



ARTS & CULTURE

SEINFELD

The Observer looks at the post-"Seinfeld" successes and failures of the cursed cast.

PAGE 10



SPORTS

FORDHAM FOOTBALL POSTSEASON BOUND

Rams defeat Holy Cross (24-21) in battle of unbeaten.

PAGE 20



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Health Services Offers HPV Vaccine

Students Question Why Birth Control is Not Provided

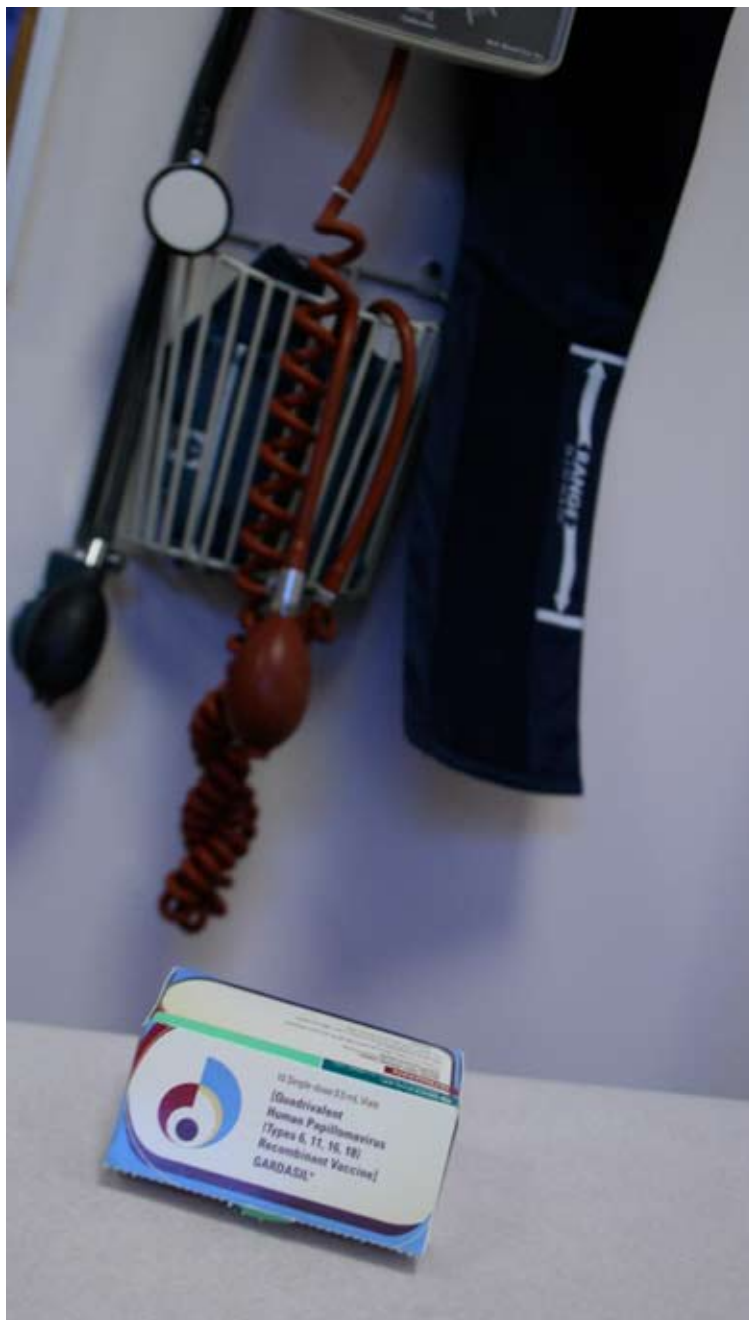
By CALLY SPEED
Staff Writer

FCLC—Gardasil, the vaccine that prevents against the four types of the human papillomavirus (HPV) that can cause cervical cancer and genital warts, is being offered at Fordham's health center, as of this academic year. According to the vaccine's Web site, HPV is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that is contracted through sexual activity involving genital contact. Many students feel that there is hypocrisy in providing students with the vaccine, but not providing birth control or condoms, which is prohibited at Fordham because it goes against the teachings of the Catholic Church.

"HPV is a vaccine intended to provide immunity against cervical cancer," said Joan Cavanagh, associate director of Campus Ministry. "It is not assumed that young girls who receive the vaccine are sexually active, nor is it promoting sexual activity. It is not the subject of any Catholic Church teaching."

