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JUNOT DIAZ VISITS

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author entertained students at a panel on April 15.

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Student Leaders Draft Bill of Rights

By ASHLEY TEDESCO Asst. News Editor

Student leaders at Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC) have drafted a bill of rights that they say was created out of frustration with student affairs.

A group of more than a dozen student leaders from groups including United Student Government (USG), the Residence Hall Association (RHA), Campus Activities Board (CAB), In Strength I Stand (ISIS), Students for Solidarity (SFS), Rainbow Alliance and others assembled themselves to discuss what they feel are issues within Fordham.

"We feel that the administration and student affairs doesn't really listen to us," said Kelley Mowatt, FCLC '09, president of RHA.

"The student voice is a source that should be sought out by the administrators and considered a reliable and respectable source because we can give them a wealth of information. I feel like they pretend that they're listening to us and they're not," she said, explaining her hope that this bill of rights will help administrators hear the voices of students.

The bill of rights lists 13 rights that its drafters believe all FCLC students should have: free speech, freedom from discrimination, privacy, due process, the right not to be held accountable by Fordham for off-campus actions, adequate resources, open forums for discussion with Rev. Joseph M. McShane, S.J., president of Fordham, representation in administration, grade appeals, university policy appeal, financial inquiry freedom, sufficient financial aid and adequate health care.

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Dispute Over Catholic School Speakers



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX PALOMINO/THE OBSERVER

Should speakers at Catholic universities communicate the same values as the institution? Fordham, Notre Dame and other Catholic schools have been criticized for hosting those with pro-choice beliefs.

By CASEY FELDMAN News Editor

In May, openly pro-choice President Barack Obama will deliver the commencement address at Notre Dame and will receive an honorary degree. This has drawn protests from thousands of Catholics.

Similar disputes over speakers whose views conflict with Catholic beliefs have arisen at Fordham, Georgetown and elsewhere. These continuing controversies demonstrate that there is no clear consensus on how Catholic universities should

receive speakers whose views are not in keeping with Catholic dogma.

In their opposition, "Right-wing Catholics... fail utterly to understand the calling of a Catholic university," said Peter Steinfelds, co-director of the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture, "which, as Pope John Paul II wrote in his text on Catholic higher education, must give witness to the Church's readiness to engage in conversation with all kinds of sincerely and thoughtfully held moral positions," he said.

Notre Dame has traditionally

invited presidents to speak at commencement and presented them with honorary degrees. Past recipients include George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush, Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter. Kofi Annan, former secretary general of the U.N., spoke and received a degree in 2000. Annan is pro-choice and has received awards from abortion rights groups.

Some experts say that simply inviting Obama, or any publicly pro-choice individual, to speak at a Catholic school is acceptable, but that presenting him or her with an

honorary degree is not.

This can be attributed to a document created by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Part of the 2004 document reads, "The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

The president of the United States Conference of Catholic bishops has denounced Notre Dame's decision to host Obama.

The Rev. Robert R. Grimes, S.J., said, "There is a difference between letting someone speak and honoring them. [What they are doing at Notre Dame] is clearly an honor. On the other hand, there is something special about the president that transcends politics, transcends whether or not you agree with the president on all issues."

Grant Gallichio, associate editor of the Catholic opinion magazine Commonweal, said he feels that Notre Dame's invitation to Obama is not necessarily in defiance of the Bishops' statement. He pointed out the fact that Notre Dame's president "has taken the opportunity to restate publicly his and Notre Dame's opposition to Obama's [positions on abortion and stem cell research]."

Gallichio said, "It is clear that Notre Dame is not honoring Obama in a way that 'suggest[s] support' for his views on abortion rights and [stem cell research]."

A staff editorial on the topic of Obama and Notre Dame that appeared in Commonweal's April 10 issue stated, "Honorary degrees signify an institution's admiration for the accomplishments of the recipient. They do not signify blanket moral approbation."

Many other Catholics, however, don't agree. Mary Ann Glendon, who, according to the Associated Press, is an anti-abortion scholar, Harvard law professor and former ambassador to the Vatican, is one of them. Glendon was to receive Notre Dame's highly prestigious Laetare

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Inside



FEATURES

BROMANCE

More guys are spending time together, "Bro" style. Learn more about how boys get their bond on.

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SPORTS

ALL KINDS OF RIPPED

Check out what Brent Nycz accomplished this semester, in and out of the gym. Nearing graduation, he reflects on his progress.

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Why the University Doesn't Deserve the Benefit of the Doubt



ALI MUSA Contributing Writer

Insofar as American-style capitalism is supposed to promote democracy, it does so by fostering accountability. This model of development is considered superior to its French and German counterparts because of its innovation of the stock exchange. Whereas the latter two relied on large banks or one national bank for corporate financing, stock exchanges allowed for financing on open and,

ideally, transparent markets. The benefits of transparency are reduced corruption and, what amounts to the same thing, increased accountability. Political economists never cease to hawk accountability standards as the cure-all to authoritarianism, and democratic governments typically disclose their budgets. Accountability is more than an ethical nicety. It is a practical requirement for the system's survival. The current financial crisis can be explained in terms of poor accountability standards.

