
Asst. News Editor

Underage college students with fake IDs drink five to six times more than those without fake IDs, according to research recently cited on The New York Times blog. The researchers stated that, as a result of their findings, fake IDs "thus present a significant public health problem."

Many Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC) students disagree and feel that a fake ID, while illegal, is necessary in order to maintain a flourishing social life at a "bar school" like FCLC, where most of the partying takes place off-campus. Students agreed that the only difference between those with IDs and those without is the venue in which their drinking takes place.

"If I wanted to just drink in my room, I wouldn't need a fake ID to do it," said one FCLC '10 student who wished to remain anonymous. "Most people [at FCLC] get fake IDs so that they can go out at night in the city, not just so that they can drink, although they obviously drink at clubs too."

Dane Cotsonas, FCLC '10, added, "...[there are] many ways to get alcohol without an ID."

The majority of FCLC students contacted for this article said that getting their hands on a fake ID

and then using it successfully to purchase alcohol is, or would be, extremely easy (one student said that, on a difficulty scale of one to 10, with ten being the hardest, acquiring a fake ID is a two).

However, the ease with which fake IDs can be obtained and used may soon change as a result of a new Senate proposal, which could impact the social lives of hundreds of underage FCLC students who depend on their fakes to socialize on the weekends.

The bill, presumably conceptualized in response to the surge of underage drinkers in New York with fake IDs, was proposed in October 2007, and it would increase penalties for both underage individuals who are caught using fake IDs and for those who are caught serving these individuals. In addition, the bill would include punishments for "...those who make and sell fake IDs to... underage [individuals]," according to the New York State Senate Web site. The bill also encourages all establishments to invest in ID scanners.

While other underage students stated that they can sometimes purchase alcohol at a liquor store or at some bars, they also said that it is next to impossible to get into clubs or bars where bouncers card at the door without a fake.

"I would guess that either people have a fake ID, or they don't like the nightlife scene in New York," said Brianna Steinhilber,



CRAIG CALEFATE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/THE OBSERVER

Forty-five percent of FCLC students said they have or have had a fake ID. A proposal to impose stricter laws on fake IDs would increase penalties for underage individuals that get caught.

see **FAKE** pg. 4

Science Professor Mourned

Professors and Former Students Remember Brother Lawless

By **ASHLEY WENNERSHERRON**
Online and Copy Editor

Brother DeSales Lawless, C.F.X., the first chairman of the department of natural sciences at Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC), died Feb. 29. He was 87 years old and had retired to his hometown of Louisville, Ky. at the time of his death.

Lawless began the department of natural sciences at Fordham, originally the department of science and mathematics, as well as FCLC's pre-medical program in 1969. A professor at FCLC for 34 years, Lawless was the first science faculty member to join FCLC.

The Rev. Robert R. Grimes, S.J., dean of FCLC, said, "[Lawless'] enthusiasm for his students even outweighed his enthusiasm for his subject. Whenever he heard of a success by one of our alumni, he was in my office announcing it."

Joan Roberts, current chair of the natural science department, said, "[Lawless] was extremely generous as a mentor and arranged for many of our undergraduate students to do research work at Rockefeller University. He will

see **LAWLESS** pg. 5

Inside



OPINIONS
THE BUSH ERA

President Bush will be out of office in less than a year. What will the next president bring us?

► PAGE 7

FEATURES
CIVIC KNOWLEDGE

How much do you know about American history? It might be less than you think.

► PAGE 17

'With Public Actions Come Public Consequences'

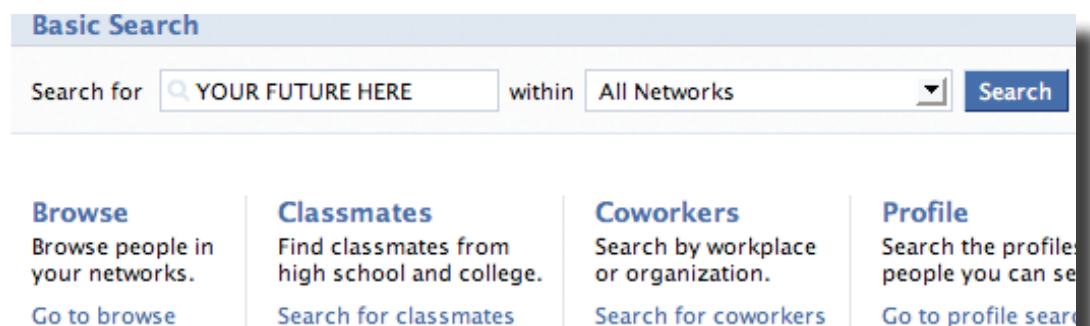
Students and Faculty Discuss Blurred Boundaries of Facebook

By **ASHLEY TEDESCO**
Staff Writer

"Is this something you would want to put on the front of your door in McMahon?" asked Keith Eldredge, dean of students at Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC), in reference to some of the incriminating photos and personal information that students often post on Facebook.