Some students feel that the root of the policy makes sense, despite not agreeing with it. "I don't think there's a discrepancy in the policy, because I don't believe that giving girls and women the HPV vaccine encourages them to have sex," said Laura Leigh Reifinger, FCLC '08. "However, I do think that it's socially irresponsible not to provide sexually active students with tools with which to protect themselves, i.e. birth control," she said.

Cavanagh said that the reason the school does not provide birth control is that it goes against the Catholic Church. "The Catholic Church teaches that the only appropriate place for the use of birth control, natural methods only, is within a marriage," she said. "Other than natural methods, the Church is opposed to birth control. Therefore, the health center, in keeping with Church teaching, is not in a



ALEX PALOMINO/THE OBSERVER

The health center is now offering Gardasil, the vaccine which protects against HPV. Some students feel birth control should also be provided.

see GARDASIL pg. 2

Mike Wallace Challenges Students

"60 Minutes" Legend Visits Rose Hill

By MEAGHAN DILLON
News Co-Editor

FCRH—It has been said that the four most dreaded words in the English language are "Mike Wallace is here." To an audience of about 200 at Rose Hill, including the Innovators in Television class taught by Beth Knobel, this may have been a reality. On Nov. 6, Fordham students and faculty witnessed the legendary "60 Minutes" reporter transition from being the guest speaker, to questioning the students himself.

"It was quite extraordinary and deeply appropriate," said Paul Levinson, chair of the communication and media studies department at Fordham College at Rose Hill (FCRH), on his blog. "What is a reporter, an investigative journalist, after all, if not a teacher, and sometimes of the most profound things, to the public at large."

When Wallace began to turn the tide and ask students questions instead, he initially started asking about politics.

"How many of you are fans of George W. Bush?" he asked to a silent audience. "How did he get re-elected?"

Wallace continued asking students questions such as what news programs they watch, what they are looking for in a news program, how many students deplore or admire the Israeli government and whether there is enough coverage of religion on TV in the news.

The room fell quiet when Wallace walked up to students and asked what they wanted to do when they graduated. If a student responded, "I don't know," he said right back, "Well then, what are you thinking when you are sitting in a classroom?"

Levinson commented on the change in conversation. "Soon he was asking them about their views on mortality, the afterlife, whether they believe in a deity, a cosmic

plan—something one might expect of an 89 year old, but not in a talk to students about his half-century on CBS," he said.

When Carl Comasco, FCRH '09, a student in Knobel's class, asked Wallace how he felt about those "four most dreaded words," he said that it worked to his advantage.

"It gave me the power to get people's attention," Wallace said. "It gave us a way to talk to people like they have never been talked to in public before."

As Wallace made his way up the aisle in the McGinley Ballroom, arriving a few minutes late due to traffic in the Bronx, his audience grew suddenly quiet as soon as he opened his mouth. Upon his ar-



DARLA KHAZEI/MCT

Wallace spoke to Fordham students on Nov. 6 at Rose Hill.

see WALLACE pg. 3

FCLC Students Resort to Adderall to Study

Administrators Emphasize Consequences

By CASEY FELDMAN
Staff Writer

It's 3 a.m., finals week. You still have an essay to write and an exam to study for, but concentrating is impossible: your brain is fuzzy and lack of sleep threatens to overtake you. Three options for turning your weariness into productivity: drinking a strong cup of coffee, taking a short power nap and praying you actually wake up or hitting up the campus drug dealer.

For a growing number of students—both at Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC) and at other colleges across the nation—the third option has become increasingly attractive. Adderall, according to the drug's official Web site, is prescribed to treat attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, as is Ritalin, a similar drug. However, both drugs are routinely abused by college students in order to increase focus, concentration and energy when studying or doing homework, reported The New

York Times.

"I don't think I would've made it through midterms and finals last year if I didn't take Adderall," said Lindsay*, an FCLC sophomore. "I never thought I would've used drugs to stay awake before I came to college...but once you try it you realize it's a great way to get things done, and it's fairly

*All students' names have been changed to protect their identities.

see ADDERALL pg. 2

Inside

OPINIONS

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL

Could Michael Mukasey's confirmation as the new U.S. attorney general mean an end to the limits placed on executive power?

▶ PAGE 8

FEATURES

HOW TO SPOT A MCMAHON HALL RESIDENT

Key articles of clothing are dead giveaways when trying to spot a McMahon Hallian.