The 2009 College Sustainability Report Card (available free at green-

reportcard.org) evaluated the 300 universities with the largest endowments in the United States and Canada in terms of their commitment to sustainable and ecological development. Fordham University received an F for "Endowment Transparency" and "Shareholder Engagement," and a C- overall. Green practices constitute just one of the axes along which universities can be evaluated and improved upon under a transparent budget and endowment regime. implications, let us consider whether

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Briefs

METRO

Ethics Panel Asked to Look into Kennedy Leaks

Three government watchdog groups have asked the state's ethics panel to review information that was leaked about Caroline Kennedy during her Senate bid, the New York Times reported. The confidential information was leaked by Gov. David Paterson's administration.

NATIONAL

Ford Loses Billions, But Predicts It Will Last the Year

Ford announced that it lost \$1.4 billion in the first quarter, according to the New York Times. Ford is the only Detroit auto company not receiving a government bailout. However, Ford also said it has enough money to "survive the year."

Fires Sweep Myrtle Beach

2,500 people were forced to evacuate parts of coastal South Carolina, including North Myrtle Beach, on April 23. Over 70 homes were destroyed. No injuries have been reported yet. The governor declared a state of emergency.

INTERNATIONAL

Mexican Swine Flu Kills Dozens

An outbreak of swine flu has left 26 people confirmed dead, with another 2,500 cases under investigation, according to the New York Times. The "respiratory epidemic," is believed to have mutated from pigs, and officials say that while most flu viruses are usually deadly mainly for infants and the elderly, this flu is a larger problem in healthy adults. The AP is reporting that as of April 28, there are 64 confirmed cases of the swine flu in the United States, with 45 cases in New York.

Over 140 Killed in Iraqi Suicide Bombings

The New York Times reported that suicide bombers killed 60 people on April 24 at the holiest Shiite site in Baghdad. This occurred only one day after at least 80 were killed in three separate suicide bombings.

Compiled by Casey Feldman

Work Study Limitations "Difficult" on Students During Current Economic Climate

Limited Hours, Low Wages Problematic for Many Student Workers

By ANNDREW VACCA
Staff Writer

The work study program at Fordham has recently been criticized by students who say that in the current economic climate, the pay rate and hours available are not sufficient. While officials in the office of student employment say that Fordham is doing everything it can to offer students reliable job opportunities, some students say that the University isn't doing enough, and that some components of the way work study is structured, including its once monthly pay period, are "flawed."

According to Fordham's Student Employment Web site, student employees agree by signing on to accept work study "to use the earnings solely for educational expenses." Hours vary from 10 to 15 per week, and are need-based, determined by the student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

RoseMarie Raiano, senior assistant director of Student Employment, said, "The student must have filed the FAFSA and must demonstrate financial need, which is measured by the cost of attending Fordham minus the family contribution and the aid and resources the student may be receiving from all sources." According to Raiano, the average pay rate for work study jobs is around \$9 per hour.

Raiano said that the work study program has been affected by the economy in the number of applications it has received for employment.

"The current economic climate has brought an increase in the number of applicants for work study positions, especially for the Summer Program," Raiano said. "We are trying to service as many applicants as possible within the scope of our budget."

Maggie Eckl, Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC) '11, said that while work study has its benefits, it also has plenty of problems.

"I love having work study, mainly for the job security. I know I will have some income for an entire academic year, and it is very convenient working inside the academic building," Eckl said. "Also, bosses can be very understanding when you need to shift hours because of conflicting meetings, etc."

"However, the biggest issue [is] the once monthly payroll system. [It] always leaves you hurting at least 10 days before your next paycheck comes in," Eckl said.

Eckl said that in addition to the pay schedule, the pay rate is also less-than-ideal.



MARTI EISENBERG, CASEY FELDMAN/THE OBSERVER

Inez Gonzalez, FCLC '12, works in the Office of Communication and Media Studies. Abdul Areda, FCLC '11, works in the Office of Student Affairs. Kevin Corona, FCLC '12, works in the ITT printing room.

"The pay is really low, and it only increases by 25 cents a year. I wish it was better suited to meet the current economic climate," Eckl said. "I don't really understand how they decide on work study wages."

Raiano explained that while the base rate for different work study jobs is different, all rates are "above minimum wage," and "can at least cover some... school expenses."

She said, "During the summer we do increase both rates and hours. During the academic year, the hours are limited since academics are a priority."

Inez Gonzalez, FCLC '12, said that for her a job, a clerical position in the communications and media studies department, the pay rate "has to be increased."

"Also, the fact that they pay us monthly is not realistic for a college student's budget," Gonzalez said.

Some students say that the average pay rate, when compared to the rising costs of living in New York City and the increase in tuition and room and board at Fordham, isn't enough to support them. Some students say that they have been forced to look for other jobs that "they just don't have time for."