Facebook continues to become increasingly integrated into the social realm, and some students post everything from drunken photos to phone numbers to their home addresses. And now, just about anyone from parents to employers to school administrators can join Facebook, and, if your privacy settings allow it, view your profile and the aforementioned drunken photos.

Ian Hoerner, FCLC '11, says he uses Facebook for its main purpose: social networking. He also stated



CRAIG CALEFATE ILLUSTRATION/THE OBSERVER; COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

Facebook allows students to create a limited profile for more privacy.

that he has heightened privacy settings. "If someone is searching for me, I have set up a limited profile so they can see what I want them to see."

He also said he knows many of his peers often fail to use Facebook as judiciously. "[Some people I know] have little to no privacy settings. They should watch what they

post on their Facebook [profiles] and who is able to see scandalous pictures of themselves, which are not very appealing and give the wrong message."

Facebook continues to grow as a force on the Internet, even gaining executives formerly employed at Google, as reported by The New York Times this month. With

growth, however, comes responsibility.

Though Facebook is now open to regions and corporations, allowing an older generation access to the site, a large portion of Facebook members are still made up of

see **FACEBOOK** pg. 3

Fake ID Laws Threaten Students' Social Lives

FAKE FROM PAGE 1

FCLC '10. "Those are really your only two options. If you want to go out every weekend without having to find lenient places, you have to find an ID," she said.

A male FCLC '10 student, who wished to remain anonymous, does not feel that excessive binge drinking is a result of fake IDs. He said, "Binge drinking would probably continue without fakes. Let's face it, booze is abundant and easily accessible." Another student said, "It's mostly classier nightclubs that card, as opposed to just bars or restaurants." Cotsonas, who stated that he does not have a fake ID, also said, "There are plenty of easy ways to get a drink without getting carded in the city."

The New York Post reported that nightclub owners commended the council's proposal to more harshly punish those who create fake IDs, stating that it has become difficult to spot increasingly authentic-looking fakes.

Some students, however, feel that bars and clubs don't care about serving those under 21 and will not tighten restrictions to limit underage drinkers. They are only concerned, one student stated, "with making money"—so long as their establishment stays out of trouble.

Jillian Wax, FCLC '10, said that she has been working in New York bars and clubs for the past two years. "The clubs never want to call the cops, because a lot of times, they themselves are doing illegal things," she said. "Worst case scenario is that the bouncer will take your ID [if it is fake] and refuse to give it back, which can usually be avoided if you slip him 20 to 40 bucks. It's all political."

A female FCLC '10 student, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "Honestly, clubs just want anything that says you're 21 to protect themselves if cops catch anyone underage in there, so they can say that they checked it." She stated that her



CRAIG CALEFATE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/THE OBSERVER

A crackdown on fake IDs could affect the social lives of many underage FCLC students.

ID looks nothing like her. "Bouncers have outright laughed at my ID, or at people I have been with, but still let us in."

If an establishment is discovered selling alcohol to underage individuals, it is punished with fines or the loss of a liquor license, the Associated Press reported.

Underage individuals caught with fakes, according to an article in the NYU newspaper The Washington Square News, will incur a maximum penalty of one year in state prison. The minimum penalty, the article states, is a court summons, and most offenders are fined, the Division of Alcoholic

Beverage Control laws state. So is having a fake ID worth the risk? For some students, especially

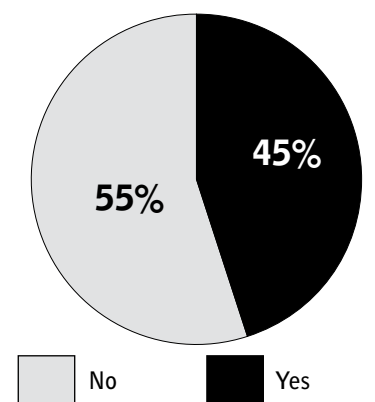
"Binge drinking would probably continue without fakes. Let's face it, booze is abundant and easily accessible."

ANONYMOUS, FCLC '10

Beverage Control laws state. So is having a fake ID worth the risk? For some students, especially

those who frequent nightclubs, the answer is yes. Wax said that her social life suffered without a fake ID. "All of my friends have fake IDs," she said. "Being in the city and going out is almost impossible without some form of fake ID... freshman year, none of us had IDs, and we couldn't go out," she said. An anonymous female FCLC '10 student said, "I know I won't ask certain people to come out with us if I know a certain club or bar is [strict] with IDs. Even though I'd like their company, when it comes down to it, [those people] will stop the [rest of the] group from getting in."