▶ PAGE 15



Briefs

METRO

New York's Oldest Inmate Granted Parole

A panel of the State Parole Board voted two to one yesterday to release Charles E. Friedgood, a wealthy Long Island surgeon who was convicted in 1976 for murdering his wife. At 89, Friedgood is the oldest state prison inmate in New York.

He is expected to be freed in mid-December and admitted to a Veteran's hospital. It was the sixth time a board had considered Friedgood's release since he served the minimum of his 25 years to life sentence.

Priest Jailed for Stalking Conan O'Brien

The Rev. David Ajemian, a priest from Boston, has been charged with stalking and harassing the talk show host Conan O'Brien, law enforcement officials said. The priest was arrested Nov. 2,



MCT

when he tried to attend a taping of NBC's "Late Night With Conan O'Brien" program at Rockefeller Center, the police said. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston said that Ajemian has been placed on leave.

NATIONAL

U.S. Expected to Seek Indictment of Kerick

Federal prosecutors will ask a grand jury to indict Bernard B. Kerick, the former New York police commissioner, on charges that include tax fraud, corruption and conspiracy counts, according to people who have been briefed on the case.

The grand jury has heard evidence that Kerick had accepted \$165,000 in renovations from a contractor who was seeking a city license and failing to report an income of more than \$200,000 in rent among other issues.

Space Shuttle Ends Mission

The shuttle Discovery landed on Nov. 7 in Cape Canaveral, Fla., to close an eventful mission that combined challenging space station construction and emergency repairs. It landed at the Kennedy Space Center after traveling more than 6.2 million miles since launching into space on Oct. 23. The mission's goals were to concentrate heavily on the construction of the International Space Station.

INTERNATIONAL

Rebel Force Cleared Out of Baghdad

American troops have cleared the militant network, Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia, from Baghdad.

Maj. General Joseph F. Fil Jr., commander of United States forces in Baghdad, said that "murder victims are down 80 percent from where they were at the peak," and attacks involving improvised bombs are down 70 percent.

Student Goes on Killing Rampage in Finland

Seven children and a principal were killed on Nov. 7 in Tuusula, Finland, when an 18-year-old student opened fire at a school, hours after he posted a video on YouTube foreshadowing the massacre. The student fired shots into classrooms with a .22 caliber handgun. He died in a hospital after shooting himself in the head, doctors said.

Compiled by
Natasha Pascetta

Students Turn to Study Drugs



MELANIE BURFORD/MCT

An increasing number of college students are resorting to the illegal use of prescription drugs to help them study.

ADDERALL FROM PAGE 1

easy to get," she said. Lindsay stated that she obtained Adderall last year from Scott, FCLC '10.

Scott said that he sold approximately "25 to 50 pills" of Adderall during midterms last year. However, Scott also stated that, for the most part, he acted as a "middleman" between students who wanted pills and a student who had a prescription for them.

According to Lindsay and other on-campus sources, demand for Adderall increases exponentially around exam time, but some students use it throughout the entire school year. "My roommates last year used it every time they had to write a paper," said Tori, FCLC '10.

According to the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA), the percentage of college students who abuse Ritalin and Adderall has increased 93 percent since 1993.

Scott stated that he sold Adderall pills for approximately \$2 to \$4 each. He did say, however, that others selling Adderall around midterms could probably charge even more because demand for the drug becomes so high.

Lindsay reported that she paid \$5 or less per pill for Adderall, and that the super-focused effect of the drug lasted about six hours. "[One of

my friends] was like an expert, and she even had a pill grinder," Lindsay said. "We would just crush it in the pill grinder and then snort it off a flat surface, like a mirror, with straws or rolled-up dollar bills." According to Lindsay, most students swallow the drug when taking it. However, Lindsay said that she sometimes snorted Adderall because it "hits you faster and stronger" when snorted.

Multiple FCLC students reported that they consider Adderall a "safer" alternative to other narcotics because it is prescribed by doctors. However, Kathleen Malara, director of Health Services at Fordham stated that the use of Adderall commonly causes abdominal pain, nausea, dizziness, heart palpitations, tremors and libido changes. More serious consequences include Tourette's syndrome, heart attack, stroke, cardiac arrhythmia, high blood pressure, seizures and sudden death. Adderall is also an appetite suppressant, known to lead to weight loss and anorexia. In addition, said Malara, students who snort Adderall incur the "[additional] risk of damage to the nasal [passages]."