Marc Santora, FCLC '12, said that he is "struggling" by the end of the month. "I've been looking for tutoring jobs since February with no success. Finding a second job at a store would be too much for me to handle, so I have to make do with what Fordham gives me," Santora said.

Raiano said that aside from finding a second job, students can do a lot to cut back on expenses.

"Students can save money by being more judicious in their expenditures and cutting down on

some extravagances," Raiano said. "For example, taking advantage of campus activities rather than spending money off-campus."

Aside from the pay, some students have cited a generally bad experience with the work study program.

Cassie Foote, FCLC '10, called her work study experience at Public School 111 in Manhattan during freshman year a "disaster."

"With work study, you have to work a certain amount of hours in order to get work study again. And although it wasn't my fault I had missed all those hours, I was being held responsible," Foote said.

"Furthermore, my theater and class schedule completely conflicted with the hours they gave me at the elementary school. So I was again forced to miss work hours. And although halfway through the year I told them that I needed to be transferred to another job [for scheduling reasons], they would not [transfer me]," Foote said. "They assured me I wouldn't be penalized. However, they did hold me responsible and I lost the opportunity for a work study the following year. I am a student that, financially, really needed a work study."

Foote also cited pay as one of the problems with her work study experience.

"During my experience, payment was never more than a little more than minimum wage, and for the job I had, I knew other schools were paying kids between \$10-12 an hour, while I only made \$8.75," Foote said. "I considered getting another job, but I had no idea how I would have time for another commitment."

Other students, however, have a

different attitude about work study, and say that it allowed them to build a strong resume.

Keith Howey, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) '10, is the program coordinator for Fordham's America Reads and Counts Challenge (ARCC). He said that his position is actually a work study job itself, and has given him skills and experience necessary for his intended career in sociology.

Howey said that he took the position because the program was looking for a new coordinator, but since he has gained a lot from the experience, despite the "limitations" of the work study program. Howey said that at first, he was unaware that Fordham provided financial aid in the form of work study to graduate students, and that there are specific positions reserved for these students.

"Some graduates who need financial aid and would qualify for it aren't aware of Fordham's process [of distributing aid], so they don't get it," he said.

According to Raiano, Fordham is doing what it can to offset the struggling economy for its students.

"Fordham has set aside some funding for additional grants to assist families," Raiano said. "Last fall, the Office of Financial Services sent an email to all undergraduates offering to help families that had suffered significant losses because of the economic crisis. Families have used this opportunity to ask for a reconsideration of their financial aid."

Raiano said that her office hopes to "make a small increase" in the hourly rate for student workers for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Notre Dame Criticized for Honoring Obama

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medal at this year's commencement. However, Glendon said she would not accept the award because she feels Notre Dame's invitation to Obama violates the Bishops' document.

Steinfels, a previous recipient of the Laetare medal, said he is "disappointed" by Glendon's decision and "finds her reasoning highly contrived."

Gallichio stressed that the Bishops' document is not binding, nor does it constitute canon law. He also drew attention to a comparable situation: when former New York Archbishop Edward Egan invited Obama to speak at the Al Smith dinner, an important Archdiocese fundraising event, in 2008. It is a sometimes-tradition for the presidential candidates to be invited to the dinner; John Mc-

Cain also spoke and attended. However, George W. Bush and pro-choice John Kerry were not invited in 2004.

"The basic reality is that right-wing Catholics were not interested in challenging the Catholic character of Cardinal Egan, while they are very interested in challenging the Catholic character of Notre Dame and other Catholic universities, including Fordham," Steinfels said.

Fordham was criticized last year when its law school gave Stephen J. Breyer, a supreme court justice who helped overturn the ban on "partial birth abortions" in Nebraska, an ethics award.

Grimes said, "The position of a judge can be a little different... [It is possible that] a valid interpretation of the U.S. Constitution results in a decision that doesn't comply with the Catholic Church."

Margaret Steinfels, co-director of the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture, spoke at Notre Dame's commencement in 1991. She said, "There are many aspects of Obama's political program that are congenial to Notre Dame and many Catholics, though his pro-choice views are not among them. Weighing the symbolic meaning of the presidential office... along with those many policies congruent with the consistent ethic of life, the invitation to Obama makes sense," she said.

Charles Camosy, an assistant professor of Christian ethics at Fordham who formerly taught at Notre Dame, said, "I understand the feelings and the rationale of those who protest. Notre Dame is honoring Obama, and from the perspective of those who see abortion as a holocaust, Notre Dame is therefore honoring the equivalent

of a holocaust-supporter."

However, Camosy pointed out the fact that Obama fights against violence and for vulnerable people in other ways.

"The best way to bridge the gap between Obama... and those [who are pro-life] is to life is to engage in charitable dialogue characterized by mutual... respect. Notre Dame's decision to host Obama is an important step toward this goal," he said.

"[If Obama wanted to speak at Fordham,] I would ask him what he wanted to speak about," Grimes said. "If he wanted to speak about issues compatible with this institution, I would happily invite him. As head of state, there is a certain respect for the office." However, Grimes said, "He needs to respect the institution, as well."