POLL
100 STUDENTS WERE ASKED IF THEY HAVE OR HAVE HAD A FAKE ID:



Senior Values Seminars Exceed Course Cap

Deans Urge Upcoming Seniors to Consider Courses Outside Major

By **MEAGHAN DILLON**
News Co-Editor

As students register for classes for the 2008-2009 academic year, upcoming seniors should be sure not to wait until second semester to register for the senior values seminar. With a cap of 18 students, some senior values seminars that were offered for Spring 2008 were forced to exceed the maximum limit this year in order to accommodate all the seniors.

"The real problem is that there are 18 spots, and students have too much riding on this urgency that they need to take a seminar that also fulfills their major core," said Cecilia Petit-Hall, assistant dean for seniors at Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC). In a worse-case scenario, a student will plan to take a senior values course in the spring that is also needed to fulfill a requirement for their major, and it may not be offered by the time they register, or they will be locked out because of the cap and the large number of students who need the course as well.

One course that often closes out in a matter of minutes on registration day is the communication and

media studies seminar, Films of Moral Struggle, according to Petit-Hall.

"I would have preferred to take Films of Moral Struggle, as it would have counted as a major elective as well as the values course, but it filled up almost immediately and the only option was Medical Ethics," said Dave Matthews, FCLC '08, who said he only registered for Medical Ethics for the current semester because it was the only course left that was at a convenient time.

Petit-Hall noted that although 18 is the cap, there is a "grey space" for two students who might need that particular course in order to graduate, in which case they will be given careful consideration, and could be eligible to join the class.

However, students who were studying abroad were able to register in advance, in order to avoid getting locked out of classes. Erica Barrow, FCLC '08, who studied abroad last semester, said that she was able to register early for her seminar, Social Welfare and Society, which she needed for her major.

Jessica Keefe, FCLC '08 was also able to register in advance because she studied abroad in the spring of

2007. Keefe was able to fulfill her communication and media studies minor by taking the coveted Films of Moral Struggle seminar. "I had no issues with having to take it as my senior values seminar, though if I had gotten blocked out of it and was obligated to take some Kafka and the Self course offered through the Philosophy department as a last-ditch effort to graduate on time, I'd probably feel much differently about it," Keefe said.

For the current academic year, Robert Moniot, associate dean at FCLC said that the fall semester senior values seminars were not nearly as full as the spring semester seminars, indicating that many seniors waited until the spring, and banked on getting into the course that they needed.

In addition, he said that this year was unusual, in that there were too few seminar proposals for the spring semester from various departments. Originally, there was only one theology course to be offered, rather than the typical two courses and two philosophy courses rather than the typical three, Moniot said.

"I projected a need for nine seminars [for the spring semester],"

Moniot said. Although two courses were added, to make eight day seminars offered (one short of his projection) and two night seminars offered, Moniot said that "we put more students into the evening courses than we normally would, and filled up all courses to 20."

Moniot added that, to his knowledge, there is no senior who will not graduate this year due to being locked out of a senior values course.

"Dean Grimes has never let the number 18 prevent a worthy student from getting into the course," Moniot said. "He made it clear that 18 is not our cap if students really need to get into our course, so we have in fact exceeded the cap."

Petit-Hall added that there is a careful consideration when deciding who gets to exceed the cap. "We try to see who needs it the most," she said. "If a student will be here in the summer, they don't need it, because the course will be offered in the summer."

One step that might help students plan their schedule for the entire year is the new full-year scheduling system. The course booklets for the upcoming academic year will also show the courses offered for the

spring semester (though students will not be able to register any earlier for the spring) so that students will be able to plan their courses better.

When communication and media studies major Joennis Almeida, FCLC '08 was closed out of Films of Moral Struggle, she was forced to take a seminar relating to theater. "It's an interesting course and I've been exposed to new concepts that I otherwise would not have learned," she said. "However, I feel that my senior values course should've been related to my major. I feel I am struggling with the work because it mainly pertains to theater and I'm not a theater major."

Petit-Hall urges students to take a course outside of their major. "[The seminar should] expose you to things you've never been exposed to before."

"Don't wait for spring," she added. "Consider other classes outside your area in which to fulfill, don't limit yourself. Just know there are only 18 seats and if you have so much riding on getting into one class, the likelihood on not getting in is very high. Don't assume you're going to get one class and don't wait until [your] last semester."