FCLC dean of students Keith Eldredge added, "When prescription drugs are prescribed by a doctor, they can be monitored to ensure that there are no conflicts with other drugs the student may be taking. Taken illegally, there [are no such safeguards]," he said.

The death of a student at Westminster Choir College earlier this month is thought to have occurred after the student took multiple doses of Adderall followed by heroin, The New York Times reported.

Malara said that Adderall has a host of mental side effects as well as physical ones. These side effects include depression, psychosis, mania, aggressive behavior, emotional instability and anxiety.

"There was one time I took it," Lindsay said, "where I had a really bad reaction. I took two, and I was way too focused—I was shaking the entire time and I was really jumpy and nervous," she said.

Eldredge said nearly 10 percent of FCLC students reported using amphetamines, the category of drugs into which Adderall is placed, in 2007. Nationally, 6.6 percent of students reported using amphetamines. Eldredge pointed out, however, that "students may not consider Adderall an amphetamine because it is a prescription drug," so the numbers may inaccurately reflect the extent of Adderall abuse.

Eldredge cautions, however, that students found distributing drugs on campus face severe consequences. "Students [caught dealing] will be put through the judicial process and can risk loss of housing or expulsion from the university."

Malara cautions that students who misuse Adderall not only "run

the risk of a federal offense if caught," but are also vulnerable to developing an addiction or dependency.

In addition, students who use the drug to lose weight are at an even higher risk of becoming addicted, according to information provided by Megan Siemers, assistant director for programming at FCLC.

Students who do find themselves with an addiction or dependency, said Eldredge, should reach out for help. "We certainly wouldn't [impose disciplinary action] upon a student who came to us for help," said Eldredge. "We'll try to connect them with the counseling center and the health center."

Malara added, "no students have come to Student Health Services disclosing their use and/or abuse of Adderall."

Scott said that he believes the increasing pressure to succeed in college has driven students to drugs. "I think that kids have been groomed for so long that everything is hyper-competitive, and that the stakes are so high that [students feel that they] can't afford any mistakes," he said. "In reality, at close to \$50,000 a year, the stakes are pretty high when it comes to maintaining your GPA for scholarships. However, I am absolutely confident that no one needs Ritalin or Adderall to do well. To be frank, I never found them to be very helpful at all. I think the stuff is overrated."

Gardasil Offered at Health Center

GARDASIL FROM PAGE 1

position to dispense birth control, even though it is free to offer the HPV vaccine."

Jack McLaughlin, FCLC '08, said that both the vaccine and birth control are preventative. "The fact that Fordham's offering the HPV vaccine acknowledges that students are or will soon be having sex. It is a preventative measure much like contraceptives are for STDs. It is absurd to argue that the vaccine is being given so that future wives won't get HPV from their husbands."

Steve Russomano, FCLC '10, disagrees with this practice. He said that the decision to deny the prescription of birth control is unfair because Fordham is a school with many non-Christian students, and they should be given the option to prevent pregnancy.

However, if a student requires birth control for medical purposes, it may be prescribed to them through the health center. Kathleen Malara, director of Health Services said, "There are medical reasons patients require birth control pills and if diagnosed with one of the conditions, we would prescribe birth control pills just like any other illness requiring medication. If a student tests positive for an STD, of course we would treat them, just like if they tested positive for any other illness," she said.

Malara said that the policies related to providing birth control are decided by the Catholic Church and general health center policies are decided by her.

"Obviously the health center perpetuates the ideological stance of the university administration, rather than the medical community," Rus-

Many students feel that there is hypocrisy in providing students with the vaccine, but not providing birth control or condoms.

somano said. "In my mind, that's not a good thing. Fordham is not above the law. Birth control is legal and should therefore be dispensed by the health center."

Malara said, "The thought is that eventually, [younger girls] will someday become sexually active and now have immunity to four of the types of HPV that cause cervical cancer. Now why would [Health Ser-

vices] as health professionals, just like any other health professional, not administer a vaccine? An STD is a medically diagnosed illness. Pregnancy is not an illness. It is a choice and/or consequence of unprotected intercourse. We at [Health Services] can educate on abstinence and safer sex, however we are not obligated to provide birth control when it is contrary to our mission and beliefs," she said.

Maggie Perkins, FCLC '09, said, "I take comfort knowing that my unplanned babies will have a mommy less prone to HPV. Maybe they think you get HPV from holding hands. Honestly though, I am pleasantly surprised that they are offering the vaccine. I know there has been some opposition nationwide by people who think protecting girls from diseases is tantamount to celebrating harlotry."